

Beltonian Theater up for sale



By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Do you have \$800,000 to invest in downtown Belton? If so, a much improved 102-year-old business just might be a deal for you.

Launched as a theater in May 1922 and purchased by Dr. Sara and Zechariah Baker in September 2018, The Beltonian Theater, 219 E Central in Belton, is for sale.

“It’s a turnkey operation,” Zechariah said last week. “We’ve done a lot of work since purchasing The Beltonian. It has a new screen, new projector, two new AC units, a new kitchen floor and appliances, a new roof, an ice machine and a new stand-alone sound system for concerts.”

“There’s nothing really want-

ing or making me sell,” he said. “It’s just that time to take the next step. We’ve come to points in life professionally and personally where it’s time to take the next step.”

Zechariah said he has no idea of what might be next for his family.

“The sale will include theater equipment, the building, a successful business model, social media and so much more,” Zechariah said. “We have bookings and sponsors in place, and it’s booked all summer. We have the summer planned out.”

The Beltonian is being sold through Two Lakes Real Estate, and there has already been a lot of interest in the popular business.

“We’ve had walk-throughs with interested people, and we likely will have new owners chosen

in the next month,” he said. “I’ll continue to run the theater through May and hopefully we can turn it over in June.”

“I’m willing to be a coach or trainer for two or three weeks, and I can be on call if the new owner ever has questions. We want The Beltonian to continue to be successful. I wanted to restore and revitalize the theater, and I’ve done that.”

“The possibilities are endless,” he said. “New owners can keep the tradition we started or they can create something entirely new.”

“The theater has been going very well with an average increase of revenue of 20 percent in each of the past four years,” he continued. “The sky’s the limit for the new owners.”



Event next weekend in downtown Belton

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

Legends On the Chisholm Trail is a new event coming to Belton on March 29th and 30th downtown at the Gin complex. Native American flute performances and live music will begin at 10 a.m. and through 2 p.m. on March 29th. Vendors with Western and Native American products will be downtown from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday. These events are to be held at The Gin Complex.

“We are bringing in three chuck wagons on the 29th serving lunch. Donations are to be made to the Belton Lions Club. They start serving at 11 a.m. until the food runs out,” said Judy Garrett Tourism Director for the City of Belton.

“We are bringing back the old-time fiddlers’ contest. They are excited to be back performing. The fiddlers contest will be exciting. We are taking baby steps with this entire event. I fully expect this event to be a success,” said Gar-

rett. “This has been in the planning stages for the past couple of years.”

The fiddlers contest will be open for children and adults sponsored by the Old Time Fiddlers Association.

There are 23 vendors signed up at this time. Downtown businesses will be open.

On Sunday, the City of Belton is sponsoring a Cowboy breakfast from 7 a.m. until 9 a.m. or the food runs out. 3C Cowboy Church will have a service at 9 a.m.

“We are excited to be a part of Legends on the Chisholm Trail. This celebration honors 175 years of Belton history. This inaugural event, hosted by the City of Belton presents a unique opportunity to share and preserve our rich heritage while fostering a vibrant cultural experience,” said Lela Valchar, President of the Downtown Belton Business Alliance.

For more information visit www.seebelton.com.

BISD students advance to state in National History Day competition



Courtesy Photo

LEFT: Belton ISD students show off their medals. **RIGHT:** Students show off their entries at the Heart of Texas Regional History Fair. 41 Students will be advancing to state competition in April.

Special to the Journal

Belton ISD announced that 41 students from grades 4 through 12 will represent the district at the Texas State National History Day (NHD) competition at the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin on Saturday, April 5.

This group, representing 15 different projects, marks the second-largest state contingent in the district’s history—a testament to the talent, dedication, and hard work of

students and social studies educators.

National History Day is the premier competitive event in history education, providing students with the opportunity to explore historical topics of personal interest while building critical research and analytical skills. Each year, participants develop a historical argument in response to a theme, using

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\$17.7 million bond sale to be presented to Belton city council in April

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By David Stone
The Belton Journal

A Certificate of Obligation bond proposal of up to \$17.7 million will be presented to the Belton City Council next month to raise money for the expansion of the Temple-Belton Wastewater Treatment Plant and other projects.

An adopted Capital Improvements Program for Fiscal years 2025-2029 identifies nearly \$85 million of potential capital projects to be completed over the next five years, according to a report from Director of

Finance Mike Rodgers.

A public hearing on the bond was held during last week’s council meeting and the bond sale will be presented for approval on April 8.

The most significant project in the Capital Improvements Program is the wastewater treatment plant expansion. Belton’s 25 percent share of the \$71.2 million project is \$17.8 million.

Also, more than \$1.75 million of vital improvements to the primary Belton lift station must be done, and the second phase of the Loop 121 expansion project requires the relocation of utili-

ties at a cost of \$2.3 million.

The Belton Fire Department must also replace its aerial apparatus for \$1.7 million, and the city will spend \$750,000 to purchase the former Miller Heights Elementary School property.

Each of these projects will be included in the 2025 Certificates of Obligation. Even with a \$6.6 million cash contribution by the city, an additional \$17.7 million is necessary to complete these projects.

Texas state law generally requires our local governments to seek voter approval before issuing debt that will be repaid

from tax revenues. Every year, in May and November, voters are asked to approve new bond debt for the construction of city and county buildings, hospitals, schools, water infrastructure and much more.

Certificates of Obligation, however, is an exception to this rule. Local governments can use COs to fund public works without voter approval. They provide local governments with flexibility when they need to finance projects quickly.

See **COUNCIL**,
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Troy Ashford
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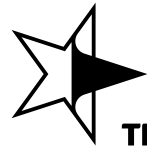
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Locals celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Hop, Skip, and Sip .5k

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Locals started their St. Patrick's Day celebration early on Saturday afternoon by participating in the Hop, Skip, and Sip .5k.

It started by Nolan Creek at the Gin/Scores complex, located at 219 S. East St., and was a length of three blocks, ending at Nolan Creek Brewery located at 206 N. Penelope St.

"We are the poster children. We are on the flyer. We dress crazy so we got on the flyer. We have two other friends that do the race with us," said participants Amanda Richter and Christine Weedman.

They dressed up in their festive St. Patrick's Day's outfits. Richter wore green suspenders and a green, sparkly tie. Her face was painted

with four-leaf clovers. Weedman wore green overalls. They both wore 4-leaf clover shaped sunglasses and green and gold beaded necklaces.

The owner of Nolan Creek Brewery, Kenna Brockway, was at the start line passing out the participants' bags that included a coin for a free cup of beer, a souvenir cup, a t-shirt, safety pins, and a race bib. Participants could pick up their bag as early as 1 p.m. and the "race" started at 2 p.m.

"This is our third year. I wish I was Irish. I'm German and by owning a brewery we know beer and of the Irish," said Kenna Brockway.

Their biggest sponsors were David Matteson with Hearthstone Home Group, Window Hero, MEP Electric, and Texas State Bank.

"Our first year, we thought it would be good if maybe we got 30 to 40 people. The first year we got 100 people, the second year a little over 200 people, and this year we got 200 people. We just had the idea to do a race starting at Nolan Creek to here to make it a fun event. Everyone else does a 5k so we did a .5k. This is our biggest event with the city," said Lorne Brockway.

"We had a moment of insanity. There used to be a brewery here called Bold Republic, but they moved to Temple. We enjoyed coming here because of the atmosphere. We didn't want to lose that here in downtown. It was important to us. We love the small-town atmosphere. Our motto is the first beer never counts. You can have one and it doesn't count," Brock-



BELTON JOURNAL/MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ

ABOVE LEFT: Kenna Brockway, owner of Nolan Creek Brewery, passed out bags to participants. ABOVE RIGHT: Hop, Skip, and Sip .5k participants Amanda Richter and Christine Weedman wear festive outfits for the event.

way added. The Taylor Branch Band played live music.

At the end of the race, participants used their gold coin to get their baskets for \$8.

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primary source research to support their findings.

Students present their work through one of five categories: documentary, website, performance, exhibit, or research paper. Their projects are then evaluated by expert judges, including historians and university professors, based on the quality and depth of research.

"National History Day goes beyond competition. It pushes them to think critically, conduct in-depth research, and present their findings in meaningful ways. In a world where critical consumption and analysis of information is increasingly difficult, these students stand apart," said Chris Lemley, Belton ISD Social Studies Coordinator.

Only first and second-place finishers at the Heart of Texas Regional History Fair earn the opportunity to advance to the state competition, and from there, students will compete for a chance to qualify for the National History Day competition, held June 8-12, 2025, at the University of Maryland and Washington, D.C.

"National History Day empowers students to engage with history as an ongoing conversation," said Mike Kreckler, Lake Belton High School AP U.S. History Teacher and NHD sponsor. "The process of researching and analyzing sources gives them the confidence to contribute meaning-

ful insights. Many students initially struggle with forming analytical research questions, but throughout the year, I've watched them grow—learning to evaluate the credibility of primary and secondary sources and, most importantly, to ask thoughtful questions. Too often, students leave high school without the ability to critically question the past or gather credible sources to find answers. NHD students do this with every source they examine and every word they write. This work not only strengthens their academic skills but also prepares them to think critically in all areas of life and become informed, engaged citizens."

As our students refine and perfect their projects for the state competition, we invite the community to support them in their journey. We encourage attendance at the state competition to cheer on these young historians as they showcase their hard work.

Financial support is crucial to help students who advance to the national competition. The cost for each student to participate at nationals is approximately \$750, and we are seeking contributions from the community to help make this opportunity possible. Historically, Belton ISD sends an average of 2-4 students to nationals each year, and we need to secure funding by April 11, 2025, to ensure our

students can attend. To contribute and support these young historians, please visit here or deliver payments in person to the receptionist at the Belton ISD Central Administration office, located at 400 North Wall Street, Belton.

The district has built a strong reputation in National History Day competitions, with at least one student advancing to nationals every year for the past seven years. This consistency has positioned our district as one of the most successful NHD programs in the state.

