

Belton man takes Top Male Trooper award at annual DPS competition

Special to the Journal

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) announced the winners of the 14th annual Javier Arana Jr. Top Trooper Competition.

The contest wrapped up on Friday after several days of intense competition at the DPS Tactical Training Center in Florence.

The Top Male award went to Brody Telfer of Belton and the Top Female award went to Melanie Moreno of Seguin.

As part of taking the title of Top Trooper, Telfer and Moreno received a custom Spartan sword, kettlebell, pistol slide and handcuffs, among other prizes.

They also now qualify to represent Texas DPS in the National Top Trooper Competition, which will



Courtesy Photo

DPS Trooper Brody Telfer of Belton and Trooper Melanie Moreno of Seguin hold their Top Trooper awards after emerging victorious at the 14th annual Javier Arana Jr. Top Trooper Competition held last week at the DPS Tactical Training Center in Florence.

be held in Ohio in September, have the opportunity to compete in the National LawFit Challenge and attend the International Chiefs of Police Annual Conference and Exposition.

Telfer and Moreno will be recognized at an upcoming Public Safety Commission Meeting at DPS Headquarters in Austin.

This year, 140 DPS

personnel from across the state competed in the multi-day competition, including 112 males and 28 females – the highest num-

See **TROOPER**, Page A2



BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman

Teen artist Echo Jennings paints a custom mural for JNeely's burrito bar in Belton.

Teen paints mural at JNeely's Burrito Bar

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Fourteen-year-old Echo Jennings, a freshman at Temple High School, is painting a mural for JNeely's Burrito Bar in Belton.

Owner, Shanna Grote, needed an artist to paint her vision of an alien drinking a cow through a straw

with a desert background. A customer of JNeely's and friend of Joe Jennings, Echo's dad, connected the owner and teen.

"She's done some other murals, so it's a good opportunity for her to have something really fun. It's what we wanted," said Grote.

See **JNEELY'S**, Page A2

Deeken recognized as Belton's Environmental Ambassador for 2026

By Lynette Sowell
The Belton Journal

Belton Parks Board member Jim Deeken was recognized Thursday as an Environmental Ambassador during a regional ceremony hosted by the Cen-Tex Sustainable Communities Partnership. Deeken is among several individuals and organizations selected for the 2026 Environmental Ambassador Award, which honors efforts in community service, beautification, conservation, pollution prevention and recycling.

In addition to his service on the Parks Board, Deeken has regularly volunteered at Heritage Parks, including with the disc golf course there. U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Hood Commander Mark McClellan and representatives from Fort Hood and neighboring communities gathered at the Killeen Arts and Activities Center to sign a proclamation recognizing April as Sustain-

able Environment Month. The partnership includes Fort Hood and the Cities of Belton, Copperas Cove, Gatesville, Harker Heights, Killeen, Lampasas, Nolanville and Salado. Other Environmental Ambassador awardees include:

- Harker Heights: Roxanne Flores
- Killeen: Scedric Moss
- Lampasas: Forward Lampasas
- Nolanville: Mary Jane Utterback
- Village of Salado: Linda Griffith, Karen V. Morris
- Copperas Cove: Renee Moore
- Fort Hood: Sergeant First Class Floyd Bristol
- Gatesville: Keep Gatesville Beautiful

Centex Sustainable Partnership also has awards for youth, the YEA! Awards. This year, the following school districts had campuses receive awards to include: Greater Fort Hood Recycle Bowl; Copperas Cove ISD, Hettie Halstead Elementary;



Courtesy photo

Belton Parks Board member Jim Deeken is recognized as an Environmental Ambassador during a regional ceremony last Thursday hosted by the Cen-Tex Sustainable Communities Partnership.

Lights Out Lunch: CCISD, Hettie Halstead Elementary; Sustained Excellence: CCISD, Hettie Halstead Elementary, Martin Walker Elementary Fairview/Miss Jewell Elementary;

Pull Together to Make a Difference: CCISD, Fairview/Miss Jewell Elementary; School Beautification: Lampasas ISD, Kline Whitis Elementary; Rising Star: CCISD, House Creek

Elementary; Lampasas ISD, Kline Whitis Elementary.

A new award, the Most Valuable Protector, recognized a past community Environmental Ambassa-

dor awardee who has continued to make an impact in the Central Texas region.

This year's awardee is the Tavera Green Force - Martin Tavera, Antonio Tavera and Thiago Tavera.

Belton's Deputy Chief of Police graduates from FBI academy

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Easter Section.....	A4-A5
Lifestyles.....	A6
Church Directory.....	A9
Sports.....	B1
Classifieds.....	B4
B-TOWN.....	B5
Editorial.....	B6
Service Directory.....	B7
Cut-It-Out.....	B10



Daniel Aguirre

Special to the Journal

Belton Police Deputy Chief Daniel Aguirre recently graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy.

A 16-year veteran of the Belton Police Department, Aguirre was among 253 law enforcement officers who completed the National Academy in Quantico, Va., on March 18.

The 297th class included officers from 48 states, the District of Columbia, and 24 countries. Internationally known for its academ-

ic excellence, the National Academy offers 10 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants are pushed to sharpen critical thinking, leadership, and evidence-based policing skills in the classroom, while also meeting strict physical standards that build resilience, discipline, and endurance. "Deputy Chief Daniel Aguirre's selection for the FBI National Academy reflects a proven record of leadership, innovation, and professional excellence," said Belton Police Chief Larry Berg, who completed the National Academy

in 2017. "His results-driven approach, commitment to continuous improvement, and ability to apply modern policing strategies made him a standout candidate for this highly selective program." Since it began in 1935, 56,941 graduates have completed the FBI National Academy. The National Academy is held at the FBI Training Academy, where the FBI trains new special agents and intelligence analysts. FBI Co-Deputy Director Christopher Raia delivered remarks at the ceremony.

70 YEARS
SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS SINCE 1956

Tanner Roofing

2025 TOP PERFORMER
2025 EXCELLENCE

TANNERROOFING.COM 254-939-0343

NOW OPEN
in Belton!

Ministry Medical

Dr. Andrew Dale
207 Lake Rd, Belton TX
254-613-4355

MINISTRYMEDICAL.COM
Compassion, Connection, Community

TEMPLE TOWING

(254) 771-1303

Templewrecker.com

Belton/Temple clinic!
1618 Canyon Creek Dr. #120

Real Skin

DERMATOLOGY

Serving patients closer to home!
RealSkinDerm.com

Common Skin Nail & Hair Issues
Procedural Dermatology & Mohs
Skin Cancer Screening & Surveillance
Aesthetic Services

Schedule today!
254-265-7100

Our consistent care. Your complete comfort.

Receive up to \$1,800 in rebates* when you purchase the Ultimate Comfort System™**

OR Qualified Buyers make no payments, incur no interest for 12 months when financing a new Lennox® system**

PLUS, ask about local utility rebates that may be available**



Bell

INC.

Air Conditioning

(254) 939-1141

Serving Central Texas Since 1964
Locally Owned and Operated
Visit us at bellaircond.com

TACL21562E

Offer expires June 12, 2026.

*Rebate requires purchase of qualifying items between March 9, 2026 and June 12, 2026 from a participating Lennox® dealer. Contact your local participating Lennox® dealer for promotion details. Qualifying items must be installed by June 19, 2026. This offer applies to residential installations only. Rebate claims must be submitted (with the Dealer's invoice to the homeowner listing all models and serial numbers) to www.lennoxconsumerrebates.com no later than July 19, 2026 11:59:59 p.m. E.T. Rebate is paid in the form of a Lennox Prepaid Mastercard®. Use your card anywhere Mastercard is accepted. This card is issued by The Bancorp Bank, N.A., pursuant to license by Mastercard International. Mastercard and the circles design are registered trademarks of Mastercard International Incorporated. The Bancorp Bank, N.A.; Member FDIC. This is not a gift card. This card is issued for loyalty, award or promotional purposes. Please note that prepaid cards are subject to expiration, so pay close attention to the expiration date of the card. Conditions apply. See www.lennox.com/terms-and-conditions for complete terms and conditions. **Offer available between March 9, 2026 and June 12, 2026. All applications are subject to credit review and approval. Not all applicants will qualify. Requires purchase of qualifying Lennox® system. No down payment required. If you qualify for this promotion ("Promotion") and elect to participate, Finance Charges (interest) will not accrue for the first twelve months (Promotional Period), and you will not be required to make payments during the Promotional Period. If you pay the entire amount financed on or before the last day of the Promotional Period (Promotional Expiration Date), you will not have to pay any Finance Charges. However, if you qualify and elect to participate in the Promotion and do not pay the entire amount financed on or before the Promotional Expiration Date, you will be charged Finance Charges starting the first day after the Promotional Expiration Date at an annual percentage rate (APR) of 11.99%, and the balance will be payable in 120 scheduled monthly payments of \$14.30 per \$1,000 of the amount financed. No prepayment penalties. Minimum and maximum amount financed of \$3,000 and \$100,000, respectively. Late charges may apply. Complete terms and conditions and Truth in Lending disclosures will be set forth in the Retail Installment Contract which you should review carefully. **Savings vary based on local energy provider and where you live. Contact your local utility provider or ask your local dealer for details. ©2026 Lennox Dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.

Sponsors sought for September steak cook-off

By **Shalee Corey-Wiebe**
The Belton Journal

There will be a steak cook off at Schoepf's Barbeque on September 19, 2026.

Derik Strelsky, owner of Texas Barbeque Enterprises, calls this event the "Beef is King: Steak Cookoff," and said that there is not a set time yet, but that it likely will be held from around noon until seven o'clock.

The event will be sanctioned by the Steak Cookoff Association. It will begin with the preliminary rounds, in which three winners will be decided on to compete in the next stage.

Several celebrities are expected to be there to judge the competitors, including Food

Network winners Erica Roby and Adrian Davila, as well as The Daytripper, Chet Garner.

Eric Raines, professional DJ and radio station personality, will be the MC for the event.

According to Strelsky, the event will be recorded and modeled after the Food Network show, "Barbeque Pit Masters."

The information to sign up will be on the Steak Cookoff Association's website and will include a form and an entry fee.

"Anybody can get in this event. Anybody can compete. So, if you're ready to put your steak on the grill and try it out, you're welcome to do that," Strelsky said. "Ticket prices are not set yet, but they will be extremely affordable."

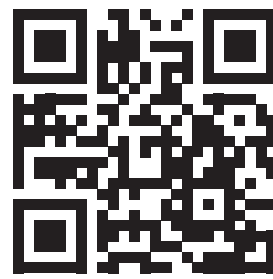
Aside from the entertainment, Strelsky said that the event will support the Belton community.

"It's going to bring a lot of attention here, and the community is going to benefit from the publicity and the traffic that comes through to buy things."

They are going to need some help to pull off an event this big.

"We need some big sponsors too, so this is a call out for anybody that would like to help us. The event could range anywhere from \$20,000 to \$29,000," he said. "We need one \$10,000 donation, and we're hoping that GO TEXAN will do that. But we need other things. We have to pay for the judges, we have to pay for the MC, we have to pay

for the steak, we have to pay for the media. There's just so much—security, insurance—just so many things that you've got to look at and pay for in advance.



Text message phishing scam impersonates Texas DMV and law enforcement

Special to the Journal

Law enforcement agencies across the state are warning residents about text message scams impersonating the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Better Business Bureau Heart of Texas (BBB) has received several reports of these scams. These fake texts claim you have an outstanding traffic ticket and may face major penalties if you don't pay up.

You receive what looks like an urgent text message from the DMV. The text states this is your "final notice" that you have an outstanding traffic ticket and that it must be paid soon to avoid penalties. The text outlines various serious penalties like being reported to the DMV violation database, suspension of your vehicle registration, suspended driving privileges, prosecution, damaged credit scores, paying additional fees, and

more.

BBB has received several reports of these text message scams to BBB Scam Tracker. One consumer shared this message:

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles final notice: According to our records, the traffic violation associated with your account remains unresolved. This is a final reminder that payment has not been received. In accordance with Texas Code Title 9 Motor Vehicles section 9-18-2-7, if full payment is not submitted by February 25, 2026, the following enforcement actions will be initiated....

BBB has tips to help you avoid text message phishing scams:

Verify your outstanding traffic tickets on your own. Contact your local police department or call the DMV directly.

Don't click on links or download files that are unexpect-

edly texted to you. Scammers can disguise links to make them look legitimate. Even if the link's domain looks real, take steps to identify whether it is a safe link

Block and report the number and delete the message. Some smartphones and cell phone providers allow you to report phone numbers as spam. Be sure to delete the message.

Never give out your personal information to someone you don't know. Phishing scams often ask you to provide personal information like your birthdate, Social Security number, and more. Never provide this information to someone who contacts you out of the blue.

If you receive a text message impersonating your state's DMV, report it to BBB Scam Tracker to warn others. In addition, file a report with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3). Reporting scams helps consumers become aware of scams and helps law enforcement track down scammers.

Belton Band Boosters raise over \$15,000 during Reverse Raffle

By **David Stone**

The Belton Journal

Good times were had by all at Saturday's Belton Band Booster Club's Reverse Raffle.

"It was a fantastic event — great food, live music and some really incredible prizes," said Sabrina Boley, president of the Booster Club. "Our goal was to raise more than \$10,000 to benefit the Belton High School Marching 100. I am excited to report that the Band Boosters brought in more than \$15,000 at the Lucky Luau Reverse Raffle."

"The proceeds will give us the jump start we need for purchasing a new 53-foot semi-trailer for the band," she said.

Saturday's fundraiser included dinner for two, beer and wine from Bold Republic and live music by Beau Heitmiller. It also included a reverse raffle.

Unlike a traditional raffle, a reverse raffle eliminates tickets instead of selecting winners right away. As numbers are drawn throughout the evening, those tickets are removed from play. The excitement builds as fewer tickets remain. If your ticket is drawn

early, you're out — but you will have opportunities to buy back in, purchase insurance or auction your ticket later in the evening. As the night continues, the last 10 remaining tickets win prizes, with the final ticket standing taking home the grand prize — a \$2,500 gift card.

A silent auction and a game of heads or tails were also held at the fundraiser.

"Our Booster organization is committed to keeping our student fees as low as possible and offsetting the cost through our fundraising efforts, Boley said.

"In addition, we're also investing in maintaining important assets like our kettle-corn trailer and increasing our Director's Fund for timely purchases."

"Our long-term goal is raising enough money to purchase a new 53-foot trailer," she added. "Our current trailer is 35 years old and needs to be replaced, but this is a major investment that will take multiple years of planning and fundraising. The work we're doing now is laying the foundation to make that future purchase possible."

Trooper - From Page A1

ber of female competitors to ever take part in the event's history.

