

## Candidates prepare for Belton ISD election

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

Three candidates, two at-large positions. The 2026 Belton ISD school board election is drawing near.

The field of candidates includes two incumbents — Rucker Preston and Brandon Bozon — plus newcomer Maria Martinez. Early voting has wrapped up, and Election Day is May 2.

For Maria Martinez, this is her first time running for the Belton ISD Board of Trustees.

“I felt called to step forward and serve our community in a greater capacity,” Martinez said. “I am running because I care deeply about our students, families and the future of our community. As a parent, I understand first-hand how school-board decisions impact our children’s education and well-being. I want to ensure every student has access to a safe, high-quality learning environment, and that every parent’s voice is heard.

“I bring 25 years of experience as a local business owner, where I developed strong skills in budgeting, leadership, and decision making,” Martinez added. “I am the founder of Jesus 24/7 ministry where I also have spent more than two decades serving the community through many clubs and organizations. I am a Mary Kay



Brandon Bozon

representative and an author with several books available on Amazon.”

“If elected, my priorities would include ensuring student safety remains a top priority across all campuses,” she said. “Also: Supporting strong academic achievement and student success, and strengthening communication and partnerships between parents, teachers and the district are priorities. It’s important to promote responsible budgeting so taxpayer dollars are used efficiently in our classrooms.”

Martinez has been married for 31 years and is a mother of five.

Martinez is involved with the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Care



Maria Martinez

Network, CTRW, Belton Lions Club, the Planning and Zoning Committee in Morgan’s Point Resort, Auxiliary Club, and Lulac Club. She is a mentor for school children and has a TV show at KPLE.

Rucker Preston has served a three-year term on the Belton school board. He was elected in 2023 and he is seeking reelection to “continue serving our community’s students, teachers and parents.”

“I bring a combination of governance experience, nonprofit executive leadership, and a deep commitment to public education,” Preston said. “As a current member of the Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees, I have experience in



Rucker Preston

district governance, budgeting, policy, long-range planning, and advocating for students, teachers and families.”

“Professionally, I have spent my career helping people and strengthening communities through nonprofit leadership, housing, and community development,” he said.

“That work has given me experience building partnerships, managing resources responsibly, and solving complex challenges collaboratively,” Preston said. “I believe those experiences, combined with a servant-leadership mindset and a strong

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## Beltonian and Citizen of the Year celebrated with tree-planting ceremony

By Michele Weisman  
The Belton Journal

Wayne Carpenter, the 2025 Beltonian of the year, and Rebecca Briggs, the 2025 Citizen of the year, were celebrated by a tree planting ceremony at Heritage Park.

The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, working with Parks and Recreation, presented pre-planted trees in their honor on Friday, April 24, at 10 a.m.

Randy Pittenger, president and CEO of the Belton Area Chamber, opened the event by wishing everyone a happy Arbor Day.

He introduced James Grant, director of Parks and Recreation, who talked about the different species chosen.

“When emerald ash borer comes in and starts knocking out our ash trees, we don’t want to lose all of our trees. That’s why we’re spacing different species,” said Grant.

He explained the tree selection further. The Chinkapin Oak, planted for Carpenter, takes 30 to 50 years to mature to 70 feet tall.



BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman

Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, Parks and Recreation, and community members gather for a photo under the new trees, planted in honor of the 2025 Beltonian and Citizen of the Year.

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## First round of TEFA “voucher” awards announced

By Lynette Sowell  
The Belton Journal

Last week, the first round of Texas Education Freedom Accounts awards was announced by the office of Acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock.

Also called “school vouchers,” the accounts will enable families to enroll their children in qualified private schools and in some cases, home school.

Notices went out to more than 42,600 students statewide for Tier 1, the top priority tier, which are students with qualifying disabilities in households at or below 500 percent of the federal poverty level.

Approximately half of these students previously attended a public school, according to the report. Two-thirds have a documented disability.

The report lists all school districts and the



number of applications received from those areas.

Locally, 173 Belton, 72 Temple, 33 Salado, 37 Academy, and 639 Killeen area students received notice that they were included in the Tier 1 awards.

Statewide, 274,000 applications were received for the TEFA program.

In Bell County, 977 applicants were submitted from the Belton ISD area, with 261 of

those applicants classified as “prior public school” enrollment.

This means for the 2026-2027 school year, these 261 student applicants would leave the public school to attend a qualified private school (or home school) of their parents’ choice.

Belton ISD has a 2025-2026 enrollment of 13,643, according to Texas Education Agency enrollment numbers.

The 261 applicants make up roughly 1.9 percent of the district’s students enrolled at Belton ISD.

The Temple ISD area had 541 applicants, with 126 prior public school, roughly 1.44 percent of Temple ISD’s enrollment of 8,746.

Salado ISD had 175 applicants, with 34 prior public school, and a current district enrollment of 2,592. Academy ISD had 193, with 50

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# MPR hires new city manager



Carly Pearson

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

Morgan's Point Resort City Council voted unanimously last Tuesday night to hire Carly Kehoe Pearson as the town's next city manager.

Pearson brings her experience as an

assistant city manager for Taylor, assistant city manager and director of developmental services and economic development for Bee Cave, as well as the director of public works, development services & economic development for her hometown of

Burnet. "Carly has a law degree with previous legal experience and a strong background in planning and public engagement, and she will make a wonderful addition as a valued member of the MPR team," said MPR Mayor Jimbo Snyder.

"Carly is a devoted wife and mother who will bring community outreach spirit and experiences to MPR events," he said. "When speaking with Council she indicated she is excited about the position and the opportunities it presents both person-

ally and professionally," Snyder added. "She wants to get to know our staff, volunteers, residents, and our town, not just as the city manager but as a member of the MPR family."

"Carly will hold a Town Hall Meeting at the earliest possible

time once she gets settled so she can get to know the residents of MPR and you can get to know her."

"We are pleased and excited to welcome Carly to MPR and look forward to the wonderful things on our horizon," Snyder said.

# BHS construction students head to nationals — again

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

A group of Belton High School Architecture & Construction students will head to nationals for the fourth consecutive year to compete against high schools across the nation.

Carpentry is one of the main pathways in the Architecture & Construction career cluster, which also includes occupations ranging from architect and construction manager to electrician, plumber, and heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration technician.

According to Michael Carrillo, an instructor at Belton High, the carpentry program focuses on occupational and educational opportunities related to constructing, installing and repairing structures made of wood, including joists, frameworks, rafters and stairways.

"Belton ISD has 208 students in construction skills, including 129 at Belton High and 79 at Lake Belton HS," said Denise Ayers, head of BISD's Career & Technical Education programs.

Carrillo clarified that the pro-



Courtesy Photo

Members of the Belton High SkillsUSA construction team work on projects.

gram encompasses all construction skills under one program, not just carpentry. The program has been established for a long time, as the previous instructor taught for about 31 years, and Michael Carrillo took

over in 2018.

"The curriculum begins in the freshman year with Principles of Construction, which introduces basic tools and materials," Carrillo said. "In the second year, Construc-

tion Technology One, students are introduced to all skills, including carpentry, electrical, plumbing, masonry, and sheet metal."

"By the third year, Technology Two students must choose a spe-

cialization pathway, preparing for specialized certifications and pre-apprenticeship roles," he said.

According to Ayers, Mr. Carrillo teaches trades and treats his students like employees.

"There are coolers and music, much like a real work site," she said. "The program thrives with businesses coming and supporting it. They donate materials and time."

Denise Ayres noted that students do not typically co-op at external work sites due to safety concerns regarding heavy equipment and legal requirements for students to be 18 years old. Instead, the program brings in business partners, such as the Texas Masonry Council, who provide one-on-one training with master masons within the program's instructional spaces.

The primary certification offered through the Belton ISD Architecture & Construction career cluster is the National Center for Construction Education & Research, and the program strives for all students to graduate with Level One certification.

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## BISD Elections - From Page A1

connection to this community, have prepared me well to continue serving effectively."

"I'm running because I believe strong public schools are foundational to strong communities," he continued. "Our schools shape the future of our children and our community, and I want to continue contributing thoughtful, steady leadership that keeps students at the center of every decision."

Preston said his priorities during a second term on the board include continuing to support academic excellence, responsible growth planning, student and staff success, and long-term strategic decisions that "prepare our district for the future."

Preston said his goals for a second term include:

Supporting high student achievement and strong outcomes for all learners;

Ensuring responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources;

Supporting teachers and staff as the foundation of student success;

Planning thoughtfully for growth while maintaining high-quality schools;

Strengthening partnerships between schools, families, and the broader community;

Continuing to support safe, innovative learning environments that prepare students for life beyond graduation.

"One of Belton ISD's greatest strengths is its people — outstanding educators, dedicated staff, engaged families, and a community that strongly supports public education," Preston said. "Our district has a well-earned reputation for academic excellence, innovation, and preparing students for success, and those strengths are worth protecting and building upon."

"Another key strength is the district's commitment to thoughtful planning and responsible leadership, particularly as our community continues to grow," he said. "As we look ahead, one of the most important areas to address is continuing to be good stewards of our resources."

"With growth comes both opportunity and responsibility, and we must remain focused on making wise, trans-

parent decisions that maximize taxpayer investments while keeping student success at the center," Preston continued.

"That means planning carefully for facilities and enrollment growth, supporting and retaining excellent teachers and staff, and ensuring resources are aligned with the district's long-term priorities."

"Everything I do in life is driven by my faith; as a family we go to church at Vista Community Church," Preston said. "My wife Kim and I have called this community home for 20 years, and raising our family here has deepened my commitment to serving this community. I'm a husband, father, and community servant first."

Preston serves as the executive director of Helping Hands Ministry and Family Promise of Bell County.

Brandon Bozon was appointed to fill a vacant position on the Belton ISD board in May 2023, and this is his first time standing for an election.

"I currently serve as a trustee at-large for Belton ISD," Bozon said. "I've had the opportunity to contribute immediately, particularly on matters related to budgeting, long-term planning and district oversight."

"I'm a certified public accountant with extensive experience in public sector and educational finance, including prior roles as Chief Financial Officer for Temple College and Director of Finance for the City of Belton," he added.

"In addition, I've served on the Belton Education Foundation Board, the district's Bond Exploration & Oversight Committees, and the 2024 Budget Advisory Committee," Bozon said. "Taken together, my financial background, governance experience, and current service on the board give me the experience and perspective needed to help Belton ISD remain strong and focused on student success."