Beyond the competition itself, students who attend the national event have the unique opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., visit the National Mall attractions, participate in social events with other students from across the country, and attend workshops led by esteemed historians. Last year, students had the chance to learn from renowned documentary filmmaker Ken Burns.

For more information about National History Day, visit NHD.org. Educators, parents, and community members who would like to support our students—whether through donations, mentorship, or attending the competition—are encouraged to contact Chris Lemley at chris.lemley@bisd.net.

City sales tax revenue slightly down compared to March 2024

By Lynette Sowell
The Belton Journal

Belton will receive \$648,491.51, which is 3.78 percent less compared to last March. Belton's sales tax revenue is up 7.73 percent for 2025.

This is according to the monthly sales tax report released last Wednesday by State Comptroller Glenn Hegar.

The allocations are based on sales made in January by businesses that report tax monthly.

Morgan's Point Resort will receive \$28,426.18, which is up 15.65 percent compared to receipts in March 2024.

The city of Temple's sales tax disbursement for March is up a whopping 111 percent from March 2024, at \$2,857,267.06. Notably, last March's revenue disbursement from the state was \$1,354,128.37, down 47.19 percent compared to 2023.

The city of Nolanville sees a slight increase, up 4.07 percent from March 2024, and will be receiving \$112,792.31.

Troy will receive \$81,472.36, which nearly breaks even with the \$81,367.88 the city received in March 2024. The village of Salado will receive \$67,607.27, up 20.62 percent compared to last March. Holland will receive \$12,290.34,

Belton	\$648,491.51	down 3.78%
Harker Heights	\$820,927.03	up 3.94%
Killeen	\$2,643,989.20	up 3.37%
Holland	\$12,290.34	up 3.11%
Morgan's Point Resort	\$28,426.18	up 15.65%
Nolanville	\$112,792.31	up 4.07%
Salado	\$67,607.27	up 20.62%
Temple	\$2,857,267.06	up 111%
Troy	\$81,472.36	up 0.12%

up 3.11 percent compared to last March.

Killeen will receive \$2,643,989.20 in sales tax, an increase of 3.37 percent compared to March 2024. For the 2025 year to date total, Killeen is up 0.77 per-

cent compared to 2024.

Harker Heights saw an increase of 3.94 percent for this month's sales tax rebate which totals \$820,927.03.

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The Belton Journal (ISSN 1053-9131) is published every Thursday, 210 N. Penelope, Belton, TX 76513. Second Class periodical postage paid at Belton, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Belton Journal P.O. Box 180 Belton, TX 76513

Publisher: David Tuma, David@BeltonJournal.Com; Classifieds & Legals: Elsie Wiley, Legals@BeltonJournal.Com; Marketing Experts: Kimberly Cables, Ads@BeltonJournal.Com & Alexandra Arguita, Sales@BeltonJournal.Com; News Editor: Lynette Sowell, LSowell@CoveLeaderPress.com; Sports Editor: Clay Whittington, Sports@BeltonJournal.Com; Sports Reporters: Tony Adams, Aries Ramos Graphic Artists: Jason Bachie, Jordan Hernandez, Kat Burkhouse; Creative Consultant, Susan Kolodziejczyk; News Reporters: Mike Myers, David Stone, Daniel Moctezuma, Michelle Rodriguez, Annie Dockery

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OBITUARIES



Clemons

Sharon Kay Clemons
July 29, 1945 - March 16, 2025

Sharon Kay Clemons peacefully entered eternal rest on March 16, 2025 at the age of 79.

Sharon was born July 29, 1945 to Harold & Wilma Palmer. Mom was a military wife, had 3 children and lived all over the world, her most memorable was Germany & Italy. In 1981 she settled in Texas, finding her forever home in Belton.

Mom was skilled in her crafts, making macrame plant hangers, keychains, candles, embroidery work and windchimes. She loved doing her crafts & took great pride in her work. Even more, she loved sharing those items with family & friends, plus going down to the local market to sell those items and visit with everyone. She loved flowers, plants, watching the birds, gardening and all things Native American.

Mom had the most amazing circle of friends & church family. She loved them all and they gave her a beautiful quality of life through their daily visits & phone calls.

Mom was preceded in death by both her parents, Wilma & Harold Palmer, brother Fay, sisters Karen, Marie, Virginia "Ginny", son Keith,

daughter Debbie, brother-in-law Jerry and her best friend Paula Taylor.

She is survived by daughter Ethel Naomi (Mike) Craft of Colorado, brother Rusty (Rose) Palmer of Texas, sister Nellie Jackson of Illinois, numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren/great grandchildren, cousins and her beloved dog, Chloe and two people that she loved as if they were her own children; Jessica Nichols & Erik Martinez.

My most heartfelt Thank You to every one of you that enriched her life. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Tapestry Church 301 W. Avenue F Belton, Texas 76513 to assist the teens in achieving their goal of doing mission work in Guatemala.

An informal time of sharing stories in remembrance of Mom will take place at Tapestry Church Saturday March 22nd. Time to be determined. Please call Tapestry Church for time.

Mama, you are forever in our hearts, we miss you already

Jackson

Theron Leo Jackson
March 18, 1945 – February 12, 2025

Theron Leo Jackson, better known as "T-Bone," was born on March 18, 1945, in Belton, Texas, to Delmer Leo Jackson and Leoda (Golliehair) Jackson. He was called to eternal rest on February 12, 2025, at the VA Hospital in Temple, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, and unwavering dedication to his family and friends.

He grew up poor on a farm near Heidenheimer where he learned the importance and value of hard work and thriftiness. His mother died when he was 10 years old. His dad then married Norma Camp, a woman with three boys. They later had a

girl which brought the number of children to 10.

He grew up attending church services regularly at the 7th and G (later Western Hills) Church of Christ in Temple. Theron lived a life that exemplified hard work and commitment. He graduated from Academy High School in 1963, lettering in football all 4 years. He attended Abilene Christian College for one year on a football scholarship. He worked as a mechanic at Farm Equipment prior to being drafted into the army in September of 1965. He was attached to the 101st Airborne and spent a year in Vietnam arriving on Easter Sunday 1966.

After completing his 2 years in the army, he returned to the Temple area where he worked as a mechanic for Albritton-Boren Ford in Belton, drove a delivery truck for Temple Welding Supply, and worked maintenance at ITT Grinnell. While working at Albritton-Boren the 'confirmed bachelor' met the love of his life. Less than a year after their meeting, he and Judy Wall of Buckholts were married on January 18, 1969, forming a bond that would last for eternity. Initially a shy young man, Theron blossomed into a charismatic figure known for his sense of humor and authenticity. Friends were drawn to him because of his integrity and honesty; his word was his bond, and he communicated with respect and appropriateness.

In 1975 the family moved to LaPorte where he worked for 11 years with Brown and Root Construction based in Houston where he was a structural fitter/welder and a foreman/team leader who led by example. He played a significant role in building platforms for offshore drilling in the oil industry until his

See OBITS,
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Community gardening class teaches participants how to grow their own food

By DANIEL MOCTEZUMA
The Belton Journal

Helping Hands Ministry partnered with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to host a six-week class that teaches people how to grow their own fruits and vegetables. The Growing and Nourishing a Community Garden program is designed to help people become more self-sufficient by teaching them how to grow their own fresh produce.

The first class took place on Monday from 10-11:00 a.m. and continue weekly at Helping Hands Ministry. Participants will receive hands-on instruction in gardening techniques, container planting, and maintaining a sustainable food source.

Alicia Jallah, executive director of Helping Hands Ministry, spoke about the inspiration behind the initiative.

"I personally enjoy gardening, and I can see the benefits of being able to teach people how to grow their own fruits and vegetables for their households," Jallah said. "Groceries are expensive, and this is just a way for them to maybe be able to provide for themselves."

Participants will work with container gardens and take-home tools such as shovels, gloves, and grow bags. The program is designed to be hands-on, allowing attendees to apply what they learn immediately.

Sherry Spence-Purcella, Bell County's Better Living for Texans Extension Agent with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, explained the broader goals of the program.

"We want to increase exercise and the intake of fruits and vegetables through gardening," Spence-Purcella said.

"Our main goal is to help people grow their own food, so they can reproduce, re-harvest, and regenerate their gardens."

The class will cover a variety of crops, including kale, cabbage, beets, red leaf lettuce, and other seasonal vegetables. For those with limited space, alternative gardening techniques such as container and balcony gardens will be introduced.

Megan Riggs, a registered dietitian and nutrition education coordinator for the Bell County WIC program, attended to support the program's emphasis on healthy eating.

"We promote healthy eating at WIC, and gardening goes hand in hand with that," Riggs said. "If you can grow your healthy foods at home, you're more likely to eat them."

Helping Hands Ministry is also working with

AgriLife Extension on additional programs related to nutrition, cooking, and physical fitness. The community garden will remain accessible beyond the six-week course, allowing participants to continue harvesting what they need while contributing to its upkeep.

For more information or to register, residents can contact Helping Hands Ministry.



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Fact from Texas State Historical Association.

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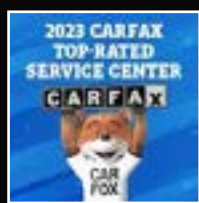
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EDITORIAL

Unused resources

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

Several years ago, I hired a professional organizer. I'm not like all you perfectly left-brained, linear thinkers who have a place for everything and can find anything you want at a moment's notice. I'm more of piles and stacks kind of organizer. So a few years back, I saved up my Christmas and birthday money and got some help.

It proved to be the bargain of the century for me. My new friend didn't just help me stack things in boxes to hide in my garage. She talked to me, learned about my personality, and tried to figure out what organizing system would work for me.

For example, drawers don't work for me. In my brain, if I can't see it, it doesn't exist.

Our conversation went something like this:

Her: How do you find stuff?

Me: I dig through my piles until I find it.

Her: Why don't you use folders?

