

# Standpipe Park dedication set for May 16



Courtesy Photo  
The dedication ceremony for Belton’s newest park – Standpipe Park – is set for Friday, May 16 at 10 a.m.

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

The dedication of Belton’s newest park — the highly anticipated Standpipe Park — will be Friday, May 16, according to Parks & Recreation Director James Grant.

“Our dedication will be at 10 a.m.,” Grant said. “We have not finalized it yet, but at 4 p.m. our Parks & Recreation Department will be out there hosting a Pop-Up Party in the park with free hot dogs, juice, games and balloon animals for neighborhood kiddos. The party will run until 6 p.m.”

“We wanted to wait until spring for a grand opening so it will be nice and green, and everything will be finished,” he said.

The park will be built around the renovated Belton Standpipe, which will be lit up in color-changing lights.

“It will instantly be a Belton landmark because it will be visible from both I-35 and I-14,” Grant added. “The lights will change according to the season or special events. For example, if the Tigers or UMHB

win games, the standpipe will be illuminated in school colors.”

“In addition to the standpipe, the small community park will have a very nice playground, a restroom, a practice field, a butterfly garden and a quarter-mile walking trail.”

“The park also will have our first-ever hill-side slide,” Grant said. “It’s a slide that starts at the top of the hill near the standpipe and slides down the hill and into our playground. There also will be a pavilion with multiple tables and street parking along three sides.”

Another new park — Freedom Neighborhood Park in Liberty Valley subdivision — also will open in 2025, Grant said.

Here’s a look at other Parks & Recreation activities on the horizon:

Movie in the Park: May 3 and Sept. 20  
National Parks & Recreation Month: Various days in July  
Soggy Doggy Day: Sept. 6  
Family Camp Out: Oct. 17-19  
Christmas on the Chisholm Trail: Dec. 5-6  
Family Fishin’ & Fun: TBA (2 December dates)

**BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOCTEZUMA**  
Vicki Spriggs, Kathleen Lavallee, and Kevin Kyle gather for a photo during the CASA Advocate Appreciation Event on April 24 at the Bell County Museum.

## CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties honors volunteers

By Daniel Moctezuma  
The Belton Journal

More than 150 CASA volunteers were recognized last Thursday during the Advocate Appreciation Event hosted by CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties at the Bell County Museum. The luncheon marked the organization’s 10th anniversary serving children in the local foster care system.

CASA, which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates, trains volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in court, helping judges make decisions about each child’s best interests.

“This organization is built on volunteers,” said Ashley Clapper Bennett, board president of CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties. “Without volunteers, we don’t exist.”

Throughout the program, speakers reflected on CASA’s decade of service and the role of volunteers in shaping outcomes for children. Kathleen M. Lavallee, President and CEO of Dallas CASA, delivered the keynote address, offering insight into the challenges CASA programs may face as Texas moves toward privatizing parts of the foster care system.

Vicki Spriggs, CEO of Texas CASA, emphasized the importance of volunteer advocacy. “You don’t recognize how powerful you are,” Spriggs said. “With every child you help, you are changing the future of Texas.”

Tina Capito, former board president, spoke about CASA’s early history and the lasting involvement of its founding members. “The important history of CASA is not just the timeline—it’s the people who stayed and showed up for kids every day,” Capito said.

Bennett also announced that CASA has launched a capital campaign to fund its new per-

See **CASA**,  
Page A2

# Belton issues \$17.9 million bond for projects

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

After weeks of delays, a \$17.9 million certificate of obligation bond was issued Tuesday morning to fund several major projects, including Belton’s

share of the \$71.2 million expansion of the wastewater treatment plant shared with Temple.

The original plan was to issue the bonds April 8, but the Council followed Belton Financial Director Mike Rodgers’ recommendation to delay because of increases in municipal bond interest rates.

Council voted to move the issuance until April 22, but again Rodgers recommended a delay — this time for one week — because Georgetown

issued \$120 million in bonds on April 22, and a delay would avoid competing with Georgetown for investors.

In addition to funding Belton’s share of the wastewater treatment plant expansion, the bonds will pay for more than \$1.75 million of vital improvements to the primary Belton lift station, and the second phase of the Loop 121 expansion project that requires the relocation of utilities at a cost of \$2.3 million.

Also, the Belton Fire Department also will purchase a ladder truck for \$1.7 million, and the city will spend \$750,000 to purchase the former Mill-

See **COUNCIL**,  
Page A3

# Stampede on the Chisholm Trail set for May 10

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Obituaries-----A3

Editorial -----A5, A8

Lifestyles-----A6

Service Directory----A7

Sports-----B1

Classifieds-----B4, B5

B-Town Bulletin-----B6

Church Directory----B7



File photo  
More than 100 cyclists head out at last year’s Stampede on the Chisholm Trail ride to benefit the Belton Lions Club.

Special to the Journal

The 14th Annual Stampede on the Chisholm Trail Bike Ride - Metric Century is scheduled for Saturday, May 10.

The ride starts at 8 a.m. at the Harris Community Center.

The event is hosted by the Belton Lions Club, and helps provide scholarships for children in the Belton area who qualify for Texas Lions Camp for children who are physically disabled, hearing/vision impaired or diabetic; eye examinations and glasses for children in Belton I.S.D.; funds two annual college scholarships for Belton High School graduating seniors; helps maintain Lions Pavilion and playground for children with special needs at Heritage Park; supporting families of children with special needs for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The event also supports a partnership with Belton I.S.D. for their Heartbeat Angel Program, and hosts Christmas with Santa for children with special needs and their families.

The bicycle ride distances will be: 12 miles (1 rest stop), 30 miles (3 rest stops), 55 miles and 62 miles (5 rest stops each). Rest Stop 1 - KOM Cyclery; Rest Stop 2 – Fire Ant Tour Team; Rest Stop 3 – Belton Lions; Rest Stop 4 – Cen-Tex Automotive; Rest Stop 5 -

See **TRAIL**,  
Page A2

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# Belton Chamber holding Better Together Benefit

Special to the Journal

The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting registration and sponsorships for the inaugural “Better Together Benefit” scheduled for 4-9 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at The Commonwealth. This event will serve as a special fundraiser dedicated to providing student scholarships.

The “Better Together Benefit” will include live music with Jared Johnson, casual pickleball play, and great food and drinks. As a bonus, beginning pickleball players will be able to participate in a one-hour lesson prior to the event kickoff. Registration is available for both players and spectators.

“This non-tournament event is perfect for everyone, whether a seasoned pickleball pro or completely new to the game,” stated Rebecca Briggs, Chamber Board Member and Committee Co-Chair. “So grab your friends, sign up or sponsor, and get ready to Dink, Drink, and Donate for a great cause,” added Briggs.

In order to make the event fun for players of all levels of experience, the plan is for pickleball courts to be designated by experience level. The “Paddle Pushers” court will be designated for



casual play for less experienced players. The “Dinking Drinkers” court will be for all levels looking to have a good time, with reward given to teams who win with a drink in their hand. The “Heavy Hitters” court will be for more experienced players looking for good competition (4.0 rated and above).

Chamber Board member Kayla Potts is also co-chairing the event, and is excited to bring this opportunity to our community after previously chairing pickleball and tennis tournaments.

“Anytime we can come together to support our graduating seniors, it’s a win for the community,” stated Potts.

Legacy sponsors for the “Better Together Benefit” include Imperium Real Estate, Smile at the World Or-

thodontics, Premier Urgent Care, Bell County Flooring, PinnacleView Roofing, and Magnolia Real Estate.

Community sponsors include Pinegate Renewables, The Woodhouse Day Spa at Nolan Creek, Whitish Roofing, WM Roofing, Blue Springs Pools, and the Tes-troet Family. Partner sponsors include Cedar Crest Hospital and RTC.

“We are excited about this new opportunity for our community to support our graduating seniors,” stated Randy Pittenger, Belton Area Chamber President/CEO. “We appreciate our Board and sponsors working together to bring this great event to our community.”

For more information about this event, sponsorship opportunities, or membership in the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, visit the website at [www.beltonchamber.com](http://www.beltonchamber.com), call 254-939-3551, or email [info@beltonchamber.com](mailto:info@beltonchamber.com)



Courtesy Photo

A new Chisholm Trail Park pavilion, built through the Belton Legacy Program in honor of Debbie Potts, a counselor at Belton High for 33 years, was dedicated on April 24.

## New park pavilion honors longtime BHS counselor

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

A large family pavilion was dedicated last week in memory of longtime Belton ISD counselor Debbie Potts who died last year.

Potts’ family donated funds for the pavilion through Belton’s Legacy Program, a unique way to honor others through the beautification of parks throughout the city.

The 20x30 pavilion is located in Chisholm Trail Park near Belton High School, Potts lived nearby and frequented the park almost daily. Her husband Neale, son Luke and daughter Lynsey Patrick donated money for the pavilion in her honor.

“Mom lived in Belton for 50 years and she worked as a guidance counselor at Belton High School for 33 years,” Lynsey said Friday. “She fought a devastating battle

with dementia for several years, and she died in August 2024.”

“She had expressed often that she didn’t want her loved ones to feel like they had to come visit her grave and stand around crying,” Lynsey added. “Her personality was unfailingly optimistic and positive, and she made the decision to donate her body to science in hopes that medical research could improve understanding of brain conditions like the one that took so much from her in those last years.”

“As we sat around her bedside at Stoney Brook in Belton during her last hours, my brother and father and I discussed the most fitting way to honor a woman who gave so much of her life to blessing others. We ultimately decided that giving a gift to the

See **PARK**,  
Page A4



### Your usual or something new?

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## Trail - From Page A1

Hickerson Family.