"Belton ISD is deeply personal to me. I'm a second-generation Belton graduate, and my wife and I are raising our four children here," he continued. "Two are currently enrolled in BISD, with two more soon to follow. This district helped shape my life, and I want to give back to the schools that give so much to our students and fami-

lies."

"Serving on the board has reinforced how important steady leadership, sound decision-making, and thoughtful planning are, especially as growth patterns change and expectations for our schools continue to rise," he said. "I'm running to continue that work and to help ensure every student in Belton ISD has the opportunity to succeed."

"My priorities center on three core areas — academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, and community partnership," he said. "Academically, I want to build on the district's recent progress, including improving the TEA accountability rating from a C to a B, by continuing to strengthen classroom instruction, support teachers, and expand opportunities in areas like CTE, STEM, fine arts, and extracurriculars."

"From a financial standpoint, I'm focused on long-term planning, transparency, and making sure taxpayer dollars are used strategically, particularly as enrollment growth slows and the district can refocus on strengthening existing campuses and programs," Bozon said.

"Finally, I want to continue improving communication and trust between the district, families, educators, and the broader community."

"My wife, Jessica, and I have four children, and our family is proud to call Belton home. Professionally, I work for a family holding company based in Belton, with prior experience in higher education and municipal finance."

In addition to his service on the Belton ISD Board, he currently serves as Board President of the Belton Economic Development Corporation, a board member of the Temple Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, as a board member of the Belton Education Foundation and as past president and Director Emeritus of Bell County Rising Leaders. He previously served as a board member for Bell County Water Control & Improvement District No. 6.

"My family and I attend Vista Community Church," Bozon said. "My three older children play recreational sports and I have the privilege of coaching my son's 5U soccer team."

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# OBITUARIES

## Wolters

**Phillip John Wolters**  
August 23, 1952 – April 17, 2026

Phillip John Wolters, affectionately known as Phil and Grandpa to those who loved him, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 17, 2026, at Cornerstone Gardens, a local nursing home. Born on August 23, 1952, in Muskegon, Michigan, Phillip lived a life marked by a free-spirited soul who cherished the simple joys of travel, nature, and family.

Phil attended Muskegon High School and honed his skills as a machinist during his career at Carters. Beyond his profession, he was a man of many interests. He delighted in working on cars, enjoyed a daily Coca-Cola, and was known for his storytelling prowess—his gift of gab enchanted family and friends alike. Outdoors, he found peace tending to his yard and taking walks, embracing every opportunity to be close to nature.

A defining chapter of Phillip's life was his deep and enduring relationship with his beloved wife, Sharon McFadden Wolters, whom he met through a family friend. Their bond blossomed quickly, leading them to share 24 years of marriage filled with travel and adventure, creating memories that will be cherished by their loved ones.

Family was the cornerstone of Phil's life, and he took great pride and joy in being a grandfather. He is survived by his devoted wife Sharon; his daughters from his first marriage; Misty Forward and her husband Brad, Sara Crosswhite and her husband Byron, and Karla Barton and her husband Richard; sisters Paula Vandinin and her husband Alan, Mary Jo Wolters and her husband Brent; as well as eleven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Their presence in his life was a source

of immense happiness and a testament to the loving legacy he leaves behind.

Phillip was preceded in death by his parents, John Herman Wolters and Maxine Anna (Euler), and his brother William "Bill" Wolters.

His journey was not without challenge. On March 8, 2026, Phillip was diagnosed with stage 4 kidney cancer, a reality he accepted with remarkable peace and dignity. Throughout his final days, he was surrounded by compassionate care, and a heartfelt gratitude is extended to the teams at Amedysis and Cornerstone Gardens for their kindness and support.

Phillip's legacy is one of warmth, adventure, and enduring love. He shared his stories, nurtured his family, and painted a life abundant with moments both large and small that touched the lives around him. His memory will remain a guiding light for his family and friends, a symbol of the generous and free-spirited heart he carried throughout his years.

A cremation will occur and returned to the family to be scattered at a family cemetery in Michigan.

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

## Laboy

**Miguel A. Laboy**  
July 1, 1935 – April 22, 2026

Miguel A. Laboy, 72, of Belton, passed away peacefully on April 22, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of service, love, and quiet strength.

Miguel was born on July 1, 1953, to Leocadio Laboy and Ana Luisa Ramos. He married the love of his life, Ma-

ria Laboy, on January 12, 1974, and together they built a life grounded in devotion and family. He was a high school graduate and went on to serve his country honorably for 29 years in the United States Army.

Miguel found joy in life's simple pleasures—fishing, BBQing, collecting antique items, and studying history. He was always willing to lend a helping hand, whether fixing something as a skilled handyman, sharing knowledge, or teaching others. He also enjoyed riding his motorcycle and embracing the freedom of the open road. He proudly served his country for nearly three decades with unwavering honor, dignity, and pride. Known for his generous spirit, he was a true Samaritan who extended kindness to all he encountered. He deeply loved his family and friends and was, in every sense, a gentle and compassionate soul. Blessed by God, he touched countless lives and leaves behind a lasting legacy of love and goodness.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leocadio Laboy and Ana Luisa Ramos; his brothers, Angel Laboy and Francisco Laboy; and his sisters, Gloria Laboy, Marta Laboy, Modesta Laboy, Silvia Laboy, and Carmen Del Valle.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Maria Laboy; his sisters, Julia Laboy Ramos, Estevina Laboy, and Valentina Laboy; his daughters, Heidy Laboy and Melisa Laboy; and his cherished grandchildren, Isabella Laboy and Clayton Laboy.

Miguel was not only a father, cousin, and grandfather to his own family, but to many others who looked to him for guidance, kindness, and unwavering support.

Visitation will be held on April 29 from 6:00–8:00 PM, with a rosary recited at 7:00 PM, at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Belton. Funeral services will be held on April 30 at 8:00 AM at Christ the King Catholic Church, followed by interment at 10:00 AM at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery.

## BHS Nationals - From Page A2

"Students who are more advanced, or who have strong one-on-one relationships with industry partners, are able to take the Level Two certification, which is difficult to achieve at the high school level," Carrillo said.

"A Level One certification qualifies students for entry-level, pre-apprenticeship type roles, while a Level Two certification prepares them for higher-level leadership roles, such as a foreman," he said.

Carrillo is Texas's SkillsUSA instructor of the year.

"I owe a lot to SkillsUSA," he said. "Being an advisor ties everything together that I've been working on for years. I'm very proud to be part of this. SkillsUSA gets students career ready and prepares them for their lives to change."

Multiple BHS students have scholarships through SkillsUSA, Carrillo said.

"In the last 6 years we've had students reach state," he added. We've reached nationals the last four years. This year, nationals is the first week in June. We don't know what we will be building this year, but one year we had to build a Chicago basement using building codes we don't have in Texas."

The Belton High team of seniors Erik Schiller, Joseph Fuentes, Bryson Necessary and Dylan Sanders clinched their return to nationals on April 11 in Corpus Christi by earning first place at the state SkillsUSA competition.

They will compete at the national SkillsUSA Championships in Atlanta on June 1 and 2. The group

previously captured national attention after being featured in The New York Times in July 2025 and went on to win silver at the national level.

For Erik Schiller, the team's electrician and safety officer, the state championship represents both redemption and opportunity.

"It means a lot to be able to go back to Atlanta to have another shot at a gold medal at nationals, especially after coming so close to one last year," Schiller said.

The competition challenges students to collaborate across multiple construction disciplines, requiring precision, communication and real-time problem-solving under pressure.

Schiller said those experiences have prepared him well beyond the competition floor.

"Being a part of this

competition has taught me the importance of leadership, teamwork, communication and technical skills on a job site and really in any situation," he said.

That growth has only been amplified by the team's national recognition.

"Being featured on something as big as The New York Times and having a lot of success in the SkillsUSA competition gives me confidence and motivation in the long and hard work that we have put into preparation for nationals and what is to come," Schiller said.

Carrillo said this year's team has distinguished itself through both skill and cohesion.

"This year's group is exceptional because they've evolved from individual talents into a cohesive unit with a level of intuitive communi-

on campus. "This repeat trip to nationals speaks volumes about the level of preparation and real-world readiness our students are gaining," Knox said. "They are hungry and more motivated than ever."

"This gold medal is a powerful validation of our program's alignment with industry standards and our commitment to excellence," he said. "At Belton, we're not just meeting the standard; we're building it."

Principal Claudia Knox said the team's continued success speaks to the level of preparation students receive

on campus. "This repeat trip to nationals speaks volumes about the level of preparation and real-world readiness our students are gaining," Knox said. "They are hungry and more motivated than ever."

She added that the team has become a source of pride across campus.

"The response has been incredibly positive. Their success is inspiring others and building momentum across Belton High School," Knox said.

## Tree - From Page A1

Grant explained for Briggs' Mexican sycamore that it's common knowledge that females mature faster than males. Her tree will mature in about ten to fifteen years and grow to a height of about 60 feet.

Pittenger then introduced the 2025 Beltonian. "Wayne has served our community as an educator, as a councilman, Mayor, and board member. Longer than many of you have been alive."

"I want to thank my wife for putting up with all the many nights up at City Council meetings, board meetings, health board meetings, and quite a few other meetings," said Carpenter. "Seeing what was going on with our water supply

was enough to encourage me to run for election in 1984. And I'm a slow learner because I ran for reelection on multiple occasions. I appreciate each and every one of you for being here. This truly displays the heritage of Belton and the way that the chamber, the city, the school district, and the citizens of Belton always come together for the betterment of our community. And I thank God I was born in Belton and had that opportunity to serve."

Pittenger then introduced Briggs, noting her passion for tennis leading to a huge win for local students in the form of scholarships through the chamber's Better Together Benefit.

The chamber, through her efforts, raised a record amount, able to cover the cost of the AP exam scholarship grant program for some students.

"No one serves a community alone. Anything I've done, it's been because Belton is full of people who make service feel less like an obligation and more like a privilege," said Briggs.

After the ceremony, Wayne Carpenter's wife, Ann Carpenter, said, "I'm just very proud of him for all the years of service that he gave, and he did so with deep love for Belton."

A stone marker with a nameplate lies under each tree, a reminder of the achievement and dedica-

tion of the awardees.