Me: I always put stuff in the wrong folder. Plus, I can't make the folders stand up like they're supposed to.

Her: Have you tried hanging folders?

Me: I loathe hanging folders. Stuff gets in between, where there's not an actual folder, and slides to the bottom, and I never see it again.

I was a challenge for her. But together, we came up with a plan that actually helped me. My stacks are smaller now, anyway.

One of the best things she taught me was to move all my handwritten addresses from my spiral-bound, polka-dotted address book to my computer. I'd had this program for years but never took the time to learn it. It had been there, waiting to be accessed, while I scrambled through that little alphabetized address book with all its mark-outs and changes, where things weren't really alphabetized because how do you really keep things in ABC order in one of those books? "I'm sorry, Mr. Abdo. I can't add your name here. Mr. Applebaum is already in the system, and there's no room." Every time somebody moves or gets married, you've gotta buy a new book. It's a nightmare.

With my computer's address book, there are no scratch-outs. I just click on that person's name and edit the information. I don't even have to add new contacts in order. The computer automatically alphabetizes it for me.

I'd had that computer address book available to me for years before I actually used it. There's no telling how many wasted hours I spent, plodding through my little spiral scratch-out system, stressing because I

couldn't find what I needed, when the perfect solution was right there.

God's Word is like that. It's filled with all the tools we need. His promises are like coupons we can cash in.

Feeling stressed or anxious? We can find peace in His Word. Confused? Perplexed? In James 1, He promised wisdom to anyone who asks.

The more we study God's Word and apply it to our lives, the smoother our paths will be. Not that our lives will be perfect. But The Bible contains the tools we need to navigate our trouble spots.

Often, I treat God's Word like I treated my computer's contact program. I know it's there, but I don't use it. I muddle through life with my piles and stacks, stressed out and bogged down.

Starting now, I will be more efficient with my life. I'll read God's Word, search out His promises, and cash them in. After all, what good is it to have such a perfect resource available if we never actually use it?

"He is a faithful God, who keeps His promise and is merciful to thousands of generations of those who love Him and obey His commands," Deuteronomy 7:9.

Letting the sunshine in

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

This week is known as Sunshine Week, which has less to do with the golden orb in the sky and has more to do with the public's right to know what the government does with taxpayer funds. We citizens have the right to access information when we have questions about its dealings with private businesses, non-profits, etc.

I've heard some individuals criticize the perceived lack of information released. Often, however, it's not that the information isn't released, but it's that we're not looking for it or paying attention. Our city has a trove of information available, we only

need to look it up or ask for help to find it. There is LOT of information on the city's website. For example, there are detailed city budgets going back for more than 15 years, available within seconds.

I've heard some residents clamor on social media that "the city needs to be audited!" Well, guess what? Every year an audit is conducted and lo and behold, the results of that audit along with annual audits going back for many years, are available on the city's website.

As far as us not paying attention to what's going on in our government, sadly, by the time a decision is finalized and affects us it, becomes harder to do something

about it.

Once upon a time, a gentleman lamented before the city council that people work and are busy, and can't always keep up with what's going on with the city's business. "Isn't there a way you can get us a report on what happened? Put it in our water bills, or something like that?"

Guess what? This is what we do here at the Leader-Press. We sit in and/or listen in on those meetings. We take the results and information about those discussions and voting, and share it with our readers.

I am thankful for readers who take the time to read and share the news, because we in

the news business are the ones who want to help readers get the best information they can use.

We have the right to ask questions of our government and receive answers. When it works properly, government allows people to gather and discuss and ask questions, seeking clarification. When government shuts people out and does not allow any questioning whatsoever, or balks at providing information, then it stops being government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Our government and elected officials should not shrink from our questions.

The "stop asking questions and just let us

spend the money" is not an approach that fosters trust in citizens. It has been my experience that some facets of government do not welcome questions. Government SHOULD welcome our questions.

In a FUNCTIONAL relationship, there is communication and discussion. When government refuses to communicate or respond to questions, dysfunction begins, which keeps the door closed between it and the people the government is supposed to serve.

Press releases and maintaining a "positive" image are not necessarily government transparency. It is one thing to issue press releases and

information about positive goings-on, but there are governmental entities that would prefer the media stick to the "positive" stories and not waste their time with questions or looking at information and facts which do not paint an entity in a positive light.

We need to keep questioning and keep asking if we don't know. Sometimes, the answer or solution isn't what we're thinking of. For example, I've heard: "We should use that money for the median to pave other streets in town. Why isn't that happening?" It may seem a reasonable question at first, but those funds are legally not allowed to be spent on other projects, and it's the answer we must live with.

Obits - From Page A4

retirement. Theron was known for his exceptional work ethic, his strength of character, and his physical strength. He worked hard to provide a good home and life for his family.

A proud veteran, Theron served honorably in the Army, inducted to serve in September 1965. His time in Vietnam earned him numerous accolades, including the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the Sharpshooter (Rifle) designation. He completed his service at Fort Hood, Texas, in September 1967.

As a family man, he was devoted to his wife Judy and their two children, Teresa and Clint. Their grandson 'TJ' lived with them for many years. He took immense pride in his accomplishments, including building a country home in Buckholts that was a sanctuary for Judy and their children. His dedication to his family extended beyond daily life; he was an exemplary father who instilled values of love and faith in his children.

T-Bone's interests were many—he enjoyed farming, gardening, and sharing meals with friends and family, often showcasing his talent with smoked meats. He was a 'creative cook'. His love for creating extended to building his own smoker and a wood stove from 18" pipe, reflecting his enjoyment of welding as a hobby. In his leisure time, he found joy in playing dominoes, often teaching others with his handcrafted dominoes. On their

first wedding anniversary he presented Judy with a dozen red roses. The card read 'One for each month for the one I love'. His thrifty side then prompted him to plant rose bushes so that he had a ready supply of roses for any occasion.

In addition to his beloved wife Judy of 56 years, he is survived by his daughter Teresa Jackson; four sisters—Shirley Whittle (Richard), Barbara Hamrick (Joe), Carolyn Ivy (Randy), and Yvonne Campo (John); one sister-in-love Regina (Homer) Jackson; one brother, Danny Jackson—and seven cherished grandchildren: Thomas "TJ" Jackson, Joshua Jones, Lucinda Grandt, Josiah Grandt, Isaiah Grandt, Noah Grandt, and Benjamin Grandt.

Theron was preceded in death by his parents Delmer and Leoda, step-mother Norma; one son, Darryl 'Clint' Jackson (who preceded him in death by exactly one year), and four brothers: Wayne, Homer, Dwaine, and Doyle Jackson.

T-Bone will be remembered for the love and respect he radiated, his steadfast devotion to family, and the laughter he brought into the lives of those around him. His legacy will continue through his beloved family and friends who will cherish his memory forever.

In Lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in his memory to Cherokee Home for Children, Alzheimer's Association, American Kidney Fund or charity of your choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young's Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center.

Council - From Page A1

Also at last week's meeting, council approved a memorandum of understanding between the city and the Belton Area Citizens for Seniors Inc. regarding senior center renovations.

These renovations include designing 1,000-square-feet of activity and meeting rooms, restrooms, kitchen upgrades and improved building accessibility. According to an amended memorandum approved last week, the work must be completed within two years.

\$100,000 has already been distributed to the Belton Area Citizens for Seniors for the work.

Also last Tuesday, the council approved the creation of a Building Life-Safety Grant Program, which provides \$50,000 grants per project with a 50 percent match in the central Downtown, Uptown and Main Street Zones.

According to Bob van Til, director of planning, the grant program will pay for building improvements that are related to life-safety items such as fire suppression and sprinkler systems; the mitigation of asbestos, lead and mold; ADA accessibility; and energy conservation programs.

Van Til said the grant program is intended to provide "gap funding" between the owner's projected entry costs, additional development costs and code requirements.

Council approved amended contracts for two pieces of land — 62 acres from Jay Lovorn and 165 acres from Janet Rand.

The Belton Economic Development Corporation negotiated to purchase the 62-acre tract located just north of Dog Ridge Loop to use for light industrial development, according to BEDC Executive Director Cynthia Hernandez. BEDC has engaged KPA Engineers to assist in the site evaluation, providing information on utilities. In working with KPA and city of Belton staff, it has been determined that the site can be served with water and wastewater, although improvements to both will be needed.

According to Hernandez, the cost for water improvements are still unknown. BEDC will be responsible for the \$2,907,000 purchase price, \$4,606 for surveying, \$130,815 for commission and the closing costs.

Funds for the real estate purchase were not budgeted for 2025; however, given the estimated end of year budget projections, Hernandez's report said funds will be available to cover the purchase of property and closing costs.

The BEDC also has negotiated a contract to buy the 165-acre tract on West Amity, west of I-35. The property will serve business and retention efforts, and BEDC will continue to work with the city to determine the best option for serving the land with water and wastewater, Hernandez said.

BEDC will be responsible for the \$4,500,000 purchase price, \$5,675 for surveying, and \$135,000 for commission and closing costs.



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Applied Aerodynamics

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

I feel bad for a lot of kids today. They are missing out on a lot of the fun things that I experienced when I was young. Of course, the most obvious things, like good TV shows and fun things that you could do outside.

When I was young our family cars were quite nice and often had air conditioning. However, we didn't use the "air" all the time. Probably because it was hard to adjust, nothing like the precise systems we have in modern cars these days. Another reason might be that parents in those days were used to riding around in cars with no fancy cooling systems so were quite used to having the windows rolled down, not to mention windows that were specifically designed to pull outside air into the vehicle.

So, like every other kid that I knew, we often had the chance to stick our hand out the window of the car and experience the miracle of aerodynamics. We didn't know how it worked, but we could make our entire arm move up or down with just a few changes in how our fingers were positioned. Roll a couple of fingers down and you

could create some lift, move the front finger or two down and you were coming in for a landing. Then you could do a partial loop, only because your arm wouldn't rotate all the way around your shoulder, but you couldn't argue with the intensity of the force you were dealing with, and a lot of this was just at city street speeds.