King of the Mountain Cyclery (KOM) is the Official Bike Shop for the ride. SAG will be provided by KOM, who will also be at Rest Stop One; and throughout the ride. KOM has created and provided a STRAVA link for each of the ride routes.

Morning juice, fruit and snacks will be provided prior to the ride. Snacks, fruit, water and Gatorade will be available at each rest stop. Upon the riders’ return, a free hot dog lunch will be available from Lions and served by Eldred’s Nursery Foundation trainees, and the B.I.S.D.

## CASA - From Page A1

manent office in Belton.

Linda Guerrero, a CASA volunteer for more than two years, said her past experience with Child Protective Services motivated her to join after retirement. “It’s a wonderful feeling being there for a child or a parent, helping them

get what they need,” Guerrero said.

Awards were presented for years of service and individual achievements. Marilyn Bird was recognized for 10 years of volunteer work. Philemon Brown received recognition for most hours served on casework, and Peter Barajas was honored for

traveling more than 3,400 miles to visit children across the region.

CASA reported that in 2024, volunteers served nearly 300 children across 143 cases, with more than half of closed cases resulting in reunification with primary family members.



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be doing that again.



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OBITUARIES

Calhoun  
Stephen Calhoun  
August 21, 1954 – April 4, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Stephen Marc Calhoun on April 4, 2025 at the Baylor Scott White Hospital, Temple, Texas. He was 70 years of age.

Dr. Calhoun was a highly respected and recognized Pulmonologist and Sleep Specialist. He was extremely dedicated and compassionate about patient care. His commitment was demonstrated in his quality of care and by his willingness to always go that extra mile.

He was predeceased by his father, Dr. Noah R. Calhoun, and mother, Cecelia Christopher Calhoun.

He is survived by his sister, Dr. Cecelia Calhoun-Wells; niece, Kaira Smith Esq. and husband Marc Smith; grandnieces, Kennedy Smith, MacKinley Smith, Everleigh Smith. Additionally, he has a host of friends and other family members who will miss him deeply to include: Dr. Laurette Morris, Dave Pearce, Micheal Morris Pearce, Dr. Jenifer Morris Pearce, Tommy Gordon, Cathy Smith, Dale Marioneux, Debra Dickens, Denise Moran, and Garrett Carter, Leonard Slade, Derrick Eiland, and many others.

Stephen you will be missed deeply. You brought us all so much “joy”.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, May 3, 2025 at the Dossman Funeral

Home, Belton Texas. Visitation 10 a.m., until time of service at 11a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Veterans: <https://donate.operation-homefront.org>.

Plant a tree: <https://shop.alivingtribute.org>. NAACP: <https://www.naacp.org>.

Arrangements by Dossman Funeral Home Belton, Texas.

Holladay  
Lyndell Brian Holladay  
February 14, 1965 – April 18, 2025

Lyndell Brian Holladay, known affectionately as Brian, was born on February 14, 1965, in Crosbyton, Texas. He graduated from Temple High School and dedicated his life to mastering the skills and trades inherited from his family. Following these traits, Brian became a skilled mechanic and Auto Body Technician, spending two decades employed at Garcia Paint & Body.

Brian’s personality was characterized by a straightforward and dominant presence. He was a man of few words, but his intentions were always clear; he valued his privacy and personal space deeply. While he was baptized as a Baptist, he had a personal relationship with God that was significant to him.

Those who knew Brian can attest to his passion for meals rich in meat. Amongst his favorites were bacon and eggs, Chicken Fried Steak, baked beans, or other hearty dishes,

he found joy in creating satisfying meals. He also had a creative side, enjoying playing his guitar, and had a fondness for fishing and building model cars. His love for all things automotive extended to restoring and fabricating vehicles, and he remained a loyal fan of the Dallas Cowboys. Additionally, he found joy in watching old western shows, which added to the treasured memories of his life.

In matters of the heart, one of Brian’s proudest accomplishments was his deep love for his wife, Julie (Madison) Holladay. The couple met in 1989 through a mutual friend, and their romance blossomed when Brian fell in love with Julie’s daughter, Elizabeth. With her blessing, he proposed in 1999, and together they created a family that brought him immense joy. His two daughters, Jamie Holladay-Crabtree and spouse Steven Crabtree, and Elizabeth Lytle were the lights of his life, alongside his five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His faithful dog, Skitzer, shared a special bond with Brian that was filled with companionship, symbolizing the warmth and loyalty he cherished in his relationships.

Brian’s journey through life came to a peaceful close on Friday, April 18, 2025, when he went to his heavenly home. He is remembered by his loving wife, daughters, brothers Mark Holladay and James Holladay, as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death

by his parents, Lenard and LaVell (Whitefield) Holladay; one daughter, Brittany Holladay; and a granddaughter, Kira Morales. His legacy of love, strength, and passion will continue to resonate through the lives he touched.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial donation to Temple High School Auto Body Shop.

A special thank you to Interim Hospice to Tammy and Donna, for their compassionate care.

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

Tuttle  
Mai Tuyet Tuttle  
March 15, 1930 – April 21, 2025

Mai Tuyet Tuttle, age 95, of Belton, Texas, passed from this life Monday, April 21, 2025, at home.

A time of visitation will be held from 1-3 pm with a Buddhist Ceremony following at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Belton.

Burial will be held at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas at a later date.

Mai was born on

March 15, 1930, to Trinh Van Thach and Hui Thi Le in Vietnam. She married the late Donald H. Tuttle on April 27, 1973. Mai was a self-employed professional seamstress working from home, for 18 years before retiring. After retire-

ment, she enjoyed going to casinos (to gamble), cruises, and gardening.

Those left to honor and cherish her memory are her son, Don M. Tuttle; 2 grandchildren, Darian J. Tuttle, and Jayden N. Tuttle; and daughter, Elodia C. Tuttle.



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Council - From Page A1

er Heights Elementary School property.

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

Belton’s 25-percent share of the wastewater plant project is \$17.8 million. The project will expand the capacity of the existing facility, located off FM 93 between Belton and Temple, from 10 million gallons a day to 16 million gallons, according to Belton city spokesman Paul Romer.

“Expanding the plant is necessary to meet the demands of population growth in Temple and Belton,” Romer said. “The first phase of the expansion has already occurred — it replaced and expanded the headworks facility, which is where sewage enters the treatment plant.”

Romer said the lift station moves wastewater from a lower elevation to a higher elevation.

“The way it typically works is wastewater flows into a wet well, which collects the sewage. When the wastewater reaches a certain level, pumps are activated to push the sewage through a main to a higher point in the system before it finally reaches the treatment plant.”

Romer said improvements funded by the bond include two new force main lines from the lift station to the plant.

The city is purchasing the former Miller Heights Elementary School, an 8.36-acre property in Southeast Belton near Belle Oaks Apartments. The property includes a 40,000-square-foot facility that will immediately address space constraints for public safety operation, according to Romer.

“The site will serve as a police substation, reducing response times in one of the city’s most frequently dispatched areas,” Romer said.

The former school also will house police victim services and community programs, code compliance offices, evidence and equipment storage, Fire Department administrative personnel and Belton Fire Marshal operations.

“We have already ordered the fire engine and paid for the school, so the bonds will reimburse the city for those purchases,” Romer said.

“The expansion of the treatment plant could start by September,” he added. “The lift station would need to go through the bidding process, so that is undetermined as of right now.”

Texas state law generally requires local governments to seek voter approval before issuing debt that will be repaid from tax revenues. Every year, in May and November, voters are asked to approve new bond debt for the construction of city and county buildings, hospitals, schools, water infrastructure and much more.

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

“The bond debt for the utility projects will be paid back through utility rates,” Romer said. “Funds that were scheduled to be allocated for a new fire engine will instead be allocated to pay the debt service on the engine. The balance would be included in the future debt portion of the tax rate.”

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Innovation shines during LBHS’s Entrepreneurship Pitch event

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well at Lake Belton High School. Bronco students took center stage last Friday night for the fifth annual Entrepreneurship Pitch Night to pitch original business ideas to a panel of business professionals in an event similar to the popular TV series, Shark Tank.

The event is the culmination of the school’s INCubatoredu program, a yearlong entrepreneurship course that gives students a real-world startup experience.

Business teacher and Master Incubator Teacher Jay Walker, who has led the program since its launch, says the course empowers students to think critically and creatively.

“INCubatoredu is about more than just starting a business,” Walker said. “It challenges students to identify opportunities, create solutions, and embrace change through an immersive and rigorous curriculum.”

Throughout the year, Lake Belton students have worked in teams to develop their business concepts, conduct market research, and refine their



Courtesy Photo

Students from Lake Belton High School make their business pitches onstage last Friday night in a Shark Tank format at the 5th annual Entrepreneurship Pitch Night.

pitches. They’ve also benefited from partnerships with local professionals and organizations, including business professors from the University of Mary Hardin-Bay-

lor, and businesses such as Cen-Tex Automotive, UPS and T-Mobile.

“Our mentors provide invaluable feedback and open doors to resources students wouldn’t otherwise have access to,” said Walker. “Collaboration—both with mentors and classmates—builds networks that can carry these students into future success.”

“We’re always looking for mentors who want to pour into the next generation of business leaders,” Walker added.

INCubatoredu is a full-year course offering an authentic entrepreneurship experience as students develop their own product or service startup. Student teams explore, pivot, iterate and develop resilience as they work to solve problems they care about.

Real entrepreneurs and industry experts serve as volunteer coaches and mentors guiding student teams through the process of idea validation.

Wine Pairing Fundraiser supports Eldred’s Nursery Foundation



BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOCTEZUMA

Margaret Chadwick, co-founder of Eldred’s Nursery Foundation, speaks to guests about the organization’s mission and future plans during the Wine Pairing Fundraiser on Saturday evening.

