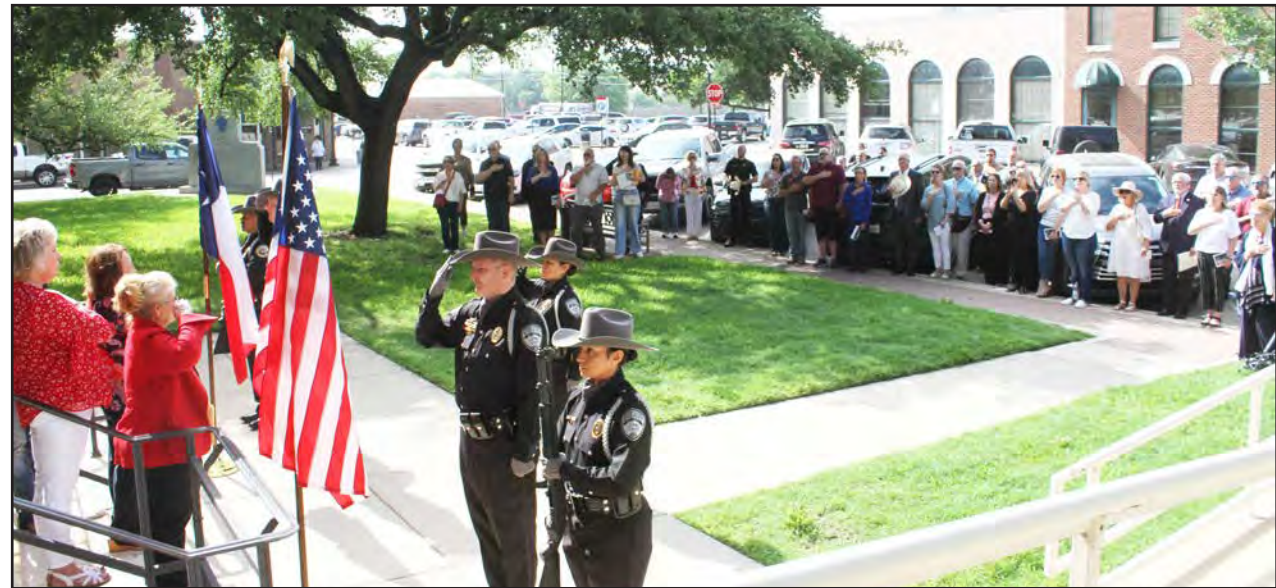


National Day of Prayer observed in Belton



BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOCTEZUMA
Participants watch as the colors are presented during the National Day of Prayer on May 1 outside the Bell County courthouse.

By **Daniel Moctezuma**
The Belton Journal

Under clear skies and the shade of the courthouse oaks, Belton residents took part in a prayer gathering for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 1.

Hosted by the Central Texas Republican Women, the event featured worship music, scripture readings, proclamations, and time for collective prayer. This year's theme was "Pour Out to the God of Hope and Be Filled," based on Romans 15:13.

"We're very thankful to be able to host this and offer it as a gift to the community," said Janet Brown, president of Central Texas Republican Women. "This year we were glad to expand it by including worship music from Rebecca Martin and having our members take part in the national prayer."

Rebecca Martin, a vocalist and guitarist, led worship with songs such as "Build Your Kingdom Here," "Goodness of God," and "How Great

Thou Art."

"I believe that music moves people's hearts," Martin said. "It's a great way to bring a message. Most importantly, I want people to know that God reigns above everything."

Kathleen Brown followed with a performance of "God Bless America," and local elected officials and leaders participated in the reading of proclamations. Zenia Warren, president of the Texas Federation of Republican Women, read Governor Greg Abbott's proclamation declaring May 1 a day of prayer in Texas. Bell County Judge David Blackburn presented the county's proclamation, drawing from historical references that connected the day to early colonial calls for national repentance and unity.

The Central Texas Republican Women invited several members to lead the official National Prayer, including Rebecca Tong, Natalie Austin, Lisa Colegrove Copeland, Wanita Reeder, Asha Petrich, and Heather Bounds.

The prayer called for unity and

spiritual renewal in all sectors of society, including government, church, family, education, media, business, military, and the arts.