My father liked to fly so I was often on airplanes, and I could understand a bit more about how that wing worked and what all those moving parts were on the wing. Also I remember one specific teacher that apparently had a good understanding of aerodynamics, they explained quite well what was happening to a wing on an airplane, and the same forces on our hands outside the car window.

Kids these days don't know what they are missing, just sitting inside of a pleasant car staring at a phone watching someone "influence" them.

Cars these days have electric window controls. I am not sure why, especially for the back. The only window that really needs to go down is the driver side window,

so when you are using a "drive-thru" for fast food you can reach out to exchange payment for a bag of hamburgers. The passenger side front window might be the only other one that needs to operate and open. The reason here is that if you are a bad driver and get pulled over fairly often the cops like to go to the right side of the car to stay away from the other bad drivers on the roadway. I honestly can't think of a reason that the back windows would ever need to go down. You don't want the kids to feel the blowing of the wind from outside as you drive along. It would be rare that a child from the backseat would place their own order at a "drive-thru", and they certainly are not getting a ticket when the police pull you over, even if they did something wrong the parent is getting the citation.

And don't even get me started on "sun roofs" in a vehicle. Of course if you have a sports car you can get a convertible or removable roof panels. A "sun roof" is just that, something that lets in the sun. Here in Texas we go out of our way to avoid the sun from about, well,

late February to, well, perhaps early December. I will give in and say that a "sun roof" would be nice to have for about a week in the spring and maybe two weeks in the fall, otherwise it is just a piece of glass for birds to poop on the rest of the year. We might actually vent the "sun roof" at times, but that just blows your hair around and no one really wants that.

With modern air conditioning systems in our vehicles we have precise control over how the inside of our vehicle feels. We can keep it to a very precise temperature, almost to a half of a degree, and if it is not just right we can press a few buttons and make it even more comfortable, not to mention the heated and cooled items available for our hands and bottoms.

Don't get me wrong, my A/C is on most of the time in my truck. I like to be comfortable, and if I spent that kind of money I want to use the devices that come on, or in, my truck. I do miss flying my hand out the window at highway speeds, so at times you might see me enjoying that bit of joy from my youth.

Fish Or Cut Bait

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

In some of the more rural parts of the United States, you'll potentially hear the saying "fish or cut bait".

When a person is fishing, they'll generally have a bit of bait attached to the end of their fishing line, with the line being attached to the pole they're using. The idea is that if you hold the pole steady enough, the bait that's in the water will eventually lure in a fish. Once the fish has taken the bait – that is, they've bitten onto the bait and the hook that's holding the bait – then the struggle begins to try and pull the fish out of the water in order to actually catch it.

What sometimes happens, however, is that a person will only pretend to fish as a pretext for doing

something else, like sleeping, being idle, or even having themselves a little one-person party. They'll still have their pole leaning over the water with the line and bait in it, but it's clear they're not actually looking to catch anything. They're wasting their own time, needlessly endangering the aquatic life with their unattended bait, and possibly even making a nuisance of themselves to those who are trying to fish. Hence the saying, a way for people to tell others "if you're not going to do something, then quit pretending like you are and move on".

"Calvin and Hobbes" creator Bill Watterson commented on his creative processes in a large comic anthology I have. As part

of it, he noted that whenever he'd take his idea notebooks with him to his front porch, he'd often find himself faced with an opportunity cost situation in regards to how long he should sit out there trying to brainstorm and observe the world. Any given hour, he noted, could be a waste of time or incredibly productive; there was no guarantee.

In my case, when I do these columns, I give myself a de facto timer. Once I get the computer up and running (everything's loaded, all the diagnostics are done, the settings are where they should be, et cetera), I pull up a blank Word document. I then go about whatever I mean to do online, such as checking

my social media, doing whatever research, and then reading a large number of comic strips through a particular content syndicator's website. This to-do list is that timer, and once I'm done with everything I look at the Word document. If it's still blank, or I'm still having trouble trying to make the idea I was chipping away at seem properly coherent, I "cut bait", closing the document without saving it. Otherwise, I could spend several extra hours a day just poking at something that simply won't do what I need it to do or fishing for ideas that just aren't biting. Tomorrow's another day, and I'll try again then.

Folks, is there something going on in your life to where you'd be bet-

ter served cutting bait? Is there a bad habit you'd do well to be rid of? Do you have a pile of books or projects you know you're not getting around to any time soon? Is there clutter in your home that doesn't need to be there? Is there a chore

you're spending more time avoiding than doing? Now's a good time to stop, reflect upon what you're realistically doing in life, and ask yourself if you're still seriously fishing, or if it's time to cut your bait and get serious. You don't have to wait for New Year's to make resolutions.

MPR council supports regional 9-1-1 district

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The Morgan's Point Resort City Council approved a resolution last week that supports the creation of the Central Texas Regional 9-1-1 Emergency Communications District.

This will create a 9-1-1 system separate from the state, and money collected on cell phone bills will go straight to the local district instead of going to the state first.

The current system allows the state to determine how those fifty-cent fees are spent. Under a new 9-1-1 system, the money will go directly to the regional system.

Also last week, the

council accepted the resignation of Justin Strawn from the Planning & Zoning Commission and declared a vacancy for that position.

The vacancy will allow city staff to advertise the position and begin accepting applications from MPR residents wishing to serve on the commission.

Also approved during last week's meeting was change of interim city manager to current city manager as the authorized Morgan's Point Resort official for a grant application in the amount of \$14,025 for portable radios under the Fiscal 2025 Criminal Justice Grant. The grant needs to be updated with the

current city manager's name.

The City Council approved a resolution that designates Horizon Bank as a depository for city funds and authorized four city employees — City Manager Dennis Baldwin, Finance Director Mary Tolman, Procurement Director Nayda Santana and Director of Administrative Services Katrice Jackson — to withdraw money from the bank.

Council approved consent items, including approval of Feb. 11 council meetings.

A Meet The Candidates event will be held on April 7 at 6 p.m. in the Garrett & Mic Hill Event Center.



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LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Mission House reopens for Operation Christmas Child



BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOCTEZUMA

TOP: Kathy Scribner and her team stand in front of the new Christmas sign at the Mission House, which serves as a hub for Operation Christmas Child volunteers. ABOVE The newly renovated Mission House at Immanuel Baptist Church in Temple reopened on Wednesday, March 5, nearly a year after it was damaged in a tornado.

By **DANIEL MOCTEZUMA**
The Belton Journal

Immanuel Baptist Church recently hosted a dedication ceremony for the Mission House in Temple, marking its reopening after repairs from tornado damage in May 2024.

The building is used year-round to support Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse.

Located at 19 South 29th Street, the Mission House serves as a space where volunteers pack shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children worldwide.

"We share the love of Christ here,"

said Kathy Scribner, area coordinator for Operation Christmas Child in Temple. "This is one way we do it. We involve the community, hold packing parties, and invite groups like American Heritage Girls to help."

Dioany Yosuno, who received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox when she was a child in Venezuela, spoke about how it impacted her.

"I didn't know what was inside," Yosuno said. "But when I opened it, I saw exactly what I had prayed for—brand new markers."

Growing up in the Venezuelan Amazon, her family struggled to afford basic supplies. She said receiving the shoebox

showed her that God had heard her prayers.

"I realized God knows me. He knows what I want and what I need. He cares about me," she said.

Now, Yosuno shares her story to encourage others to support Operation Christmas Child.

"There are so many children who need to know that God loves them," she said. "When people here pack shoeboxes, they help share that message."

Scribner said that while the house was being repaired, volunteers had to find other places to work.

"We didn't have a place to work," she said. "The church gave us room, but we had to move everything back and forth

each time."

Repairs were completed through Samaritan's Purse North American Ministries Rebuild Department. Upgrades included a new roof, siding, flooring, air conditioning, heating, and an expanded loading dock.

"This team has worked so hard over the years, collecting thousands of shoeboxes to spread the Gospel," said Mandi Pettikas, regional director for Operation Christmas Child in Texas and Louisiana. "Now, with this house open again, they'll be even more effective in their mission."

The Temple Operation Christmas Child team hopes to collect 25,000 shoeboxes this year. Volunteers can sign up to help or donate items.

Community-Minded WM Roofing opens new Belton office



Courtesy Photo

WM Roofing celebrates the opening of their new office in Belton with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

By **Michelle Rodriguez**
The Belton Journal

WM Roofing's Belton's office is located at 200 E. Central Ave in Ste. A, where Bird Creek Roofing's

office used to be.

The owners are Will and Krystal McGehee, with Tony Marquez managing the branch office in Belton. Their home office is in Lampasas.

"We are absolutely not storm chasers. We are community minded. The storm came through and there is a lot of work to be done. We want to provide excellent service in the greater

Temple-Belton, Salado, and surrounding areas," said Marquez.

They joined the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce and are trying to get roots in the community and

develop trust.

"We are going to have a crew in Belton. We have jobs between here and Lampasas. We can bring value not only through roofing, but through relationships because the relationships are important to us," said Marquez.

They provide roof repairs and total roofing replacement jobs. They work on commercial, residential, and historical homes. The work with shingle, metal, and flat roofs with different colors. They are an Owens Corning preferred contractor.

"Krystal did an outstanding job explaining everything about the replacement and cost as well as helped file claims to insurances when stuff came up that was not in the initial claim. Also, her roof team finished the complete roof tear down and install in a single day. I am completely happy with the work that was done and have already recommended them to my neighbors," said customer Chris Polidaro.

They've been in business for over 20 years. They repair and replace roofs. They provide individualized roofing options with inspections and warranties.

"WM Roofing took care of my issues with

great care and expertise.

They kept me up to date with what was happening throughout the complete process. They will be getting all of my roof repair business, thanks," said customer David Burt.

Will McGehee is co-owner/COO. He is from Lampasas and started working in roofing straight out of high school.