By Daniel Moctezuma  
The Belton Journal

Guests gathered at The Smith Family Farm House in Temple on Saturday, April 26, to attend the Wine Pairing Fundraiser benefiting Eldred’s Nursery Foundation.

The event featured wine tastings, food pairings, and live music as community members came together to support the foundation’s programs for adults with disabilities in Bell County.

Margaret and Rob Chadwick, founders of Eldred’s Nursery Foundation, started the organization in 2017 af-

ter Margaret retired from teaching. The couple initially purchased an existing nursery, then turned it into a nonprofit a year later with a mission to provide job training opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

“We’ve been able to place 27 individuals into the community,” Margaret Chadwick said. “But Rob and I are planning to retire this year, so we really need the community’s continued support to keep the program going.”

About 90 percent of the fundraiser’s proceeds will go directly into the mission at the nursery, Chadwick said. She explained that while some trainees help maintain plants for the city of Belton, other parts of the program, such as activities for individuals with greater support needs, rely more heavily on fundraising because they do not generate income.

Since opening, the nursery has expanded from selling plants to becoming a certified growers’ nursery, allowing them to grow plants from seeds and save costs.

One of the participants, Josiah Guthrie, who started with the nursery during its first summer, shared his experience working there.

“I love how they tailor their work toward people with disabilities,” Guthrie said. “It’s super relaxed and fun

being there. I’ve learned about money management, taking care of plants, and working with the city through our contract.”

Guthrie said the program changed his life for the better and helped him find employment opportunities, including working at Which Wich, a sandwich shop, and supporting city parks through Eldred’s partnership with the city.

Mike Lawson, a guest at the event and a partner through Tamer Learning Academy, said his school values the foundation’s mission.

“We benefit from their services for our students,” Lawson said. “They provide life skills and work skills, and we appreciate them so much.”

Andrea and Brian Alexander, also guests, said they have personal ties to the mission.

“We actually have children with special needs of our own,” Andrea Alexander said. “In some ways, we’re keeping in mind their future as we help support organizations like this.”

Margaret Chadwick closed her remarks during the evening by encouraging the community to continue standing behind the foundation as she and her husband step into retirement.

“We love the Belton community and we want to make sure this program continues,” she said.



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Park - From Page A2

community that she loved so much would be the option she would have chosen.”

“Debbie and Neale Potts built a home on Dunns Canyon Road in the 1990’s and lived there for 30 years,” Lynsey continued. “When the city developed Chisholm Trail Park, it backed up directly to their yard. She spent countless hours walking on the trails in the park, both alone and with beloved long-time friends.”

Lynsey said that because her mom loved spending time at Chisholm Trail Park and at Belton High School events, the family decided the park would be the perfect place to donate something in her honor.

“My mom always loved to throw a

party. She loved people, she loved Belton, and she loved fun. Gathering people was one of her favorite things in the world.

“We approached the city about our concept and asked them about possible options for a project that would improve life for everyone in Belton and serve as an enduring memorial. When they suggested donating a covered pavilion in Chisholm Trail Park, we knew this was a perfect way to memorialize a woman who truly loved Belton, loved to gather people, and enjoyed so many beautiful moments in that area.”


For more information about the Legacy Program, contact the Belton Parks & Recreation Department at (254) 933-5860.

Letter to the editor

Two domains in America must be protected from majorities. The first is civil liberties. This includes the basic individual rights that are necessary for any democracy, such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly. Other domains also exist where our individual life choices should be free from interference by elected our government or legislative majorities. The government that we elect should not have authority to decide our religious practices or their manner of practice. Elected governments should not have authority to choose which books we can read or which movies we can watch or what topics universities should teach. The government should not have authority to determine marital part-

ners based on their race or gender. The protection from government power remains uncertain because the specific rights to be safeguarded will always be disputed and may shift throughout time. The U.S. Bill of Rights protects individual liberties by creating boundaries that shield them from the decisions of short-term majorities. They do not depend on the outcome of elections. The U.S. Bill of Rights enshrines individual liberties, in effect, roping them off from the whims of temporary majorities. The most important words in our Democracy are “We the People” and the “Rule of Law.”

Randy Broussard  
Belton



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# EDITORIAL

## Who writes this stuff?

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

So before I start on my topic this week let me get my credentials out there. This isn't my first journalism gig (gig is a term we professionals use in place of the word job, it also works with musicians), I have worked for a few newspapers in the past. I wrote a few articles for the local newspaper when I was in high school, that was mostly just luck. I did have a reporter, columnist, photographer, cartoonist gig with another newspaper some years ago. Yes, it was a small paper, so basically me, the editor and the guy that ran the printing press were the workforce. It was a small town, but we covered a lot of the area around that city. I did have some prestigious jobs in radio during my broadcasting career. And I have been writing here for The Journal for a few years now, outlasting a few editors. I am never sure if they

get tired of my writing and give it up, or they take a job with a big city newspaper.

So, the question for the week is, who the heck is writing some of the modern news stories that I see online these days?

I don't really watch a lot of broadcast television, or even video coverage online. I do like to sort my news out and read it on my terms. I did enjoy holding a paper newspaper, and a lot of that draw was the comics page. These days I read news online, on my computer screen, brought to me via high-speed but sketchy internet service. I don't really like my phone buzzing me when it feels like there is something important to inform me of during the day, so I read my various news sources a few times during my hours awake. I guess it is good that we can get instant notifications of big news events. The prob-

lem being that not everything that the news outlet thinks is gigantic news is important to me. That is not to say that I am not interested in current events. However, a yappy chihuahua falling down a storm drain and being rescued is not big news for me.

My real point this week is that the quality of the writing has degraded so much over the past few years. These days we point to AI (artificial intelligence) as being the problem. However, I am not so sure, certainly we should be able to have AI learn reasonable English. I mean I started learning English before I could walk, granted it was not journalistic quality, that took a few more years. However, I do believe I could string together a meaningful sentence in my early years. (my editor is probably wondering if I have slid back at times...) I enjoyed

English in my later years of school, I worked hard at doing a good job and presenting my writing as professional as possible. I have written a lot over the years; I have helped people with writing and even assisted with a teacher that taught English to non-English speaking students. And yes, I do make mistakes here and in daily speech, most of which I blame on my Texan dialect and Texas slang.

Some of the writings that I see online these days have simple mistakes and misspellings. The things that even the most basic typing app would catch. Improper terms and sentence structure, double negatives and redundant words in a statement. Do the journalists today have no pride at all in their jobs? I know that they don't sign their work when it is published. My name appears on my column every week,

and I will take responsibility for my mistakes, and of course make up excuses for them. However, for news outlets these days it seems to be a race to get whatever news story out as soon as possible to beat the other outlets, so quality comes second, or perhaps third.

For me I just can't see churning out those mistakes, even if I was in a hurry. There are several parts of my brain that usually work in unison as I write, often one part will freeze up if there is an error, it might take the other parts a few moments to catch up and realize what is wrong, but it keeps me in check. Of course I still make those mistakes, but honestly I think I do a much better job than whatever, or whomever, is writing those online stories these days.

A week or so back I received a letter from a read-

er that enjoyed a specific column, they said nothing about my grammar, but I think it was implied. They also mentioned being a Vietnam veteran, so I just want to acknowledge that group of men and women, and state that I have a lot of respect for them, and I truly appreciate the positive comment about my writing.

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## Books on the road

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

In going through photos of my travels in the past several years, I've noticed a recurring theme I have. For some reason, whenever I see a bookstore, I'll grab a picture of it.

Not a "big name" bookstore—you know the ones, and I don't need to mention them because they get enough advertising.

But when I come across an independent store, I usually take a picture of them. I'm not sure exactly why. Maybe it's because they're a dwindling breed, and I love them.

My favorite bookstore of all time was Johnson's Bookstore in Springfield, Massachusetts, which opened in the late 1800s. The place closed its doors in 1998 after three generations of the Johnson family ran the store. Its top floor—the treasure trove—was one entire floor of used books.

The floor had an old book smell, if you know what I mean. It was the smell of secrets, of discoveries waiting to be found inside the thousands of

books, some rare, some paperback novels a few years old.

A fun "score" is finding an early edition of Black Beauty which is still on my bookshelf today. Other scores were favorite books from childhood, obscure titles I thought I'd never see again.

After Johnson's closed, the property was restored and is now multi-unit shopping area. I've not been back there since moving to Texas, but every once in a while I think of Johnson's. I wonder if they were able to get the old book smell out of the top floor. Part of me hopes they couldn't.

While in Galveston for a conference with my husband, we stayed at the historic Tremont Hotel. After supper the first night, we took a stroll through the historic downtown area, not far from The Strand.

I came across the Galveston Bookshop, open since 1991, and it boasts 70,000 volumes of new and used books. I love used books. Even as an author, I don't mind used books.

Some authors don't because they "lose" money on a sale. But I've discovered some new favorite authors by purchasing a used book.

Several years ago, we visited family in New England and I grabbed photos of bookstores I found.

While walking from the T station to Boston Harbor, my husband and I passed Commonwealth Books at Downtown Crossing, on the oldest street in the city, dating from 1630. They have 40,000-plus books to browse through, along with prints from the 1600s on. Wow!

A few days later, we took a family outing and stopped in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and walked the downtown streets.

This time, I only found a simple sign in the shape of an arrow marked "BOOKS, pointing to a side alley. I never discovered anything more about that place, but it was likely another little hole-in-the-wall of discovery.

Much closer to home, there's Fredericksburg,

Texas, and Books On Main, located on where else, Main Street? This store has lots of Texas books as well as maps and genealogy resources.