"We want to bridge to our community and have conversations—faith conversations," Brown said. "We're hoping to build bridges, not fences."

Cindy Cox, a member of the Central Texas Republican Women and a participant in a neighborhood Bible study group, said her group chose to attend the observance in place of their usual meeting.

"We're privileged to live in a country where we have the freedom to celebrate prayer," Cox said. "It's wonderful to see support from the different local leaders."

Brown said hosting the observance at the courthouse made it accessible for the public and emphasized its symbolic role as a community center.

"Everyone knows where the courthouse is," she said. "God graced us with sunshine this morning. It's always beautiful weather for the National Day of Prayer."



Courtesy Photo
A parade to honor police officers is set for Saturday, May 10, at 10 a.m. that starts at IH-35 and Shanklin Road and ends at the Fallen Officer statue at the Bell County Justice Center.

Parade to honor police set for Saturday

Special to the Journal

There will be a Horse, Car, and Flag Parade to honor local police officers for National Police Week on Saturday, May 10, starting at 10 a.m.

Horse and mule riders, car drivers, pedestrians, bike and motorcycle riders, wagon pullers, stroller pushers, roller skaters, are welcome to stroll.

The parade will start from IH-35 and Shanklin Road and proceed to the Bell County Justice Center, and end at the Fallen Officer Statue at the Bell County Justice Center on Loop 121.

The parade starts from the northeast corner of Shanklin Road Bridge,

then proceed north on the Frontage Road to the Highway 121 bridge where it will cross over IH35, and proceed on Highway 121, the Officer John Rhoden Memorial Highway, turn right onto South Connell Street, proceed north to Huey Drive and then turn left to the Bell County Justice Center, 1201 Huey Dr.

There is plenty of room to park horse trailers on the service road parallel to the Frontage Rd of IH35 at Shanklin Rd & IH35 for those who would like to ride the entire route.

Another option is to park at the Cadence Bank Parking Lot across from the gas station at Connell

See POLICE, Page A4

Council, school board seats decided, voters pass Prop A

By **Lynette Sowell**
The Belton Journal

Three Belton City Council seats were decided in the May 3 election.

Daniel Bucher was elected to a third term for Place 5, receiving 447

votes to challenger Ty Taggart's 386 votes.

Luke Neale Potts landed the Place 6 seat, receiving 542 votes over Clinton Bailey, who received 320 votes. Potts replaces Wayne Carpenter, who did not seek reelection.

Stephanie O'Banion was unopposed for Place 7 and was reelected to her second term.

The Special Called Election for Proposition A was approved by voters to amend the city's charter

regarding the Municipal Court. This passed easily, 700-128.

This changes Belton's Municipal Court to a Court of Record where proceedings are recorded and cases with procedural concerns may be appealed. In

addition, the amendment creates fixed terms of two or four years for City of Belton municipal judges.

For the Belton Independent School District board of trustees, there was only one opposing race, for Area 3.

In that race, Riley Beck received 88 votes and Suzanne M. McDonald received 78 votes.

Area 1 candidate Jeff Norwood and Area 5 candidate Manuel Alcozer both filed and were unopposed.

Lakewood Elementary named Capturing Kids' Hearts® National Showcase School

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Courtesy Photo
Staff and students at Lakewood Elementary interact during an activity. The BISD campus was recently named a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School for the second year in a row.

Special to the Journal

For the second year in a row, Lakewood Elementary has been honored as a Capturing Kids' Hearts® National Showcase School—a prestigious recognition awarded to campuses that excel in creating safe, supportive and engaging learning environments.

The award highlights schools across the country that are making a measurable impact on student achievement and school culture through relational, student-centered practices. At Lakewood, staff have embraced the Capturing Kids' Hearts® Process to build strong relationships and create a positive cli-

mate where students feel connected and supported.

"This recognition is a tribute to the heart and dedication our staff pours into our students every day," said Christy Chandler, principal of Lakewood Elementary. "At Lakewood, we believe relationships are the foundation for learning and our team works hard to ensure each and every child feels known, supported, and loved."