Also planted for the ceremony along Park Avenue Road for the 2024 awardees for Beltonian of the Year, was a Bald Cypress for Danny Dosman and for Citizen of the Year, a Mexican sycamore for Emilio Perales.

Park and Recreation's legacy program, which plants six to seven trees a year throughout the city, is a way to honor someone living or dead.



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## Correction

A recent story about banks warning of scams incorrectly identified one of the banks. First Texas Bank will hold a fraud seminar on June 4 at 10 a.m. at the bank's Killeen branch, 3514 S WS Young.

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# Charter Oak Elementary selected for statewide campus leadership program



Ashlie Thomas

*Special to the Journal*

Belton Independent School District announced that Ashlie Thomas, principal of Charter Oak Elementary, has been selected to participate in the prestigious Holdsworth Campus Leadership Program, a highly competitive statewide initiative focused on strengthening campus leadership and improving student outcomes.

More than 100 campuses from across Texas applied for the opportunity, with only a select group chosen to join the two-year cohort beginning in summer 2026.

The Holdsworth Campus Leadership Program provides intensive professional learning and support for campus leaders and their teams as they work to identify and address a key prob-

lem of practice on their campus. Through collaboration with other schools across the state, participants engage in leadership development designed to create lasting, meaningful impact for students.

Thomas was selected through a competitive application and review process and will lead her campus team through the two-year experience, working alongside other educators committed to continuous improvement and student success.

"This selection speaks to the strong leadership at Charter Oak Elementary and the continued commitment to growth across our district," said Malinda Golden, superintendent of Belton ISD. "Investing in our campus leaders ultimately strengthens the experiences and outcomes for each and every student we serve."

"I'm incredibly proud of our team and excited for the opportunity to learn alongside other campuses across the state," said Ashlie Thomas. "This experience will help us grow as leaders while staying focused on what matters most, supporting our students and continuing to strengthen learning on our campus."

As part of the cohort, Charter Oak Elementary will collaborate with schools across Texas to share strategies, refine leadership practices and implement solutions that directly impact teaching and learning.

Belton ISD remains committed to developing strong campus leadership as a key driver of student success, ensuring each and every learner has access to high-quality instruction and supportive learning environments.

## Moms have game night out with the kids at the Harris Center

**By Michele Weisman**  
*The Belton Journal*

Once again, Belton Parks and Recreation hosted a delightful family event. Friday, April 24, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Play Night with Mom*, at the historic Harris Center, welcomed moms to play with their kids.

The venue was packed with activities outside the building and inside. With the three-hour window, guests could arrive when it worked for their family schedule. Many families arrived with dad as well.

One of those families was led by mom, Elizabeth Cole. She arrived looking forward to a time for her kids to be involved in a community event while experiencing different activities.

Cole said, "This is wonderful. I feel great seeing them happy. It just makes me feel good knowing we can get out and come to something like this nearby."

On the east side of the Harris Center, the company, Rolling Video Games welcomed guests with gaming options outside and inside the mobile gaming unit.

An inflatable pool table with kickable size pool balls, was on the lawn. Families enjoyed figuring out how to connect with the white air-filled billiard ball and move another into a pocket.

Near the doors on the east side were a cornhole set and an ax-throwing set, perfect for moms and kids to have a family-friendly competition.

Inside the center, families were led to more game discoveries as they walked the building. In the W.F. Simpson

Room, Lego building was set up for multiple ages. Two kiddie pools were filled with Legos. Tables had several Lego bases to build upon. Smaller bins were filled with Legos for smaller children to build.

In the hallway, tables held pizza and cookies should anyone get hungry.

The W. T. Smith Room was filled with a variety of puzzle kits from a floor station set up for crawlers, up to a 300-piece puzzle for the devout puzzler. Parks and Recreation set up color pages with crayons and pens; should not every family member want to play with puzzles.

The M. W. Evans and Pearl Evans Room was the most adventurous game room. A waiver needed signing, and a wristband worn for Nerf wars. A large padded mat took up most of the floor for the largest room in the center. Inflatable boulders were used for coverage by some, while others chased down their targets.

The L.B. Kinchion Room was named Crafts Galore. Tables filled the room, covered with brown paper. Children could choose one of two activity kits to build: a birdhouse or a flowerpot. A spinning wheel provided prizes, and one more craft of a colorful paper triangular fish, outlined with popsicle sticks.

The Aleck and Milton McGee Room was set up for baby play. Music played and upon a grass-looking rug lay stuffed animals, pull trucks, and baby instruments. In the corner was a playpen, and lining the walls were chairs for the moms.

Parks and Recreation also had a table set with stickers of their logo and the Harris Center. Here they also adver-

tised pickleball starting Friday, May 1, dance lessons on Tuesday nights, Pitch Hit & Run, and an upcoming Movie in the Park and Bikes with Badges on Sat, May 2. Visit Parks and Recreation's Facebook page or request to join their monthly newsletter at parksandrec@beltontx.gov.



**BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman**  
Game night included inside seating in a mobile gaming unit by Rolling Video Games.

## Scholarships awarded by Bell County Democratic Women

*Special to the Journal*

Local Democratic club Bell County Texas Democratic Women (BCTDW) held a reception and awards ceremony for their annual BCTDW Scholarship Program at the Harris Community Center in Belton.

A total of \$6,000 was awarded to the six recipients, including five graduating Bell County high school seniors and one current college student.

In 2026, BCTDW doubled the size of each award to \$1000 per student — up from \$500 last year.

Applicants to the annual competition each write essays on the prompt

"Why I choose to be a Democrat."

This year's winners are Anahitaa Malhotra (Belton), Miley Surdam (Harker Heights), Alana Janae' Green (Killeen), Mikayla Salazar (Belton), Danielle Riordan (Rogers), and Sebastian Lowe (Harker Heights).

A throughline in this year's winning essays was analysis of the ways systems — like public education, healthcare, and American elections — influence people's lives, and the way policy and politics shape those systems.

"I believe systems should be designed so that people are not limited by where they live or what

their district can afford," wrote graduating Belton senior Anahitaa Malhotra. "What gets cut, what gets funded, and what gets protected are all choices. That understanding shapes my values, and it is what led me to the Democratic Party."

Several essays highlighted issues around women's rights.

"Lack of representation in the lawmaking process leads to a bias in legislation concerning women's rights and healthcare, both of which should be considered modern standards," wrote Mikayla Salazar, another graduating Belton senior. "I've seen how quickly basic rights can be

questioned and how easily people's voices, especially women's, can be pushed aside," Texas A&M Central Texas student Danielle Riordan noted.

Engagement with the political process was an important component of many recipients' resumes. Reflecting on her own activism, graduating Killeen senior Alana Janae' Green wrote, "I believe that, rather than a political label, being a Democrat is about being connected to the community, advocating for those who cannot advocate for themselves, and staying persistent in the face of adversity." Green concluded, "Looking ahead, I know I will continue to carry these values forward, whether in my career, community, or causes I choose to fight for."

"Reading these young people's essays gives me so much confidence in our collective future," said BCTDW President Terris Goodwin, who co-officiated the event. "Who is going to take the baton from us? They are. And their talents, intelligence, and strong sense of purpose are going to drive them to do so much good in the world."

2026 marks the ninth year that the scholarship initiative has been led by Melanie Caraway of Salado, a committee chair and longtime member of BCTDW. "We were thrilled to have more applicants this year than ever before," Caraway said. "We're so proud of our amazing winners and grateful to the donors who make these scholarships possible."

Donors this year included Solange & Mike Hommel, Barbara Garrett, Melanie & Gary Caraway, Lois Reiter, Deanna & Ed Frazee, the Morgan Family, Cristy Parisher Wade, Louie Minor, Rousseau Legal Services, Judith Shields, and Terris Goodwin.

Interested students should stay tuned next January for the opening of the 2027 Scholarship Program. Applications and information will be available at every public high school counselor's office, and on BCTDW's website. Applicants must reside in Bell County, be either a graduating high school senior or a current or returning college student and have applied to or be enrolled in a college, university, graduate school or vocational school.

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**Courtesy Photo**

2026 BCTDW Scholarship Program recipients and leadership from Bell County Texas Democratic Women celebrate at the Harris Community Center in Belton. From left to right: Terris Goodwin, Alana Janae' Green, Sebastian Lowe, Anahitaa Malhotra, Mikayla Salazar, Miley Surdam, and Melanie Caraway.



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**TEFA** - From Page A1

prior public school and a current district enrollment of 1,864.

The Killeen ISD area saw 2195 applicants, with 782 prior public school. Killeen ISD has an enrollment of 41,391 for the 2025-2026 school year. The prior public school number is 0.3 percent of those currently enrolled in KISD.

A TEFA "lottery" has been held this week for Tier 2 — students in lower-income households, and those students will receive award notifications this week.

The lottery also will assign waitlist positions to the remaining students in tier 2 and below.

Families of students who receive awards have until July 15 to confirm enrollment in a participating private school, select homeschool/other which qualifies them for \$2,000 in funding, or opt out of

the program.

Districts with numbers of fewer than 30 awards were not listed for privacy purposes, according to the TEFA report released by the Comptroller's office.

A report showing the breakdown of the 247,000 applicants on a number of factors can be seen at <https://educationfreedom.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/TEFA-Application-Insights-Year-1.pdf>



**Coming Up In May...**

- Mother's Day • Memorial Day
- Military Appreciation Month
- Hamburger Month
- Prom • Teacher Appreciation Day
- National Nurses Week • Safe Boating Week
- Cinco de Mayo • National Wine Day
- National Beef Month
- Summer Camp Registration

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 "Local businesses are proof that dreams grow best in hometown soil."  
 "Behind every 'Open' sign is sacrifice, passion, and perseverance."  
 "Community isn't built online—it's built on Main Street."  
 "If you want your town to grow, stop scrolling past it—start supporting it."  
 "You don't strengthen your city by leaving it—you strengthen it by investing in it."  
 "Local business ain't just commerce—it's calling, grit, and legacy."