Still closer, around the corner, is the McWha Bookstore in downtown Belton.

Even with this exciting digital age, when you can "carry" hundreds of books on a single device, there's something to be said for used book stores and the unique atmosphere they carry.

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**A6**  
Thursday,  
May 1, 2025

# LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

## Belton's Mother's Day Tea Time brings families together

By **Daniel Motezuma**  
The Belton Journal

Moms enjoyed tea, pastries, and music during the City of Belton's Mother's Day Tea Time on Saturday, April 26 at the Harris Community Center.

The afternoon included a performance by the Chisholm Trail Chorus directed by Carol Scherer, along with light refreshments like cookies, scones, and flavored teas.

Heather Bates, who came with her husband and sons, shared what the day meant to her.

"I think it's really special that the city puts this together because most cities do father-daughter dances, but there's not really a lot that cities do for mothers," Bates said. "I love the theme. They do a really good job of keeping it fresh, and the food is always really good, too."

Bates said she especially enjoyed the addition of live music this year.

"I really liked the choir group that they had. They didn't do that last year, so that was really nice," she said. "And the poem they read always puts tears in my eyes."

Nicole Douglas, who also came to the tea, described the experience as meaningful.

"It's very unique," Douglas said. "I didn't really get to enjoy going to tea parties like this as a kid, so it's very nice to come to a big formal event with my child and enjoy it with the rest of the community."

Douglas said the chance to spend time with her daughter made the event special.

"Just spending time with my daughter and enjoying time with everybody else in my community, that's been the most special part of today," she said.

A student from the Belton Youth Advisory Commission also read a poem titled "Her Hands" by Maggie Pitman, reflecting on the role of mothers in their children's lives.

Charisse Bennett, a Recreation Coordinator for the City of Belton who helped organize the event, said they created the tea to give mothers their own day of recognition.



BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOTEZUMA

The Chisholm Trail Chorus performs during the City of Belton's Mother's Day Tea Time on Saturday afternoon at the Harris Community Center.

"There's a lot of father-daughter dances, but moms were always kind of on social media saying, 'Where's our event?'" Bennett said. "So we decided to do this, and we wanted to do it earlier than the actual day of Mother's Day so we wouldn't take away from their day with their family."

This year marked the second Mother's Day Tea Time hosted by the city.

"We wanted to keep it like a traditional afternoon

tea with sandwiches, homemade scones and clotted cream, and desserts," Bennett said. "It's an afternoon to celebrate moms or the special women in people's lives, because moms tend to not get time away for themselves."

The Belton Youth Advisory Commission helped serve food and drinks during the event, and there was a drawing for prizes, including a teapot and a gift card. People were invited to stay afterward to enjoy more tea, take photos, and pick up succulents as gifts.

## Dossman, Perales to be honored by tree planting

By **David Stone**  
The Belton Journal

Trees will be planted and dedicated in honor of two outstanding Belton residents Friday morning during an event at Heritage Park.

"This is an annual event," said Randy Pittenger, president and CEO of the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce.

The dedication ceremony will be at 10 a.m. Friday, May 2.

"Every year for a long time we have honored recipients of two awards presented every January by the Chamber," Pittenger said. "This year, we are honoring 2024 Beltonian award winner Danny Dossman and 2024 Citizen of the Year Emilio Perales. Both men are still very active in our community."

"We are adding two more trees Friday, and we have dedicated many over the years," he added. "We told Belton Parks &

Recreation to pick a spot. They know we are going to do this every year."

Pittenger explained that rocks containing plaques about the honorees are positioned at the base of each tree.

Dossman was presented with the Beltonian award in recognition of his longtime achievement in volunteer services to the community, Pittenger said. The Beltonian award traditionally has been given as a "Lifetime

Achievement Award" to someone in Belton.

"If anyone deserves this award, it's Danny Dossman," Pittenger said. "Danny has been a friend to Belton, local service organizations like the Lions Club, and especially the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce. He has helped so many in the community through his leadership at the Chamber, as a local business owner, and as an individual contributor."

Pittenger pointed out that one of Dossman's lasting legacies is his contribution to the community with the Chamber's Patriot Way Brick Walk.

"When the city was reimagining the entrance to the Belton on Central Avenue, Danny came up with the idea of Patriot Way," he added. "The city already had the vision of removing power

See **PLANTING**,  
Page A7

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*The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.*  
~Genesis 2:15

## Salado Community Chorus announces Spring Concert

Special to the Journal

The Salado Community Chorus will present The Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 6, at 7 p.m.

The concert is a lineup of patriotic, spiritual and Broadway/show tunes and will take place at First Baptist Church, 210 S. Main St., Salado.

The Bell County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard will present and re-

tire the colors to start and end the night. No ticket is required but plan to arrive in time to find a seat.

"Nothing makes us happier than to look out and see the pews full of smiling faces," said chorus representatives in a news release.

The Chorus has been practicing every week since January 21 to learn and perfect the songs that have been chosen by choir director, Dottie Shirley. Dr. David Albee will be the accompanist. The con-

cert will also feature solo and special group performances.

The Chorus is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations from supporters made at concerts or on our website are always appreciated. These funds help with the costs of presenting a concert, including music for all members, facility rental, technicians, guest musicians, programs, etc. Find out more about the Salado Community Chorus at website [www.SaladoChorus.com](http://www.SaladoChorus.com).



Courtesy photo

Members of the Salado Community Chorus practice for next week's concert, set for Tuesday, May 6 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, located at 210 S. Main St., Salado.

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# Stoney Brook of Belton “Soups It Forward” for Belton Fire Department



# EDITORIAL

## 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 en-

tertainment 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 dif-

ferences 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

## 5 Things

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

If it tells you anything about what my lead times can end up being like, as I type this one of the big topics of discussion on the internet is that various federal government employees have been required to produce a list of five things they’ve done in the past week as part of their jobs. This is being done so that a particular group of individuals has a better understanding of who is doing what and whether or not any given employee’s duties are functionally redundant. Given that it’s tied to potential layoffs, it’s quite controversial.

However, it’s also become something of a multi-layered internet meme, which is what I’m looking at here in this column.

The first, most basic layer, involves people, either of their own accord or as a result of being challenged by others, listing five tasks they do as part of their everyday job. For example, each

week I see a movie so I can type up the review, type up a column (on average), help process & deliver the newspapers for my flagship publication, help ensure that we’ve got sufficient office supplies, and make sure that the trash cans are taken out to the curb each week. Some people are doing this so that they themselves can get a better grasp on what they actually do, while others are doing it so that they can explain to others what a typical week for them is like.

However, it’s the subsequent layers that by all rights are turning the most heads. It’s these layers where people challenge each other to go further than just listing what a person did at their job the previous week. You might see people challenging each other to list, say, what they’ve done as an adherent of their particular religious organization, or list what they’ve done around the house chore-wise.

That line of reasoning, however, practically invites people to go on to the next logical layer, asking yourself, let alone others, what five things you’ve done in your personal life over the last week to further higher goals and higher purposes. What five things have you done in order to improve your personal wellness, both mental and physical? What five things have you done to broaden your horizons? What five things have you done to help make your community a better place? What five things have you done to help others? What five things have you done to let the people you love know that you love them?

Et cetera.

On one hand, going around navel-gazing won’t exactly help you get anything done. But on the other hand, taking a few minutes to stop and assess your life will. This can allow you to

help determine what areas you’re doing pretty good in, what areas you need to work on, what opportunities you have for personal growth, and what actually is or isn’t important in your life.

Now, if you’re looking over your life using some of the questions I just asked a few paragraphs back, you might have trouble getting that list of five. It’s not automatically anything to be ashamed of. Maybe you’re limited by your circumstances or haven’t truly thought about it before. But the idea is to start thinking about it a little more, and if you’re able to do so start making those positive changes, however small, in order to be a better you.

Remember, I’m over 40 and I’m still working to improve myself, however slowly. You yourself can always work to improve yourself, too.

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### Allison found guilty of criminally negligent homicide in death of Joe Ramirez



**Joe Ramirez**



**Caysen Allison**

**By Lynette Sowell**  
*The Belton Journal*

The trial of former Belton High School student Caysen Allison ended with a guilty verdict on a charge of criminally negligent homicide on Tuesday.

Allison’s sentencing is set for June 16.

Now 21, he faces anywhere from 6 months to two years in a state jail, as well as a fine of up to \$10,000.

Allison’s defense attorney, Zachary Boyd, argued the case that Allison’s actions that day

were in self-defense.

He faced anywhere from five to 99 years in prison, depending on the charge on which he could be convicted.

The jury spent about 12 hours deliberating before announcing the verdicts.

Allison was found not guilty of murder and also not guilty of manslaughter.

Boyd gave a brief press conference after the verdicts.

“This was a hard case,” Boyd said. “No one should ever outlive their children. No human being should have to lose their

child in a violent way. I am so sorry for (the Ramirez family’s) loss, and the Allison family is sorry for their loss. There is no good outcome for this. There is no happy ending.”

The trial and consequent verdicts come nearly three years after the stabbing of Joe Ramirez in a bathroom at Belton High School on May 3, 2022.

According to a news release by Belton city spokesperson Paul Romer after the incident, Allison ran out of the school and was later arrested by police.

Ramirez was alive when reached by first responders, but he died at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in Temple from stab wounds to his chest, back, arms and legs, according to police.

Allison has been out of jail on bond since July 15, 2022 after posting a reduced bond of \$175,000 after the initial bond of \$1 million was reduced. He will continue to remain out on bond until his sentencing in June.