Krystal McGehee is co-owner/CAO. She has experience as an office manager, customer service, roofing administration, and insurance.

Marquez is the Branch Manager, and is certified in storm restoration inspection, and has experience in construction.

They recommend getting roof inspections twice a year to spot problems before they become costly, especially if you notice leaks, water spots, mold, or after major storms.

Inspectors check if a roof needs to be repaired or replaced. Inspections are free and can take 45 minutes to one hour, depending on the size of the roof. Insurances may cover repair and replacements.

WM Roofing was welcomed to the community by the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting.



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More information coming soon!

Spring breakers enjoy activities at the library

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

The Lena Armstrong Public Library, located at 301 E. 1st Ave., along with the Belton Police, Fire, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation Departments teamed up last week with fun activities for spring breakers to do.

"We are here to let everyone look at the car. Ever been in a police car before?" asked Police Officer Jacob Schille.

They expected about 100 kids. They were at the library Thursday and Friday for Spring Break for Touch a Truck. The Belton police officers played sirens from their cars for the kids and gave out stickers.

"The Belton Parks and Recreation Departments asked the Belton fire and police department to go out to the library," said Police Officer Dwayne Ravizee.

There were different crafts every day at the library. Thursday, they had rock painting, create your own cookie, puzzles, and Legos.

"For Touch a Truck, we let them go through it, let them see inside, see our tools like the flat head ax. We take them around the trucks and they ask questions. It's like a show and tell. Kids normally ask if we live at the fire station and if we have a dog," said Firefighter Kyle Urbanovsky.

Tori Meece took her 3-year-old son, Samuel-Meece, to the library. "We are enjoying our day to-

day. He's done the zero-turn skid steer, and this is our fourth time at the firetruck. He told me multiple times, I just want to help people and do jobs," said Meece.

The kids were able to write and draw with sidewalk chalk outside the library.

"Today we are showing them different things. The kids can touch a female deer skull, things you can find around the park here in central Texas like a tarantula and the bottom jaw of a beaver. Beavers chew on wood because their teeth keep growing and growing so they file their teeth by chewing on wood," said Kyle Velasco with Belton Parks and Recreation Department.

They also displayed some shells and an American porcupine quill. Ashley Watkins took her son Charlie Watkins to the library.

"He's very much so enjoyed his day. We come to do the craft stuff before at the library. He loves going to the children's library to read books and play Legos today," said mom Ashley Watkins.

"We are having our spring break event. We've had crafts all week. I like to see what the kids can create," said Lauren Grommet. "We've had a good turnout and I've seen a lot of new faces."

"We have a front-end loader, street sweeper and skid steerer out for the kids to ride, see, and touch. This is the first



BELTON JOURNAL/MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ
TOP: Firefighters Barack Cloe and Kyle Urbanovsky, meet three-year-old Samuel Meece. ABOVE: Charlie Watkins paints rocks at the library on Thursday for the spring break event.

time the library has done it this big. It's a great way to get the kids out and have fun," said Kyle Urbanovsky with the City of Belton Public Works.

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Lady Tigers Soccer ready for battle with Kaufman in Mexia on Thursday



Photo credit to Tiger Media

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

The Belton Lady Tigers Soccer team enjoyed another successful season, taking home a District 16-5A championship.

Belton head coach Oscar Bersosa always challenges his teams in the pre-district schedule, which commonly includes Frisco's Dr. Pink Classic in Dallas, the Governor's Cup in Georgetown, and added on the Burnet Tournament in January.

"This is the first time since my first year in Belton that I scheduled three tournaments but that is due to our much smaller district schedule," Bersosa said. "We had plenty to figure out pre-district with regard to personnel. Since we graduated two kids last year, we had to reshuffle our backline, which was not easy but feels like we are in a good spot now. All things considered, I felt we sputtered along during tournament season and actually ended up with a pretty good tournament record against some tough opposition."

The team quietly put together another district championship, going 9-0-1 in District 16-5A, having outscored opponents 54-1. With having just a six-team alignment for 2024-2026, it is an advantage to have a 10-game schedule.

"MUCH more of a challenge with a more compressed schedule," Bersosa said. "This district schedule is one of the toughest and had the most parity from top to bottom in my time in Belton. We did attend a third tournament so that we could fill in some more games. Adding another tournament is always a gamble because recovery is much less as opposed to the alternative of having games on Tuesday/Friday. But we needed to find games."

In Bersosa's view, the strength of the Lady Tigers is in the defense.

"I think the biggest strength of this team is its work rate out-of-possession," Bersosa said. "We

don't always do it well but it's one of the things we do pride ourselves in and work hard at - defend!"

From the looks of District 15-5A, it appears that Midlothian Heritage or Kaufman would be Belton's opponent in the bi-district round. Bersosa feels that the new Division I and II playoff schematics has playoff planning in an interesting light.

"D1 and D2 has really changed the post-season match ups," Bersosa said. "It worked out for us this year that we will play a four-seed and semi-get rewarded for winning our district. That reward comes with a nuance that we are in Region 2 this alignment."

The Lady Tigers will play on Thursday at 6 pm at Blackcats Stadium in Mexia.

"Region 2 is tough! Our Bi-District round takes us north into the metroplex to a tough bi-district match up," Bersosa said. Any team out of District 15 is going to be a difficult match up!"

Belton's senior class had a ton of experience, not only in pre-district and district circles, but in the postseason as well.

"This senior class does have plenty of experience," Bersosa said. "They have been involved in a ton of playoff games, and Tori (Luksinger) and Ava (Itz) have played max minutes in every one of those playoff games. We have relied heavily on this senior class to lead the way, pull a big load, and as we say "be shade providers" for our underclassmen. In keeping with the "shade" analogy, these seniors have also worked to help our underclassmen grow in their own right."

It is a senior class that has a valuable one to the foundation of Belton Lady Tigers Soccer.

"Finally, in addition to being good soccer players, this senior class is tight-knit, and really great kids! I will miss them a ton when the season ends... Lord willing that will be several weeks from now," Bersosa said.

Bronco boys' soccer starts playoffs

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos boys' soccer team is preparing for a tough challenge as they open their UIL 5A State Playoff campaign at Midway Panthers Stadium this Thursday. The Broncos will face off against the Midlothian Panthers, the defending state champions, in the first round of the playoffs. This marks a significant moment for the Broncos, who are making their third playoff appearance since their debut season in 2020. After finishing a 3-6-1 district record, the Broncos secured the fourth and final playoff spot in District 19-5A. Despite a tough regular season, including three consecutive losses, Lake Belton is determined to put its best foot forward against one of the state's top teams. Midlothian enters the matchup with a stellar 10-1-3 district record and is riding a five-game win streak. The Panthers have been dominant all season, showing why they are considered favorites to defend their state title. Midlothian boasts a well-rounded squad with offensive firepower and a strong defensive backline, which has helped it remain a top contender in the state. For the Broncos, the task ahead is daunting. Midlothian's pedigree and form coming into the playoffs make them a formidable opponent. However, Lake Belton will take confidence in the fact that they are entering the playoffs with a fresh start. Despite their losing streak to close out the regular season, the Broncos have consistently shown moments of quality soccer throughout the year, and they'll need to play their best soccer of the season to keep it alive. The Broncos' first playoff game since 2023 will be their first opportunity to make a statement and advance past the first round. The players know they need to be sharp in all areas of the game from defense to offense and take advantage of any opportunities that come their way. The match is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, with a kickoff time of 6 p.m.

Broncos girls to face Red Oak in playoffs

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos girls' soccer team is gearing up for a thrilling Bi-District playoff game this Thursday as they face off against the Red Oak Hawks. This match comes after a strong finish to the regular season, as the Broncos hope to improve on last year's early playoff exit and make a deeper run in the postseason.

After an up-and-down season, the Broncos rallied to finish with a 5-4-1 district record, earning them third place in District 19-5A. Their record was helped by a strong late push, with the team securing two wins in their final three district games. In the closing moments of the season, the Broncos tied the Waco University Trojans in a hard-fought 1-1 draw, which ultimately helped propel them into the playoff picture.

Despite the tie, the team showed great effort in its final stretch of games, proving it is ready for the challenges ahead. The Broncos' 5-4-1 district record secured them a spot in the playoffs, where they now face the formidable Red Oak Hawks. The Hawks finished with an impressive 11-2-1 record in district play. The Hawks ended their season on a high note, going on a three-game win streak to close the regular season.

The Broncos' matchup against Red Oak represents both a challenge and an opportunity. Last season, Lake Belton's playoff run ended in the Bi-District round after a tough 4-2 loss to Lake Creek, and the team is determined to go further this year.

To make that dream a reality, the Broncos must bring their A-game against a Red Oak team that has shown both offensive firepower and defensive stability throughout the season.

As the game nears, both teams aim to keep their season alive. With both teams on a win streak, the match will be a back-and-forth affair that may come down to the final minutes of play.

The exact time of the game has yet to be announced, but it is scheduled for Thursday, March 20th. The match's location has also yet to be announced.

Belton ISD captures several athletes named to the All-District basketball team

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Tigers are coming off another impressive season, and there is reason to believe they are not done yet.

After posting a school-record 30 victories two seasons ago, Belton almost repeated the feat under new head coach Phil McCaslin, who led the program to a 28-8 overall record and a bi-district championship in his debut.

As with every season, however, the Tigers will undoubtedly lose talent to graduation, but opposing coaches believe the team has a key piece to continue building around.

Belton junior forward Daniel Briscoe was recently named 16-5A All-District Newcomer of the Year after helping the Tigers finish tied for second in the standings with a 7-3 record.

Additionally, junior teammate Noah Childers, a shooting guard and small forward, was placed on the second team.

Belton also saw sophomores Ty Johnson, a forward, and point guard Luke Munden, junior Jay'dn Loggins and senior guards Easton Barrett and Jason Green named as honorable mentions.

Lake Belton struggled on the court, but like the Tigers, plenty of potential remains after winning just one district game.