The competition tested Troopers on driving and firearms skills, physical conditioning, endurance and job knowledge through nine events.

"This competition represents the very best of the Texas Department of Public Safety. These Troopers demonstrate not only elite skill and discipline, but an unwavering commitment to protecting and serving Texans," said Texas Highway Patrol Chief Bryan Rippee. "These

men and women push themselves beyond the standard, and their performance reflects the highest level of training and readiness required to represent our agency with excellence."

The Top Trooper Competition is named after DPS Trooper Javier Arana Jr., who participated in the inaugural competition in 2012 and passed away shortly after.

Beyond the competition itself, events like the Top Trooper Competition play a critical role in strengthening partnerships across the state.

Troopers from different regions come together, building relationships and trust that are essential when responding to large-scale incidents such as natural disasters, where personnel from across Texas must work side by side.

At the same time, participants gain valuable, hands-on training that enhances their skills, readiness and ability to respond effectively in high-pressure situations — ultimately making them stronger, more capable Troopers for the communities they serve.

JNeely's - From Page A1

Echo is a multiple award-winning artist from awards in elementary school, middle school, and now in high school.

She has entered work with the Cultural Activities Center Temple (CACT) and Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE). Last year, Echo won third place at the CACT for her entry.

"Ever since she was little, she's been all about art. I support it 100 percent," said Joe Jennings.

Echo had a turning point in elementary school with her art.

"In second or third grade, we had an art class, and I loved the teacher. It was so much more entertaining for me than anything else," said Echo.

Using house paint as her medium for the mural, Echo started with a yellow paint sample and built the rest of the colors around that card.

"Echo decided to add a little bit, so she has the alien eating a burrito inside the spaceship," said Grote.

Echo did not want a stock image.

"I'm trying to put a lot of exaggeration into it, something cartoony," Echo added.

"I asked her to add a big five way up high," said Grote. "So when somebody goes, 'What is that?' you go, 'High five.'"

With the line work and shading still to be done, it will take a couple more weekends to complete.

Echo has been offered two other mural jobs from her work at JNeely's. She will be showing her work at The Walker Honey Farm for their Wildflower Artisan Market on Saturday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can follow Echo's art on Instagram at echo-lee and on Facebook at Echo-lee Jennings.

"JNeely's is Belton's hangout. A fun place to come relax with lots of events, good food, and great bar drinks," said Grote. At JNeely's no reservations are needed to come with a small group or large.

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; **Advertising:** Shanna Grote, Marketing@BeltonJournal.com, Randa Miller, Sales@beltonjournal.com; **News Editor:** Lynette Sowell, News@BeltonJournal.com; **Sports Editor:** Clay Whittington, Sports@BeltonJournal.Com;

Sports Reporters: Tony Adams, Aries Ramos **Graphic Artist:** Jason Bachie; **Creative Consultant:** Susan Kolodziejczyk;

News Reporters: David Stone, Michelle Rodriguez, Annie Dockery, Michele Weisman, Shalee Corey-Wiebe

Submission guidelines for

The Belton Journal and related properties:

Any image, story or other unsolicited information sent to The Belton Journal is considered a community-contributed submission of material and falls under these guidelines.

You retain ownership of any submission that is your original work. Submissions sent from third parties should only be by permission of the organization or individual who owns it, who also must agree to this

submission policy.

You understand that submissions may or may not appear in the Belton Journal and its related forms of publication, now or in the future.

By contributing a submission, you are granting to the Belton Journal unrestricted, non-exclusive right to use it now and in the future. This includes modifying the original submission to fit print requirements.

Submissions used become a permanent part of the Belton Journal and its product offerings. By virtue of

appearance on the Belton Journal Web site, submissions may also become a permanent part of search engine caching libraries (such as google.com) and online archiving organizations (such as archive.org).


Submissions not immediately used become a permanent part of the Belton Journal's library, with rights for possible future use.

By contributing any submission, you are indicating you have read and understood this policy and agree to its terms.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

To be considered for inclusion in the Belton Journal, all submissions must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday of the week in question.

Opinions expressed (including Letters to the Editor) are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by the Belton Journal's management, staff or advertisers. Letters to the Editor should not exceed more than 350 words. Contact us at (254) 939-5754.





Teacup Yorkies In Texas Ranch

Rebecca -Owner
(254) 405-1609


teacupyorkiesintexasranch.com

Adopt • Love • Change a Life
Every scan could lead to a forever home





16194 Elm Creek Rd, Moody, TX 76557



Kiddie Academy of Temple-Belton breaks ground

Special to the Journal

Kiddie Academy® Educational Child Care, a nationally recognized brand of comprehensive educational child-care programs, announces the groundbreaking of a new franchise location at 5126 State Highway 317 in Belton.

Kiddie Academy of Temple-Belton, which held its groundbreaking celebration on March 12, is owned and operated by husband-and-wife team John Paul and Beckie Taylor. The groundbreaking was attended by members of the Belton and Temple Chambers of Commerce.

“After owning another business in the Belton community for 16 years, John and I are thrilled to begin our next chapter by expanding access to quality childcare in the area,” said Beckie Taylor. “As business partners, we bring a strong combination of vision, determination and entrepreneurial experience to the Kiddie Academy family — and as parents, we’re equally committed to providing a caring, nurturing and structured environment for local children.”

The state-of-the-art, 11,100-square-foot location will be equipped with 11 classrooms and will feature live-stream camera access for families, a STEM-inspired outdoor playground equipped with shaded play areas, a splash pad and VersaCourt. Kiddie Academy of Temple-Belton will serve 200 children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. The new Academy expects to bring 30 jobs to the area.

“Our aim is to build a community grounded in trust and dedication for the next generation,” added Taylor.

For more information, visit www.kiddieacademy.com/academies/temple-belton.



Courtesy Photo

Kiddie Academy of Temple-Belton has broken ground at 5126 State Highway 317 in Belton. The 11,100 square-foot location will be equipped with 11 classrooms and will have a STEM-inspired outdoor playground equipped with shaded play areas, a splash pad and VersaCourt. Kiddie Academy of Temple-Belton will serve 200 children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. The new Academy expects to bring 30 jobs to the area.

Relay for Life coming in May

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Relay for Life — the annual volunteer-led fundraising movement of the American Cancer Society to celebrate cancer survivors and remember loved ones lost — returns to Belton on May 2.

The local event will start at 12 p.m. at Cadence Bank Center.

The primary purpose of Relay For Life is to raise funds to support cancer research, advocacy, and patient services, such as free rides to chemotherapy or lodging near hospitals.

“We are raising money and awareness for the American Cancer Society,” said Amy M Jones, Bell County Relay for Life lead. “There will be a silent auction and

a vendor market. We will be highlighting the American Cancer Society’s Hope Lodges — which are like Ronald McDonald houses but for cancer patients — and our Road to Recovery Program.”

Road to Recovery is a free ride-share program that gets patients to their treatments.

“We will honor our survivors with a Survivor Lap at 5:30 p.m. and a Luminary Ceremony at 8 p.m.,” Jones said. “There will be Zumba, bingo and a wigmaker that works with insurance for Veterans and cancer survivors.”

The Killeen Ellison High School jazz band will entertain at 3:30 p.m.

The Luminary Ceremony allows Relay participants to share an emotional moment when each luminary is lit in remembrance of a life touched by cancer.

The ceremony is a signature element of every Relay

For Life event, according to Jones.

At nightfall, these homemade paper lanterns, decorated with the names of loved ones, are lit in honor and in memory of a life touched by cancer. The ceremony includes a moment of silence for those we have lost.

When a person makes a donation for a luminary, they are honoring a loved one while helping the American Cancer Society continue to fight cancer on all fronts.



File Photo

Cancer survivors celebrate during a past Bell County Relay For Life. This year’s event is set for May 2 at the Cadence Bank Center.



Auto • Home
Life • Commercial



Kenny Paysse FARMERS
INSURANCE
778-7136



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

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

**CENTRAL TEXAS
MEMORIAL COMPANY**

- Custom Designs
- Quality Workmanship
- Large Inventory
- Quick Turnaround Time



208 N. Head St. Belton, TX 254-933-2474

Home is Where the Care is!



At Home Care ✿ Alzheimer's Care ✿ Hospice Support

(254) 780-9864 CAREAGEHOMECARE.COM



Custom Built Homes

773-5100
50 Wheat Rd. Belton



Hewett-Arney Funeral Home

Serving families in our historic building since 1942



Did you Know...

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

<p>100% Family Owned</p> <p>(254) 778-3200</p> <p>Phones answered 24/7</p> <p>Please don't text & drive!</p>	<p>Direct Cremation</p> <p>\$1600</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Complete Includes Crematory fee</p>	<p>Complete Funeral</p> <p>\$5510</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Includes 20ga Steel Casket</p>
<p>14 W. Barton Ave. • Temple • www.HewettArney.com</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Call and ask for pricing. By regulation funeral home must disclose pricing by phone.</p>		



Easter

SUNDAY

APRIL 5

EASTER Worship & Celebrations

Easter, an invitation

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Easter Sunday is one of the most important celebrations of the year. Churches fill up with attendees celebrating that Christ was victorious over death on a cross. The hope of this article is that you will discover a local service to attend if you have never attended church, are curious about God, have family visiting who want to attend, or, after an absence from church, are wondering if you are welcome.

You are, and each listing and advertisement is an invitation.

This entire week is known as Holy Week, with several dates to reflect, and remember the steps to Christ's crucifixion. As this printing comes out the day before Good Friday, we'll include Good Friday services and Easter Sunday. Good Friday reflects on Jesus giving himself up for arrest, his trial, scourging, crowning, crucifixion, and burial. Easter Sunday celebrates Christ's resurrection, victory over death, and assures salvation for those who believe in Him.

Good Friday is April 3 and Easter is Sunday, April 5. The list is in alphabetical order.

Belton Nazarene Church, located at 1701 Sparta Road, is offering Good Friday communion where you are welcome to come and go between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. On Easter morning at 9 a.m. they are serving a breakfast. Their Easter service is at 10 a.m., followed by an Easter egg hunt.

"Join us for a powerful and hope-filled Easter weekend as we remember the cross and celebrate the resurrection together. He is Risen," said Rick Moore, interim lead pastor of Belton

Nazarene Church.

Christ the King Catholic Church at 210 E. 24th Avenue in Belton is starting its Good Friday services at 3 p.m. with Divine Mercy Novena. Following is Stations of the Cross in English at 3:30 p.m. and the Stations of the Cross in Spanish at 4:30 p.m. On Easter Sunday at 6 a.m. their Sunrise Mass is followed by an 8 a.m. Mass in Spanish and a 10:30 a.m. Mass in English. At noon there is an Easter egg hunt.

Crossroads Church is holding its Easter service at the Cadence Bank Center, 301 W. Loop 121, at 10:15 a.m. Childcare is available for children aged 2 and under. The worship music has Spanish wording on the screen, and translation devices are available for Spanish speakers.

"Easter at the Cadence Bank Center isn't just an event, it's an invitation. An invitation to step into hope, to encounter the love of Jesus, and to be reminded of what is possible for your future," said Pastor Matt Thrasher.

First Belton Baptist Church, located at 506 N. Main Street, provides a Spanish translation. They have Good Friday Service at 6 p.m. and Easter Sunday services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Temple Bible Church, located at 3205 Oakview Drive, is holding an outdoor Easter sunrise gathering at 7 a.m. so bring a chair and blanket. Return for either their 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. Easter services. Please note, childcare is only available at the 9:30 service for children 4 and under.

May your Easter experience testify, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20.

HOLY WEEK
AT BELTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:00 PM Worship With Communion

GOOD FRIDAY
7:00 PM Seven Last Words Service

EASTER SUNDAY
7:00 AM Sunrise Worship
9:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt
10:45 AM Sunday Worship

205 E 3RD AVE. BELTON, TEXAS
WWW.FUMCBELTON.ORG



Happy Easter



CareAge HomeCare



EASTER SUNDAY
HE IS RISEN



HENRY T. WASKOW
VFW POST 4008

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

**No One Does More For Our Veterans
..... And Youth.**
Come Join Us For Bingo! Only \$10 a Set
All proceeds go to Youth Programs,
Scholarships and our Veterans

2311 S PEARL ST, BELTON
fwhtwpost4008.org • 254-939-7159

Please join us at
Heritage Country Church
9677 Lark Trail in Salado

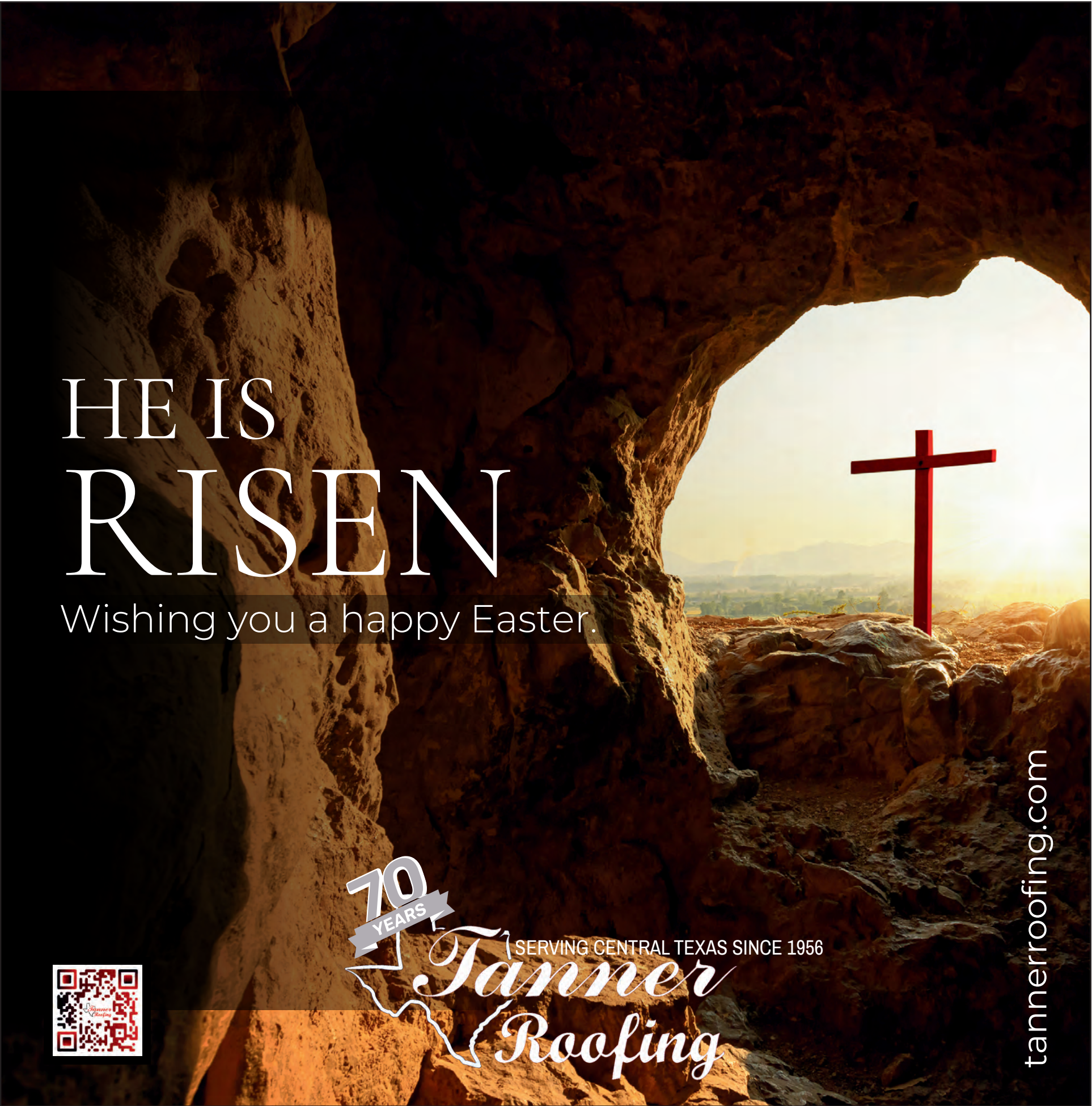
Easter Festival
Saturday, April 4
11:00-2:00