Schools selected as National Showcase Schools are evaluated through survey feedback, campus observations and performance data

See HEARTS, Page A3

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Will Yuengel Selected as New Belton ISD DAEP Principal

Special to the Journal

Belton ISD recently announced the appointment of Will Yuengel as the new principal for the District Alternative Education Program (DAEP). Yuengel has served as the DAEP Interim Principal since March 2025 and was previously the DAEP Assistant Principal beginning in August 2022.



Will Yuengel

He succeeds Sandy Garrett, who served in

the role for six years before accepting another position within the district. “Will Yuengel’s commitment to creating a safe, supportive learning environment and his strong focus on student success make him the ideal choice to lead DAEP into its next chapter,” said Belton ISD Executive Director of Campus Leadership

for Secondary Campuses, Ben Smith. “His leadership experience and dedication to helping students grow academically, socially and emotionally will continue to strengthen the important work happening on campus.” Yuengel brings nearly 15 years of experience in education to the role. He holds a master’s degree in Educational Administration from Con-

cordia University and a bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from Baylor University. His career in education has included roles as an assistant principal, instructional specialist, lead math teacher and math instructor. In addition to his campus leadership, Yuengel has served as a new teacher mentor, UIL academic coach and president of a campus advisory com-

mittee. Belton ISD’s DAEP provides students with opportunities for academic success, character development and personal growth through an alternative setting that emphasizes respect, responsibility and readiness for future success. Yuengel will officially begin his new role as DAEP Principal on Monday, July 7, 2025.

My Giving Tree named finalist for prestigious 2025 Retailer Excellence Award

Special to the Journal

My Giving Tree Gift Shop & Art Gallery, located in downtown Belton, recently announced that it has been selected as one of 24 national finalists—and one of only three in its category—for the 2025 Retailer Excellence Awards (REA), hosted by Gifts & Decorative Accessories. Chosen from thousands of gift shops across the United States, My Giving Tree has been recognized for its creativity, dedication, and outstanding contributions to the retail industry. The REA Awards, now in their 73rd year, are the most longstanding and respected honors in the gift and home industry, celebrating independent retailers who demonstrate excellence

in everything from visual merchandising to community engagement. The winners in seven distinct categories will be revealed during the Retailer Excellence Awards Dinner and Gala on June 18, 2025, at the historic Union Station in Dallas, Texas. Owner Leila Valchar shared her excitement, stating, “It is such an incredible honor to be selected among the top retailers in the country. This recognition reflects the heart and soul we pour into our shop and our community every single day. I am truly looking forward to the awards ceremony and celebrating alongside so many inspiring retailers.” For more information about My Giving Tree, visit www.shopmygivingtree.com.



Courtesy Photo

My Giving Tree Gift Shop & Art Gallery in downtown Belton was named as one of 24 finalists nationwide for the 2025 Retailer Excellence Awards (REA), hosted by Gifts & Decorative Accessories.

Tiny Business Village location to be discussed at May 13 MPR Council meeting

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Plans for a tiny business village in Morgan’s Point Resort continue to move forward — the town’s Economic Development Corporation has found a suitable location for the project and will address the City Council about the city-owned spot at May’s meeting. “We have finished our research on the village and have decided that city property next to the safety center is the only location that would work for our project,” said Linda Bridges, EDC president. “I’ll be asking formally for permission to use city property along Lake Forest Drive at the May 13 Council meeting,” she said. “We’ll see how that goes, especially with a new Council in place.” Bridges said the EDC conducted a poll via Facebook and received responses from more than 200 people. “Fifty-five percent like the idea of a Tiny Business Village, 19 percent needed more information and only 8 percent were not so keen on the idea,” Bridges said. “We received quite a few comments — mostly positive — but

there were quite a few ‘fix the roads first’ comments.” “I explained that EDC sales tax is not allowed for basic road repair,” she said. “I would love to see Morgan’s Point Resort hold regular Local Government 101 classes similar to what they do in Salado. People might not like why the city makes certain decisions, but at least they would understand the ‘why.’” The Tiny Business Village would consist of six retail shops, a stage, picnic tables and gravel walkways. “Our EDC has the idea of creating a place to gather to boost the city’s economy,” Bridges said. Bridges said the six village chalets with retail establishments could be open 24/7 if they wish. “Plus, on weekends we would allow pop-up tents and food trucks,” she added. “We could always anchor the village with art and live music.” Bridges explained that the village chalets would not serve as a permanent home for businesses but as a temporary home before they opened a brick-and-mortar location. The businesses likely would have a six-month season and they would be required to be open at least three days a