Dezmin Ravizee, a junior, received the Broncos' loftiest recognition, landing on the second team, while four teammates — senior Nelson Hayes, junior Kendrick Jones Jr. and sophomores Mikey Lockett and Allen Muchunu — were honorable mentions.

No. 3 Ellison dominated the list after falling just shy of reaching the state championship game for a third consecutive season.

The Eagles went undefeated en route to the district title behind most valuable player Jojo McIver, a guard. The senior was a unanimous selection for the award just like Ellison head coach Alberto Jones Jr., who was unanimously named coach of the year.

Furthermore, Eagles junior guard Sean Parks was named defensive player of the year.

Ellison also had two first-team selections in senior Darone Leakes and sophomore Marneko Thomas, and junior teammate Elijah Bass was placed on the second team.


The Eagles (30-6) won 15 consecutive games before falling to No. 6 Mansfield Summit 48-40 in the Division II state semifinal.

Rounding out the superlatives, Waco University junior London Smith was named offensive player of the year after helping the Trojans tie Belton for second place.



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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Lake Belton standout sprinter Kendrick Jones Jr. recently won the 400-meter run at the prestigious Texas A&M Bluebonnet High School Invitational.

With elite athletes from schools of all classifications in attendance, the junior — a two-time 200 state champion and defending long jump state champion — easily finished atop the 68-person field, completing the lap in 45.27 seconds.

His closest competitor was 1.33 slower.

Thanks to Jones' showing, the Broncos finished in a tie for 32nd place with 10 points.

Complementing the outing, Julian Walker was 11th (22 feet, 5.29 inches) in the long jump, and Caleb Lopez was 27th (130-7.72) in the discus.

Additionally, Lake Belton was 19th (1:27.77) in the 800 relay, 39th (43.08) in the 400 relay and 40th (3:44.18) in the 1,600 relay.

A pair of Tigers were also in attendance.

Christian Porter was 16th (48.68) in the 400, and Lo-

gan Lamberte was 18th (13-3.78) in the pole vault.

In the girls division, Lake Belton's Abigail Rydberg (12th, pole vault, 11-0.28), Dannika Kelley (31st, high jump, 4-11.84) and Chelsie Miller (54th, 400, 1:00.52) competed individually, while the Lady Broncos were 30th (48.32) in the 400 relay and 34th (1:43.30) in the 800 relay.

All four of Belton ISD's programs will be back in action Thursday, when Lake Belton hosts the annual Bronco Relays.

BASEBALL

The Broncos and Tigers are just days away from opening their District 16-5A schedules against one another.

Lake Belton will host the first of two consecutive encounters between the squads Tuesday at 7 p.m. The teams will switch sites for the series finale on March 28.

The Broncos (10-3-2) conclude their nondistrict schedule by traveling to College Station on Friday, while the Tigers enter district with a 6-7 overall record after going 2-3 at the Richardson Lake Highlands tournament.

In the opener, Belton defeated Denison 13-4 as Gage Flores went 3 for 4 with two runs scored and a pair of stolen bases, while Cole Haisler struck out four batters in

five innings.

The Tigers followed by falling 4-3 to Richardson and 5-1 to Richardson Berkner before beating Garland Naaman Forest 2-0 as Oakley Torres and Flores each finished with two hits.

In the finale, Richardson Pearce earned a 6-5 victory to spoil two-hit showings from Austin Wood, Rayshaun Peoples and Torres.

The Broncos split a pair of games against Austin Westlake during spring break, falling 3-1 to the Chaparrals on the road before beating them 11-10 at home.

Eli Vaughn emerged as the winning pitcher at Lake Belton, and teammate Cameron Bartz went 2 for 3 with two RBIs and two runs scored, while Ty Green provided the game-winning hit in his lone at bat.

GOLF

The Tigers and Broncos will host the annual Belton ISD tournament today at Killeen's Stonetree Golf Course.

Then, on Tuesday, the Lady Tigers and Lady Broncos travel to the same site to begin the District 16-5A tournament. The final round will be played Wednesday.



BISD's Lady powerlifting teams close out season; boys sending four to state



By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Lady Broncos and Lady Tigers did not earn any medals at last week's state powerlifting meet, but their counterparts still have an opportunity to achieve the lofty feat.

Belton and Lake Belton capped off their campaigns Saturday, when each program traveled to Edinburg for the Texas High School Women's Powerlifting Association Class 5A State Meet, and while none of the local competitors placed among the top three, Jayla Lisenbe came the closest.

The Lady Broncos junior finished fourth in the Division I 198-pound weight class, amassing a total of 980 pounds to finish just 15 pounds behind bronze medalist Deandra Ybarra, of Donna. Lisenbe had a 405 squat, 240 bench press and 335 deadlift.

Also lifting inside the Bert Ogden Arena, Scarlytt Cotham, a 114-pounder, had a 245-145-275-665 showing for Lake Belton. Aleyna Castor also participated, but she was unable to complete a lift in the 181 weight class.

Lisenbe's outing accounted for both of the Lady Broncos'

points as they finished 21st overall.

Victoria East emerged atop the team standings with 27 points, while Donna (2nd, 25), McAllen Memorial (3rd, 20) and Harlingen South (4th, 19) followed.

Belton also accumulated two points and placed 25th in the Division II meet.

Kennedy Weston (181, 360-155-350-865) and Melissa Farmer (242, 365-195-340-900) combined to generate the Lady Tigers' score with identical fifth-place outings, while teammates Lauren Seidel (105, 155-90-230-475) and Byonka Donaldson (242+, 375-200-305-880) were eighth and ninth, respectively.

Edcouch-Elsa (1st, 43) barely edged out Dennison (2nd, 41) for the team title, while Victoria West (14) was a distant third.

With the girls season concluded, now, the boys' opportunity to earn state championships has arrived.

The Texas High School Powerlifting Association Division I State Meet is set for Saturday at Abilene's Taylor County Expo Center, and four Belton ISD products will be

in attendance.

By placing either first or second or meeting a predetermined weight total at last week's Region II, Division I meet, two Broncos and two Tigers qualified for state.

Winning their weight classes, Christian Morales and Brett Harmon helped Lake Belton finish third in the final standings with 15 points — one fewer than runner-up Pflugerville Hendrickson (2nd, 16). Host school Joshua emerged with the championship, scoring 29 points.

Morales topped the 114 field with 1,005 (350-240-415), while Harmon won the 275 title with 1,590 (625-410-555).

Additionally, Cooper Arnold and Leonel Castillo competed for the Broncos in the 132 division, placing fifth (385-290-375-1,050) and 11th (350-220-340-910), respectively.

Despite recording just three points en route to placing 20th, Belton advanced Daniel Arana (3rd, 123, 405-300-425-1,130) and Logan Ricks (8th, 165, 515-300-485-1,300) with qualifying totals.

Corbin Wittman (12th, 123, 375-215-205-795) also represented the Tigers.

West Temple water tower will soon boost Bronco spirit

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Bronco spirit is about to go sky high in far-west Temple.

The city of Temple hopes to combine a routine water tower renovation project with support for Lake Belton High School, which is in Belton ISD but inside Temple's city limits.

"Usually, we use the city of Temple logo on our elevated stor-

age tanks, but we want to show support for Lake Belton High with something different," said Temple City Manager Brynn Myers. "We want to get high school art students involved in the design process. We are hoping to have cool artwork on the water tower that shows support for Lake Belton High School."

The renovation project is expected to begin this fall.

"This is a large water tank with a very large surface for art," My-

ers said. "Details haven't been determined, but the tower could be painted or we could use a wrap."

Myers said students would not actually be on the tower during the project.

"They will be helping with the design aspect of the renovation," she said. "We can't put them up on the tower. But, we want to build Bronco spirit, and having LBHS students involved in the project is a step in that direction."



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WOODS, WATERS & WILDLIFE

By John Jefferson
Turkey Hunting Tips

TPWD says there'll be plenty of turkeys – including young ones unwary of hunters -- and excellent hunting this spring season. Late season means fewer hunters and anxious gobblers.

South Texas hunting opens March 15 – BUT checking the Outdoor Annual for your particular county's dates and bag limits is Mandatory for ALL ZONES. The North Zone (most of Texas) opens March 29. East Zone opens April 22. One turkey bag limit counties open April 1.

And remember -- shotguns must only have a three-shell capacity!

Don't be intimidated by videos showing experienced experts using hand-made calls that cost more than you can justify to your mate.

Horace Gore -- one or the first Texas SPRING turkey hunters in 1970, told me when I began hunting turkeys that more important than winning turkey calling contests is merely making the best sound you can, wearing camo clothes and head net, and then Sitting Perfectly Still!

Successfully calling a turkey within shotgun range is one of hunting's finest experiences. A couple of hunts are fondly remembered.

Don't get too call-happy. Some birds come in quickly and silently. Once, a gobbler came in to my call that way. I was about to call again when he suddenly appeared twenty feet away, slowly strutting from right to left in front of me!

I froze. I had never been that close to a turkey. Our comfort zones were invaded by his presence. I promise you, I didn't even blink my eyes!

When he reached about 25-feet away, looking for that hen in need, I picked up my shotgun. As I did, it ruffled camo netting covering part of me. He took off at a rapid turkey trot as I threw the gun to my shoulder. He disappeared behind a bull mesquite tree. My heart sank. Then, to my amazement, he stuck his head and several inches of neck around the tree to see what had spooked him.

He could now see me. I had but an instant to shoot. I pulled the trigger and dusted six inches of tree bark into the air. On the ground lay a wing-flapping turkey in its final

energy release.

Another time, my caller and I had hunted hard, to no avail. At sundown, four gobblers moved out of the brush heading to more cover. I threw up the gun just as they reached the brush – almost 50-yards away. I didn't hesitate. I yanked the trigger with the shotgun pointed somewhere in the direction of the last bird in the small flock.

My caller yelled – “Ya got him!”

I don't claim another shooting merit badge for shotgun accuracy. It was a desperation shot with just a millisecond to shoot. Both shots would have only blasted treebark and brush had I hesitated.