Sunrise Service
In covered arena
Sunday, April 5th
7:00 am

Regular Service
Sunday, April 5th
10:30 am

He is Risen

HERITAGE
Country Church



HE IS RISEN

Wishing you a happy Easter.

tannerroofing.com

70 YEARS
SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS SINCE 1956
Tanner
Roofing



**Belton's choice for
EGGcellent
building materials and tools
at an affordable price.**

Family Owned and Operated Since 1945



Give us a call
254.939.5132

normanbuildingmaterials.com
1010 S. Main St. | Belton, TX 76513



Our home is accepting guests and available at no cost to those needing to make the most of every moment

OUR HOSPICE HOUSE

254-500-7123
www.ourhospicehouse.org

Troy Ashford
Local Agents Supporting Local Athletes and Their Families For 20 Years!

201. E. 2nd Ave.
Belton, Texas 76513
(254) 933-2007

FARMERS INSURANCE

A6
Thursday,
April 2, 2026

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Egg costs recover from avian flu-related price hikes last year

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The Easter Bunny may have a little more hip in his hop as he delivers eggs for this year's Easter hunts, and there may be fewer deviled eggs at the dining table.

That's because he saved 58 percent over last year's egg costs.

According to Dr. David Anderson, Texas A&M professor and AgriLife economist, the average retail price in Texas for a dozen eggs is \$2.50, the lowest price since late 2023.

Anderson said wholesale prices have experienced an even more dramatic drop — large Grade A eggs that sold for more than \$8 a dozen a year ago dipped below \$1 before ticking back up a bit for Easter demand. Easter is April 5 this year.

"Egg prices have ticked up a little with Easter around the corner and the expectation for that seasonal demand — the Easter egg hunts and baking, deviled eggs and that sort of traditional use around the holiday," Anderson said. "But shoppers will definitely notice prices are lower than last year."

Dr. Greg Archer, AgriLife poultry expert said the main driver behind the

lower prices is simple math — more birds means more eggs. Avian flu outbreaks in 2025 erased huge numbers of laying hens, sending prices upward. This past winter saw fewer and smaller outbreaks of the disease.

US egg-layer numbers rose from 292 million last March to about 308 million this year, marking a solid rebound after unprecedented lows in 2025.

"We have more birds compared to last year because producers around the country haven't been hit as hard by (avian flu)," Archer said. "There are a lot of eggs out there, and demand backed off when prices were really high."

The bird flu isn't the only reason for lower egg prices. The cost of feeding chickens has dropped, helping the industry regain stability. But rising prices for corn and fertilizer could raise production costs later this year.

But for now, according to Anderson, eggs are one of the most affordable proteins because beef and pork prices are increasing.

In other agriculture-related news, earlier rains and warm temperatures are greatly improving ranch and farm lands around Belton and much of Central Texas. Trees in the area — with the exception



Courtesy Photo

Egg prices are down 58 percent compared to last Easter, and egg prices are their lowest since 2023.

of mesquites — are budding and leaving.

Despite the growth, ranchers are concerned about a hay shortage if drought conditions in the Belton area continue. According to AgriLife, some farmers are apprehensive about applying fertilizer because of the high costs and fuel prices.

Producers are preparing for spring planting; however, progress remains dependent on adequate moisture in the coming weeks, according to AgriLife.

Livestock were doing well on pasture, and supplemental feeding slowed down. The cattle market remained strong.

Morgan Pearl Cakes brings tasty touch to Main Street

By Shalee Corey-Wiebe
The Belton Journal

Morgan Pearl Cakes, located on 2415 N Main, offers a variety of baked goods and services.

They offer custom cakes and desserts for weddings, as well as catering for events. Their store hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Thursday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, but they take pickup and delivery orders outside of those hours.

Brittany Simmons, the owner of Morgan Pearl Cakes, has many years of experience working in different baking

environments, from grocery stores to high-end wedding cake companies, making her shop unique in terms of quality. The shop also has a large variety of items.

"Even going down to Austin, there's just not a lot of bakeries who offer as many line items as we do every week, and then just the variety," said Simmons.

Brittany said they started with just wedding cakes, but have since expanded the kinds of items they sell.

"A lot of savory stuff is what brings people in, but then they end with a sweet treat, which is great. The majority of it is croissants that are sweet or savory. We do a ton of turnovers, and cinnamon rolls, and cheesecakes," Simmons said.

They now offer more than just bakery items.

"We have transitioned since the beginning of the year. We started doing a lot more salads, chicken salad, green leafy salads, but also dense bean salads because a lot of people are concentrating on health at the beginning of the year," Simmons said. "On Wednesday night, I



BELTON JOURNAL/Shalee Corey-Wiebe

Morgan Pearl Cakes, located on 2415 N. Main in Belton, offers a variety of baked goods and services, from sweet treats to savory bites.

post on Facebook all of our salads, and we end up getting a ton of people who walk in and they're just planning their week, and they just grab all of that kind of stuff, and then they'll get a couple of sweet treats for their

kids and one for them."

Simmons mentioned her appreciation for people in the community supporting her business, particularly the moms.

"It's probably because I relate the most to them, more than any-

thing, and they're really supportive. They really care about you. They want to have you at their party so they can tell their friends about you and push their friends to come in as much as possible.

"We have a lot of elderly ladies too, who I really love and I really enjoy, and it's probably because the business is named after my grandma and my great grandma, and really brings me a lot of joy."

GRAND AVENUE THEATERS
2809 Oakmark Dr.
254-939-5000
www.grandavenuetheater.com
Visit our website or call for showtime info



JOHN R. HOLMES SR.

Financial Advisor

john.holmessr@raymondjames.com

2010 Birdcreek Drive, Suite 100 // Temple, TX 76502

T 254.314.8867

Services offered

Investments • Financial & Retirement Planning Estate, Charitable Giving & Trust • Educational Savings

RAYMOND JAMES

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. © 2021 Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. 21-BRAUW06-0002 TA 4/21





We believe in a **BETTER** flooring experience.

LET US FLOOR YOU!



254-933-1313 Bellcountyflooring.Com
6401 St.Hwy 317 Ste. B M-F 8-5:30 Sat: 8-3

Local woman paints 10,000 rocks for Child Abuse Awareness Month

By Shalee Corey-Wiebe
The Belton Journal

Susan Schanne-Knobloch has painted 10,000 rocks to be distributed around the community throughout the month of April, Child Abuse Awareness Month.

The rocks are painted on one side with positive affirmations, glow-in-the-dark stars, girls with cross necklaces, and other colorful pictures.

On the opposite side of each rock, however, is the number 1-800-252-5400, the child abuse hotline.

Schane-Knobloch said, "The idea of the rocks is to leave them out at schools, playgrounds, walking trails. Kids will find them, and they'll have the hotline number on them."

Schane-Knobloch has painted almost 30,000 rocks over the years.

"It's therapeutic, and I love it," she said, but she has a new goal now. "We're proposing to start a national children's hotline number, being 123. Because right now, there's so many kids out in the world, either they don't trust the adults they're with, whether they're their parents, friends, family, foster parents—anybody. They're lost. They don't know all these numbers—they don't want to call 911—maybe they'll call 123."

Schane-Knobloch proposes that having a simpler hotline number for kids to self-report would make it easier for kids even as young as preschool age to get help without having to go to an adult they may not trust.

"I used to be a forensic interviewer for the Children's Advocacy Center, so I know how important it is to try to get that middle person out of the translation of what happened," Schane-Knobloch said. "I think in five years, if we start at preschool, we could get everyone knowing 123 is a national child's number."

This year, Susan painted more rocks than she has in any of the past five years, and without any help; but to her, it is worth it.

"To me, if we can get a national children's hotline number, all of this was for that," Schane-Knobloch said. "But if one kid has called, and I have no clue if they have or not, that would top the 123 number."



BELTON JOURNAL/Shalee Corey-Wiebe

These are just a few of the rocks the Susan Schanne-Knobloch has painted and placed around the community in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month.



Looking for Health, Vision and Dental for you or your business that is affordable?

COMPARE THE DIFFERENCE))

Traditional Health Insurance

- High Monthly Premiums
- High Deductible Per Family Member
- Must Choose From a Specified Network of Physicians and Facilities
- RX Pricing
- Higher Co-Pays & Provider Fees
- Extra Telehealth Costs or Not Available
- Does Not Cover Migrants in the US
- No Holistic Coverage Options

Health Sharing

- Up to 30%-70% Savings Per Month*
- As Low as \$2,500 Per Household
- Choose Your Physician / Facility (Not Stuck with a Network)
- Discounted Prescription Pricing
- Lower Co-Pays & Provider Fees
- Included 24/7 Telehealth - \$0 Fee
- Migrants w/ITIN Can Get Coverage
- Holistic Coverage

Contact David for a quick consult. Text or call 254.681.5321

SPRING INTO Action WITH Instant Rebates

STARTING March 1ST 2026



- \$1,700 ON ARMSTRONG AIR® 21/22V A/C OR HP
- \$1,000 ON ARMSTRONG AIR® 19V A/C OR HP
- \$750 ON ARMSTRONG AIR® 14F SINGLE STAGE

PROMOTION GUIDANCE:

Spring promotion runs from March 2026 to June 2026



254-774-8900

407 Canyon Creek Drive, Suite 105

Visit Our Website
www.universalsrv.com



He Is Risen: A Conversation That Changes Everything

An Easter Reflection for Today's Generation



The sun was just beginning to rise, casting soft light across the quiet street. A young kid sat alone on the curb, hoodie sleeves pulled over their hands, staring at the ground like it might answer the questions running through their mind.

"Why did You do it?" the kid muttered.

There was no crowd. No noise. Just the stillness of morning.

And then—somehow—there was Someone there. "Sit with Me," the voice said.

The kid looked up, unsure at first. But something about Him felt... different. Calm. Safe. Like peace had a presence.

"Are You... Jesus?" the kid asked.

"You already know," He replied with a gentle smile.

The kid hesitated, then asked the question again, this time louder.

"Why the cross? Why go through all of that? You could've stopped it."

Jesus didn't rush His answer. He looked toward the horizon, where light was slowly breaking through the darkness.

"Have you ever done something you couldn't fix?" He asked.

The kid nodded. "Yeah. It feels... heavy."

"That weight," Jesus said, "is what sin does. It separates. It breaks things—between people, and between you and God."

The kid frowned. "So why couldn't God just forgive it? Like... just let it go?"

"He does forgive," Jesus said. "But real forgiveness isn't pretending nothing happened. It costs something."

The kid paused. "Costs what?"

"Everything."

For a moment, neither of them spoke.

"Sin isn't just small mistakes," Jesus continued. "It's a broken condition. And broken things don't fix themselves."

"So... You had to die?" the kid asked quietly.

"I chose to," Jesus replied.

The kid shook their head. "That doesn't make sense."

"It does when you understand love," Jesus said. "I did it because I love you."

The kid looked confused. "But I wasn't even there."

"You were always in My heart," Jesus said. "Every person was. Every failure. Every hidden struggle. I carried all of it."

The kid swallowed hard. "That sounds like... a lot."

"It was," Jesus said. "Before the cross, I prayed. I felt the full weight of what was coming. But there was no other way to bring you back."

"Back?" the kid asked.

"Back to God. Back to life. Back to being whole."

The kid looked down, thinking.

"What was it like?" they asked. "Being on the cross?"

Jesus' voice was steady.

"It hurt. But I stayed."

"Why?"

"Because love doesn't quit when it hurts."

The words hung in the air.

"So what happened after?" the kid asked.

"They placed Me in a tomb," Jesus said. "A stone sealed it. To everyone watching, it looked like the end."

"But it wasn't," the kid said quietly.

Jesus smiled. "No. It wasn't."

The sunlight was stronger now, warming everything it touched.

"On the third day," Jesus said, "life returned. Not just breath—but victory. Sin and death didn't win."

"So You beat it?" the kid asked.

"I overcame it."

The kid leaned forward. "So what does that mean for me?"

"It means what's been weighing you down doesn't have to anymore."

The kid hesitated. "Even the stuff I don't talk about?"

"Especially that."

"Even when I mess up again?"

"Yes."

"Even when I feel like I'm not enough?"

Jesus' voice softened.

"You were never meant to be enough on your own."

That's why I came."

The kid let out a breath they didn't realize they'd been holding.

"So it's really free?" they asked.

"Yes."

"But it cost You everything."

"Yes."

The kid looked puzzled. "Why would You give something that expensive away for free?"

Jesus smiled.

"Because love isn't a transaction. It's a gift."

The kid sat there, letting those words settle deep.

"So what do I do now?" they asked.

"Come to Me," Jesus said. "Trust Me. Let Me carry what you can't."

The kid looked up again, eyes softer now.

"Do You still want me... even knowing everything about me?"

"I chose you knowing everything."

The sun had fully risen now, light filling the street.

"Remember this," Jesus said as He stood. "The cross wasn't the end of the story."

"The empty tomb was," the kid replied.

Jesus smiled.

"And your story doesn't end in brokenness either."

And just like that, He was gone.

But the peace remained.

The kid looked out at the morning light and whispered words that now felt real:

"He is risen."