"Shop local. Eat local. Serve local. Love local."  
 "Because when we support local businesses...we're really supporting each other."  
 "Local businesses don't just sell products—they build communities."  
 "When you shop local, you're not just spending money—you're investing in your neighbors."  
 "Behind every local storefront is a family chasing a dream."  
 "Big chains build profits. Small businesses build people."  
 "Support local—it's the heartbeat of your hometown."  
 "Local businesses are where handshakes still matter and names are remembered."  
 "Every dollar spent locally creates ripples of impact you can actually see."  
 "Strong communities are built on strong local businesses."  
 "When local businesses thrive, communities don't just survive—they flourish."

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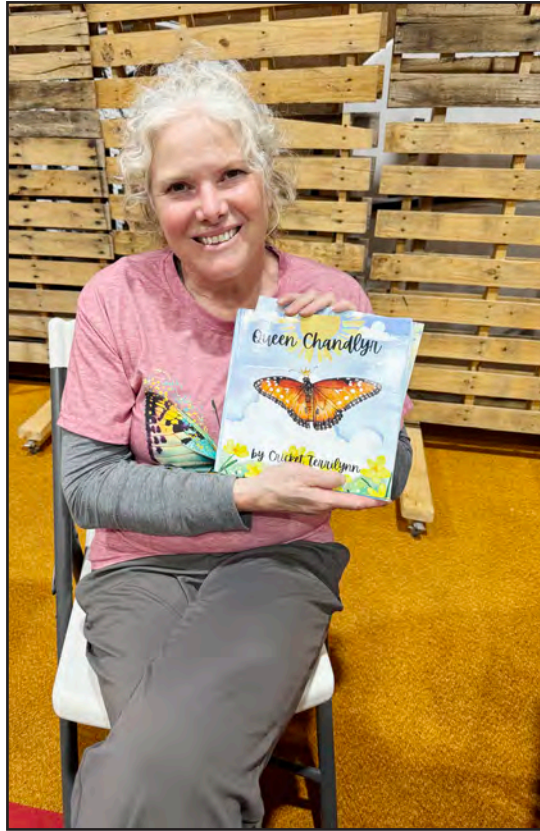
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# LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

## Belton FUMC holds Earth Day celebration



**ABOVE LEFT:** Rev. Patric Hoffman wears his honorary monarch wings. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** Author Cricket Terrilynn, with her book telling the importance of milkweed for Queen Chandlyn. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Pam Dragoo of TMN, ready to discuss snakes and pellets.

By Michele Weisman  
The Belton Journal

Rev. Patrick Hoffman, senior pastor of Belton First United Methodist Church (FUMC), invited church members to the Family Life Center at FUMC on April 22, for Earth Day.

During the event, attendees enjoyed dinner while environmentalists spoke about the habitats needed to keep ecosystems going and growing.

The invited organizations were the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPST), Twin Lakes Audubon Society, Texas Master Naturalist (TMN), and Central Texas

Celtic Spiritual Community. They had tables with displays and activities.

TMN had specimens at its table. Tagged animal pellets, some with skulls, were laid out for people to see and feel. Bugs and butterflies in a glass case were pinned with identification labels. Identification tags of snakes, made out of rubber, had markings of real ones, so people could see which snakes are and are not poisonous.

The most popular specimen of the night was the monarch butterfly, which travels three-thousand miles from south of the border into the United States. The monarch then makes the trip back to where it

started. However, it takes three to four life cycles to travel north and only one life cycle to travel south. Milkweed is their food and where they lay their eggs.

NPST emphasized that growing milkweed on our property is a vital way to help the monarch butterfly.

Griffith, on behalf of the TMN, made Rev Patric Hoffman an honorary monarch, presenting him with wearable fabric monarch wings. Giggles erupted as he put them on.

The big theme of the night was each creature is needed for all life.

"Every third mouthful of food comes from our pollinators," said Linda Griffith

of TMN.

Several speakers referenced Scripture instructing us to take care of God's creation.

FUMC's youth group was well represented at the event.

One youth, Rosemary Bindea, said, "We want to hang out with all the generations. And you know, we also just like Earth Day." The dinner was set up cafeteria-style. Long tables were set with taco fixings. Crunchy and soft-shell tacos and meats were in hot serving trays. A portable salad bar also had condiments and silverware. For dessert, there were pre-cut sweet quick breads.

## Belton ISD to premiere tribute honoring Mark Nalley and Kim Flowers

Special to the Journal

The Belton ISD band programs invite students, families, alumni and community members to save the date for two special premiere performances of Legacies Sounding, a newly commissioned piece by Central Texas composer Jack Wilds.

The original composition was created in honor and remembrance of Mark Nalley, longtime Belton High School band director, and Kim Flowers, longtime Lake Belton Middle School band director, whose leadership, mentorship and commitment to musical excellence helped shape generations of students and educators.

Wilds' connection to the project carries its own full-circle significance. As a local composer, Wilds shares the same regional roots that helped shape the musical traditions Nalley and Flowers established through decades of excellence in Belton ISD.

Legacies Sounding celebrates the impact both educators made as teachers, mentors and leaders. The piece honors the thousands of students whose lives were shaped by their classrooms, the cultures of excellence and belonging they cultivated within Belton ISD, and the generations of young band directors who were fortunate to learn under their mentorship.

"This commission is a powerful tribute to two educators whose influence still resonates throughout Belton ISD and far beyond our stages," said Keith Zuehlke, Belton ISD director of fine arts. "The traditions of excellence, pride and connection that Mark Nalley and Kim Flowers built continue to shape our students today, and it is incredibly meaningful to see that legacy carried forward through an original work performed by the very students who benefit from the foundation they created."

The project was made possible through generous community donations and contributions from Belton ISD band programs.

The public is invited to attend both premiere performances of this commissioned tribute honoring Mark Nalley and Kim Flowers. The debut performance will take place Monday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m. with the Lake Belton Middle School Wind Ensemble at the Lake Belton High School Performing Arts Center, 9809 FM 2483, in Temple. Wilds will be in attendance for the premiere.

The debut performance will take

place Monday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m., with the Lake Belton Middle School Wind Ensemble at the Lake Belton High School Performing Arts Center, 9809 FM 2483 in Temple. This performance honors Flowers' enduring impact on middle school musicians, and Wilds will be in attendance for the premiere.

A second performance will follow Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m., featuring the Belton High School band at the Belton High School Performing Arts Center, 600 Lake Road in Belton, a meaningful tribute to Nalley's legacy at Belton High School.

Both events are open to the public, and Belton ISD encourages former students, alumni band members, former colleagues and community supporters to join in celebrating the enduring legacy of two educators whose influence continues to shape the district's tradition of musical excellence.

For alumni and supporters unable to attend in person, both performances will be livestreamed on the Fine Arts YouTube channel: [www.YouTube.com/@BISD-FineArts](http://www.YouTube.com/@BISD-FineArts)

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	<i>Clue: Disease</i>						
B.	9	11	1	23			
	<i>Clue: Parasite</i>						
C.	17	13	6	19			
	<i>Clue: Skin Irritation</i>						
D.	16	13	9	11	2	12	14
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## When Jesus Calls Your Name



John C. Perry

My friends, I am still riding a spiritual high. This year's Easter for me wasn't just a date on the calendar, it was an experience that settled deep in my soul. Good Friday began with our Church's Crosswalk, a moving reminder of the path Jesus walked for us. Easter morning brought a beautiful Sunrise Service, followed by a traditional worship service at

our New Life Methodist Church. My heart was already full, but God wasn't finished with me. Just a few days later, I found myself at an Evangelism Conference hosted by the Global Methodist Church at Truett Seminary at Baylor University. Yes, the Methodists invaded a fine Baptist seminary, and they welcomed us with open arms. What happened there is something I will never forget. I have never experienced such love, such genuine caring, and such a powerful sense of the Holy Spirit moving among God's people. Imagine a praise service that lasts nearly two hours, yet you don't want to leave. Imagine hundreds of believers singing, praying, and encouraging one another as if they had known

each other their whole lives. That was what happened at Truett. That was the Holy Spirit at work. The message we carried home was simple yet profound: Go and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Not to grow church membership rolls, not to boost attendance numbers, but to bring light to those who are still searching. To witness. To tell absolute strangers how Jesus has changed your life, and how He can change theirs. As I reread the Resurrection story this week, one section, John 20:11-18, stopped me in my tracks. Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb on that Sunday and finds it empty. Two angels in the tomb ask her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" She tells

them she is searching for her Lord, believing someone has taken Him away. Then she sees a man she assumes is the gardener. But when He speaks her name, "Mary" everything changes. She recognizes His voice instantly and cries out, "Rabboni!" Her sorrow turns to joy in a single heartbeat. She then rushes to tell the disciples. He is risen! One day, each of us will reach the end of our earthly journey. And in that moment, can you imagine hearing Jesus call your name? The same voice who spoke Mary's name outside the empty tomb will speak yours. What hope! What a promise! What love! That is the heart of Easter. And that is exactly what the Evangelism

Conference in Waco was urging us to remember. We are called to reach as many people as we can, so that when their time comes, they too will hear Jesus call their name, not in fear, but in absolute total joy. Gentle reader, if you know someone who might be lost or perhaps just unsure, please reach out to them. Tell them how Jesus has changed your life and explain how they too can feel the love of Christ within them. May we carry that mission forward with courage, compassion, and the same love Christ has shown 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.

# Penguin Project students take the stage with Madagascar Jr.

By Shalee Corey-Wiebe  
The Belton Journal

Last weekend, the Penguin Project presented “Madagascar Jr.” at the Belton High School Performing Arts Center.

The Belton ISD Special Programs and Fine Arts Department collaborated to put on multiple performances from April 24-26, when students with special needs starred in main roles as peers and mentors supported them on and off the stage. The production lasted over an hour and had many musical numbers. Kids sang and danced, performing as the penguins, lemurs, fossa, and main characters from Dreamworks’ “Madagascar.”

Jennifer Ramirez, the event coordinator, said, “The Penguin Project is an opportunity for students with disabilities to be main actors in a musical where maybe they had never had the opportunity before.”

Ramirez described how Penguin Project specifically caters to kids with special needs.

“Each actor has a peer mentor who partners with them to help them learn their lines, learn the songs, where they’re going to be on stage—and so if we have 45 actors, when everybody’s on stage, we actually have 90 people on the

floor.” Ramirez said students with special needs and their families may feel more comfortable with a program like Penguin Project.

“You know there are going to be some quirky things that happen. You know that there’s going to be maybe some more meltdowns than usual. You know you’re going to have to do things slightly different sometimes. And so, they feel more comfortable—their parents feel more comfortable knowing that we know these students and we know their special abilities, and so we can kind of cater to them a little bit.”