So, take aim for the turkey's head if you have the luxury of time and a stationery turkey. I had neither on those hunts. Quick decisions are required!

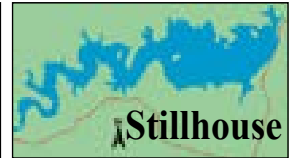
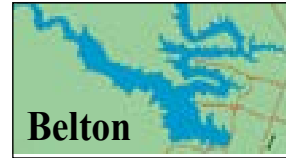
The more you hunt -- and shoot -- the easier it'll get.



Photo by John and Vicky Jefferson.

Three popular turkey calls are a slate and striker, a box call, and a diaphragm mouth call. The slate and box calls are easier to master but the mouth call allows hands-free operation, which is needed at times. Doing your best with one is enough, but being camouflaged and Very Still are more important.

FISHING REPORT



FAIR. Water stained; 50 degrees; 2.35 feet below pool. Before the most recent blast of cold came in on February 19, water temperatures had cooled back to the levels they were at before the record-setting, 8-day warming trend that ended on February 8. After a few smaller male white bass began to appear headed toward spawning areas around Mother Neff State Park, the migration run generally halted and will likely remain low key until our next significant warmup. For those heading upriver, light leadhead jigs with white or off-white curl-tail grubs selected to fish just inches above the bottom will produce well, as will grey and/or olive streamers fished on fly gear. Anglers remaining on the upper ends of the main lake on the Leon River or Cowhouse Creek arms, flatline trolling will be improving. Troll multiple baits that dive to different depths, then change over once fish show a preference. Fish in deeper, clearer water will remain interested in the 5/8 ounce and 3/4 ounce white Bladed Hazy Eye Slab worked with a very slow, steady upward motion where fish are seen concentrated on bottom via sonar. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are fair. With cold water temperatures anglers should search for blue catfish in deeper river channels and around steep ledges in 30-45 feet of water. Larger cut baits have been effective for trophy size fish. Eater fish under 10 pounds are still active and slow drifting with small cut shad along sand flats will produce. Channel catfish are fair but can still be caught on warmer days using punch bait in 15-25 feet of water. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

GOOD. Water stained; 50 degrees; 2.92 feet below pool. Before the most recent blast of cold on February 19, water temperatures had cooled back to the levels they were at before the record-setting 8-day warming trend which ended on February 8. After a few smaller male white bass began to appear headed toward spawning areas on either side of the Gravel Crossing, the migration run generally halted and will likely remain low key until our next significant warmup. For those heading upriver, light leadhead jigs with white or off-white curl-tail grubs selected to fish just inches above the bottom will produce well, as will grey and, or olive streamers fished on fly gear. For those remaining on the upper end of the main lake, flatline trolling will be improved. Troll multiple baits that dive to different depths, then change over once fish show a preference. Fish in deeper, clearer water will remain interested in the 5/8 ounce and 3/4 ounce white Bladed Hazy Eye Slab worked with a very slow, steady upward motion where fish are seen concentrated on bottom via sonar. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

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Time for some financial spring cleaning

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

Spring is here — which means it's once again time to wash the windows, organize your cabinets and steam your carpets. This year, besides tidying up around your house, why not also consider some financial spring cleaning?

For starters, you could “de-clutter” your investment portfolio. How? Look for duplicate, or near-duplicate investments. If you've got several, you might be better off selling some to broaden your investment mix.

Here's another spring-cleaning tip: Dust off your investment strategy. If you've experienced changes in your life, such as a marriage, a

new job or the arrival of new children, you might need to adjust your goals and the methods of reaching them.

Also, just as you may get rid of broken tools or other dangerous items when you clean your house or garage, you need to watch out for threats to your financial security, such as a major home or auto repair. You can protect yourself by building an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses.

Of course, some of these moves can take some time — but by getting started on them soon, you can help put your financial house in better shape for the next spring cleaning.

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

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Morgan's Point Resort Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on March 25, 2025 at 5:30 PM at Event Center, 60 Morgan's Point Blvd, Morgan's Point Resort TX 76513 to consider a request for a Specific Use Permit (SUP) for a Short Term Vacation Rental on property located at 43 Oakmont Cir, Morgan's Point Resort TX 76513: Section 3, Block 001, Lot(s) 0017 & 0018 - Bell Cad Parcel ID 5634 & 53564 The request is made by Michael L Neely for the purpose of Short-Term Vacation Rental.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and express their views. Written comments may be submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission at 8 Morgan's Point Blvd, Morgan's Point Resort TX 76513 before the hearing. For more information, contact Camille Bowser at 254-742-3026 or camille.bowser@mprtx.us. 03.13,03.20

LEGALS

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To Sean Robert Benavides
Greetings:
You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the plaintiff's original complaint and request for disclosure at or before 10 o'clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o'clock AM, before the Honorable 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said plaintiff's original complaint and request for disclosure was filed in said court on March 04, 2024. The file number of said suit being No. 24DCV344981. The names of the parties in said suit are:

Ryan Walters VS. Sean Robert Benavides
The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:
Mr. Walters was hit by Mr. Benavides in an MVA and Mr. Walters has had some medical issues since the MVA on 10/28/2022. Attorney has tried to find the Defendant to let him know of the case filed against him with no success.

This was issued at the request of attorney: CHRIS MCDANIEL HORTMAN HARLOW BASSI ROBINSON & MCDANIEL PLLC, POST OFFICE DRAWER 1409, LAUREL MS 39441. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty- two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on February 24, 2025.
Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909 ,Belton, Texas 76513
By: M Cortez Deputy Clerk
03.06,06.13,03.20,03.27

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Maureen Ann Lansing were issued on February 19th, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00069, pending in the County Court at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to Joseph Lansing.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:c/o Joseph Lansing, 303 Oak Ridge Dr, Nolanville, Texas 76559

Dated March 14, 2025
/s/ Andrew Thompson, Andrew Thompson Attorney for Executor of the Estate of Maureen Ann Lansing
03.20

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF WENDELL LEWIS CLEM, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary were issued on March 7, 2025 in a proceeding styled Estate of Wendell Lewis Clem, Deceased, in Cause Number 25CPB00020, pending in the County Court At Law #1 of Bell County, Texas. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executrix, addressed as follows:

Hyon Suk Clem-White Independent Executrix of the Estate of Wendell Lewis Clem, Deceased
c/o Burk Roberts, Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P. ,2501 East Elms Rd., Ste. A, Killeen, Texas 76542-3023

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.

Signed on March 10, 2025.
Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., Attorneys for Hyon Suk Clem-White
By: Burk Roberts
03.20

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00163**

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
GENERA MILLER, Applicant, on March 11, 2025, filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of

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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.

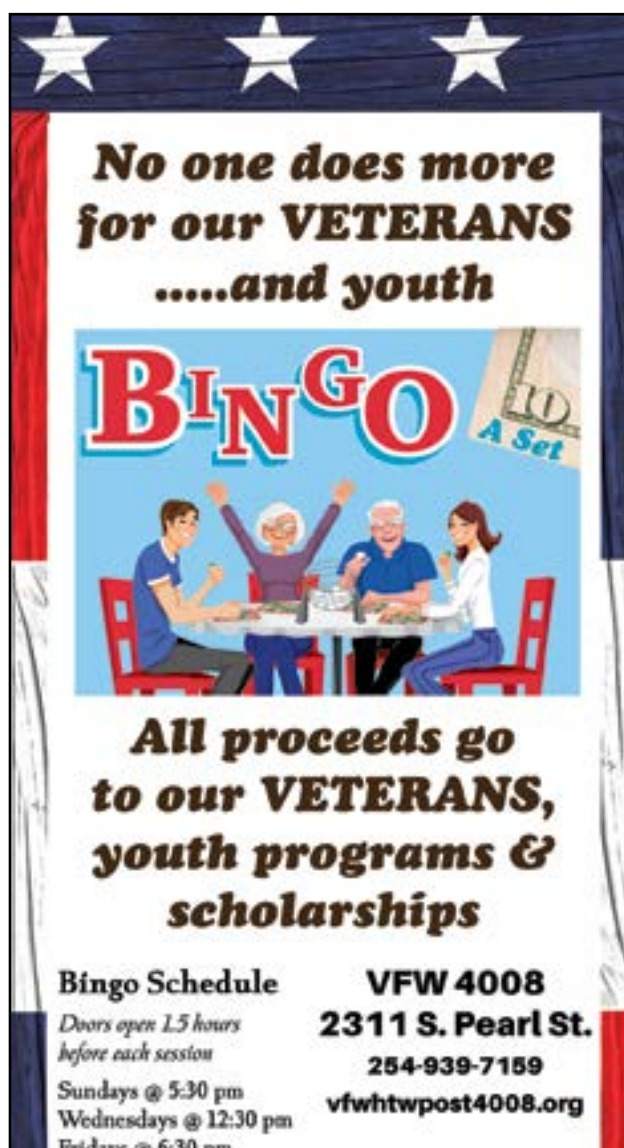
BELTON ISD - Charming home with a nice front porch, 2 bedrooms, one bath and lots of storage. Living area could be used as a meeting room. Lot features a beautiful mature tree in the front yard, fully fenced yard, and several out buildings. Excellent location with many possibilities! Adjacent properties 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 loads 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!