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## Lake Belton sweeps Ennis for 5A-DI bi-district title

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

Over the course of their 19-game winning streak, the TGCA Class 5A No. 4 Lake Belton Broncos had to figure out different ways to win games.

The 2025 team is a different composite than the 2021-2024 blueprint before them. Hitting. Hitting for power. Running. Defense. Pitching. All calling cards that made the Broncos a force to be reckoned with.

While all of the intangibles still exist and are a constant for Lake, hitting for power is still being developed.

The opening game of the Texas UIL Class 5A-Division bi-district series against the Ennis Lions Thursday night in West was a gut-check moment for the Broncos.

Lake got around a pair of Ennis back-to-back walks to start the second inning, a Lions'

double-play that nearly derailed a rally in the fifth, and received a deep fly ball by Brysen Gott that was dropped in right-centerfield which scored Alayshia Williams for the lone run of the game as the Broncos shut out Ennis in game one, 1-0.

Both teams were retired in order in the first. Analisa Salazar and Meranda Chandler drew back-to-back walks in the second off Lake Belton starting pitcher Maddison Ruiz. The Angelo State commit settled in and struck out the following three batters to end the inning and strung together nine straight retired until a leadoff walk to Aurelia Vaughan in the fifth.

The Broncos had just two hits off Ennis starting pitcher Breona Benevidez heading into the bottom of the fifth. Briley Updyke single to start the inning. Addison Sims' sacrifice bunt attempt had too much air underneath it, was snagged by Benavidez and thrown to first baseman Callie Richardson to double up Updyke.

Williams singled to center to keep the inning alive. Gott hit a deep fly ball to right-centerfield that was knocked down by the wind that stayed present following the thunderstorm a few hours earlier. The ball glanced off Kylie Saxon's glove and dropped to the ground. Williams, who was sprinting away from the bag on the pitch, scored easily and Gott ended up at second to give Lake Belton a 1-0 lead.

Ruiz retired six of the next seven batters to slam the door on Ennis in the opener.

Six different Broncos had hits, with Alexis Ortiz, the Trinity Valley Community College commit, having logged a multi-hit game.

Ruiz fired a one-hitter over seven innings for the win, having struck out 15 Lions and walked three.

Benavidez took the loss for Ennis, pitched six innings, allowed an unearned run on five hits

See **LAKE**,  
Page B3

## Belton bows out in 5A-DII bi-district round

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

The Belton Tigers Softball took on the Crandall Pirates in a best-of-three Texas UIL Class 5A-Division II bi-district playoff series over the weekend in Whitney.

Belton bounced back to take the middle game of the series but could not recover in game three of the series, as the Pirates ended the Tigers' season with a 2-1 series win.

Crandall won game one on Friday night, 12-3. The Tigers won game two, 10-7. The Pirates won the third and deciding game, 9-2.

The Tigers hopped on the board first in the bottom of the first inning. With one out, Andalyn Logan singled, stole second base, advanced to third on a throwing error, and scored on a wild pitch.

Crandall scored a run in the third and took a 4-1 lead in the fourth.

Logan singled to start the bottom of the fourth. With one out, Tara Stone tripped to centerfield to score Logan. Madison Bowling, who ran for Stone, scored on a suicide squeeze bunt single to pull the Tigers to within one run.

The Pirates took advantage of a combination of Belton errors, wild pitches, and passed balls that led to seven runs in the fifth. At the end of the inning, Crandall led 10-3.

Belton's last legitimate threat of game one came when Logan led off with a single in the sixth and Stone followed

with a one-out single. However, a strike-out and fly out ended the rally.

Crandall logged six hits, with Meliana Leija having logged a two-hit performance.

Jillian Prda dealt a complete game victory, having pitched seven innings, allowed three runs (two earned) on eight hits, and struck out eight.

Logan went 3-for-4, Stone and Iris Molina logged two hits, and Lauren Vazquez picked up a hit for Belton.

Stone picked up the loss, having pitched four innings, allowed 10 runs (four earned) on four hits, struck out 10, walked seven, and hit a batter. Reagan Stuart pitched three innings in relief, allowed two unearned runs on two hits, struck out four, and walked two.

The Tigers turned the page to Saturday's game, as they allowed a run in the first inning to trail the Pirates in the first, 1-0.

Belton began to time Crandall's pitching in the middle innings, as the Tigers scored nine times between the second and fifth innings.

Following a leadoff double by Stone to start the second off Crandall starter Kodie Epperson, Stuart and Vazquez walked to load the bases. Bowling ran for Stuart to give Belton additional speed on the base paths. Hannah Wheeler hit a ground ball that was misplayed by Sadie Birdwell at shortstop, which cleared the bases to give the Tigers a 3-1 lead.

See **BELTON**,  
Page B3

## Belton ISD track headed to Austin

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

Three Belton ISD products have an opportunity to make history today.

After each experienced wildly successful seasons, Lady Tigers senior Olivia Brillhart, Tigers junior Christian Porter and Lake Belton senior Abigail Rydberg are set to compete on the ultimate stage, taking part in the University Interscholastic League Class 5A Track & Field State Championships.

The event takes place at Austin's Mike A. Myers Stadium on The University of Texas campus.

Brillhart will be the first to compete, taking to the track at 9:30 a.m. for the 3,200-meter run.

The distance runner enters with the nine-

person field's fourth-best seed time after winning the Region II championship in 10 minutes, 55.68 seconds.

Comal Smithson Valley junior Lilly Koenig owns the fastest seed time at 10:43.03, while McAllen senior Dana Rojas Vazquez (10:51.25) and Lubbock senior Reese Peña (10:52.89) follow.

Also a regional champion, Rydberg is situated in a tie with Humble Kingwood Park junior Emilee Smith for the sixth best seed mark in the pole vault. Each cleared 11 feet, 6 inches at regionals.

Gregory Portland junior Tristen Grimes is the field's favorite with a mark of 12-6, which is three inches better than second-seed Peyton Berry. The Argyle senior cleared 12-3 to qualify.

The girls pole vault is set to start at 3 p.m.

With a victory, Rydberg would earn Lake Belton's fourth state championship in three years.

Two seasons ago, as a freshman, Kendrick Jones Jr. was adorned with the gold medal in the 200, and he followed by repeating as state champion in the event last year while also adding a first-place finish in the long jump to his already glowing resume.

Rounding out Belton ISD's trio of representatives, Porter is a third seed in the 400.

The sprinter earned his state berth as a wild card, meaning he had the top time from the four regional meets excluding each event's top two finishers.

See **STATE**,  
Page B2



**Dr. Jack Welch**  
From the Bleachers

### Attitude Spells the Difference

It's amazing to see how some people soar in their professions while others flounder, even when starting with similar opportunities. Success is rarely the result of just one thing. It's a complex mix of mindset, skill, resources, and circumstance. But there's one element that often spells the difference between victory and defeat: attitude.

We've all seen it, two individuals facing the same challenges, equipped with the same tools. One thrives. The other struggles. What's the difference? Sometimes it's as subtle as a single shift in perspective.

Some people struggle to see reality clearly or respond positively to setbacks. They may confuse positivity with blind optimism, ignoring facts in favor of false hope. But being positive isn't about ignoring reality, it's about facing it with purpose, resilience, and a willingness to adapt.

Those who succeed often do so because they're teachable. They embrace growth. They lean on mentors. They use the resources available to them and value the strength found in teamwork and trust. In short, they're willing to do the hard work of becoming better, not bitter.

I've seen this firsthand. I was fortunate to play football at both the high school and college levels under some truly remarkable coaches, men who shaped not just my game, but my character. They were motivators, mentors, and masters of the one-liner.

In high school, I played under Bill Freeman in Osawatomie, Kansas, and Gayle Miller in Bridgeport, Texas. Coach Freeman, a legend inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, knew how to win, and how to lead. Coach Miller, too, was deeply respected for his wisdom and ability to inspire.

In college, I played for the legendary Sam Sample, first at Sterling College and then at Taylor University. He later coached at Colorado and Northern Illinois. Coach


See **WELCH**,  
Page B2



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# Lake Belton baseball headed to playoffs to face Red Oak

By Clay Whittington  
The Belton Journal

Last season, the Broncos followed a flawless district performance with a first-round loss in the playoffs. Beginning tonight, Lake Belton will attempt to avoid a similar fate.

On the heels of capturing another league championship with a perfect 10-0 record in District 16-5A, the Broncos begin their trek toward a state title at 7 p.m., when the first pitch of

their opening-round series against Red Oak is thrown.

Game 1 of the best-of-three Division I encounter will be played at Red Oak with the series shifting to Lake Belton for a 7 p.m. start Friday. If necessary, a deciding Game 3 will be played Saturday at 1 p.m. at Glen Rose.

Should the Broncos advance, they would face either North Mesquite or Molina in the second round.

One year ago, after earning the program's

fourth consecutive district championship, Lake Belton's season came to an end in the first round, falling to Magnolia West in two consecutive one-run contests (3-2 and 5-4).

Once again, advancing will not be easy, but the Broncos have momentum entering the playoffs.

Lake Belton (22-5-2) concluded district competition Friday, when they hosted Waco University and earned a 5-0 a. It was the Broncos' seventh shut-

out in league play.

Then, after celebrating a fifth district title, Lake Belton played a pair of games to warm up for its postseason run.

The Broncos began by disposing of Leander Rouse 7-0 on the road, but their 12-game winning streak was snapped in the following encounter as Waco Midway defeated Lake Belton 6-4 on Monday. It was the Broncos' first loss since March 21, when they lost 3-1 at College Station.

The Hawks enter the playoffs as the fourth seed from District 15, producing an overall record of 16-13.

Red Oak was 8-6 in district to reach the postseason, where it was eliminated in the opening round last year.