Candice Griffin, Communication Director at Belton ISD, commented on the importance of providing opportunities to students with special needs.

“I think one of the cool things is our district prides ourselves on ‘each and every,’ and so when we say ‘each and every,’ that means that every single student gets an opportunity,” she said. “This is just one of the many pillars of what that ‘each and every’ looks like. We don’t put them in a box and say we’re going to be open to everyone and then don’t do it. If you’re into athletics, you’re into fine arts, whatever it is, we’re going to give you a chance to shine, and it’s just the most magical thing I’ve ever seen.”



BELTON JOURNAL/Shalee Corey-Wiebe  
Students in Belton ISD’s Fine Arts program perform during last weekend’s musical “Madagascar Jr.” as part of The Penguin Project.

# CTRW distributes scholarships, recognizes teachers

Special to the Journal

A Scholarship Awards and Teacher Appreciation Luncheon was hosted by Central Texas Republican Women on April 20 at The Harris Community Center.

Guest speaker was Lisa Copeland with special presentations to award recipients by Representative Brad Buckley and Representative Hillary Hickland.

On behalf of the CTRW Scholarship Endowment Foundation two scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$1500

each.

This year’s recipient of The Kitty Pope Scholarship is Bethany Hart.

Bethany is the daughter of Melody Hart. She resides in Temple and will be graduating from Holland High school this year. Bethany will be attending Texas Tech University this fall. Her field of study will be Nursing.

The second recipient of The Sonny Pope Scholarship is Sydney Grace Warren. Sydney is the daughter of Taryn Cox. She resides in Temple and will be graduating from Lake Belton

High School this year. Sydney will be attending Texas A&M University this fall. Her field of study will be Kinesiology/Physical Therapy.

During the Central Texas Republican Women lunch two teachers were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and Scholarships of \$500 each as part of the Club’s Literacy program.

This year’s recipients are Martha Diab, a teacher at Trimmier Elementary School in Killeen ISD and Andrea Haynes, a teacher at Lake Belton High School.



Courtesy Photo

Former Morgan’s Point Resort City Manager Dennis Baldwin holds a new MPR street sign made in his honor. MPR City Council replaced Baldwin with former Taylor Assistant City Manager Carly Pearson during last week’s meeting.

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FOREWORD BY BESTSELLING AUTHOR RANDY KAY

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## Lake Belton baseball clinches championship with 11-0 win

By Clay Whittington  
The Belton Journal

It has been an eventful week for the Broncos. More importantly, it has been a successful week.

Lake Belton completed its run to a sixth consecutive district championship Friday by defeating Waco University 4-0 on the road, and in the process, the Broncos were able to celebrate more than just a title.

With the victory, head coach Chris Peacock collected his 100th win with the team.

The championship was clinched with an 11-0 win against the Trojans earlier in the week, but Lake Belton finished league

play in style by producing four runs in the final two innings en route to the shutout.

Following five innings of scoreless competition, the Broncos posted the game's first run in the top of the sixth inning before adding three more to the total in the ensuing inning.

Lake Belton finished with four runs highlighted by R.J. Hunt's double and Zavian Rodriguez's double. He also had two RBIs.

On the mound, Maverik Maddux allowed a single hit in seven innings and struck out nine batters.

The Broncos were only getting started, though.

Lake Belton returned to its home field

Saturday for a playoff warmup against state-ranked Leander Rouse and fell 8-3 as the Raiders exploded for 14 hits.

Although the Broncos struck first thanks to Logan Winkler's sacrifice fly to centerfield that scored Rodriguez, who reached base on a leadoff single, in the bottom of the opening inning, the advantage did not last long.

Rouse responded with eight unanswered runs, scoring two in the top of the second inning before adding one in the fifth inning and its final five in the seventh inning.

For the game, Rodriguez was 2 for 3 at the plate, while Brock Winkler and Logan Winkler each accounted for an RBI.

The outcome dropped Lake Belton's

record to 20-7-3 as it prepared to open its playoff run tonight, but the eventful stretch continued.

In anticipation of inclement weather, the best-of-three bi-district series against Midlothian had to be rearranged.

The squads played Game 1 on Wednesday at home, but a final score was not available.

Game 2 was also moved up by a day to today with first pitch for 7 p.m. at Midlothian. If necessary, a deciding Game 3 will be played Saturday at Glen Rose at 1 p.m. as originally scheduled.

Should the Broncos advance, they will play either North Mesquite or Dallas White next week in the area round.



## Worth It! Hollingsworth's RBI in bottom of eighth lifts Tigers to area game

By Tony Adams  
The Belton Journal

In a crazy area round that had an unconventional early-week start due to expected weather in Central Texas, the Belton Tigers softball team took on the Mesquite Poteet Pirates in the area round of the Texas UIL Class 5A-2 Tournament at Bronco Diamond.

Jonna Hollingsworth's walk-off triple near the top of the centerfield wall scored runner Lauren

Vazquez from first base to give Belton a 2-1 win over Poteet in eight innings.

"It was an incredible job with everyone staying strong," Belton head coach Morgan Birkel said. "Mentally and physically. Tara Stone did amazing on the mound. Throwing eight innings in the playoffs is already hard, let alone shutting that many batters down. Defensive mostly played confident, which makes her feel comfortable. In the box."

The Pirates took a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth inning on a single by Faith Castellanos.

A one-out walk to Iris Molina and two-out intentional walk to Tara Stone gave Belton runners at first and second. Reagan Ford ran for Stone, advanced to second and Molina advanced to third on a wild pitch. Two pitches later, Molina scored on a passed ball to tie the game.

See BELTON,  
Page B3

## Lady Broncos sweep Ennis, advance in softball playoffs

By Clay Whittington  
The Belton Journal

The playoffs have arrived, and they are moving faster than expected.

After winning yet another district championship, the Lady Broncos began their trek toward a state title last week with a series against Ennis, and thanks to a well-rounded showing, they advanced with a sweep.

Lake Belton was set to start the Class 5A, Division I area round today with a doubleheader at Whitney, but the potential for inclement weather caused the schedule to be rearranged.

In order to hopefully avoid any interference from Mother Nature, Game 1

and Game 2 of the series were moved to Wednesday with Game 3, if necessary, being played Friday at 7 p.m.

Final scores from the first two contests were not available, but if the Lady Broncos' performances versus the Lady Wranglers are any indication, Lake Belton entered with plenty of momentum.

The Lady Broncos emerged from the best-of-three series with relative ease, following their opening 9-4 victory with a 4-1 win to clinch the bi-district championship.

Lake Belton claimed immediate control in Game 1, scoring six runs in the first inning before cruising to a five-run victory.

After falling behind, the Lady Lions responded in the third inning with a pair of runs and added two more to their total

in the fifth inning, but it was not enough. The Lady Broncos answered with a run in the bottom of the fifth and two more in the sixth inning to secure the outcome.

In total, Lake Belton delivered 11 hits, including doubles from Addison Sims, Alaysha Williams and Madison Naser and a triple from Madison Perkins.

Defensively, Liliana Herrera led the squad on the mound, striking out three batters in two and one third innings before teammate Natalie Hosch provided two more strike outs in relief.

After making some adjustments, Ennis was able to limit the Lady Broncos to five fewer runs, but it did not matter.

Herrera pitched six innings and allowed just six hits while striking out fun

batters. Then, Hosch struck out another batter during her one inning that eliminated the Lady Lions.

Sims' solo home run helped send Lake Belton past Ennis on the scoreboard as the Lady Broncos led 3-0 following the second inning. They added their final run in the fifth inning.


Lake Belton finished with six hits. With the sweep, the Lady Broncos took a 27-6 overall record into the area round.

Should the Lady Broncos defeat West Mesquite (25-8), they would play either Walnut Grove (20-13-1) or Frisco Wake-land (26-5-1) in the third round. The series would begin May 7 assuming weather does not play a role once more.



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# Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington  
The Belton Journal

Multiple Belton ISD athletes will travel to Arlington on Friday for the two-day Region II-5A meet, which is the final stop ahead of the University Interscholastic League Track & Field State Championships.

Held at Arlington Bowie High School, the first- and second-place finishers in each event will qualify for state. Additionally, the next best showing from across the four regions will also advance.

Lake Belton will be represented by Ji'yson Sherman, a junior, won the triple jump with a mark of 47 feet, 1 inch at area, and he will be joined by third-place finisher Allen Muchunu. The junior had a leap of 44-3.

The fourth-place Broncos, who amassed 57 points at the area meet, also qualified senior Kendrick Jones Jr. (2nd, 400-meter run, 48.82 seconds), the 1,600 relay team (2nd, 3:20.24), sophomore Prince Moore (4th, 400, 50.12), freshman J'areus Mitchell (4th, high jump, 6-0), freshman Drew Houston (4th, pole vault, 12-0), the 400 relay team (4th, 41.27).

In the girls division, the Lady Broncos were fifth (49) thanks in part to senior Laila Page, who was second in the pole vault, clearing 9-6, freshman distance runner Keira Dzenowski, who was third (12:11.31) in the 3,200, senior Bella Garcia, who was third (11.69) in the 100.

Additionally, Moriah Rydberg, a senior, was third (45.69) in the 300 hurdles, matching the finish from the Lady Broncos' 800 relay team (3rd, 1:40.40).

The Tigers and Lady Tigers will also be on hand at regionals after placing seventh (49) and 10th (21), respectively.

Kiara King, a junior, was third (5-2) in the high jump, and sophomore Tara Stone was fourth (124-10) in the discus for Belton, while counterparts Christian Porter, a senior, won the 100 in 10.24 and the 400 in 48.70, junior Graham Chambley won the 110 hurdles (13.82), and Luke Roberts, a freshman, was third (12-6) in the pole vault.

The Class 5A state meet will be held May 15 at Austin's Mike A. Myers Stadium.

### STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Belton's summer strength and conditioning program begins June 1 and will be open to all middle school and high school athletes.

On the available dates throughout June and July, high school boys will begin two-hour sessions at 8 a.m., while middle school boys start at 7 a.m.

Regardless of school, all girls will begin each day at 9 a.m.  
For more information, visit BeltonTigers.com.

### SUMMER CAMPS

Belton and Lake Belton will soon begin offering summer sports camps to area youth.