Memorial bench dedication set for 2 p.m. Thursday

Special to the Journal

The City of Belton Parks & Recreation Department will host a memorial bench dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 2, at Lena Armstrong Public Library. The bench, donated by the Peeples family, honors longtime Belton residents Leon and Jennie Peeples. The installation is constructed from repurposed wind turbine blades and designed as functional public art. The ceremony will include brief remarks from Parks & Recreation staff and a member of the Peeples family. The public is invited to attend. "This bench is especially meaningful because it brings together remembrance, public art, and everyday use in a way that invites people to pause, reflect, and connect," said Adam Trujillo, Belton Recreation Superintendent.

Leon Peeples (1914–1994) moved to Belton as a child and later worked as a grocery deliverer and manager of the Beltonian Theatre. Jennie Peeples (1914–2000) came to Belton to attend University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and worked as a public school teacher and artist. The couple married in 1937 and operated Peeples Sales Company for nearly 40 years. The Peeples family has longstanding ties to the community. Leon's sister, Berneta Peeples, lived in Belton for more than a century and worked at the Belton Journal for over 70 years while volunteering with local organizations, including the library. The bench was fabricated by Noblewins, which repurposes wind turbine components into public installations. The memorial bench is located outside the library on the Penelope Street side of the building.



Courtesy Photo

The City of Belton Parks & Recreation Department is dedicating a bench on Thursday, April 2, at the Lena Armstrong Public Library. The bench was donated by the Peeples family to honor longtime Belton residents Leon and Jennie Peeples.

BULL-O-THON & DONE RIGHT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

APRIL 4TH

Budweiser

BULLS & BRONCS



FREE TO THE PUBLIC

JACK HILLIARD
DIST. CO., INC.



GATES OPEN 4 P.M.

NAGY PLUMBING
For All Your Plumbing Needs
• Commercial/Residential
• New Construction & Remodels
• Sewer lines & Camera Services
254-760-9334
M-36617

MONTEITH Abstract & Title Co.
Home Owned Since 1876
Frank Turner, Jr. & Employees
106 South East St. • 939-5791

Bell INC.
Air Conditioning
LENNOX
Jerry Graves TACLA21562E
310 E. Central Ave. • 939-1141

Air/Control
TRANE Financing & Trade-Ins Available
5515 TAYLORS VALLEY RD. TEMPLE - 254-933-8030
7604 WOODWAY DR. WACO - 254-772-8042
Texas State License: TACLA13738C (Temple) & TACLA23814C (Waco) www.airctrl.com

Popelka Law Firm, PLLC
Drew Popelka
Attorney - CPA
(254) 774-7880
6173 W. Adams Ave. • Ste. C-201 • Temple, TX
templeattorney@sbcglobal.net • www.popelkalaw.com

today, tomorrow, the future
R.K. BASS ELECTRIC, INC.
Residential & Commercial
1200 East FM 2410 • Harker Heights
(254) 698-8751 • 939-5665

Mc Gregor Welding Supply Co
Welding Equipment and Supplies
Encourages YOU to Attend the Church of YOUR Choice!
Mon - Fri: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm (254) 933-9353
Sat: 7:30 am - 12:00 pm 110 S. Wheat Rd. Belton TX 76513

Adrian's GARAGE
5225 SOUTH 31ST STREET
TEMPLE, TEXAS 76502
774-7510
General Auto Repair & Maintenance

BEST-WAY Carpet Services
VINYL PLANK CARPET CERAMIC TILE
GET PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
254.770.0932
Feel free to write us, info@bestwaycarpets.net
3206 Airport Rd, Temple, TX 76504

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
First Presbyterian Church
2500 Church Street
Belton, TX 76513
Worship Service at 11am
fpcbelton@gmail.com
www.fpcbelton.org
All Are Welcome in Person or on Zoom!
Rev. Kathy Vineyard, Pastor

TEMPLE TOWING
Statewide 24 Hours Anywhere
Cars • Pickups • Trucks • 18 Wheelers
Motorcycles • Forklifts • Small Tractors
3815 Shallow Ford West Temple, TX 76502
Phone: (254) 771-1303
Fax: (254) 771-5613

Norman Building Materials
939-5132
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1945
1010 S. Main St. • Belton

DON RINGLER AUTOMOTIVE
Central Texas
CHEVROLET TOYOTA
I-35 Exit 294B | 778-4285
www.DonRingler.com

STAAS PLUMBING COMPANY, INC.
REPUTATION BUILT ON SERVICE
778-2575
KEN STAAS
2101 W. AVENUE M • TEMPLE, TEXAS 76504

Extraco Banks | Let's Build Some Dreams™
254.774.5500 | Belton | extracobanks.com

BELTON/MORGAN'S POINT RESORT

- Agape Christian Center**
321 N. Penelope ~ 254.939.WORD
- Anchor of Hope Fellowship**
5700 F.M. 439 ~ 254.831.1035
- 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 Church 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 Mexican Baptist Church**
703 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.6900
- First Presbyterian Church of Belton**
2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115
- First United Methodist Church**
205 E. 3rd Ave. ~ 254.939.5703
- Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus**
1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201
- Freedom Bible Fellowship**
3087 W. Ave. D ~ 254.933-3310
- Holy Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith**
519 S. Pearl St. ~ 254.613.4591
- Hope Community Church**
507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222
- Hope Tabernacle**
202 E. 1st Ave. ~ 254.933.8222
- Iglesia de Cristo**
3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910
- 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 Church**
2378 FM 1670 ~ 818.519.9855
 - Tapestry Community Church of Belton**
1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.218.4008
 - Temple Vision de lo Alto**
4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231
 - Trinity Full Gospel**
810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673
 - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bell County**
1726 Morgan's Point Rd. ~ 254.778.8034
- ~ TEMPLE ~
- Chalice Church - Disciples of Christ**
300 N 5th St ~ (254) 773-9061
 - Christ Episcopal Church and School**
300 N. Main St. ~ 254.773.1657
 - Christian Life Church**
4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626
 - Covenant Lutheran Church**
4202 Hickory Rd. ~ 254.733.7718
 - Eighth Street Baptist Church**
215 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. ~ 254.773.2598
 - First Baptist Church Temple**
8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866
 - First Methodist Church Temple, GMC**
102 N. 2nd Temple. TX ~ 254.773.7992
 - First Presbyterian Church Temple**
12 West French ~ 254.773.3407
 - Foundation Church**
10751 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673

- Grace Baptist Church**
740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401
- Grace Comm. Primitive Baptist Church**
3111 N. 3rd St ~ 254.774.8192
- Grace Presbyterian Church**
2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134
- Harvest Church**
2501 General Bruce Dr. ~ 254.780.3566
- Immanuel Lutheran Church**
2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898
- Leon Valley Church of Christ**
4404 Twin City Blvd. ~ 254.939.0682
- New Hope Church of God**
2005 W. Ave D., Suite D. ~ 254.742.2181
- Oak Park United Methodist Church**
5505 South 31st St. ~ 254.773.3021
- St. Francis Episcopal Church & School**
5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255
- St. Luke's Catholic Church**
2807 Oakdale Dr. ~ 254.773.1561
- St. Mary's Catholic Church**
1018 S 7th St. ~ 254.773.4541
- Taylor's Valley Baptist Church**
2497 W. FM 93 ~ 254.939.0503
- Temple Bible Church**
3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233
- Temple First Church of the Nazarene**
5000 S. 31st ~ 254.773.3744
- 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. ~ 254.774.7992
- Wildwood Baptist Church**
5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

Looking Back on a Year, Looking Up at the Cross



John C. Perry

It's hard for me to believe, but I've now been writing a weekly column for the Journal for over a year. This week actually marks column number fifty-five. People often ask, "Where do you get all your ideas? Don't you run out of things to write about?"

The answer is simple. I write

whatever God puts on my heart. I've never once sat down at the keyboard and wondered what to say. Some weeks the topics are serious, other weeks they're lighter, but every time I trust that God has something He wants me to share with you.

I hope these weekly meanderings have encouraged you from time to time. Every now and then someone sends a kind comment, and it warms my heart more than you know. But I still sometimes wonder whether my writing truly makes a difference. If anything, I've written has helped you, challenged you, or simply made you think, I would genuinely love to hear from you. Just contact the Journal and ask them to pass your comments, good or bad, along to me. Hearing

from readers is one of the great joys of this little ministry of mine.

But enough about that. Let's turn to something far more important this week. Holy Week. Easter Week. Whatever name you prefer, it is, to me, the most meaningful week of the entire year. As precious as Christmas is, Easter is the moment when everything God promised comes to life. This is the week we remember what Jesus endured for us, the suffering of Good Friday and the glory of the empty tomb on Sunday morning.

We sometimes forget how completely Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. Some biblical scholars say He fulfilled around 300 prophecies during His earthly life; others suggest the number may be much high-

er. Among them are His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14), His birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), and His humble entry into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9) during that final week. One of my favorite verses is Isaiah 9:6: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Sometimes I find myself wondering how God can love us so deeply when we fail Him so often. Yet He loved us enough to give His Son, to suffer, to bleed, and to die between two criminals on a simple wooden cross. That kind of love is beyond my understanding, but Scripture tells us plainly, He did it for us.

As you walk through this sacred

week, I hope you'll take a moment, maybe even drop to your knees, and offer genuine thanksgiving to our Almighty Father for what He accomplished through His Son, the Messiah. We remain unworthy, yet God's love continues to shine just as brightly today as it did two thousand years ago.

God bless each of you. May your Easter be filled with gratitude, hope, and the joy of knowing what Jesus Christ has done for us.

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

2026 BELTON MARKET DAYS
SATURDAY APRIL 18 & NOV 21
9 AM - 4 PM

www.downtownbelton.com

LIVE MUSIC * FOOD TRUCKS * VENDORS

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1865: Union forces capture Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederate States of America.

1933: The first flight over Mount Everest is led by the Marquis of Clydesdale.

1981: The Osborne 1, the first successful portable computer, is unveiled.



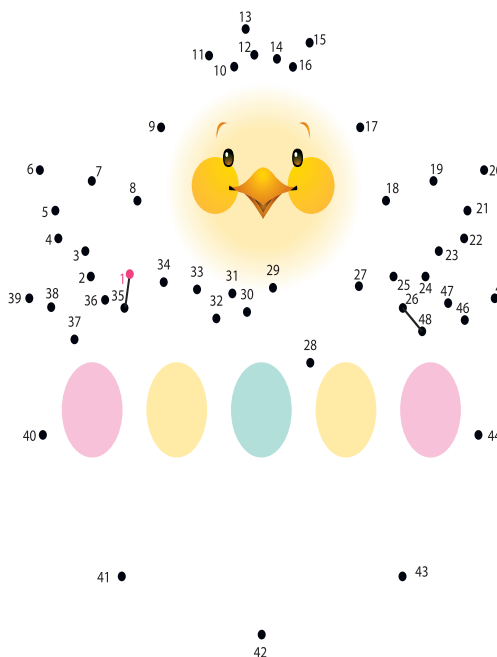
Easter FUN for Everyone

Eggcellent Word Scramble

NYBNU _____ TBENON _____
 KBTSA _____ OHAEOTCLC _____
 RETASE GEG _____ LYLJE NSEAB _____

ANSWERS: bunny, basket, Easter egg, bonnet, chocolate, jelly beans

CONNECT THE DOTS



Eggcellent Trivia

One hen can lay up to 300 eggs per year.

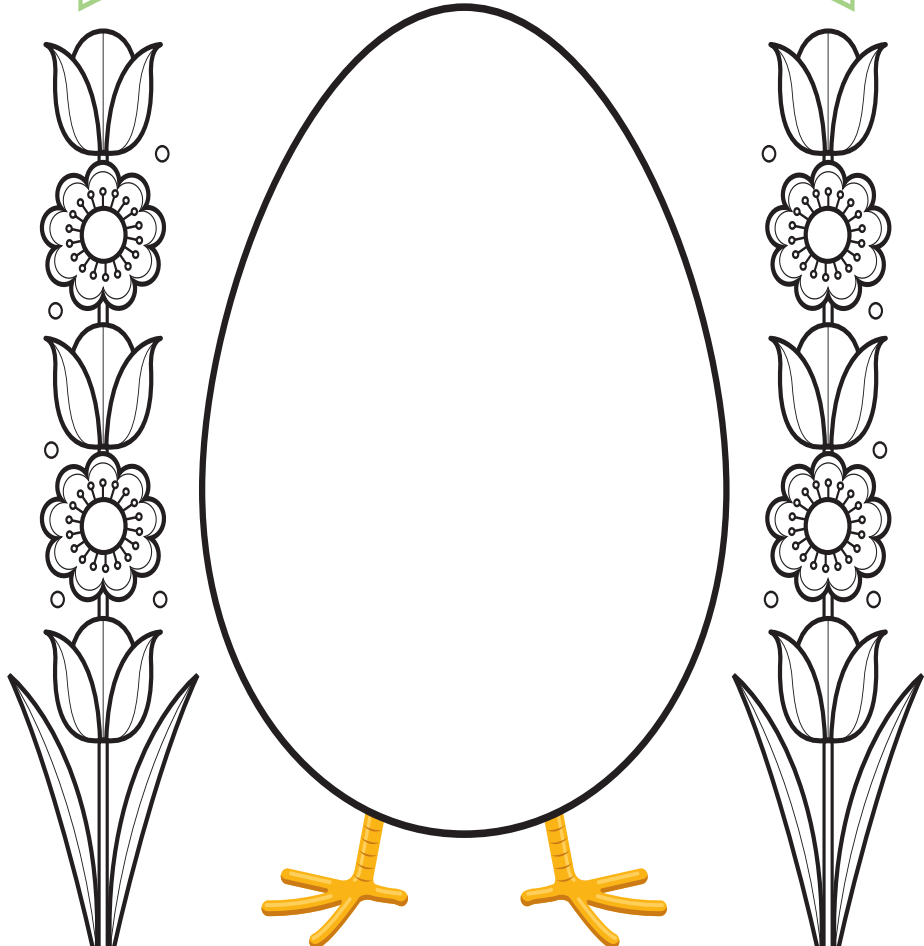
The tradition of decorating eggs for Easter originated in Ukraine.

An egg's shell color usually corresponds to the earlobe color of the hen that produced it.

Ostriches lay the largest eggs of any living bird. One ostrich egg can serve about 24 people for breakfast!