The Hawks bring a three-game winning streak into the series after defeating Crandall twice by a combined score of 12-0 to set up a play-in game versus Ennis. Red Oak won 10-8.

With seven returning starters, including three seniors, the Hawks have the potential to be a threat to Lake Belton, but the Broncos will be prepared.

Among the team's six returning starters are senior standouts Bryce Davis, a second baseman, outfielder Cameron Bartz, first baseman Kaden Ward and pitcher Brandon Holley. All four players were all-district first-team selections last year.

# Belton Baseball finishes regular season in second, heads to playoffs

By Clay Whittington  
The Belton Journal

The Tigers have won five consecutive games,

but now, collecting two more victories is all that matters.

Belton concluded its regular-season schedule

Monday by traveling to Bastrop, where it earned a four-run win to cap off its successful streak, which included a second-place showing in the District 16-5A standings.

The past, however, is no longer of concern.

Tonight, the Tigers open play in Division II playoffs with the first game of their bi-district series against Corsicana.

McLennan Community College will serve as the host for all three games with tonight's con-

test and Game 2 on Friday each starting at 7 p.m. If necessary, a deciding game will be played Saturday at 1 p.m.

Corsicana finished the regular season with an overall record of 18-7-1, including a third-place 9-5 showing in District 15.

Thanks in part to the play of a wealth of returning starters, Corsicana closed its schedule with a flurry, winning seven of its final nine games.

Belton has momen-

tum as well, though.

During the final four games of district, the Tigers were on point offensively, amassing 68 total runs in the quartet of wins.

Facing Killeen Elison, Belton was dominant, defeating the Eagles 18-3 and 23-1, and the Tigers extended the showing with one-sided outings against Waco, posting a pair of shutouts. Belton won with 13 and 14 unanswered runs.


In the final game ver-

sus the Lions, Rayshaun Peoples was 2 for 2 with a triple, three RBIs and two runs scored, while teammate Austin Wood had a double, an RBI and scored three runs. Additionally, Mayson Cartier was 1 for 3 with a double and an RBI.

On the mound, Jacob Quigley struck out a dozen batters and allowed one hit in five innings.

Then, Belton (14-11,

See **BASEBALL**,  
Page B3



**Be alert for caregiver financial abuse**

Do you have a parent or other elderly relative who may soon need a caregiver? You'll need to be diligent about finding the right person for the job — because choosing the wrong one could lead to financial problems.

If you hire someone but start to have doubts about them, watch for warning signs, such as withholding financial or medical information from the family, or a desire to be a joint holder on bank accounts.

An unscrupulous caregiver might also ask to be named financial power of attorney. Unfortunately, many people have abused this responsibility by stealing money or credit card information and even attempting to change beneficiary designations on retirement accounts or insurance policies.

If you suspect financial abuse, you can contact your loved one's financial advisor, bank or attorney, if you know who it is. They can't give you information, but they can check for red flags and contact your loved one personally.

There is also help from your state. The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) provides a listing of state offices on its website.

If you select the caregiver carefully and stay alert for warning signs, you'll be helping your loved one keep their finances secure.

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

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## State - From Page B1

ishers.

Nevertheless, he is considered a favorite for the gold medal along with Marshall senior De'Treyvon Goudeau (1st, 47.50) and McKinney North senior Dakalon Tyler (2nd, 47.60).

## Welch - From Page B1

entire course of a life. Coach Sample would always add with a grin, "There's no 'i' in team, but there is an 'e.'"

Attitude isn't just important, it's everything. It shapes how we interpret failure and how we respond to adversity. And success? It doesn't happen in a vacuum. It's born in relationships, sacrifice, and a willingness to take risks.

Many people never succeed because they fear discomfort. They shy

Porter will race at 7 p.m.

Ayanna Jones won the long jump gold medal in 2022 to account for the last time Belton won a state championship.

For the Tigers, however, the stretch extends much further.

Ramonce Taylor was responsible for state gold in the long jump in 2004, defending the championship he won a year earlier.

Prior to Taylor, David Moreland was the Tigers' last state champion, winning the pole vault in 1994.

Thought for the week, "Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently." Henry Ford

Dr. Jack Welch is an educator and professional football coach. His doctorate is in educational administration, and he has been an educator, administrator, and football coach, mentoring young minds, for over 40 years. He is also the author of Foundations of Coaching. He can be reached at jackwelch1975@gmail.com

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# Lake Belton’s Perkins shines on the diamond

By Aries Ramos  
The Belton Journal

From the moment she picked up a glove at age six, inspired by her older brother and college-athlete parents, Madison Perkins was destined for the diamond. Now a key contributor for the Lake Belton Lady Broncos, the standout center fielder brings passion, grit, and a team-first mentality to everything she does.

“I’ve played shortstop, third, and catcher,” Perkins said. “But I love the outfield. You’re covering more ground, and you’re the last line of defense.”

Her impact in center field is undeniable, and her goal is clear: to be the player her team can count on to catch anything.

After earning a spot on the varsity squad as a freshman, Perkins has become a steady presence for Lake Belton.

“Last year’s state semifinal run was unforgettable. I was surrounded by so much talent,” she said. That experience fuels her drive this season, especially after the team lost six seniors. “People overlooked us, but we’ve been persistent.”

Her biggest influence? “My parents,” she said without hesitation. “They push me to be

my best and always remind me that the team comes first.”

A quiet competitor, Perkins handles pressure with poise.

“I take a breath, look around at everyone supporting me, and just try to help the team win.”

Off the field, she balances school, softball, and life with discipline and perspective. “School comes first. Without education, college softball isn’t possible.”

Her goals athis year, hitting .400, no fielding errors, and earning complete trust from her coaches, reflect a mindset rooted in

accountability. She models her approach after Oklahoma coach Patty Gasso, valuing intensity delivered with professionalism.

Despite the pressure of playing for a program with high expectations, Perkins stays grounded. “I’ve learned to be myself and trust that the coaches have prepared me.”

Whether she’s chasing fly balls or sharing a laugh in the dugout, her presence is felt. And while she dreams of playing in college and studying nursing, she’s focused on the now. “I want to push this team as far as we can go and give the coaches the championship they deserve.”

## Baseball - From Page B2

7-3) completed its fine tuning for the playoffs by traveling to Bastrop for a warm-up game Monday, and the Tigers emerged from the venue with a 6-2 win.

Peoples was instrumental offensively once again, going 2 for 2 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored.

Pecos Smith (2 RBI) and Billy Young (RBI) each had a hit.

Four pitchers — Leonisio Garcia, Wood, Young and Jose Rangel — threw for the Tigers, accounting

for a total of five strikeouts and three hits.

Belton would play either Dallas Wilson or Dallas Adamson in the area round if it advances.

Last year, the Tigers saw their playoff run end in the first round as Magnolia earned consecutive wins by a combined score of 21-0.

Belton has not won a playoff game since defeating 4-2 in the first game of a bi-district series against Mansfield in 2022, and the Tigers have not reached the area round since 2021.

## Lake - From Page B1

and struck out three.

Friday’s game was a different chapter for the Broncos. Lake jumped on Benavidez for 11 runs over the first 1 1/3 innings, with just four earned as the Broncos run-ruled Ennis to win the bi-district championship, 12-2.

A pair of two-run singles by Ruiz and Updyke gave Lake an early 4-0 lead with two outs in the top of the first.

Salazar singled home Kaycee Slovak to put Ennis on the board in the bottom of the first.

Lake sent 13 batters to the plate and scored seven times in the second inning to put the game out of reach. Sims scored on a passed ball, Gott reached on an error that scored Ortiz, Ruiz’s two-run double scored

Madison Perkins and Madison Naser, Williams single home Ruiz and Gott, Ortiz’s bases-loaded walk scored Williams to give the Broncos an 11-1 lead.

Malyiah Gooden scored on a passed ball in the top of the fifth inning to increase Lake’s lead to 11.

Slovak hit a solo homer in the bottom of the fifth, but Ennis could not pull the game out of run-rule and saw their season conclude at the horse shoes of the Broncos.

Ruiz was 3-for-3 with four runs batted in. Williams and Updyke each had two runs batted in, and Ruiz, Naser, and Williams logged multi-hit games. Ortiz, Perkins, and Williams each scored twice.

Natalie Hosch picked up the win

in the circle. Hosch pitched five innings, allowed two run on nine hits, and struck out one.

Slovak had three hits and scored twice to lead the Lions.

Benavidez took the loss for Ennis, as she allowed 11 runs (four earned) on seven hits, walked two, and hit a batter. Richardson pitched 3 2/3 innings, allowed an unearned run on four hits, walked two, hit a batter, and struck out one.

Now with a 21-game win streak, Lake Belton (31-2) will face West Mesquite in the area playoffs at Hill College in Hillsboro. Game one will be Wednesday at 6 pm. Game two will be Thursday at 6 pm. If a game three is needed, it will be played at 6 pm on Friday.

## Belton - From Page B1

Prda came on to pitch in relief of Epperson in the third. Logan tripled to start the inning and scored on Molina’s bunt single.

Presli Thompson doubled to start the fourth and was run for by Aubrey Lynch. Stuart singled, and Lynch scored on Vazquez’s bunt single. Logan singled Stuart and Hailey Schutz, and Molina single home Logan to increase Belton’s lead to seven, 8-1.

Ballie Birdwell relieved Prda in the fifth and walked Thompson with one out. Lynch came on to run, advanced to third on a passed ball and stole home plate.

Crandall posted four runs in the fifth and one in the sixth to pull to within 9-6.

Thompson singled to start the seventh, and Lynch came on to run. Lynch moved to second on an error, moved to third on Stuart’s fly out to right, and scored on Vazquez’s groundout to short.