The camps will be available to boys and girls of all skill levels that are preparing to enter kindergarten through 12th grade, and they will be conducted at the respective campuses.

Led by team coaches, volleyball, basketball, softball, baseball, soccer and tennis camps will be available.

Dates and times will vary by sport.  
Registration is open at events.hometownticketing.com/beltonisd.

For more information, BeltonTigers.com or LakeBeltonAthletics.com.

## 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 underpin 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 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 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.



## Golf - From Page B1

hole, where she had an eagle after delivering a drive measuring more than 250 yards. She followed with a shot that landed a mere 10 feet from the pin — a distance she easily covered with an ensuing putt.

Now, ahead of taking her talents to the University of Texas next season,

McKenzie intends to accomplish one final goal and cement herself as one of the best to ever emerge from the area by claiming a state title.

There will be plenty of factors to contend with, though.

In addition to being among a field of elite players, the tournament brings

massive fanfare as media outlets from across Texas will descend on the course and fans surround the holes.

Familiar with such spectacles, however, McKenzie is not concerned about the additional attention. In fact, she believes it might be beneficial.

"To some degree," she said, "I think it might

give me an advantage, but of course, there are always going to be nerves. Being familiar with performing in front of crowds, though, will definitely help me feel more comfortable and in my element.

"Not all of my competitions will feel like that."



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### Belton - From Page B1

“We began to make adjustments and started to hit the ball,” Birkel said. “Definitely hard more line drives as we got closer to the end of the game.”

Again, a one-out single by Molina and two-out intentional walk to Stone set Belton up with the winning run at second in the bottom of the seventh. A ground out forced the game into extra innings.

After a pair of Stone strikeouts, an outfield error allowed Poteet to continue the inning. Arianna Figueroa’s

long fly ball to Anessa Ortiz at the base of the centerfield wall got the Tigers out of trouble.

“As soon as the error was made, every one of her teammates told her that they had her,” Birkel said. “Anessa had the opportunity and made the amazing catch and reassured her that they had her. That is the culture that I have worked hard on since I got her. Definitely came together tonight.”

With two outs in the bottom of the eighth, Hanna

Wheeler walked and was run for by Vazquez. On a 2-0 pitch, Hollingsworth hit a pitch that was three feet from clearing the centerfield wall and dropped to the turf. Vazquez sprinted all the way from first and beat the throw to the plate as Hollingsworth was mobbed at the third base bag by her joyous Tiger teammates.

Andalyn Logan had two of Belton’s eight hits, and Stone drew three intentional walks of the Tigers’ six walks on the night.

Stone was electric in the circle for the win. She dealt eight innings, allowed one run on three hits, struck out 15 and walked one.

The win gave Belton a 1-0 lead in the area round. The Tigers and Pirates will play at Forney Thursday at 6:30 pm. If necessary, a third and deciding game will be played at Cleburne at 11 am on Saturday.

“Really excited to get on the road with the girls, and try to close out on Thursday,” Birkel said.



Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

### Saving for Retirement: Are You Guessing or Planning?

How much do you need to save for retirement? Rather than picking a number out of thin air, \$1 million for example, find a number that will actually support the lifestyle you envision.

Begin by imagining your daily routine: Where are you living? Are you still in your current home? Will you travel more, or help family financially? Once you visualize it, you can estimate what that lifestyle will cost and start building toward it.

Here are five tips to get the building started:

One: Start saving as early as you can. Even

small amounts can grow significantly over decades.

Two: Live below your means.

Three: Keep your debt under control and pay down high interest debt that slows your progress.

Four: Invest consistently and increase your saving when your income rises.

And five: Look for chances to boost your income, perhaps through new skills or side work.

The planning you do today determines the retirement you’ll live tomorrow.

*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  
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## 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

### WANTED

Beer Bartender, full & part time, Temple, call: 254-624-4748, 254-654-2090, 254-778-1905. 04.16,04.23,04.30pd

### RANCH HOUSE FOR RENT

On Shanklin Road, 2 bedrooms, 2 bath, , pretty serene environment, pets allowed (inside fence) \$1,500. A month, Call 254-939-2695 or 254-760-0160 04.30-05.28

## LEGALS

### THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE IS BEING STORED AT TRIPLE NICKEL TOWING

1976 CHEVROLET MALIBU, VIN: 1D37V6 R486462, NO PLATES, Vehicle Abandoned at 3700 Bacon Ranch Rd., Unit A, Killeen, TX, 76542, Vehicle is being stored at 3700 Bacon Ranch Rd., Unit C, Killeen, TX, 76542 at Triple Nickel Towing 04.09,04.30

### THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE IS BEING STORED AT TRIPLE NICKEL TOWING

1949 CHRYSLER NEW YORKER, VIN: C39-52823, NO PLATES Vehicle Abandoned at 3700 Bacon Ranch Rd., Unit A, Killeen, TX, 76542 Vehicle is being stored at 3700 Bacon Ranch Rd., Unit C, Killeen, TX, 76542 04.09,04.30

### THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE IS BEING STORED AT TRIPLE NICKEL TOWING

1988 SUZUKI SAMURAI, VIN: JS4JC51C5J420, NO PLATES Vehicle Abandoned at 3700 Bacon Ranch Rd., Unit A, Killeen, TX, 76542 Vehicle is being stored at 3700 Bacon Ranch Rd., Unit C, Killeen, TX, 76542 04.09,04.30

### No. 25CPB00263

IN THE ESTATE OF RUTH ANN WATKINS, DECEASED  
IN THE COURT AT LAW NO. 1 BELL COUNTY, TEXAS  
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATE OF RUTH ANN WATKINS  
Administration of the estate of Ruth Ann Watkins, decedent, has been commenced by the issuance of original letters testamentary to the undersigned on April 16, 2026, by the Probate Court No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, acting in Case No. 25CPB00263, styled In The Estate of Ruth Ann Watkins, Deceased. Administration of the estate is now pending in that court. All persons having claims against the estate are notified to present those claims in writing to the undersigned at the address shown below within the time and manner prescribed by law. Dated: April 24, 2026  
GREGORY ALLEN ROSS, 1480 BOON HOLLOW LANE, OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98277

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## LEGALS

EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF RUTH ANN WATKINS, DECEASED  
04.30pd

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of GARY MARVIN DOUGHTY, were issued on November 22, 2024, in Cause No. 24CPB00695, pending in the County Court at Law Number ONE (1) of Bell County, Texas, to GARY CHRISTOPHER DOUGHTY.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o PATRICK J. RIDLEY, 3202 Dunns Canyon Rd. Belton, TX 76513

Dated: April 22, 2026

PATRICK J. RIDLEY Attorney for Executor of the Estate of GARY MARVIN DOUGHTY  
04.30

### NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARJORIE ANN DEARDORFF AKA MARJORIE DEARDORFF, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Administration were issued on April 14,

2026 in a proceeding styled Estate of Marjorie Ann Deardorff aka Marjorie Deardorff Deceased.

in Cause Number 25CPB00658. 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; Donald Wayne Deardorff Independent Administrator of the Estate of Marjorie Ann Deardorff aka Marjorie Deardorff. 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 April 14, 2026.

Roberts & Roberts. L.L.P.. Attorneys for Donald Wayne Deardorff

By: Burk Roberts

04.30

### NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CHARLIE B. HERNANDEZ

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CHARLIE B. HERNANDEZ were issued on April 20, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00183, in the County Court of Bell County, Texas to DENISE CESANI.

Claims may be presented in care of the Executor of the Estate addressed DENISE CESANI Estate of CHARLIE B. HERNANDEZ, 213 Lost Mesa, Belton, Texas 76513

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

DATED this 22nd day of April 2026.

ESTATE OF CHARLIE B. HERNANDEZ, DECEASED

By: PAT MCGOWAN Attorney for the Executor

04.30

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BARBARA PERNITZA DOTY, Deceased, were issued on April 17, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00065, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: ANGELA DIANE CHANDLER.

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. ESTATE OF BARBARA PERNITZA DOTY, c/o: ANGELA DIANE CHANDLER, 2639 Belle Hubbard Trail Belton, Texas 76513 DATED April 22nd, 2026.

## LEGALS

KAREN M. VILLANUEVA, State Bar No.: 24102608 ,Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: karen@templelawoffice.com

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of STEVEN VASS, Deceased, were issued on April 16, 2026, in Cause No. 25CPB00668, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: JAQUELINE VASS.

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 STEVEN VASS, JAQUELINE VASS, 2309 S 55th Terrace, Temple, TX 76504

DATED the 17TH day of April 2026

J. ERIC STOEBNER, State Bar No.: 24049619 2106 Birdcreek Drive, Temple, TX 76502, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: eric@templelawoffice.co 04.30

### THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 26CPB00243

To: Unknown Heirs

ANNETTE BEDWELL KISELY, Applicant, on April 21, 2026, filed a first amended application to determine heirship and application for dependent administration and letters of administration in a proceeding styled: MARVIN DEAN KISELY, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00243 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.

The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be April 30, 2026, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

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

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: ASHLEY S CLAPPER, CORBIN & CLAPPER PC, 603 N 8TH ST., Killeen, TX 76541

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on April 21, 2026.

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

By: Erika DeCasas Deputy  
04.30

### THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 26CPB00241

STEPHEN ANTHONY MITROKA, JR, Applicant, on April 20, 2026, filed an application to declare heirship and application for independent administration by agreement with issuance letters of independent administration without bond in a proceeding styled: PEGGY SHARON FAUST, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00241 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.

The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be April 30, 2026, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate

**LEGALS**

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

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: Phillip Arendall, 13625 Ronald Reagan Blvd Bldg. 5 Suite 200, Cedar Park, TX 78613

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on April 21, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513 By: Erika DeCasas Deputy 04.30

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Erna Frank Yong were issued on March 10, 2026, in Cause No. 23CPB00725, pending in the County Court at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to Natasha Morgan.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o Natasha Morgan, 725 County Road 131, Gatesville, Texas 76528

Dated: April 21, 2026  
/s/ Jon Brandon, Jon Brandon Attorney for Administrator of the Estate of Erna Frank Yong 04.30pd

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of TJ Grant were issued on March 10, 2026, in Cause No. 24CPB00712, pending in the County Court at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to Synetra Temetria Grant.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o Synetra Temetria Grant, 1205 Torino St., Harker Heights, Texas 76548

Dated: April 21, 2026  
/s/ Jon Brandon, Jon Brandon Attorney for Administrator of the Estate of TJ Grant 04.30pd

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Terrell Lynn Girtley were issued on March 10, 2026, in Cause No. 25CPB00136, pending in the County Court

at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to Latonya Denise Bonhomme-Girtley.