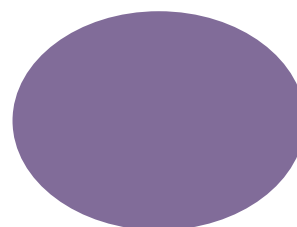
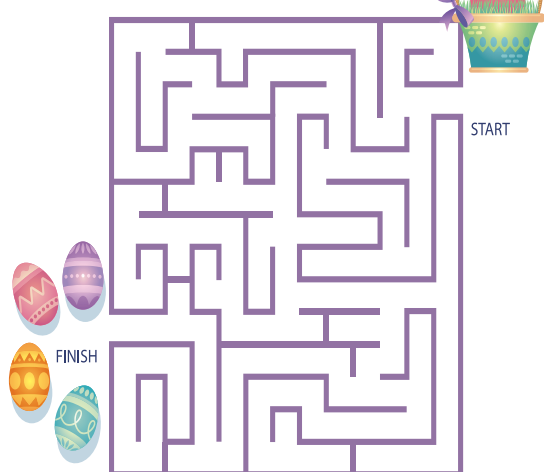
HAPPY EASTER

Decorate This Egg for Easter!



HOLIDAY MAZE

Please help me find eggs for my basket.





Lake Belton cruises to girl's title at Bronco Relays

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Lady Broncos clearly felt right at home during their annual meet.

Hosting the Bronco Relays, Lake Belton cruised to the girls team title, defeating its closest competitor by almost 80 points while winning eight events in the process.

Behind standout performances from seniors Nylah Berrian and Bella Garcia, the Lady Broncos amassed 187 points to beat out Austin Lake Travis (2nd, 108.5), Copperas Cove (3rd, 80) and Little River Academy (4th, 78) in the final standings.

Garcia won the 100-meter dash in 12.42 seconds and was first (25.20) in the 200, while Berrian topped the 400 field, crossing the finish line in 58.65.

Additionally, the pair joined freshman Kaleileana Cress and Aleya Russell to win the 400 relay in 47.75, and Berrian also helped the 1,600 relay team yield a gold medal. Along

with freshman Tiana Sanders, sophomore Camryn Mikulas and senior Moriah Rydberg, the quartet finished in 4:07.14.

The Lady Broncos' remaining gold medals were earned by freshman distance runner Keira Dzenowski (3,200, 12:49.65), Rydberg (300 hurdles, 46.00) and the 800 relay team (1:44.81) of junior Ty'annah Debose, freshman Alexis Walker, Cress and Russell.

Dzenowski led a dominant group in the 3,200 with junior teammates Sarah Gray and Madelyn Rivas following at second (13:07.22) and third (13:16.17), respectively.

The squad's remaining medals were collected junior Dannika Kelley (2nd, high jump, 5 feet, 0 inches; 3rd, 100 hurdles, 16.40), Mikulas (3rd, 300 hurdles, 48.16; 3rd, triple jump, 35-2) and Cress (2nd, 100, 12.98).

Kelley was also fourth in the long jump (15-9) and triple jump (34-8).

The Lady Tigers were fifth (59) thanks in part to senior Laila Page, who won the triple

jump (35-11½) and pole vault (10-0). She was also second in the 200 (26.36), fifth in the 400 (1:00.84) and joined Delilah Hoffman, Jada Gage and Leimya Palomares to place fourth (4:14.42) in the 1,600 relay.

Tara Stone, a sophomore, was first (119-9) in the discus and fourth (33-5) in the shot put, and Gage tied for fourth (4-8) in the high jump.

Fifth-place finishes were produced by Hoffman (300 hurdles, 49.85) and junior Melissa Farmer (shot put, 32-11).

Jaycie Sheard, a junior, was fifth (17.83) in the 100 hurdles, matching the showing from Lady Broncos teammates Rivas (800, 2:39.59), Loa (1,600, 5:49.86) and Walker (long jump, 15-6), while Loa (800, 2:35.68) and Dzenowski (1,600, 5:45.88) were fourth.

In the boys division, the Tigers scored 135 points to finish second behind champion College Station (166).

Senior standout Christian Porter led the

way, placing first (48.12) in the 400, first (22-3) in the long jump, second (22.02) in the 200, and he was part of the first-place 400 relay team with junior Anthony Anderson, junior Graham Chambley and senior Azian Wilkinson. They posted a time of 41.53.

Chambley also won the 100 hurdles (14.45) and 300 hurdles (39.07), while Anderson was first (11.51) in the 100, and junior teammate Luke Munden won the high jump (5-8).

Keishawn Coles, a senior, delivered Belton's only other silver medal, placing second in the high jump by clearing 5-6, and the Tigers' lone bronze medal was garnered by the 1,600 relay (3:35.32) foursome of Rhayden Lee, Jayden Trevino, William Yeaman and David McCallum.

The Tigers' 800 relay team of Javid Planz, Nick Gallegos, Wilkinson and Trevino

See RELAYS,
Page B3

Belton High students host free golf camp to inspire next generation

Special to The Journal

Three Belton High School students turned their passion for golf into an opportunity for others, hosting a free children's golf camp designed to introduce young players to the sport and the life skills it builds.

MacKenzie McGarry, along with Ella Hice and Jasmin Porter, all juniors and members of the Lady Tigers golf team at Belton High School, organized the camp as part of a National Honor Society passion project.

Held Sunday, March 29, at Stonetree Golf Course, the camp welcomed children ages 7-17 for an afternoon focused on learn-

ing the fundamentals of putting and chipping in a supportive and encouraging environment.

For the student leaders, the project was about more than just introducing kids to golf. It was about sharing a sport that has shaped their lives.

"I've had a golf club in my hand for as long as I can remember," said McGarry. "Golf has taught me discipline and how to handle failure while still wanting to improve. I wanted other kids to experience that and find something they love."

See GOLF,
Page B3



Lady Tigers fall 4-0 in Regional Semifinals game

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Belton Lady Tigers' playoff run came to an end Friday night at Cleburne Athletic Complex, as Frisco Wakeland proved to be too much to handle in a 4-0 Class 5A Division II Region semifinal victory.

Wakeland entered the contest riding an unbeaten streak and carrying the confidence of having already knocked off Belton once during the regular season. That familiarity showed early and often, as the Wolverines controlled possession and dictated the tempo throughout the match.

The Tigers did their best to hold Wakeland back and did well applying pressure in the opening minutes and held a strong back line against Wakeland's runs. Despite Belton's best efforts, Wakeland eventually broke through.

Belton goalkeeper Destiny Mendez was busy all night, turning away six shots before being relieved by Mya Williams late in the second half. Williams added three

saves of her own late in the game but the Lady Tigers couldn't generate the offense needed to keep pace. Belton finished with just one shot on goal for the game.

Wakeland broke through late in the first half when a foul inside the box gave them a penalty kick opportunity. Wakeland executed on the PK getting on the board first. That goal opened the door, and the Wolverines pulled away in the second half to seal the regional semifinal win. Wakeland finished with 13 shots on goal in the match.

The loss closed the book on a season that saw Belton post an 11-6-4 record and advance to the regional round of the playoffs. Seven seniors will move on from the program including Mendez, Williams, Grace Landen, Destiny Schutz, Abigail Idoux, Ayvah Powell and Makenzie Albrycht a group that leaves behind a legacy of competing at the highest level of the postseason.

While the season did not end the way the Lady Tigers had hoped, they posted a good record and established another year of winning to take into the off season.

Lake Belton soccer season ends with 5-0 loss to Reedy

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Lady Broncos girls soccer team brought their 2025-26 campaign to a close in the Class 5A Division I regional semifinals, wrapping up a season that reinforced the program's standing as one of the premier outfits in District 16-5A.

Lake Belton finished the regular season with a 13-5-2 overall record, going undefeated against every district opponent outside of their two meetings with cross-town rival Belton. The Lady Broncos and Lady Tigers finished tied atop the District 16-5A standings. Along the way, Lake Belton put together some dominant performances, including a 7-0 hammering of Waco High and an 8-0 dismantling of Ellison. Those kinds of results were routine throughout the year for a Lady Broncos side that proved difficult to score on and equally dangerous going forward.

The postseason began on a strong note in Hewitt at Midway's Panther Sta-

dium, where Lake Belton opened with a 4-1 bi-district victory over Red Oak. The Lady Broncos continued their run through the area round before meeting Frisco Reedy in the regional semifinals. To get to Reedy the Broncos had to take on West Mesquite where they walked away with a 3-1 victory.

With two wins in their pocket the Lady Broncos looked to keep momentum on their side as they prepared to face Reedy. However, Reedy proved to be the tougher opponent on the night, handing Lake Belton a 5-0 defeat to end the season. Despite the result, the Lady Broncos had nothing to hang their heads about. They advanced further than most programs in a loaded 5A-D1 bracket and left their mark on the postseason for the second straight year.

From dominant district wins to a deep playoff run, the 2025-26 Lady Broncos gave the Lake Belton community plenty to be proud of. With a core group of players set to return and a program that continues to grow, the foundation is firmly in place for another strong run next season.

Wheeler throws no-hitter as Tigers defeat Lady Eagles 19-0

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Hanna Wheeler threw a no-hitter, Iris Molina was 3-for-3 at the plate, and the Lady Tigers emerged from Killeen Ellison with a one-sided win.

The junior pitcher struck out eight batters and was responsible for a pair of hits and four RBIs en route to a 19-0 victory that was concluded via run-rule following the third inning.

After being walked and scoring the games opening run on a passed ball,

Molina finished with a single in the second inning before adding a double and a single in the third inning.

On the heels of the shortstop's score, teammates Reagan Stuart, a first baseman, and centerfielder Anissa Ortiz also crossed home plate on consecutive passed balls.

The 3-0 advantage quickly swelled.

In the second inning, the Lady Tigers added nine runs as Molina drove a pair of teammates home on her bases-loaded shot before Reagan Ford scored on a passed ball.

Before the inning's end, Tara Stone (double), Presli Thompson (double) and Wheeler (single) had two-RBI shots.

Belton finished with 11 hits in the win while improving to 16-13-1 while maintaining second place in the District 16-5A standings with a 4-1 record.

The Lady Tigers sit behind undefeated Lake Belton (5-0) midway through the schedule.

The dominant display followed a 14-2 victory against Killeen Chaparral, evoking the run-rule in five innings.

Stuart was on the mound, and she finished with seven strikeouts.

Offensively, the Lady Tigers had 14 hits as Andalyn Logan and Stuart emerged with three hits apiece, including Stuart's solo home run.

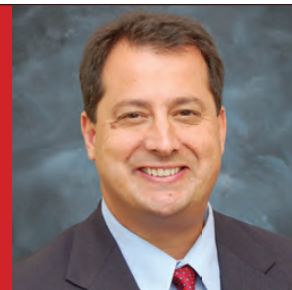
Stone had two hits with both going over the fence, while Thompson and Aubrey Lynch each had two hits.

Belton opens the second round of league play Friday, when it hosts Waco.

Four of the Lady Tigers' final five games will be at home. Waco University (April 10) is the lone exception.



JOHN CORSI
STATE FARM INSURANCE
Voted Best Insurance Agency in Bell County
101 Lake Road Belton, TX (254)939-5846



FREE 3 Month
Trial Subscription



FLOORCO. PREMIUM FLOORING & MORE

Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm Saturday 9am - 3pm

- Vinyl • Hardwood • Laminate
- Carpet • Ceramic Tile
- Vinyl Plank

Engineered Hardwood (Starting at \$3.00) Sq. Ft.

5812 S. General Bruce Dr. • floorcosurplus.com 254.727.4061

Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The District 16-5A boys golf meet concluded Tuesday, and Belton ISD finished in complete control of the leaderboard.

Lake Belton sat all alone atop the field following the final round at Killeen's Stonetree Golf Club, shooting a 630 to take the title, while the Tigers followed 58 strokes behind with a 688.

Led by overall leader Jackson Null, a senior, the

Belton Lake Stillhouse

FAIR. Water normal stain; 60 degrees; 0.87 feet below pool. It is a "tale of two fisheries" right now for Lake Belton white bass. There are fish steadily making their way up the Leon River to spawn, and there are fish still residing in the main lake. Both have their pros and cons. The river fishery is best on the weekdays and during poor weather when fishing pressure is minimized, otherwise, expect plenty of company. Trolling crankbaits which imitate medium-sized threadfin shad, like the Bomber 5A, or the Storm Smash Shad will put fish in the boat slowly but steadily. If you closely watch side-imaging, you will likely spot migrating schools which can be cast to to put bonus fish in the boat. Horsehead-style jigs with an under-spin in white and chartreuse less than 2 inches long do well. Back on the main lake the deep, lethargic fish which have been present but difficult to goad into biting are now much more aggressive. Look in 35 feet or less along the old Leon River channel or Cowhouse Creek channel during bright conditions, and as shallow as 12-14 feet at first light, last light, and under cloud cover. The Mini White Bass Alabama rig with white paddle tails less than 3 inches long or MAL Originals get the job done when retrieved with a sawtooth retrieve. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are excellent in 10-25 feet of water. Slow drifting with suspended baits around points and river channels has worked best for blue catfish. Flathead catfish are slow, but have been caught near structure and rock piles with live perch and shad. Channel catfish are fair and have been caught in shallow water around timber using punch bait. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

FAIR. Water stained; 60 degrees; 1.90 feet below pool. It is a "tale of two fisheries" right now for Stillhouse white bass. There are fish steadily making their way up the Lampasas River to spawn, and there are fish still residing in the main lake. Both have their pros and cons. The river fishery is best on the weekdays and during poor weather when fishing pressure is minimized, otherwise, expect plenty of company in tight quarters. Trolling crankbaits which imitate medium-sized threadfin shad, like the Bomber 5A, or the Storm Smash Shad will put fish in the boat slowly but steadily. If you closely watch side-imaging, you will likely spot migrating schools which can be cast to to put bonus fish in the boat. Horsehead-style jigs with an underpin in white and chartreuse less than 2 inch long do well. Back on the main lake the deep, lethargic fish which have been present but difficult to goad into biting are now much more aggressive. Look in 35 feet or less along the old Lampasas River channel during bright conditions, and as shallow as 12-14 feet at first light, last light, and under cloud cover. The mini white bass Alabama rig with white paddle tails less than 3 inches long or MAL Originals get the job done when retrieved with a sawtooth retrieve. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

Broncos' quintet occupied all but one of the top six positions.

Null claimed the individual championship with a 150, beating out Belton senior Owen Babcock (2nd, 158) by eight strokes, while senior teammates Miles Parker (3rd, 159), Gavin Kerr (4th, 160) and Brayden Hoff (5th, 164) rounded out the total.

Lake Belton freshman Carter Johnson was sixth with a 172, but his score did not count toward the team total.

Belton had two more top-10 outings thanks to freshman Bennett Boland (tied 8th, 175) and senior Bryson Necessary (10th, 176). Wyatt McLean, a junior, and sophomore Cooper McDonald were 11th (179) and tied for 12th (185), respectively.

Making the trip even more impressive for Belton ISD was the fact Lake Belton and Belton's second teams immediately followed in the standings.