The Pirates put one more run up in the seventh. However, the Tigers held pat to force a third game.

Logan and Molina each had three hits, and Thompson added two hits in Belton’s 11-hit attack. Vazquez and Logan both had two runs batted in.

Stuart pitched two innings for the Tigers, allowed two runs (one earned) on three hits, walked two, hit a batter, and struck out one. Stone pitched five innings, allowed five runs (three earned) on seven hits, struck out five and walked one.

Leija had three hits for Crandall, while Sadie Birdwell, Madyson Bass, and Dixie Sterling each added two hits.

Epperson pitched two innings, allowed three unearned runs on one hit, walked two and struck out one. Prda took the loss, allowed five runs (four earned) on seven hits and struck out two. Ballie Birdwell pitched three innings,

allowed two unearned runs on three hits, walked two and struck out one.

The Pirates led the entirety of game three, having established a 2-0 lead in the first inning and a 4-0 advantage in the third.

Stuart walked with one out in the fourth and was run for by Bowling. Bowling stole second base and scored on an error to get the Tigers on the board.

Crandall extended their lead in the bottom of the fifth to five, 6-1.

Logan’s one-out single and Molina reaching on an error in the sixth set up Jacklyn Munoz’s single that scored Logan.


The Pirates scored three more times in the sixth to cap the scoring in the series.

Belton had three hits over seven innings off Prda. Stone picked up the loss in the circle, as she pitched two innings, allowed four runs on four hits, walked two, and struck out two. Stuart pitched four

innings, allowed five runs (two earned) on seven hits, struck out three and walked two.

“It was a tough series,” Belton head coach Morgan Birkel said. “The team battled through adversity against a good Crandall squad.”

The Tigers’ 2025 campaign ends with 18-16 record and a bi-district play-off appearance. The series was the final games of the high school careers of Iris Molina, Hailey Schutz, Madison Bowling, and Jacklyn Munoz.



## FISHING REPORT

### Belton Lake

FAIR. Water stained; 67 degrees; 3.32 feet below pool. The annual threadfin shad spawn has now become very consistent and will typically remain so through about the third week of May. With so much forage consistently shallow the gamefish have moved shallower as well. Most morning action is taking place from the bank to 25 feet on areas impacted by overnight winds. Live bait will have an edge to catch white bass and hybrids over artificial presentations until the shad spawn begins to weaken. Fish found on sonar will typically not remain in one location very long as bait and fish move rapidly thanks to increasing metabolism as the spring season moves on. Fishing large, four inches or longer, live shad will help select for hybrid stripers, and keep smaller white bass at bay. Smaller baits will ensure more action, but for smaller fish, including white bass and blue catfish. Cut, fresh, dead shad is also an option when fishing gets tougher after cold fronts and during calm winds. Those gamefish spotted feeding on shad on the surface in the first hour of the day and or under cloudy skies, can be sight-cast to. The MAL Original or MAL Heavy with silver blade and chartreuse tail are just the ticket for this scenario. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish remain excellent with a consistent bite. Anglers should search for blue catfish in river channels and around ledges in 20-30 feet of water. Larger cut baits have been effective for trophy size fish. Slow drifting with small cut shad along sand flats will produce eater fish under 10 pounds. Channel catfish are fair but can still be caught on warmer days using punch bait in 15-25 feet of water. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

### Stillhouse

GOOD. Water stained; 67 degrees; 4.26 feet below pool. The annual white bass spawn has almost completely run its course, and the annual threadfin shad spawn is now well underway. These coinciding events bring white bass into shallow water to feed on spawning shad most mornings on slow tapering wind blown topographies. With the clear water, these fish quickly move to the 20-25 foot mark after the direct sun rays strike the water shortly after sunrise. In shallow water, the MAL Original works very well to imitate spawning adult shad. Once the fish move out deeper, the silver, three-quarter ounce Bladed Hazy Eye Slab has been the ticket to later morning fish. Dropping the slab to the bottom and cranking it smoothly and consistently 5 to 6 turns up off the bottom while observing for fish response on 2-D sonar or forward facing soar is the key to getting bit consistently. Largemouth bass are now consistently in 8-14 feet of water, especially on topographic irregularities with some form of cover present. Dark, small, naturally-colored soft plastics worked with Texas rigs or Carolina rigs are consistent producers here. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.



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LEGALS

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. ESTATE OF MARTHA SUSAN WARNECKE, c/o: TIMM ALLEN WHITE, P.O. Box 1941, Temple, Texas 76503, DATED April 22, 2025.

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

05.01

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JEANETTE WELLS MUNDELL, Deceased, were issued on April 21, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00225, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: LORI MICHELLE GONZALES.

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 JEANETTE WELLS MUNDELL, c/o: LORI MICHELLE GONZALES, P.O. Box 104, Coahoma, Texas 79511 DATED April 22, 2025.

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

05.01

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00277

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

TARA A. HARRY, Applicant, on April 22, 2025, filed an application for declaration of heirship and issuance of letters of dependent administration in a proceeding styled: MARY E. WELCH, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00277 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 May 01, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513. The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: KAREN VILLANUEVA, 2106 BIRD CREEK DR, TEMPLE TX 76502

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

LEGALS

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 22, 2025.

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

By: Sophia Nieto Deputy

05.01

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Morgan’s Point Resort Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on May 6, 2025 at 4:00 PM at Event Center, 60 Morgan’s Point Blvd, Morgan’s Point Resort TX 76513 to consider a request for a variance to expand the current fence out 15 feet past the front of the home located at 15 Golden Poppy Lp, Morgan’s Point Resort TX 76513: Section 20 Amended (L27-28,B2), Block 002, Lot(s) 0060 & 0026 - Bell Cad Parcel ID 499985.

Following the Planning and Zoning Commission’s review, the request will be forwarded to the City Council for final consideration at a separate hearing on May 13, 2025, at 6:00PM, at Event Center, 60 Morgan’s Point Blvd, Morgan’s Point Resort TX 76513.

The request is made by Penny Englelking/Karl Weuste for the purpose of creating more space.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and express their views. Written comments may be submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission at 8 Morgan’s Point Blvd, Morgan’s Point Resort TX 76513 before the hearing.

For more information, contact Camille Bowser at 254-742-3026 or camille.bowser@mprtx.us.

04.27,05.01

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION - CIVIL  
CAUSE NO. 25DCV353242

To

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF J.Z. MILLER, JR.

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MARY MILLER

Greetings:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL PETITION at or before 10 o’clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o’clock AM, before the Honorable 146th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL PETITION was filed in said court on April 15, 2025.

The file number of said suit being No. 25DCV353242. The names of the parties in said suit are:

HEART O’ TEXAS COUNCIL OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA VS. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF J.Z. MILLER, JR.,THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MARY MILLER

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:

LEGALS

This lawsuit concerns restrictions placed on the sale of real property located in Bell County, Texas, more particularly described below. In the deed transferring the property to Heart O’ Texas Council of the Boy Scouts of America in 1932, the transferor put restrictions on the future transfer of the property that acts as a complete restraint on alienation. Plaintiff seeks a declaratory judgment from the Court holding that such restrictions constitute a violation of Texas law. The property at issue is described by the following:

Beginning at the South West corner of a certain tract of land conveyed by J. D. Blair to Spencer and Culpepper by deed dated Dec. 2, 1851, and recorded in Book E, Page 272 Deed Records of Bell County, Texas, this point is located s. 19 W, 168 vrs from the South West corner of the Robt. Childers Will Tract: Thence with the above tract S. 71 E. 67 vrs to corner on the West bank of Spring Branch; Thence N. 52, 30 E. 151.8 vrs to point called for as a sycamore stump on the West boundary of Branch; Thence S. 8 E. 50 vrs Thence N 65 E. 40 vrs; Thence N. 10 W 13 vrs to corner in the South line of a tract from Blair to Blair and Barney by deed recorded in Book G. Page 710 Deed Records Bell County, Texas; Thence S. 71 E. 53 vrs to stake or iron pin in the middle of Belton-Georgetown road; Thence with the middle of said road S. 25-30 W. 176.4 vrs, S. 15-30 W. 488 vrs and S. 10 W. 360 vrs to the North side of gravel road; Thence E. 71 30 W. with North side of road 326.3 vrs corner in E. L. Proctor and Pierce land; Thence N. 19 E. 607 vrs L. O. Stump, an Elm bears West 1 vara; Thence N. 71 W. 100 vrs; Thence N. 19 E.100 vrs; Thence S.71 E. 40 vrs; Thence N 19 E. 92 vrs; Thence S. 71 E. 60 vrs; Thence N. 19 E. 108 vrs to the place of beginning containing.- Fifty (50) acres of land.

This was issued at the request of attorney: JAY B. NEWTON, BOURLAND WALL & WENZEL PC, 301 COMMERCE STREET SUITE 2500, FORT WORTH TX 76102.

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on April 28, 2025.