week. “We would love to locate the village on Lake Forest Drive,” she said. “The structures would have electricity and air conditioning, but there isn’t sewer service at those locations so we likely would start with port-a-potties.” “I’d love to see a great food truck commit to Morgan’s Point Resort, or maybe a local winery or brewery open a satellite location here,” Bridges said. “Our residents want this — they want some sort of activity in town.” Bridges estimates that the project would cost about \$100,000. “The buildings will cost between \$8,000 and \$10,000 each, and we hope to have six. We also would need to bring in electricity, build a stage and tables, and have some sort of parking lot.” She said the village could be expanded later on. “The village would be owned by the city, and most likely the EDC would operate it,” Bridges added. “We would lease the structures out, and start a business association to pay for maintenance and landscaping.”



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OBITUARIES

Hardy

Fetina Gail (Wiley) Hardy
May 3, 1971 –
May 1, 2025

Fetina Gail Hardy, 53 passed away on May 1, 2025 at Scott and White in Temple, TX.
Born on May 3, 1971 in Temple, TX, she grew up in Troy, TX and graduated from Troy High School.
She is preceded in death by her dad, William Wiley.
She is survived by her mom, Elsie Wiley, son Eric Hardy of Troy, daughter Kaitlyn Sengsoursack and granddaughter Ana Sengsoursack of Troy. Two brothers, Rick Chandler and wife Michelle of Troy and Willie Chandler and wife Christina of Troy. Numerous nephews, great nephews, nieces and great nieces. No service is planned.
Hewett-Arney Funeral Home of Temple is entrusted with these arrangements.

Garcia

Rosa Delgado Garcia
August 14, 1939 —
April 29, 2025

Rosa Delgado Garcia, 85, was born on August 14, 1939, in the hispanic barrio of South 6th Street in Temple, TX to Ascencion Delgado and Refugio Jimenez. She passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at a local hospital in Temple, Texas. A beloved figure among family and friends, Rosa’s legacy is one marked by love, compassion, and an unwavering dedication to those around her.
Rosa’s life was characterized by her deep roots in the Temple community, where she spent her days working, nurturing relationships, and finding joy in the simple pleasures of life. She married Jesse Garcia Sr on January 21, 1961 at the old church of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A devoted wife and mother to Frank, Jesse Jr, Debbie, Sunday, Joe and Ruthanne, She cared for her family deeply and unconditionally. When her family needed help, she gave

of herself unselfishly. Rosa was a homemaker but also worked as a caregiver for the elderly and served with compassion and dignity. Her hobbies and interests included reading her Bible working in her garden reading books, magazines and going to garage sales. She was known for her remarkable strength and warm spirit, qualities that endeared her to many. Rosa had an innate ability to brighten the lives of those she met, and her laughter often resonated through the hearts of her loved ones.
She is preceded in death by her parents; Ascencion and Refugio Delgado, her beloved husband of 62 years, Jesse Garcia, Sr; two brothers, Ascension Delgado Jr., and Juanito Delgado; one sister, Paula Delgado.
Survivors include her four sons, Frank Ontiveros, Jesse Jr., and wife Myrza Garcia, Sunday Garcia, Joe Garcia; two daughters, Debbie Garcia, Ruthanne and husband Jason, two brothers, David Delgado and Ricky Delgado; two sisters, Ester Delgado Suiter, and Becky Castaneda, twenty-one grandchildren, forty-two great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren and one on the way, along with her cherished “Puppy Dog”

The celebration of Rosa’s life will begin with a Visitation on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center in Temple, Texas, starting at 5:00 PM. This will be followed by recitation of the rosary at 6:00 pm. A Mass in her honor will be held on Friday, May 9, 2025, at Our Lady of Guadalupe, commencing at 10:00 AM, followed by a burial service at Hillcrest Cemetery at 11:30 AM. The day will conclude with a gathering at Our Lady of Guadalupe from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, where those whose lives were touched by Rosa can come together to share memories and celebrate her enduring impact.
Rosa is cherished by all who knew her and will be profoundly missed. As we reflect on her life, we are reminded of the love and kindness she shared, a legacy that will continue to inspire us in the years to come.
Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center



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Private water well screenings set for Nolanville on May 12-13

Special to the Journal

The Texas Well Owner Network, TWON, and Lone Star Healthy Streams, LSHS, will host water screening and education events in Nolanville on May 12-13.
Residents and well owners can have their well water screened and receive educational training in groundwater and surface water protection.
Water samples will be screened for contaminants, including total coliform bacteria, E. coli, nitrate-nitrogen, arsenic and salinity.