The Broncos' second team of freshman Jacob

Sullivan (7th, 173), freshman Jackson Dolotina (tied 12th, 185), junior Kaiden Beaty (16th, 187), junior Levi Tarrence-Crotty (tied 19th, 193) and junior Landon Casperson (22nd, 196) was fourth (734).

For Belton, junior Kai Scarlett (tied 12th, 185), freshman Brody Mavis (18th, 192), junior Reid Erskine (21st, 195), sophomore Jacob Flores (tied 24th, 210) and sophomore Kypton Barrett (27th, 214) combined for a fourth-place score of 781.

Killeen Ellison was a distant fifth with an 856.

The top two teams and top two individuals at University Interscholastic League district meets advance to regionals. For Belton and Lake Belton, the two-round Region II-5A meet will be held at Pottsboro's Tanglewood Golf Course beginning April 13.

The District 16-5A girls tournament concludes today at Waco's Cottonwood Creek Golf Course.

POWERLIFTING

Lake Belton's Evan Lazott placed 12th at the Texas High School Powerlifting Association Class 5A State Championship, breaking the school record in the bench press in the process.

The 275-pounder posted a 575-pound squat, 460 bench press and 550 deadlift for a total of 1,585.

BASEBALL

The Tigers improved to 2-1 in District 16-5A competition on Tuesday, when they earned a 3-2 road victory against Waco University.

The contest was tied 2-2 in the eighth inning, when Habtamu Childers delivered an RBI single, and the advantage held.

The squads conclude their series Friday at Belton's Tidwell Field. First pitch is set for 7 p.m.

Then, on Tuesday, the Tigers host Killeen Chaparral at 7 p.m.

SOFTBALL

The Lady Broncos cruised to a run-rule victory at home against Killeen Chaparral on Tuesday to conclude the first round of District 16-5A play with an unblemished record.

Lake Belton posted five unanswered runs in the opening inning and added three and four runs in the ensuing innings en route to a 12-0 victory that lasted five innings.

The Lady Broncos (5-0) finished with a dozen hits.

The outcome comes on the heels of a three-inning, 15-0 win against visiting Waco on Friday.

Lake Belton travels to Waco University and Belton for 6:30 p.m. starts on Friday and Tuesday, respectively.

TENNIS


The Broncos and Lady Broncos traveled to Liberty Hill on Friday and experienced plenty of success.

Sara Stephens was second in the girls singles "A" draw, while the mixed doubles duo of Hannah Maloney and Andrew Williams won the "A" consolation bracket.

In "B" draws, Lily Ann Holley was first in girls singles, Quint Mackenzie and Eli Stewart were second in boys doubles, and Lydia Pulavarti and James Robinson were second in mixed doubles.

Now, Lake Belton turns its attention toward the District 16-5A meet. The event begins April 7 at Temple.

The Tigers and Lady Tigers will also be competing.



Sustainable investing means investing with purpose

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

When you think about investing, you probably want your money to grow — but maybe you also want it to do some good.

That's where ESG investing can be of interest. ESG looks at three key areas:

- “E” stands for environment. It looks at how companies handle climate impact and natural resources.
- “S” is for social factors, including product safety and the well being of a company's workers.
- “G” is governance, which considers a company's ethics and transparency and how responsibly it is run.

At its core, sustainable investing is about aligning investments with personal values while still focusing on long-term financial outcomes.

You may wonder whether investing sustainably means sacrificing returns. A study by New York University found that investing in companies with strong ESG practices does not inherently diminish returns — and these investments often perform better over time.

But quality still matters here. Focus on well run, financially strong companies to help you build more stable, long term results, whether you choose ESG investing or something else.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Edward Jones

3011 N. Main, Ste C, Belton, Tx 76513
(254) 933-7680 • scot.hrbacek@edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Proud supporters of the **BISD ATHLETICS**

2025 PLATINUM EXCELLENCE PRODUCT

2025 PLATINUM TOP PERFORMER GROWTH

Tanner Roofing

(254) 939-0343 TannerRoofing.Com

Smith Brothers Drive-In

Tiger Car Wash & Speed Wash

GO BIG RED

921 E. 6th • Belton 939-2471

BELTON TIGER ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

@ BELTON TIGERS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

Harper-Talasek FUNERAL HOMES

Belton • Killeen • Temple

We make it personal.®

254.939.2411 • 503 N. Main Street
www.harperatalasek.com

2"x1.7" HT.SportsSponsorship'21

H-E-B plus!

2509 N. Main Street Belton

Extraco Banks.

Let's Build Some Dreams™

Banking | Insurance | Mortgage
774.5500 | Belton | extracobanks.com

Extraco Banks is a Member FDIC

Go Tigers!

We're with you all the way!

BELTON HIGH SCHOOL

600 Lake Rd. 215-2200

Designers & Manufacturers of Quality Library Furniture

indecO sales

939-5742 • 1-800-682-4256
805 E. 4th Ave. • Belton

WEST TOWNSHIP ORTHODONTICS

WE GO THE EXTRA SMILE

SIT MEANS SIT DOG TRAINING

(254) 541-3343

centraltexas.sitmeanssit.com

CENTRAL TEXAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS

Now Enrolling Book A Tour Today!

www.ctcslions.com | 254-939-5700

R.K. BASS ELECTRIC, INC.

200 East FM 2410 • Harker Heights
254-698-8751



WHITISH
ROOFING | CONSTRUCTION

NEED A ROOF? LOCALLY OWNED

Residential, Commercial, General Construction

SERVICES

3809 S. General Bruce Drive, Ste #103-324,
Temple, Texas, 76502 (254) 300-8242
whitishroofing.com



WHITISH
ROOFING | CONSTRUCTION

Lake Belton makes statement in 10-0 win over Ellison

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos wasted little time making a statement in their district series opener, shutting out the Ellison Eagles 10-0 in five innings Tuesday to take an early advantage in the series.

It was a performance that checked every box, dominant pitching, timely hitting, and an offense that found another

gear as the game wore on. The first two innings were a quiet feeling out process, with both sides going scoreless through the opening frame. Lake Belton broke through in the second inning, plating one run to take a 1-0 lead and set the tone for what was to come. The Broncos' pitching staff made that lone run stand through the third, keeping Ellison off the board and preserving the slim ad-

vantage heading into the later stages of the game. The fourth inning was the turning point. The Broncos sent runners around the bases in bunches, scoring four runs in the frame to push the lead to 5-0 and take full control of the ballgame. Ellison, unable to generate any consistent offense against a Lake Belton pitching staff that was sharp from the first pitch, found itself in an increasingly

deep hole with no clear path out. The fifth inning sealed it. Lake Belton kept its foot on the gas, pouring across five more runs to make the final score 10-0 and invoke the run rule, ending the game after just five innings. It was a complete effort from the Broncos from start to finish. On the mound, Lake Belton's pitching was suffocating all afternoon, hold-

ing Ellison's lineup without a single run across the entire game. At the plate, the offense was patient early and explosive late, a combination that proved to be too much for the Eagles to handle. For Ellison, the loss puts the Eagles in an immediate must win situation as the series shifts forward. The Eagles will need to find answers both at the plate and in the circle if they hope to extend

the series. For Lake Belton, it's the kind of series opening performance that can set a tone and build momentum heading into the next game. The Broncos didn't just win, they dominated, and they did it in convincing fashion when the district stakes were highest. Game two of the series is set for Thursday April 2nd, at 7pm.

Golf - From Page B1

McGarry's connection to the sport began at an early age, influenced by her mother, a former professional golfer. That foundation, combined with years of dedication, led her to not only compete at a high level but also give back through this student-led initiative.

The idea for the camp grew out of a requirement for National Honor Society members to complete a service-based passion project. From there, the group handled all aspects of planning, including securing the location, organizing logistics and creating a welcoming experience for participants.

Stonetree Golf Course partnered with the students to host the event, while additional support helped provide food and water for at-

tendees. Beyond teaching skills, the students hoped to challenge common misconceptions about the sport and create a space where all participants feel comfortable. "Golf can sometimes feel out of reach or intimidating, especially for younger players," McGarry said. "We wanted to show that it's a sport for everyone and create a positive experience where kids feel encouraged to try something new." "MacKenzie, Ella and Jasmin exemplify what it means to be student leaders at Belton High School," said Claudia Knox, principal of Belton High School. "They took an idea, turned it into action

and created an opportunity that made a difference for others. We are proud of the way they represent our campus and our community." The camp also reflects the students' commitment to service and leadership, turning their shared passion into a mean-

ingful experience for others in the community. As Belton ISD continues to encourage student-led learning experiences, opportunities like this highlight the impact students can make when they turn their interests into action.

Relays - From Page B1

was fourth (1:31.87) Belton's remaining top-five outings came from junior Amani House (4th, 110 hurdles, 16.13; 5th, 300 hurdles, 42.07), junior Alexander Matos (4th, 300 hurdles, 41.48), freshman Luke Roberts (tied 4th, pole vault, 12-0), junior Kainyn Smith (5th, discus, 117-0) and Planz (5th, 100, 11.66).

Lake Travis (3rd, 83), Little River Academy (4th, 77) and Round Rock Westwood (5th, 58) followed.

Copperas Cove and Lake Belton tied for sixth place, scoring 38 points apiece.

The Broncos were second (1:29.80) in the 800 relay — Noah Stevens, Zion Harness,

Christian Onchweri and Jaden Haye — and fifth (44.87) in the 400 relay — Chris Harmon, Cooper Arnold, Prince Moore and Onchweri. Additionally, junior Ji'yson Sherman was third (20-0) in the long jump, junior Allen Muchunu was fourth (41-3) in the triple jump, freshman Drew Houston tied for fourth (12-0) in the pole vault, freshman K.J. Bridges was fifth (52.85) in the 400 and senior Leonardo Piedra was fifth (2:10.63) in the 800.

The event served as one of the final tune-ups prior to the two-day District 16-5A meet, which will be hosted by Belton beginning April 8.

Expert, Affordable Auto Repairs & Maintenance

DARREL & STEVEN GREEN



254-770-0666 | www.DarrelGreensAutoTX.com




YOUR MANAGED SERVICES PROVIDER
We Make IT Simple.



WE CAN HELP ...

- Increase Efficiency
- Prevent Work Delays
- Reduce Work Related Stress

templetechnology.net



Scarborough Renaissance Festival
APRIL 4 THRU MAY 25

Lords, Ladies, Knights, Nobles, Peasants and Paupers,
We bid thee welcome to the 45th Annual Scarborough Renaissance Festival!

Welcome to Scarborough Renaissance Festival®—proudly celebrating 45 years of bringing the Renaissance to life in North Texas. Since 1981, Scarborough has invited generations of families and friends to gather in fellowship, revel in pageantry, and share in the joy of stepping beyond the present day. In honor of this 45th Annual season, we journey back to the year 1545. King Henry VIII and Queen Catherine Parr, now nearly two years happily married, have chosen once more to grace Scarborough Village during their Spring Progress. The royal court gathers in splendor, banners rise above the village gates, and anticipation fills the air as their Majesties arrive to celebrate among their loyal subjects. Though history tells us the Mary Rose will soon be lost and the Scots have claimed victory at Ancrem Moor, today we set aside thoughts of military conflict and political maneuvering. Here in Scarborough, we concern ourselves only with joy. Here you will discover a thriving English village alive with music, laughter, artisan treasures, hearty fare, spirited drink, and bold spectacle. It was an age of artistic brilliance, scientific curiosity, and enduring tradition and—for a day—it lives again before you. For 45 remarkable years, this Festival has stood as a place where history breathes, stories unfold, and community thrives. So raise your tankard, lift your turkey leg, and come step back in time for the time of your life at Scarborough Renaissance Festival®. Huzzah!

Welcome New Entertainment!

• Carnival of Sound May 2 - May 25	• Digger Plotz, Grave Digger	• Samkoma April 4 - April 12
• Cirque La Vie April 4 - April 12	• Gabs the Fool April 4 - April 26	• The Spice Boys April 18 - April 26
• Crimson Pirates April 18 - April 26	• Grievance by Proxy May 16 - May 25	• Tartanic
	• Opal the Fairy	




2026 TEMPLE BIBLE CHURCH

GARAGE SALE & SILENT AUCTION

Find treasures, support the cause!

FRIDAY APRIL 24
@ 5-8 PM
(\$5 ENTRY FEE)

SATURDAY APRIL 25
@ 7 AM-12 PM
3205 OAKVIEW DR.

Proceeds benefiting Feed My Sheep & Ukraine Church Partner





GARAGE SALE **ONLINE SILENT AUCTION:**
VISIT TEMPLEBIBLECHURCH.ORG/THEHUB

EMPLOYMENT

MCGUIRE TIRE

is looking to hire automotive tire/lube tech. Apply in person 103 Lake Road in Belton, or 603 South First in Temple. Pay based on experience
TFN

LOOKING FOR WORK

Dishwasher, Janitorial, cleaning. Please call 254-780-5835
03.26,04.02,04.09

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Newly remodeled, spacious, one bedroom, one bath. Features washer & dryer connection, stove and refrigerator, central ac/heat. Close to downtown Temple. \$995.00 a month/deposit \$995.00. References required
Call 254-803-09309
03.26-04.04.23pd

LEGALS

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE IS BEING STORED AT KILLEEN TOWING & RECOVERY

12197 State Hwy 195 Killeen, TX 76542, 254-526-3856, VSF0651623, <http://www.tdlr.texas.gov>, 1954 GMC Pickup Blue charges are \$1014.05

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of CLAUDETTE DIANN HERRON, Deceased, were issued on March 26, 2026, in Cause No. 25CPB00266, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: LOURIE STONEBARGER.

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: ESTATE OF CLAUDETTE DIANN HERRON LOURIE STONEBARGER, 63819 728 Rd. Auburn, NE 68305 DATED the 26 day of March, 2026.

W. RANDY HARRELL, State Bar No.: 00789348, 2106 Bird Creek Drive, Temple, TX 76502, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: randy@templalawoffice.com
04.02

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JAMES ROY LINDLEY a.k.a. JAMES R. LINDLEY, Deceased, were issued on March 3, 2026 in Cause No.

26CPB00045 pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: MARY A. LINDLEY WILEY.

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: MARY WILEY, Lindley & Wiley, P.C., 100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 306, Harker Heights, Texas 76548
SIGNED on March 23, 2026
MARY A. LINDLEY WILEY Attorney

Your home or land could be one of your largest investments.

We would be honored to represent you in this important transaction.