Texas law requires all real estate licensees to give the following information about brokerage services to prospective buyers, tenants, sellers and landlords.
<http://iab.org/covov.com/Laura.pdf>

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Sundays @ 5:30 pm **254-939-7159**
Wednesdays @ 12:30 pm **vfwhtwpost4008.org**
Fridays @ 6:30 pm

LEGALS

Administration - Intestate in a proceeding styled: JOIL SANDERS, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00163 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 March 20, 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

LEGALS

the attorney for applicant is: JOSHUA TISDALE, 1216 S 31ST ST ,TEMPLE TX 76504 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 March 11, 2025. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513 By: Lillian Phillips Deputy 03.20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CAROL

LEGALS

ANN HIGGINS, Deceased, were issued on March 5, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00111, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: PAMELA BIRCHARD. 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: Jeffrey Thigpen Attorney at Law, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503 DATED the 11th day of March, 2025. Jeffrey Thigpen Attorney for PAMELA BIRCHARD, State

LEGALS

Bar No.: 24099990, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503, Telephone: (254) 773-1663, Facsimile: (254) 773-2574, Email: jeff@linzythigpen.com 03.20

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES ARE BEING STORED AT KILLEEN TOWING & RECOVERY
12197 State Hwy 195 Killeen, TX 76542, 254-526-3856, VSF0651623, http://www.tdlr.texas.gov, 1996 Eagle Talon (white) charges are \$573.35, 1971 Dodge Charger (black) charges are \$519.88 03.20

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2 YR OLD



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\$20 OFF SERVICE COUPON Choose One: Alignment, Brake Service (Most Vehicles) (Helps tires run cooler and maintain proper inflation through temperature changes. Proper inflation promotes better fuel mileage and tread life miles. Price good for passenger and SUV sizes. LT sizes and load prices slightly higher. *EXPIRES 12-31-25

NITROGEN INFLATION (4 TIRES) \$24.95 (Helps tires run cooler and maintain proper inflation through temperature changes. Proper inflation promotes better fuel mileage and tread life miles. Price good for passenger and SUV sizes. LT sizes and load prices slightly higher. *EXPIRES 12-31-25

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SEE STORE FOR MORE INFO

BRIDGESTONE P275/55R20 Alenza \$245	Firestone P265/70R17 LE3 \$219	UNIROYAL P225/60R16 M/S \$135	Firestone LT254/75/17 AT2 \$247	YOKOHAMA LT265/70R17E AT4 \$250	KUMHO TIRE LT285/70R17E AT52 \$262
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ASK FOR REBATES

McGuire Tire, Bushbarrs, LIFTKITS Truck Accessories, GOODYEAR, BRIDGESTONE, Firestone, YOKOHAMA, HANKOOK, Kelly Tires, KUMHO TIRE, COOPER TIRES, TOYO TIRES, MICHELIN, BF Goodrich, Sumitomo, NEXEN, GLADATOR, UNIROYAL

Local Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

March

3/20: Nonfiction book Club; Meet and Greet Coffee; 42, Dominoes
3/21: Trail Blazers Walking Group
3/22: Jimmy's Egg
3/24: Well -Read Women; Canasta
3/25: singing Bluebonnets
3/26: Fun Lunch; Crochet and Knit
3/27: 42, Dominoes

April

04/01: Footloose Singles
04/02: Luncheon (Activities Fashion Show); Popcorn Bridge
04/03: 42 Dominoes
04/07: Chat 'n' Canasta
04/08: Singing Bluebonnets
04/10: 42 Dominoes

04/11: TGIF Lunch
04/12: Couples Night Out
04/14: Bookworms
04/15: Bunco
04/16: Popcorn Bridge
04/17: Nonfiction Book Club; 42 Dominoes
04/18: Trailblazers Walking Group
04/19: Exploring Wines
04/21: Snack Time Mahjong
04/22: Singing Bluebonnets
04/23: Fun Lunch
04/24: 42 Dominoes
04/26: Jimmy's Egg
04/28: Well -Read Women; Monday Canasta
04/30: Crochet and Knit

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

CAC announces 2025 concert lineups

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

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 joyful 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.

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.

The Bell County Master Gardener Association is hosting a free monthly seminar "Container and Raised Bed Care and Maintenance" on Thursday, March 20th, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM at the Texas Agrilife Extension Office, BCMGA Learning Center, 1605 N. Main St., Belton. Certified Master Gardener, Lenny West will discuss how best to grow and maintain container gardens and how they can help feed those in food deserts. Class Limit: 50. Please Register at bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com

Rare of Breed The Redemption Tour at Schoepf's BBQ Rare of Breed: The Redemption Tour Pt. 2 is coming to Belton on Saturday, March 22 from 6-10 p.m. at Schoepf's BBQ. Rare of Breed brings his message of hope, redemption, and faith to the stage. Special guests Joe Nester and Just Nate Musik will also perform, making this a night filled with powerful performances and uplifting stories.

The Bell County Master Gardeners Association's Herb Study Groups is hosting a hands-on workshop, March 22nd, 10 AM to 2 PM (weather permitting). If you want to create a productive, space-saving garden feature, join us for a hands-on workshop where we'll teach you how to build an Herb Spiral, a perfect solution for growing a variety of herbs in a small space! Whether you're a beginner or seasoned gardener, you'll learn everything you need to know to get started. What you Need: Gloves, hat, water, and an eagerness to get your hands in the soil. What we will cover: Ground Prep and Design Tips; Building the Herb Spiral Structure; Installing irrigation for easy watering; Choosing and Planting Herbs. Class Limit: 20. Please Register at bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com

Team Poss'Abilities" presents the Central Texas Poss'Abilities" Job Fair for high school & college students, including young adults with disabilities. They're inviting employers, job training programs, and vendors to participate in the 6th Annual Area Poss'Abilities" Job Fair on Friday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for high school students and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for college students and young adults. It will be held at the Bawcom Student Union Center located at University of Mary-Hardin Baylor. Lunch will be provided. For any general/registration questions, contact: Cheryl Nelson at 254-913-4193.

Ladies Auxiliary M.P.R.V.F.D. presents Roses for Hoses on Saturday, April 12 at 8:30 a.m. at the Oakmont Park in Morgans Point Resort. A 5K run and walk, part of the Centex race series formerly known as Cops Vs. Robbers. Dress in costume or come as you are. The event supports the fire department and community outreach projects.

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 aspenshospice.net or call 512-856-5668 for more information.

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

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

commission@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. Majong games are available every Monday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come join the fun and meet new folks. For more information text Jeanne at 409-313-0611.

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

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

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

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.

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

Community Information

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

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

Text-to-911 for speech/hearing impaired, those unable to call or speak due to home invasion, abduction or domestic violence or physically incapable. Providing location, city name and nature

of the emergency in the first message is imperative. For further education on this service, don't hesitate to call 254-933-5500.

Citizens Helping in Police Service (CHIPS) are extra eyes and ears while in areas where large groups may gather. Contact the Belton Police Dept. to join.

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

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

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



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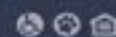
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Anchor of Hope Fellowship
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Belton Christian Church
9425 W FM ~ 436 254.939.1172

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 Fcbelton.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

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and School
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Christian Life Church
4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626

Covenant Lutheran Church
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First Baptist Church
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First Methodist Church GMC
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First Presbyterian Church Temple
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Foundation Church
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Grace Baptist Church
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Grace Comm. Primitive Baptist
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Grace Presbyterian Church
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Harvest Church
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Leon Valley Church of Christ
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New Hope Church of God
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254.742.2181

St. Francis Episcopal & School
5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255

St. Luke's Catholic Church
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St. Mary's Catholic Church
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Taylors Valley Baptist Church
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Temple Bible Church
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First Church of the Nazarene
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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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Witnessing God's Mighty Hand At Work



John Perry

Twelve years ago, my church invited me to represent them on the board of the Body of Christ Community Clinic in Belton. At the time, I knew nothing about the organization, and I thought it would be a short-term com-

mitment—a year or two at most. After all, I had served on many boards throughout my career. Little did I know that this decision would change my life.

All these years later, I remain deeply connected to the Clinic. I've served as Board Chair for three years and dedicated countless hours as a volunteer. What I discovered back then was a remarkable ministry that provides essential medical and dental care to those who need it most—people without insurance or the means to pay. Witnessing the life-changing impact the Clinic has on indi-

viduals and families captured my heart in a way I never expected. I know now that I'll continue to serve there for as long as I am able.

Working alongside the Clinic, I have seen God's hand at work in the most profound ways. His presence is evident as we serve those in need. I'm often reminded of Philippians 2:13: "For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose." This truth became so very clear to me during one pivotal chapter in the Clinic's journey.

While I was Board Chair, we were blessed with a

building. After much prayer, we unanimously agreed that our greatest need was to expand dental services. We took a leap of faith and committed to building a dental clinic. There was just one problem—we had no money for renovations, or the costly equipment required. We needed to raise \$250,000. And so, we prayed. Then we turned to area churches, businesses, and individuals for support.

Construction began without a cent in our hands, only a steadfast belief that God would provide. And He did, in the most remarkable

ways. Time after time, as funds ran low, we prayed—and donations or services appeared, often just in time. It was humbling and awe-inspiring to watch God answer our prayers through the generosity of others. A couple of years later, the dream became reality: we opened a fully-equipped, state-of-the-art dental clinic, completely debt-free. Truly, God's provision is faithful and abundant!

Now, the Clinic faces another critical moment. On March 27th at UMHB, the Clinic will hold its annual fundraising banquet. Last year was financially chal-

lenging for the Clinic, and this year's fundraiser is vital to sustaining our mission. We humbly ask for your support—by attending the banquet or making a donation. Join us as we continue to seek God's will and serve those in need. For more information, please call the Clinic at (254) 939-9500.

I'll close with Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Thank you, and may God bless you all!



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SAT. MAR 29 - SUN. MAR 30

SAT. 10 AM - 7 PM

SUN. 7 AM - 10 AM

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- Native American Flute Performance and Live Music **MAR 29 / 10 AM - 2 PM**
- Vendors with Western and Native American Products **MAR 29 / 10 AM - 7 PM**
- Chuck Wagon Lunch **MAR 29 / 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**
(Or Until Food Runs Out)
- Texas Old Time Fiddlers Contest **MAR 29 / 3 PM - 7 PM**
- Cowboy Breakfast **MAR 30 / 7 AM - 9 AM**
No Fee, Sponsored by the City of Belton (Or Until Food Runs Out)
- 3C Cowboy Church **MAR 30 / 9 AM - 10 AM**



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