**LEGALS**

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o Latonya Denise Bonhomme-Girtley, 2612 Red Fern Dr., Harker Heights, Texas 76548

Dated: April 21, 2026  
/s/ Jon Brandon, Jon Brandon Attorney for Administrator of the Estate of Terrell Lynn Girtley 04.30pd

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00242**

To: Other Living Relatives of KYMBERLIN B. MARSHALL JOHN MARSHALL AND DOLORES J. GROVES-MARSHALL, Applicants, on April 20, 2026, filed an Application for Appointment of Co-Guardians of the Person with Full Authority in a proceeding styled: KYMBERLIN B. MARSHALL, Incapacitated, and bearing the number 26CPB00242 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.

The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be April 30, 2026 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

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

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on April 21, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX, 76513  
By Lillian Phillips Deputy 04.30

**26CPB00164**

IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES BRYAN CERVENKA DECEASED COUNTY COURT OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JAMES BRYAN CERVENKA, Deceased, were issued to

**LEGALS**

PAMELA BRUNER SCOTT, Independent Executrix, on April 2, 2026 by the County Court of Bell County, Texas in Cause# 26CPB00164.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: ESTATE OF JAMES BRYAN CERVENKA, Deceased, c/o STEPHEN E. BLYTHE Attorney for Estate, P.O. Box 2088, Temple, Texas 76503

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

Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026  
Estate of JAMES BRYAN CERVENKA, Deceased

By: Stephen E. Blythe, Attorney for the Estate of JAMES BRYAN CERVENKA, Deceased 04.30

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

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

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The Original Petition of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, on October 15, 2025, against Shawntana Sanders, Christopher Simmons, Bryan Haynes, and Brian Jones, Respondent(s), numbered 25DFAM356889, and entitled "In the Interest of CA'TORIAN SIMMONS, et al., minor children." The suit requests to terminate the parent-child relationships and/or to appoint a managing conservator of the children. The date and place of birth of the children who are the subject of the suit are:

CATORIAN SIMMONS, DOB: December 5, 2010, Place of birth: Unknown ,CA'ZAYA SIMMONS, DOB: July 19, 2012, Place of birth: Unknown ,KING HAYNES, DOB: July 23, 2016, Place of birth: Unknown, BRII'A JONES, DOB: March 22, 2021, Place of birth: Unknown

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

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026

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

By : C. Rodriguez Deputy. 04.30



Solve the code to discover words related to decorating. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 12 = I)

**A. 15 16 3 12 10 7**  
Clue: Make a decorating plan

**B. 12 7 8 16 4 12 6 4**  
Clue: Inside of a home

**C. 9 17 2 6 22 8**  
Clue: Arrangement of things

**D. 21 17 12 7 8**  
Clue: Colors walls

Answers: A. design B. interior C. layout D. paint

**WORD SCRAMBLE**

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to decorating.

**H M E E T**

--	--	--	--	--

Answer Theme



# EDITORIAL

## Can you hear the pennies squealing?

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

Being a penny-pincher can mean someone's "excessively careful with money," or better still, having a "reluctance to spend money unnecessarily," according to The Free Dictionary.

Oldtimers have been known to make pennies squeal, they hold onto their money so tightly. They don't want to part with a penny, and oh how those little copper coins fuss at being held in a vise grip.

When planning a budget, not only do we need forward thinkers to look ahead at possibilities that cost money, but we also need a few of those penny pinchers who keep spending down.

One of the first things I learned about the family budget is that grocery shopping is one area where it's easy to get way out of control with spending. Before you know it, you've heaped at least fifty dollars' worth of extras into your cart. Or more.

In a time of trimming budgets, I say we look to the grocery store items to find some savings. Sure, Little Junior is used to having his fudge bars every week.

That's part of what we usually buy. However, if you've ever encountered lean times, you quickly learn that every purchase, every trip to the store counts.

So, Little Junior thinks his fudge bars are necessary to his daily operations.

Sometimes, we all have had to do without those "necessary" items that pile up inside the grocery cart. Sorry, fudge bars, maybe next time around but not this week. Little Junior, let's make some cookies together with ingredients we have.

Maybe it's time to eat sandwiches a few nights a week instead of grilling hamburgers. That savings can add up, too.

Is there a way to translate this to bigger budgets, like school systems and cities? It's "that" time of year again when everyone working on budgets would like their items to stay in the shopping cart and sometimes the ones writing the checks might have to say, "Hold on, do we really need this?"

What's necessary to keep our day-to-day opera-

tions flowing? Does Little Junior get to have his fudge bars, while Sister Sue can't have her string cheese for school lunch?

It's well-known that cities across our state face challenges with budgets and the ones writing the checks are having to say what does and doesn't get put into carts. When your budget is cut, it's amazing how quickly you can realize what's really necessary or not.

Either that, or some people live in denial that there's really a problem.

They'll spend the money and write the checks without believing there's an issue. Some items, like Little Junior's fudge bars, are easier to say yes to, and easier to keep in the shopping cart.

Those items add up. All the little yes's turn into a budgeter's dilemma. Which goes first? What's really necessary? Every city is different, every family's budget is different. But one thing is true for all: we can only spend the money once.

## Just Plane Silly

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

As I've mentioned before, I enjoy learning about new places and new cultures. However, things haven't exactly worked out so that I can travel as often as I would love to be able to do so. In fact, the last time I left the state of Texas was the summer of 2001, when I went to Utah for a wedding.

...And even then, there was no guarantee I would actually be able to fly out as intended...

The first leg of the trip was a red-eye commuter flight from the old Killeen Regional Airport (what is now known as Skylark Field) to Dallas – Fort Worth International. That went off relatively smoothly despite the early hour of departure and how small the plane was (I honestly don't think I'd be able to comfortably sit on it nowadays). We were given some Biscoff wafers and a half a can of 7-Up

to keep us going, and the flight was over almost as soon as it began.

From there, we were to change planes for the flight from DFW to Salt Lake International. For the time, the transfer went relatively smoothly. We lined up at the appropriate gate, went through the usual routine, and were instructed to grab a bagged breakfast from a cart that was in the walkway. Yes folks, an actual bagged breakfast. We had orange juice, a muffin, a banana, and a cup of yogurt, which I understand is a luxury by modern standards. We were just asked not to eat until we got into the air.

...Which is where the problem arose, the actual "getting into the air" part.

Not long before we were to take off, the captain came over the intercom to let us know that, in essence, they'd been going through the pre-flight checklist and

some component didn't pass muster. They needed to have a technician take a look at it, and that might delay us. Back then, that didn't seem like too big a deal. After all, it was just a safety precaution, right? As long as the airline employees who were riding with us didn't seem concerned, we shouldn't be concerned.

Some time later, the captain came over the intercom again. The component in question had in fact failed, and needed to be replaced. We would definitely be leaving later than expected. Apologies for the delay.

Next update. They didn't have the part – which we later learned was a defroster for one of the cockpit windshields – in the hangar and were now checking the parts barn. Even if the defroster wasn't a key safety component, we still couldn't take off as the technicians had to

remove the window to get at it.

Okay...

Yet another update. The parts barn didn't have it either. They were going to send someone to Auto Zone in the hopes of finding a car defroster that was a close enough substitute. It was likely going to be a while, so we could go ahead and eat our breakfasts after all.

Fortunately, the last update we got was that a substitute had been secured, had been installed, and was working properly. It was only a matter of us getting a new spot in the departure line and we'd be off. The captain even did his best to make up for lost time.

I do sometimes wonder though who exactly didn't ensure they had a replacement defroster handy and what choice of words was used in reprimanding them over the matter...

## Randomness

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

For my readers that wear glasses, have you cleaned your glasses only to put your finger on a lens and smudge them again? Of course, this is similar to picking them up in the dark and grabbing the lens with a finger. That is the equivalent of cleaning the windshield of your car or truck and within a few minutes a huge bug slams right into the middle of your side of the glass. You try the washer fluid and it just makes an arc of bug guts right in front of you.

Looking at the areas of Africa where the big cats are on top of the food chain, life has to be tough. There are an assortment of cats that compete with each other for their prey, sometimes even stealing dinner from another cat that is a bit lower on that food chain.

I think the zebra might be one of the smartest animals in that environment. I am assuming that they are related to horses, which seem to be fairly smart. However the zebra is just another food item for the cats, they do happen to be a bit bigger and they are mean. I have known a couple of people that have personal stories of just how mean a zebra can be, not to mention the scars. They are not near as nice as a horse, and horses are really not that gentle either.

I think when it comes to the big cats picking out their next meal, they probably choose the zebra option

last, it is a lot more work with a high degree of getting injured as well. And for the zebra their troubles aren't just on land, crossing a river is a hazard too. The ancient reptiles don't have the same issues as the cats. They grab anything and hang on. If the zebra does manage to get away their future with only three legs is limited.

Some of the small grass eating animals are very fast, but there is one cat that is known for their speed so even then it is a struggle.

I can't imagine getting up every day knowing that I have to eat grass and there is something that will likely chase me down and try to make me lunch for the "pride".

Now the hippo (yes, I can spell hippopotamus as well, but that is entirely too much typing so I use the short version to save time and energy) is another story. While they don't eat the same diet as the cats they are feared as well. They are fierce and can move surprisingly fast, on land and in the water. They have teeth that can put a hole in just about anything. They can be protective and aggressive in their environments. These animals may look cuddly and soft, but probably would not make a good pet, regardless of the Christmas song stating otherwise.

I am needing an app for my phone. It needs to read my thoughts while I am driving and put them into a note or reminder so I can have that when I get to where I am going. I have a lot of things on my mind when I am driving and I know my limitations for using a phone, I don't. If it doesn't have a big button on the information screen in my truck then I will just let the phone sit there and make noise. I think of amazing things that would benefit society, but without such a mind-reading app those are lost forever. Also I will remember an appointment that I need to put into my calendar, but I often forget that as well. I know someone will say: "why don't you just use one of those speech to note apps?". Again, that would require me to pick up my phone, find the icon, open it, configure it, change the background color, allow the app to use the microphone, press the button to record my words, then stop it so it doesn't record whatever else I say afterwards, perhaps directed at a driver that is clearly distracted by their phone.