We KNOW Belton!
GoCov.com
(254) 939-3800

LEGALS

for MARY WILEY, State Bar No.: 24032669, 100 W. Central Texas Expressway Suite 306, Harker Heights, Texas 76548, Telephone: (254) 634-6969, Facsimile: (254) 634-6587, Email: mary@lindleylawoffices.com
04.02

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ALBERT WAYNE GARRETT (also known as WAYNE GARRETT), Deceased, were issued on March 23, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00128, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to:

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: DEVON S. LINZY Attorney at Law, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503
SIGNED on March 27, 2026.

DEVON S. LINZY Attorney for, State Bar No.: 24086218, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503, Telephone: (254) 773-1663, Facsimile: (254) 773-2574, Email: devon@linzythigpen.com
04.02

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION - PARENT AND CHILD CAUSE NO. 26DFAM359519

To: TAMARCUS CARLOSS

Greetings:

You are hereby commanded to appear before the 426th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas, to be held at the courthouse of said County in the City of Belton, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock AM of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after the date of service of which this citation, then and there to answer the original petition for termination of parental rights and adoption of minor stepchild of ANTONIO MCINNIS, JR, Petitioner filed in said Court on February 13, 2026, against TAMARCUS CARLOSS, respondent, and said suit being number 26DFAM359519, on the docket of said Court, and entitled In the Interest of Children JAYVA E. MARIE CARLOSS, DOB

The nature of which suit is a request to Parent/Child Relationship.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree in the child's/children's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's/children's adoption.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.

This was issued at the request of attorney: ANTONIO MCINNIS, JR, 7921 EMERY OAKS DRIVE, TEMPLE TX 76502.

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 twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addi-

LEGALS

tion 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.

Witness, Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on March 30, 2026.

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

By: C. Rodriguez Deputy Clerk
04.02

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF REBECCA ANN BROCK, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Administration were issued on March 26, 2026, in a proceeding styled Estate of Rebecca Ann Brock, Deceased, in Cause Number 25CPB00776, pending in the County Court At Law #1 of Bell County, Texas.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Administrator, addressed as follows:

James Robert Brock
(Administrator) Independent Administrator of the Estate of Rebecca Ann Brock, 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 27, 2026.

Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., Attorneys for James Robert Brock (Administrator)

By: Burk Roberts
04.02

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF OF RICHARD ARTHUR BROTHERS, SR., DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary were issued on March 27.

2026 in a proceeding styled Estate of Richard Arthur Brothers. Sr.. Deceased, in Cause Number

26CPB00113. 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: Suk Cha Brothers Independent Executrix of the Estate of Richard Arthur Brothers. Sr.. 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 litis estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Signed on March 30, 2026.

Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P.. Attorneys for Suk Cha Brothers

By : Burk Roberts
04.02

FREE 3 Month Trial Subscription





Local Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

April

- 04/01: Monthly Luncheon
- 04/06: Chat 'n' Canasta
- 04/09: Mexican Train Dominoes, Couples Night Out
- 04/10: TGIF Lunch
- 04/13: Bookworms
- 04/14: Singing Bluebonnets
- 04/16: Nonfiction Book Club, Meet & Greet
- 04/18: Exploring Wines
- 04/20: Snack Time Mah Jongg
- 04/21: Bunco
- 04/22: Fun Lunch, Bunco
- 04/23: Mexican Train Dominoes
- 04/24: Trailblazers Walking Group
- 04/25: Jimmy's Egg
- 04/27: Well Read Women, Monday Canasta
- 04/28: Singing Bluebonnets

"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."

Bell County Master Gardener - Apr 2

Join Master Gardener Lenny West and the Temple Garden Club as they host a seminar on container gardening, showing how plants can thrive in pots, baskets and decorative vessels to add beauty and flexibility to any space. Learn how to select the right container, soil mix and plant combinations for success. Lenny will show you tips for watering, fertilizing, and maintaining healthy growth in Central Texas conditions. This session will highlight how container gardening allows creativity in small spaces, seasonal displays and even edible plantings, making it an accessible and rewarding approach for gardeners of all levels. April 2, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Cultural Activities Center. 3011 N 3rd St, Temple, TX 76501. No registration required.

Roses for Hoses - Apr 11

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Morgan's Point Resort Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting the Roses for Hoses 5K Run & Walk on Saturday, April 11, at Oakmont Park, located at the end of Tanyard Road. The event begins at 8:30 a.m., and the run is part of the Centex Race Series. Attendees are encouraged to dress in a costume. Roses for Hoses supports the fire department and local outreach projects. For more information email Karen Stagner at kastagne@att.net.

The Murph Challenge - May 23

Honoring the legacy of Michael P. Murphy. Step up to the Murph Challenge and test what you are truly capable of. One mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 air squats, and another one mile run at Chupacabra Strength & Conditioning. For more information call 254-228-5771.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on TUESDAY, April 14th and April 28th at 6:30pm at the Temple VA Hospital. Use the entrance on the Valet parking side of the hospital and take the elevator to the 5th floor -Conference Room 5G31. Both care-givers, supporters and those suffering from mental illness are welcome to join us for mutual support and sharing of information. For more information, call 254-771-3638.

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

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

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

Aspen Hospice and Palliative Care Volunteers Needed

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

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

Bell County Historical Commission holds their meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the historical Bell County Court House, 101 E. Central Ave in Belton. Join us in our vision of preserving and promoting Bell County's rich historical heritage for current and future generations. We are dedicated to initiating and conducting programs that preserve and celebrate the county's historic cultural resources in alignment with state laws governing historical preservation in Texas. Our community resources consist of a research room, book repository, cemetery information, historical markers and monument records. Our services include information on historic preservation, educational programming, history community

outreach and partnerships. We welcome you to join other history minded folks and get involved by serving on one of our committees that consist of preservation, cemetery, markers and education. To volunteer or for more information please visit historicalcommission@bellcounty.texas.gov, call 254-933-5917 or visit the office located in the historic Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave., RM 117.

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

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

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

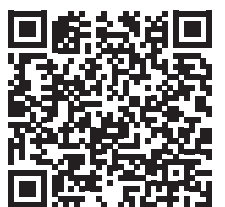
Bell County Texas Democratic Women holds their monthly meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Belton AgriLife Center, 1605 N Main in Belton. Join us to hear from local and state candidates and about important issues and events. This is open to the public.

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

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

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/take-mehome. 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

STAY CONNECTED: STAY INFORMED

GOT A LOCAL EVENT, CHURCH GATHERING, OR MEETING? TELL US AND KEEP EVERYONE IN THE LOOP.

EMAIL DETAILS TO:
NEWS@BELTONJOURNAL.COM
 OR CALL (254) 939-5754

IF WANT TO SPONSOR THIS PAGE
 EMAIL: **DAVID@BELTONJOURNAL.COM**

EDITORIAL

Bricks vs. bytes

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

I read with great interest the a Baltimore Sun article “How Baltimore’s independent bookstores are thriving in the age of Amazon.”

It is no secret in this digital age that more and more customers are doing business online, whether it’s getting approved for home loans, banking, purchasing insurance, ordering a meal, and oh, yes, buying books. Shoppers like convenience and ease and speed – and online merchants know this.

For publishers, booksellers, and authors, we’ve had to learn to adapt to the Amazon monopoly on the book market. About 15 years ago was the height of the ebook surge. I was a little late to catch the wave as an independent author, but several of my author friends enjoyed an “easy” six-figure income for several years. It was a limitless goldmine, or so we thought at the time.

I made my share of some nice funds on the side, but the past five have been more and more challenging for independent authors. Because the big guy will always slant the profit odds in their favor, whether that’s Amazon or any other mega-retailer.

Brick ‘n mortar bookstores felt the pinch of online merchants and it was a struggle even before the ebook “gold rush.” According to the above article, from 1995 to 2009 the number of independent bookstores in the nation fell by 43 percent. Yet in spite of the e-revolution, the independent bookstores have bounced back, with the number of independent brick ‘n mortar bookstores up by 49.6 percent since 2009.

Why did this happen? What makes a customer go to an actual store or office instead of doing the “click or call”? Here is a nugget from that article.

“Book purchases happen by discovery,” he said. “The overwhelming majority of books are bought because you find them on the shelf of a bookstore or a library or because they were recommended by someone you trust. Interacting with the physical book is very important. You need exposure to the product to make the sale.”

Indies have also bounced back with the help of customers shopping local and infusing the benefit into their economy, something we also promote here in Belton.

Successful indie bookstores also give back to the community, give perks to customers, and do nontraditional things like allowing dogs into their stores.

Where it concerns the lineup of our local businesses along miles of roadway, I have told friends and have told friends and colleagues that those businesses, or any business for that matter, has more to fear from the online giants who have bigger pocketbooks for advertising, than they do a roadway out front.

People will beat a path to your door if they know what you have to offer and they value it, if they feel the connection. Many purchases and decisions are based on feelings – purchases from loyal customers, that is. Do you have a connection with your customer? They will do what it takes to visit you. Online might be fast ‘n easy, but there’s no substitute for great customer service and that connection.

So go find your neighborhood bookstore. It’s about the discovery. If you’re not hunting for a specific title, you might stumble upon a new-to-you author’s voice that becomes your new favorite thing.

Jacked Up

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

This column comes from a place of frustration.

Some years ago, I read a story someone had circulated. When the person telling the story was a young man, he was sitting on the front porch of his college fraternity house when an SUV pulled up. A group of sorority sisters soon emerged from the SUV and started investigating their vehicle. Realizing there was a problem, he got up and offered to assist them. In response, he was met by a barrage of comments that came down to “We’re strong; we don’t need a man’s help”.

...Except, the more he watched, the more they realized they did need his help. You see, when you go to jack up a car, you’ve got gravity pressing down on the same spot where your jack is pushing up. There are only certain parts of a car that can handle that much force, parts that will usually be listed in your own-

er’s manual under the instructions for how to jack up a car & change the tire. Generally, that spot will be somewhere along the frame of the car, which is your vehicle’s skeleton.

These young ladies didn’t bother to check the owner’s manual before breaking the jack out. Thus, instead of mounting the jack safely against a designated spot on the vehicle’s frame, they had the jack mounted against the floorboard. The person telling the story saw the danger this represented and kept trying to talk to them about it, but they kept rejecting him because they presumed untoward motives behind his offers.

Sure enough, there were consequences. The floorboard couldn’t hold the weight, and eventually the SUV came down, impaling itself on the jack. Fortunately for everyone, however, there was one final warning from the SUV itself before this happened, and so

the young woman who was underneath had just enough time to clear out before she got crushed.

As I’ve mentioned several times before, I have a de facto minor in psychological warfare, with a special emphasis on identifying points of failure within a system. Basically, I was trained to get inside someone’s head, see what makes them tick, and figure out how to weaponize that against them. People like me are horrifically common, be it your average street huckster or some political power boss off in an office somewhere.

Ladies and gents, when you’re upset, angry, confused, shocked, or overwhelmed, it’s a lot easier for folks with this kind of training to make a pawn of you or even take you off the game board completely. They don’t want you thinking rationally. If you think logically instead of ideologically then there’s a chance

you’ll see the game, figure out the rules, and possibly even strategize how to win against them.

At the same time though, there are also watchmen like myself on the towers. We can see far enough into the distance to know what’s coming. We understand the way history cycles through its various patterns. We know the rules of the games people try to play. We’re not out to frighten, but we’re not always going to speak peace, either; we’re going to tell you what we see coming, how you can prepare for what we see coming, and if needs be slap you out of your stupor so that you can get it done.

Don’t seek out voices that soothe. Don’t seek out voices that panic. Seek out voices you trust, and once you find them start developing yourself so that you can be such a voice for someone else.

Random Thinks

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Have you ever wondered how many cell phone pictures are taken of the back of the person’s head, or some other area that you just can’t see?

I will admit that I have taken a picture of something small or in a tight space so I can enlarge the image to see what it says.

I was in line at the grocery store the other day, I had quite a few items in my cart when a young lady came up behind me holding a couple cartons of eggs and a few other small products in her hands. I offered to let her go before me, since she didn’t have much. She declined. She started a phone conversation that was obviously someone else in the store as she told them her location. A few moments later her (probably) mother rolled up with a cart full of groceries.

How many phone calls are made in a store that go all the way to a tower, to the “whatever” sorts the calls, back to the same tower and into the same store, perhaps only a few aisles away, to let someone know where they are and they are ready to go? That is probably not the original idea for inventing cell phones, it certainly wasn’t Mr. Bell’s idea of the most important use of a phone.

What if you live your entire life and for some random reason you get reincarnated as a worm? If you

are an early riser you get up early one morning and stick your head out, only to be snatched from your hole and eaten for breakfast by an early bird! That might be a good reason to become a “night owl”.

I see ads online for various games, they have a hand that moves around showing you how the game works. It looks a lot like Thing from the Addams Family. I hope he is still working and doing well.

I was brought up with the thought that a “sit down” meal at noon was “dinner” and the evening meal was “supper”. Perhaps that is a Texas thing. And before it comes up, “lunch” is what you carry to work and eat out of a metal lunch box.

I can remember having a few square metal lunch boxes when I was young and in school. It seemed like every kid had one. A few of those are worth a lot of money these days! I actually had one of the reasonably valuable ones at one point. The early styles had a glass lined “thermos”, which usually didn’t last too long. And for the inexperienced parent, carbonated soda did not work in them, it popped the glass and even if it didn’t, the drink didn’t make it until lunch. Then just a few grades later you didn’t want to look like a little kid, so you convinced your parents to get you a metal lunch box so you would look like an iron

worker in the cafeteria. Then just a couple years after that you didn’t bring lunch to school at all, you either bought lunch or went to the Dairy Queen.

If you watch underwater videos, it always looks like eels are yawning. They have their mouths open ready to snap shut on a potential lunch, or breakfast, depending on the time of day.

Why is it that the largest whales eat the smallest organisms in the ocean? Of all the creatures that could eat a Great White Shark, it would be the whale. That doesn’t make sense, something needs to eat those sharks.

If you think about all of the things in the ocean that can sting, bite or eat you, there is really no reason to get much further than ankle deep on a sandy beach.

Of course if you were to vacation in Australia they have a lot of hazards. The waters are filled with a variety of fish, some of which can swallow you. On land you have some venomous snakes, and then a variety of spiders that are not very friendly either. I can only imagine the tourism slogan for Australia, “We are hot”.

I hope everyone has a good week and uses their cell phones wisely.

Finding Rest

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

It’s summer vacation planning time. Normally, Rick and I have our vacation planned long before now, but this year we’ve had some distractions. Last night, we brainstormed where we could go and what we might do.

One of the biggest factors is distance. We’ve decided to drive, and we want to arrive the same day we depart. Last year, we flew to our destination. From the time we left our house early that morning until we pulled the rental car into our Airbnb, we realized we could have driven in the same amount of time, for a LOT cheaper. Plus, my Toyota RAV has roomy leather seats that recline all the way back, with plenty of room for snacks and books and leg stretches. We don’t get any of that with an economy class plane ticket.