“The TWON program was established to help well owners become familiar with Texas groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance and construction, and water quality and treatment,” said Joel Pigg, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program specialist and TWON coordinator, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Bryan-College Station.
The Lone Star Healthy Streams program reviews surface water quality, resources and land management recommendations,

Pigg said.
The Texas Well Owner Network program is designed for Texas residents who rely on household wells for their water needs, and Lone Star Healthy Streams offers education and awareness about surface water pollution originating from livestock, wildlife, and feral hogs, he added.
Area residents can drop off water samples from 8:30-10:30 a.m. on May 12 at the Nolanville City Hall, 101 N. 5th St.
The results meeting will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. on May 13 at the

Smart Museum in Nolanville, 408 N. 10th St.
Residents who want to have their well water tested should pick up a sample bag, bottles and instructions from the Nolanville City Hall before the event. Each sample costs \$15, and residents may submit multiple
See WATER, Page A5

Hearts - From Page A1

that reflect growth in student engagement, achievement and overall campus culture.
Belton ISD is proud of Lakewood Elementary’s continued commitment to transforming lives through connection, compassion and a culture of excellence.
“Lakewood’s back-to-back recogni-

tion is a powerful example of what happens when educators lead with heart,” said Dr. Malinda Golden, superintendent of Belton ISD. “Their campus culture is a reflection of our district’s core values—and I’m so proud of the way they model what it means to build relationships that support student success.”

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Gill wins honorable mention at CTC student art show

"I actually love my job! I can't believe I get paid to do this. I get to be creative. I get to lay things out. I'm actually using my degree. I get to come to work at The Belton Journal and do this. Every day is really exciting for me," said Gill.

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EDITORIAL

Random Thinks for the Week

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Have you noticed that some exercise commercials must be filmed in the desert because the people exercising aren't sweating that much, even though they are using a towel. If you did the amount of activities they are showing in the commercials here in this humidity you would look like you were taking a shower there would be so much sweat pouring off you. Usually tugging on my mower trying to get it to start gets me sweating a lot more than these actors!

Speaking of misleading ads, I saw a photo of a man and woman recently. The intent was to show them finishing a long run. The thing that was wrong with the image was that they were both smiling. If you ever watch a marathon race, even the people finishing in record time don't look happy. They look like they are trying to keep from barfing on live TV.

Even young elephants look old. I mean, you are one day old and you are just a small version of your parents and grandparents, and every other old elephant. Of course there are some cool things about being an elephant; you could be twenty feet under water and still breathe.

By the way, does anyone know what Rand and McNally are doing these days? I mean, when was the last time you saw someone under forty looking at a map made of paper? Of course, I just bought a real paper map recently because I wanted to see more than just a small portion of an area. I do rely on my GPS or apps on my phone, but I still like to lay out a large map and study the options.

Why can't your tongue just leave things alone? If you get something in between your teeth or something your tongue will meddle until it gets it loose or makes itself sore. I guess it has a mind of its own.

I am sure some of my readers remember when vehicles came without air conditioning and if it was available at all, it was an option for extra money. Now everything bigger than a riding lawn mower has air conditioning. We are so used to being com-

fortable that our cars and trucks not only have heated seats, but they have air-conditioned seats as well. Don't get me wrong, that heated seat is nice the three cold mornings each winter. Some of these vehicles even have a heated steering wheel. That is useless here in Texas. You want something functional, make a cooled steering wheel for when you have to park in the sun in an open parking lot. If you run into the store for milk and eggs on a summer day when you come out, the steering wheel is so hot you can't hold onto it. You start to steer with your pinky fingers on the inner part, not so safe if you think about it.