"No officer, I was not texting while driving. I was putting my upcoming dental appointment in my calendar so I wouldn't forget, and no it couldn't wait until I get home..."

I hope everyone has a good week and no one has to run from a hungry cat.

## Breakthrough Discovery

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

I've made a breakthrough discovery which, if marketed correctly, could earn me countless millions. I've discovered why men and women often don't understand each other. (It also applies to why people of different generations have communication issues, but that's another article.)

If I were smart, I'd sell this information for an obscene amount of money. But because I'm more concerned about the common good than about becoming wealthy, I'm going to share my secret.

Grab a pen and paper. I'll wait.

Many feel that our communication struggles are due to different languages. Women are from Venus, men are from Mars and all that. But the problem isn't a word issue. We just use different dictionaries.

Take the question, "How do you feel?"

Ask a woman that question, and she may answer with an emotion: happy, sad, frustrated, content.

A man, on other hand, is likely to say, "I feel hungry."

When a woman says, "Let's talk," she probably means, "Let's reveal our innermost thoughts, discuss our loftiest dreams, and share our deepest fears."

When a man says, "Let's talk," he means, "What's

for dinner?"

If a woman invites you for coffee, she's really saying, "Let's be friends." If a man invites you for coffee, chances are he just needs some caffeine.

A woman's definition of entertainment is likely to include anything that requires her to dress up. For a man, entertainment may refer to watching other men clobber each other or blow stuff up.

Though there are exceptions to every rule, I think these dictionaries are often implanted into the male and female brains at conception. Girls get the amplified, unabridged version. Boys are more likely to get the trimline variety.

The good news is, we can learn each other's definitions. To prove my theory, I've been studying man speak and practicing on my husband. I've become pretty fluent. Here are some examples:

Make-up (female): the stuff you wear on your face to look pretty.

Make-up (male): the thing you have to do before she'll let you kiss her.

Tight (female): an adjective to describe last year's clothes.

Tight (male): an adjective to describe a really

small parking space. Often seen as a challenge.

Sale (female): an excuse to buy new shoes.

Sale (male): an excuse to buy new hunting equipment.

The more I learn, the more excited I get. I recently shared my newfound discovery with Rick. I went on and on, recalling various misunderstandings we've had, revealing the why's and how's and what-if's which could prevent those mishaps from happening again. I explained the subtle differences in language and how to interpret various tones, words and phrases. He listened intently, and I knew he saw the potential of this breakthrough. I was close to tears, I was so thrilled about the possibilities.

Choked with emotion, I asked, "Honey, how do you feel about all this?"

His reply? "I feel hungry. I think I'll make a bowl of popcorn."

*"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith... There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26, 28*



## Local Activities & Events

### Newcomers Club Activities

#### May

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 05/04: Chat 'n' Canasta                          | 05/21: Meet & Greet,                   |
| 05/06: Monthly Luncheon, Popcorn Bridge          | Nonfiction Book Club                   |
| 05/11: Bookworms                                 | 05/22: Trailblazers Walking Group      |
| 05/12: Singing Bluebonnets                       | 05/25: Well Read Women, Monday Canasta |
| 05/14: Mexican Train Dominoes, Couples Night Out | 05/26: Singing Bluebonnets             |
| 05/18: Snack Time Mah Jongg                      | 05/24: Fun Lunch                       |
| 05/19: Bunco                                     | 05/28: Mexican Train Dominoes          |
| 05/20: Popcorn Bridge                            | 05/30: Jimmy's Egg                     |

**"To join or for more information, please call:**

**Mary Pringle (760)265-5035 or email at: [pringlem@msn.com](mailto:pringlem@msn.com)**

**Visit the website: [www.bellcountynewcomers.com](http://www.bellcountynewcomers.com)."**

#### MPR Explorers@ The Point - Apr 30

The MPR Explorers will host Michele Weisman, an MPR resident, author, and member of the local small-business community. Weisman also reports for the Belton Journal, a regional newspaper serving Belton and nearby areas. She will present "My Life as a Newspaper Reporter," sharing how she entered the field, prepares for assigned stories, and how reporting differs from writing a book. April 30, 10:00 am. - 11:30 a.m. at Sol de Jalisco, 101 Morgan's Point Blvd, Morgan's Point Resort. Open to the community; guests purchase their own meal.

#### CENTEX Salsa & Hot Sauce Festival- May 2

Hosted by LULAC Council 4971 in partnership with Chef Flaco's Gourmet Foods, Wicked Provisions, and Sovy Realty Group, this vibrant, family-friendly festival promises a full day of flavor, fun, and community celebration—and best of all, admission is completely FREE. Festival-goers can look forward to the Salsa Contest, open to the public—bring your best recipe and compete for bragging rights. Award-winning salsas and fiery hot sauces to sample and enjoy. A wide variety of local vendors showcase unique goods. Festive music to keep the energy high all day long, and delicious eats from food trucks on-site. May 2, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 pm at Whistle Stop Park, 58 S 11th St, Temple.

#### Mary Ruth Briggs Library Open House — May 2

A family-friendly Cinco de Mayo Open House featuring a 10:30 a.m. performance by the Lake Belton High School Performance Choir, a kids' craft table, and an interactive "Imagine the Possibilities" community idea board — all designed to welcome residents into the one-room Mary Ruth Briggs Library, introduce the new Friends group, and invite the community to help shape a vibrant, creative future for Morgan's Point Resort, 8 Morgan's Point Blvd, May 2, 10:00 a.m. to noon. For more information email [library@mprtx.us](mailto:library@mprtx.us).

#### Killeen Kickers Square Dance Club - May 5

Square Dancing is a great activity for the mind, the body and a way to meet new friends. The Killeen Kickers will have (2) "Open House" nights on Tuesday, May 5 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We invite you to come join us and experience square dancing for yourself. Singles, Couples and families are welcome. We meet at the Keys Valley Baptist Church, 4393 W US Highway 190, Belton. Check out our website: [killeenkickers.weebly.com](http://killeenkickers.weebly.com). For more information contact Christina Wiggins at 915-309-7919.

#### Bell County Master Gardener - May 6

Join Master Gardener Angela Brunaugh as we explore the world of bees. From honeybees to our native bee population including bumble bees, we will take a deeper dive on the role they play in our local ecosystem including pollination. We will discuss the plants they like and what we can do to bring them to our gardens and help ensure their success. May 6, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at SMART Musuem, 408 N 10th St, Nolanville, T. Register at [xmg.org](http://xmg.org)

#### 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 CT-COG, 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](mailto: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@mc-11249tx.com](mailto:commandant@mc-11249tx.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](http://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](mailto: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.

**The Bell County Genealogical Society** meets the fourth Saturday of each month. The group offers free Genealogy Guidance. Members of the Bell County Genealogical Society will be present to help those with questions about researching their family trees. General meetings are held in Temple, Belton, Killeen, and Salado on a rotating basis. All meetings are open to the public. You do not have to be from Bell County or have ancestors from Bell County to participate. For locations and time of meetings visit our website at <https://txbcgs.org/home/events/>

**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](mailto:bettyreichert@yahoo.com) or Kathy Bement at [katshookandneedle@gmail.com](mailto:katshookandneedle@gmail.com). Anyone interested in joining the local chapter of the Crochet Guild of America will also need to join the National Crochet Guild of America. Visit [www.crochet.org](http://www.crochet.org) for details.

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

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

**Engage & Empower with 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](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-me-home](http://www.beltontexas.gov/take-me-home). Read more about the program here: [https://www.beltontexas.gov/news\\_detail\\_T11\\_R1166.php](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](http://ssa.gov/scam) for tips.

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

### 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](mailto:NEWS@BELTONJOURNAL.COM)

OR CALL (254) 939-5754

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### UMHB now offering 90-hour abridged Bachelor of Educational Studies degree

Special to the Journal

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) is the first institution in Texas to offer an innovative 90-hour Abridged Bachelor of Educational Studies degree, beginning in the fall of 2026.

This reduced-credit-hour degree accelerates a student's path to the classroom or to a post-baccalaureate certification program.

Recently approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, UMHB's new pathway prepares students for meaningful, purpose-driven careers in education.

"Texas needs teachers, and the demand has never been greater. Now is the perfect time to pursue a career in education, and UMHB's new Abridged Bachelor of Educational Studies can help students get there sooner," explained Dr. Craig Hammonds, UMHB's Dean of the College of Education. "UMHB is a recognized leader in preparing high-quality educators, and we have strong partnerships and field opportunities with numerous local school districts. Local districts are excited about this reduced credit hour degree program and support us as the first institution in the state to offer it!"

This new accelerated 90-hour pathway provides focused, classroom-relevant coursework and post-graduation certification preparation, thereby enhancing classroom readiness. This model directly supports efforts to alleviate ongoing teacher shortages by accelerating entry into the educator workforce. Upon degree completion, graduates can begin working in a non-certified education role immediately or seamlessly enter UMHB's Master of Education program to complete certification while teaching full-time.

"This 90-hour program has been designed in such a way that students can enter our one-year master's program immediately upon graduation, while also working full-time and earning a great salary. We highly recommend students consider this pathway, where they can earn both their bachelor's and master's degrees in four years," Hammonds said. "It's the ideal pathway for students who know what they want—a more streamlined and accelerated route into the classroom."

To learn more about UMHB and the degrees offered within the College of Education, visit [www.umhb.edu](http://www.umhb.edu).



# People FACT:



Eight to twelve is the average number of these that a person owns in a lifetime to help them get around.

Answer: Cars

# CELEBRATING 4<sup>th</sup> Of July FREEDOM YEARS 250

BE A PART OF ONE OF THE LONGEST-RUNNING AND LARGEST JULY 4TH CELEBRATIONS IN THE STATE. THIS ANNUAL MAGAZINE IS ACCESSIBLE TO OVER 50,000 PEOPLE WHO VISIT THE CITY FOR THE WEEK-LONG EVENTS. IT WILL ALSO BE FEATURED ON THE BELTON JOURNAL WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE AND HAVE YEAR-ROUND EXPOSURE FOR YOUR BUSINESS.

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