Another concern is the weather. A major perk of exiting Texas in the summer is leaving the sweltering heat for a few days. We love the mountains. But we’ve already used up multiple vacations in Colorado and New Mexico. We want to see something new.

Or at least, we thought we did. With our narrow list of requirements, we decided Colorado might still be an op-

tion. After all, there’s a lot of unexplored (by us) territory in those mountains. So in a couple of months, we’ll load up the RAV with hiking equipment (for Rick) and plein air painting equipment (for me), and we’ll head to the Rockies. And I can’t wait.

Vacations—as we know them—weren’t always a thing. Our idea of a vacation didn’t come about until after the Civil War. In 1869, William Murray, a Boston preacher, published a guidebook titled Adventures in the Wilderness. It detailed his experience in the Adirondack Mountains, praising the uplifting quality of the lakes, forests, and rivers. The next summer, those mountains were flooded with city dwellers who wanted to get away from the hustle of urban life.

By 1875, nearly 200 camps and hotels were open for business in that area, along with railroads, steamboat docks, and stagecoach taxis. The birth of the Industrial Revolution made travel even more accessible for the common man, and by the end of World War II, vacations were no longer limited to the wealthy. Middle class families made yearly trips to all kinds of places, creating memories

and boosting the economy wherever they went.

I have a vacation bucket list. I’d love to hang out in Scotland and search for the Loch Ness monster, take a picture in front of Windsor Castle, sample real Bolognese sauce made in some forgotten small town in Italy, and sip French wine in a cafe across from the Eiffel Tower. Those would certainly be fun trips, but I’ve decided it’s not that important. After all, the purpose of a vacation is to get away from daily distractions, relax, and rest. And the Colorado Rockies seem like the perfect place to do that.

I still may get to those locations someday. But I’m so very fortunate, so very blessed, that my favorite place in all the world is right here at home. And I don’t have to get away to find peace and rest... those things are mine, anytime I want them. They’re part of my inheritance as a child of the King.

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He is my refuge, my place of safety, my God, and I trust him.” Psalm 91:1-2

Local Service Directory

Household Services

BEST-WAY Carpet Services

VINYL PLANK HARDWOOD VINYL
 CARPET CERAMIC TILE

GET PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
254.770.0932

Monday - Friday
 8:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday
 9:00am - 1:00pm

Feel free to write us, info@bestwaycarpets.net
 3206 Airport Rd, Temple, TX 76504

Systems & Appliances

Pomykal Heating & Cooling

Belton, Temple, Killeen

(254) 938-6290

William Pomykal Service & Repairs
 Gwen Pomykal Preventative Maintenance

www.gopomykal.com TACLA22074C

Construction

Handyman Russell

- Remodeling & Home Improvement
- flooring, tiling
- Plumbing & Appliances
- Electrical & Fixtures
- Structural & Carpentry
- Drywall, cabinets
- Fence and siding

Bell County **408-778-9000**

Custom Draperies
 By Monica

We design & fabricate in our own workroom!
 Custom Draperies - Fabrics - Blinds

1305 N Main St, Belton, TX 254.939.1070

Spoonts

Home Appliance Service
 Since 1970

We provide in Home Service on
 All Major Brands of Appliances.

791-1973

Brown's House Leveling & Foundation Repair

Belton Owned Free Estimates

Est. 1960

254-228-9179

Yardwork

The Original Ash Tree Service

- Tree Trimming
- Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Tree Planting

Free Estimates
 Split Firewood For Sale
 Third Generation

254.654.6317
 254.939.7007

Cleaning

English Maids

We will sweep you off your feet!

Residential/Commercial • Cleaning Service

254-231-0583

MJ PAINTING CONSTRUCTION

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

- DRYWALL REPAIR AND PAINTING
- COMPETITIVE PRICES
- UNPARALLELED SERVICE

FREE ESTIMATES

512-746-6123

Good Neighbors Fencing and Construction

A GOOD FENCE KEEPS A GOOD NEIGHBOR

LOOKING FOR A LOCAL FENCING CONTRACTOR IN TEMPLE, TX?

(254) 346-1405

Double T Construction, Inc

- ROOFING
- Seamless Gutters
- Custom Cabinets
- Window Replacement
- Counter Tops
- Window Services

Free Estimates

(254) 939-1934
 doubletconstruction@hotmail.com

www.DoubleTConstructionincTX.com

BBB A+ Rating
 All Work Warranted and Insured
 50 Years Local Experience

Easter in Belton:

A Season of Hope and Local Growth

As spring arrives in Belton, Easter brings more than just pastel colors and egg hunts—it brings a renewed sense of hope, community, and connection. For many local residents, this season is not only a time of spiritual reflection but also an opportunity to support the small businesses that help make Belton feel like home.

Local coffee shops and restaurants also see an uptick in families gathering after church services, sharing meals and making memories. For many business owners, Easter weekend is a meaningful boost, helping sustain operations through the slower months. Supporting these establishments during the holiday season not only strengthens the local economy but also invests back into the people who live, work, and serve in the community year-round.

This Easter, as families gather and traditions are celebrated, consider shopping local, dining local, and giving back to the businesses that help Belton thrive. In doing so, you're not just celebrating a holiday—you're strengthening the roots of your community.

Churches across Belton play a central role during Easter, hosting services, community events, and out-

reach programs. Many partner with local businesses to create family-friendly experiences, from Easter egg hunts in city parks to collaborative events that draw visitors from surrounding areas. This partnership between faith and commerce highlights the unity that defines Belton.

Easter ultimately reminds us of new beginnings—something that resonates deeply with both individuals and businesses alike. Just as the season represents renewal and hope, it also offers a chance to recommit to supporting local. Every purchase made at a neighborhood shop or meal shared at a local restaurant contributes to the growth and longevity of Belton's small business community.

Downtown Belton begins to bloom with activity in the weeks leading up to Easter. Storefronts fill with seasonal décor, local bakeries prepare fresh treats, and boutiques showcase spring fashion perfect for Easter Sunday services and family gatherings. From handmade gifts to locally sourced goods, these businesses offer something special that big-box stores simply cannot replicate—a personal touch rooted in community.

Did you know?



Easter is celebrated on a different day within Christian churches.

Easter is a day of great joy for faithful Christians. Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is detailed in the New Testament. Easter is what's known as a moveable feast, which means it's not celebrated on the same date each year. Easter also is celebrated on a different day within Christian churches. Orthodox Christians do not celebrate Easter on the same day as non-Orthodox Christians. History.com notes Orthodox Christians follow the Julian calendar when determining when to celebrate Easter. Orthodox Easter will take place between April 4 and May 8, following the first full moon after Passover. Non-orthodox Christians follow the Gregorian calendar, which was established by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. Under the Gregorian calendar, churches determined Easter will be held on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. These disparities are why Orthodox churches, which are primarily located in Russia, Greece, Cyprus, Romania, and Bulgaria, observe Easter on a later date than non-Orthodox churches. In 2026, Orthodox Christians will

Roses for Hoses 5K Run/Walk set for April 11

Special to the Journal

Roses for Hoses 5K Run/Walk 2026 is just around the corner, to be held on Saturday, April 11th at Oakmont Park at the end of Tanyard Road in Morgan's Point Resort.

This race is part of the Cen-Tex Race Series and presented by the Ladies Auxiliary MPR VFD, supporting

the Fire Department and Community projects and activities.

The Opening Ceremony will begin at 8:15 a.m., with a blessing, presenting of the colors by Scout Troop 118 and the National Anthem sung by the High Point Elementary Choir.

Junction Fitness will be providing participant warm-up exercises, and

mascot(s) H-E-Buddy, LBHS BLAZE, and Morgan the Pointer Dalmatian plan to add a little fun and mischief to the pre-race activities.

The race run/walk begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. The route meanders through neighborhood streets where the runners and walkers will enjoy beautiful views of Belton Lake and will be greeted by residents along the way. MPR Police and MPR Fire Department and EMS will be monitoring traffic and safety.

LBHS Cross Country & Track Team members, along with LBHS Athletic Trainers, as well as LBHS Junior Varsity Cheerleaders will be all along the route with "energy bubble wands" to cheer on the runners and walkers as they compete for placement in their respective age groups.

There will be two water stations, one at the corner of .78 miles from the start at the corner of Oakmont circle and Timberline (which will be used going out/ and coming back); and the second one at the marina turnaround. In addition to auxiliary supporting volunteers and friends, Fellowship Baptist Church members will be helping with the water stations.

Once the runners and walkers return, they will enjoy snacks and beverages courtesy of the Auxiliary, RVOS Insurance, Corrective Chiropractic and

H-E-B.

In addition, each participant will receive a yellow or red rose from the H-E-B booth. They can either keep the rose ... or give it to one of the firefighters ... "Roses for Hoses".

The Bib Raffle Winner board will be unveiled after the first runner comes back in. If their Bib Number is listed, they win one of the corresponding prizes which have been donated by local businesses.

The funds raised on this event supports the Morgan's Point Resort Fire Department for equipment not provided in the City Budget.

Registration is available online only through Run Sign-up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/MorgansPointResort/RosesforHoses5k>.



Kutula Hair and Nail Salon

Full-service salon offering hair-care services and manicures.

BOOTH SPACE AVAILABLE \$150

CALL HEATHER 254-933-7755



We know you have everything for the

Bride to be

Reserve your space by April 30th

TAB Prices:
 1/4 pg (5"x5") = \$140
 1/2 pg (5"x10") = \$270
 Full pg (10"x10") = \$500
 2 Page Spread (10"x21") = \$1000

SHANNA GROTE
 MARKETING@BELTONJOURNAL.COM
 TEXT: 254-654-5166

RANDA MILLER
 SALES@BELTONJOURNAL.COM
 TEXT: 254-493-2637

DAVID TUMA
 DAVID@BELTONJOURNAL.COM
 CALL 254-939-5754





Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
 The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
 The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

9			33
3		18	27
		10	16
17	27	32	

01	1	5
18	6	3
4	20	9

Solution

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1814: Napoleon abdicates the throne for the first time and names his son as Emperor of France.

1841: William Henry Harrison dies of pneumonia, becoming the first U.S. president to die in office.

1964: The Beatles occupy the top five spots on the Billboard Hot 100 pop chart.

Holiday FACT:



This spring holiday is the holiest day on the calendar for celebrating Christians.

Answer: Easter

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

ESTARE GEG NHTU

Answer: Easter egg hunt

NEW WORD

BLESS

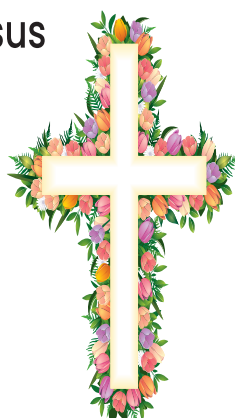
to confer divine favor upon

How they say that in...

- English:** Sacred
- Spanish:** Sagrado
- Italian:** Sacro
- French:** Sacré
- German:** Heilig

Did You Know?

Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is a foundation of Christianity.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Coloring eggs

City implements Stage 1 drought conditions, encourages voluntary conservation

Special to the Journal

The City of Belton has implemented Stage 1 drought conditions due to ongoing dry weather in the Brazos River Basin.

The move follows the Brazos River Authority entering Stage 1 on March 27.

In addition, the Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index, published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has dropped below -2.4, indicating increasing drought severity in the region.

Stage 1 encourages

voluntary conservation to reduce overall water use by 5 percent.

Residents and businesses are asked to limit non-essential water use, including landscape irrigation and vehicle washing.

The city is also re-

questing customers follow a voluntary irrigation schedule:

Even-numbered addresses: Sundays and Thursdays

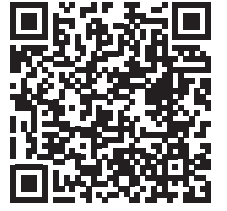
Odd-numbered addresses: Saturdays and Wednesdays

Updates will be pro-

vided if conditions worsen or additional measures are needed.

More information about drought stages and conservation tips is available on the City of Belton website at https://www.beltontexas.gov/how_do_i/learn_about/

[drought_response_stages.php](https://www.beltontexas.gov/how_do_i/learn_about/).



CUT-IT-OUT 2026



ITELIAH'S
ITALIAN ICE
 ITALIAN ICE • JELATI • SOFT ICE CREAM
B.O.G.O.
 Buy 1, get 1 free. Free item of equal or lesser value. Not valid with any other offer.
Exp. 04/30/26
Ref Code: BJournBOGO
 Only Valid at 254 Green Hollow Drive, Suite 103, Temple, TX 76502



Free Chips & Salsa

with any entree purchase

Tacos • Burritos • Bowls • Full Bar

127 Lake Rd Belton



Dine-in only. Show when ordering. One per table.

Buy one **FOOTLONG** with any drink **SUBWAY®**
 Get one **FOOTLONG FREE**
600 Forest Dr
Belton, TX
254-933-7827

Redeemable at participating restaurants. Can not be combined with any other offer or coupon. Must present at time of purchase. Limit (1) per person. Expires 11/31/26.



McGuire Tire, LLC

103 LAKE ROAD
BELTON
939-1357

McGuireTire.com
"SINCE 1947"

603 SOUTH FIRST
TEMPLE
773-3114



\$10 OFF
OIL CHANGE

Exp: 12-31-26

\$20 off
ALIGNMENT

Exp: 12-31-26

ALIGNMENTS | BRAKES | OIL CHANGE | AIR CONDITIONING | SUSPENSION | BATTERIES | WHEELS
TRUCK ACCESSORIES | LIFT KITS | ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE | TRUCK | RETREADING | FARM | CONSTRUCTION



DELICIOUS FOOD WITH A GORGEOUS VIEW!

Serving Classic American, Southern Comfort, Seafood, Cajun, And More!

2207 Lake Belton Rd. Belton, TX
(254)-939-5771

DEADFISHGRILL.COM



CHINA CAFE

Belton, Texas
BUFFET, SUSHI & GRILL

FREE BUFFET

BUY: 2 BUFFETS & 3 DRINKS, GET 1 BUFFET FREE

(254) 933-8881

215 Sparta Road, Belton, TX

Hours: 10:30am - 9:30pm

PEOPLE WHO WALK THROUGH OUR DOORS ARE NOT ONLY CUSTOMERS, BUT OUR FRIENDS.

Visit us today or call for delivery

Your Coupon here!

CONTACT Shanna Grote

Marketing@BeltonJournal.com

TEXT: 254-654-5166

Give a gift of Local News this Easter FREE 3 Month Trial Subscription



THE BELTON JOURNAL

Since 1866