How come in shows set in small towns there is one barber for the whole town? Exactly how many barbers should a town have? We have quite a few in Belton. Is there some calculation for determining just how many barbers a town is required to have per number of men, men with hair that would be? I recently realized that I am paying more for a haircut now than I ever have in my life, and with less hair to cut to boot, hardly sounds fair.

Who invented corduroy pants, and why? Was that a fashionable style when it was around? They certainly weren't hunting pants.

How come I can get so sleepy at times during the day, like after a big lunch or watching something boring on TV, but no matter how tired I get during the day I get in bed and am wide awake? And why does my mind decide to think about all sorts of insignificant stuff? I could write three columns with what my mind thinks about in just a short amount of time each night, the problem is that it thinks all this stuff then forgets it all by morning. So I am sitting around with a looming deadline and can't remember all the interesting things my mind was going through at bedtime, so I have to make up some random things like this week. Join me again in seven days to see what I can remember from my mind's excursions at bedtime.

Playing nice

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

Robert Fulghum wrote a piece some years ago titled "Everything I needed to know I learned in kindergarten."

It's short but pithy, full of life lessons that we've been taught from an early age. Gems like sharing, playing fair, saying you're sorry when you hurt somebody.

Sometimes we grown-ups think that once we've grown up, those lessons no longer apply to us. We're mature, we're "above" childish stories that are basic life skills.

But these childish reminders still serve us well in our grownup interactions, as we rub shoulders in our various groups. We like to draw circles.

"Our group is here, and your group is there." That works to keep things organized. Being organized is a good thing.

But when those unseen, unwritten lines pull us apart, that's not good. Even in small spaces, lines can create big distances.

People start thinking "my group is the only one that matters or does anything around here." Then little grudges pop up because we don't feel appreciated or worse, someone else stole our thunder.

Really, aren't there enough problems in the world that we can solve together? Maybe it's time to pull up that old childhood adage: play nice.

If there's one cranky child in every sandbox, they'll learn fast that no one wants to play with a grouch.

No one wants to play with a bully, either. Bullies think it's their way or the proverbial highway.

That doesn't sound much like cooperation. Maybe our children have learned bad habits from us, steam-rolling our opinion and agenda over everyone else's. Children aren't born bullies. They learn it from us.

Learning to work together can bring out the best and the worst in us. We quickly learn which battles are worth fighting and which battles are merely deciding what color the tablecloths should be for the community (insert group name here) dinner. It really doesn't matter in the grand scheme of things.

Outsiders come, and that's a good thing. Growth is beautiful. Growth means we're not stagnated. Grown means opportunity.

Just like when someone's a guest at a family dinner for the first time, they can be quick to pick up on any weird family vibes in the air. They can see who doesn't like each other, who's the pet, who's the helper in the background, always working to make everyone's experience a pleasant one. Some guests and outsiders will stay that way or won't come back if they don't see people getting along. I hope we can learn to get along. Sometimes it's swallowing our pride and rolling up our sleeves to ask, "How can I help?"

Like Fulghum said, "When you go out in the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together."



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Water - From Page A3

samples.

"It is essential to use official sample bags and bottles and follow all instructions to ensure accurate results," Pigg said.

Well owners should test their water and attend the follow-up meeting to receive results, learn about corrective actions and improve their knowledge of private well management, Pigg said.

The screenings are presented by AgriLife Extension and the Texas Water Resources Institute.

Funding for TWON and LSHS is through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, visit twon.tamu.edu or lshs.tamu.edu, or contact Pigg at 979-321-5946 or j-pigg@tamu.edu.



Courtesy Photo

The Texas Well Owner Network and Lone Star Healthy Streams will host water screening and education events in Nolanville on May 12-13. Residents and well owners can have their well water screened and receive educational training in groundwater and surface water protection.



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A6
Thursday,
May 8, 2025

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Belton using Music Friendly designation to draw music lovers

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

It's been more than a year since Gov. Greg Abbott announced that Belton had been designated as a Music Friendly Texas Certified Community. And since that designation was achieved, the city has wasted little time in becoming associated with the live music scene.

"Belton does a lot with its music designation," Belton Area City Council president and CEO Randy Pittenger said this week. "As the Chamber and as a Music Friendly Texas city, we do a lot to promote live music in Belton."