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

By: M Cortez, Deputy

05.01,05.08,05.15,05.22



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## Activities & Events

### Newcomers Club Activities

#### MAY

05/01: Dominoes	05/16: Trailblazers Walking Group
05/05: Chat 'N' Canasta	05/17: Exploring Wines
05/06: Footloose Singles	05/19: Well-Read Women; Snack
05/07: Monthly Luncheon; Popcorn Bridge	Time Mahjong
05/08: 42 Dominoes	05/20: Bunco
05/09: TGIF	05/21: Popcorn Bridge
05/10: Couples Night Out	05/22: 42 Dominoes
05/12: Bookworms	05/26: Monday Canasta
05/13: Singing Bluebonnets	05/27: Singing Bluebonnets
05/15: Nonfiction Book Club; 42 Dominoes	05/28: Crochet and Knit; Fun Lunch
	05/29: 42 Dominoes
	05/31: Jimmy's Egg

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

### CAC announces 2025 concert lineups

The Cultural Activities Center in Temple has announced lineups for its two premier music series, and visiting bands will include Los Lonely Boys, Asleep at the Wheel and the wildly popular Shinyribs. 2025 will usher in new music in both the Texas Music Series and the Central Texas Orchestral Society's Classical Music Series. Some old friends will be making return engagements in Temple, and many new performers also will be playing the CAC stage. For more information, please visit <https://www.cacarts.org/events>. Be on the lookout for the full 2025 Texas Music Series lineup in next weeks edition of the newspaper.

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

#### SHAWN COLVIN — May 16

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

#### RUTHIE FOSTER JAZZ BAND — July 12

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

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

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

#### ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL — Nov. 8

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

#### SHINYRIBS — Dec. 6

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

#### Bell County Master Gardeners Association's Herb Interest Study Group Round Table Discussion: Lemon Balm - May 8

The purpose is for all persons with this interest to pursue greater knowledge of each and every herb (defined as any plant with a use in addition to its beauty). The Coordinator arranges for the meetings and the topics, with all others expected to lead, in turn, on one or more topics, while the rest research the topic and share what they've learned at our meetings. Attendees are encouraged to bring for sharing edibles with the culinary herb to be studied as one of the ingredients, and/or a specimen plant if one is already growing the herb, and/or a photograph, and/or craft project and/or medicinal and/or cosmetic concoction. Socializing starts at 6:00 p.m. and the study promptly starts at 6:15 p.m. at 1605 N. Main Street, Belton. Attendees take turns sharing researched information (including chemical properties, growth habit, harvesting, etc.) on one or more topics, announced well in advance by the Coordinator, each session led by one or more volunteers. This meeting is open to Master Gardeners, MG Interns, and the general public. Class limit, 50. Please Register at [bcmga-speakers@gmail.com](mailto:bcmga-speakers@gmail.com) by May 5th to secure your spot. Registration is not required but is desired to ensure we have enough materials and seats available.

#### Let's Talk About Herbs – A Four-Part Seminar Series - May 10

Step into the fragrant, flavorful world of herbs with our new seminar series, Let's Talk About Herbs. Hosted at the Extension Office Grounds in the Oak Grove area (next to the BCMGA Learning Center), on May 10 th 9:00a.m. 1605 N. Main Street, Belton. This four-part series invites you to dive deeper into how herbs can enhance your kitchen, garden, and daily life. Each session—lasting up to two hours—will feature focused conversations on growing herbs, using them in everyday cooking, preserving their freshness, and exploring creative ways to incorporate them into meals. We'll share recipes, swap gardening know-how, and learn from each other in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Whether you're curious about starting your own herb garden, looking for fresh cooking inspiration, or simply enjoy connecting with like-minded folks, this series is for you. Come to one session or join them all—there's always more to discover when we talk about herbs. Let's grow, cook, and learn—together.

**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 come join other history minded folks and get involved by serving on one of our committees that consist of preservation, cemetery, markers and education. To volunteer or for more information please visit [historical-commission@bellcounty.texas.gov](mailto:historical-commission@bellcounty.texas.gov), call 254-933-5917 or go by their office located in the historic Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave., RM 117.

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

**Bell Fine Arts Visitors** welcome Wednesday's from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 306 E 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 tell 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.eccommunicator.net/edu/beltonisd/login\\_form.aspx?app=0](https://beltonisd.eccommunicator.net/edu/beltonisd/login_form.aspx?app=0).

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

## Community Information

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**First Christian Church of Belton**  
306 E. Fifth Ave. ~ 254.654.5096

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

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

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

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

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

**Freedom Bible Fellowship**  
3087 W. Ave. D ~ 254.933-3310

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church**  
2378 FM 1670 ~ 254.939.6446

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

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

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

**TEMPLE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Foundation Church**  
10751 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Vista Community Church**  
7051 Stonehollow Dr. ~ 254.774.7992

**Wildwood Baptist Church**  
5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

**SURROUNDING AREA**

**Central Union Church of Christ**  
Nolanville

100 W. Avenue G ~ 254-698-0313

**Little River United Methodist Church**  
104 N Kings Tr. ~ 254.982.4767

**Little Rivers Freedom Road Fellowship**  
1406 W. Church St. ~ 512.595.1886

**Salado United Methodist Church**  
650 Royal St. ~ 254.947.5482

# The True Meaning of Leadership: Straight from the Savior



**John Perry**

I hope everyone had a joyous and meaningful Easter. Mine was wonderful, aside from my little “hiccup” at the Good Friday service. If you’re scratching your head wondering what I’m talking about, you might want to check out last week’s column.

As the Easter season winds down, two things have really caught my attention. First, I came across a letter to the editor in another local newspaper where the writer dismissed Easter as nothing more than

a pagan holiday. Well, “bless his heart,” as my mother used to say. He couldn’t be more mistaken. Easter isn’t about bunnies, baskets, or brightly colored eggs, it’s about the cornerstone of our faith, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. To me, it’s the most significant religious holiday, a day filled with hope and renewal. I’ll be praying for this man, and I invite you to join me in lifting him up as well.

The second thing that struck me was a social media post that read: “Sometimes I joke about what I’d do if I had only one day left to live—eat junk food, go wild, etc. But today it hit me: Jesus knew. And He washed feet. He washed feet!” That thought stopped me in my tracks. Let’s take a moment to reflect on it.

These days, washing feet isn’t considered

a particularly significant act. But in Jesus’ time, it was essential, more than just hygiene, it was a necessity. Imagine the dusty roads of ancient Israel, no paved streets, only dirt paths. Footwear? Either simple sandals or bare feet. Stepping into someone’s home meant washing off the grime first, and many households kept bowls of water by the door for this purpose, water that had to be carried by hand from a well.

However, washing someone else’s feet wasn’t just a practical act; it was a task usually reserved for servants, an act of humility, a gesture of deference. Yet, as recorded in John 13:1-17, Jesus willingly knelt before His disciples and washed their feet. This was just days before His arrest and crucifixion, fully aware of the

agony ahead, He chose to serve. He told His disciples: “No servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” (John 13:16-17) In doing so, Jesus redefined leadership. True leadership isn’t about status, recognition, or being waited upon, it’s about humbling oneself and serving others.

For Christians Easter is a time of celebration, remembrance, and reflection, a moment to recognize the life Jesus led, the example He set, and the promise He gave us of eternal life. So, as we move beyond Easter, let us all carry its message forward, living each day in service, humility, and faith. God bless each of you!

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CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to reading. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 20 = A)

A. 26 25 25 7 15 20 8 7

Clue: Holds place

B. 23 20 9 3 2

Clue: Sheets of paper

C. 10 21 20 8 20 10 13 3 8

Clue: Person in book

D. 11 17 10 13 17 25 6

Clue: Invented or untrue

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to books.

TSXTE

Answer: Texts

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born on May 31, 1965 in New York. I began modeling as an infant and continued through childhood. Modeling turned into an acting career, and my feature film debut was in a horror film. My second and third films caused controversy for risqué content considering my young age.

Answer: Brooke Shields

CAUGHT READING WORD SEARCH

P	Y	D	O	S	R	O	H	T	U	A	B	V	W	O	R	R	O	B	T
M	W	T	P	B	C	X	F	O	O	A	G	M	Y	R	K	A	K	V	I
R	F	I	S	B	E	A	K	O	N	B	X	C	W	R	B	N	N	O	E
N	N	Y	H	P	A	R	U	G	O	I	L	B	I	B	X	A	O	I	B
E	O	S	A	B	A	R	U	L	B	E	G	R	G	V	Y	S	R	O	L
O	T	I	G	T	P	Y	E	A	C	Y	R	V	E	E	V	T	B	K	S
A	A	H	T	G	Y	P	D	D	A	E	M	L	V	N	S	P	I	I	S
B	K	P	X	C	D	L	B	P	L	V	K	L	F	K	R	L	T	P	L
H	B	V	P	P	I	V	N	L	O	P	E	G	O	S	L	E	B	V	I
A	V	I	S	E	P	F	E	S	D	H	R	O	N	U	I	F	A	N	U
R	N	P	N	B	N	T	N	V	S	R	B	K	S	I	F	Y	T	X	O
D	K	X	V	D	Y	D	O	O	S	E	R	H	T	N	A	D	E	R	G
C	T	H	B	R	I	I	I	T	N	O	R	O	B	V	R	A	M	L	N
O	T	F	O	G	D	N	P	X	S	A	I	P	A	E	E	G	E	D	O
V	V	T	D	U	F	A	G	K	T	T	E	L	S	G	D	C	S	R	E
E	S	Y	A	R	H	R	I	I	T	E	T	A	Y	A	P	W	I	G	
R	D	X	A	C	H	M	O	D	E	H	T	V	U	F	E	A	M	A	A
I	Y	W	Y	R	F	N	E	B	O	V	M	O	H	A	R	N	Y	C	P
T	M	O	H	C	U	T	T	T	N	N	E	T	Y	G	E	H	Y	W	F
D	N	G	X	N	O	I	T	A	N	I	G	A	M	I	M	O	K	E	N

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

WORDS

APPENDIX  
AUDIO  
AUTHOR  
BIBLIOGRAPHY  
BINDING  
BLURB  
BOOKS  
BOOKSTORE  
BORROW  
CHAPTER  
EDITION  
E-READER  
GENRE  
HARDCOVER  
ILLUSTRATION  
IMAGINATION  
INTEREST  
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