"We promote businesses that provide live music, and Belton has many places that frequently have bands," Pittenger said. "We promote them, and we bring a lot of live music events into our community."

Pittenger said the old Courthouse Square in downtown Belton is regularly home to events such as Belton Bacon, Blues & Brews and other events.

There are concerts regularly at the Cadence Bank Center, and many businesses like Schoepf's BBQ, The Gin at Nolan Creek, Level 3, Shadow Lounge, Commonwealth, Scores, Bo's Barn and other locations, he added.

"We put out a newsletter every Friday detail-

ing weekend events and concerts," Pittenger said. Contact the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce for details, or sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/4vd3dyye>.

"We have so much live music here in Belton," he added. "We have live music somewhere almost every night."

In 2016, the Texas Music Office created the Music Friendly Texas Certified Community Program, and since then, the TMO's Music Friendly Texas program has grown into a fully operational network of more than 100 Certified Communities across the state.

With the only standalone State Music Office in the United States, Texas is leading the way in working to support the commercial music ecosystem.

Participation in the TMO's Music Friendly Texas Certified Community Program provides Texas communities with a network for fostering music industry development, and sends a clear message to industry professionals that certified communities are serious about attracting and developing music industry growth.

Being a Music Friendly community could have a big economic impact down the road in the form of a Texas Music Trail.

"In 2018, legislation was passed to create a Texas Music Trail," said Steve Ray, program specialist for



Live music is commonplace at Belton businesses such as Schoepf's BBQ. According to Belton Area Chamber of Commerce President Randy Pittenger, music fans can find a live band almost every night of the week in the city. Belton is a certified Texas Music Friendly Community.

the Texas Music Office. "The purpose is to promote tourism related to the state's musical heritage."

Ray envisions a network of landmarks similar to the Blues Trail in Mississippi. In that state, music history is marked by "Blues Trail" signs that provide information about specific musicians, venues or events connected to an area.

"These trails are big tourist draws," Ray said. "The Crooked Road Heritage Music Trail in Virginia is very popular and has an economic impact of \$9.2 million a year."

In the world of Texas music — last names aren't always necessary. Willie, Janis, Buddy, Selena, Beyonce and Stevie Ray — chances are you can identify with all of these Lone Star legends with a single moniker.

Museums, statues and all sorts of monuments have been erected to these superstars, and deservedly so.

But for every Lyle, Waylon, Meatloaf and Little Joe, there are literally thousands of lesser-known Texans who helped pave the musical highway by playing nightclubs, back

rooms and dance halls across the state.

There are many lesser-known landmarks such as Tom Sefcik Hall in Seaton where countless Central Texas bands and local legend David Zycek paid their dues, and the East Temple garage where Clifford "Boots" Douglas banged on pots and pans until he could afford a real drum set. Boots went on to become the premier jazz bandleader in the South during the 1930s.

According to Ray, a collaborative group in Austin is working hard to bring recognition to these en-

tertainers as well. He said the Texas Music Office has identified about 400 sites of interest and more are added daily.

"This is an ongoing project — one that will be worked on for years," he said. "A person could easily spend their entire life researching Texas music and not finish. One thing leads to another, and research goes on."

Mallory Laurel, a special projects coordinator with the Texas Historical Commission, said the Texas Music Trail is still in the early stages of development.

"This was a state mandated project, but I've been working on other state mandated projects as well," Laurel said. "This has the potential to be a high profile tourist draw, but it needs to be done right," she said. "I hope to really get into it later this summer and hopefully we can launch at least part of the trail within a year."

Like many state projects, the music trail was mandated but not funded. Laurel, Ray and others are working to get money for the project.

"It really could be a huge tourism boost," Laurel said. "We have a lot of music-related sites on historical record, but we hope to utilize the trail as an opportunity to engage with contemporary musicians and venues as well."

Local group holds Forest Church at Miller Springs

By Daniel Motezuma
The Belton Journal

The Central Texas Celtic Spiritual Community met at Miller Springs Park in Temple on Saturday, April 26, for their Forest Church event.

The group set up near the benches by the parking lot, began with a prayer and a short introduction, then walked quietly through the trails and along the river appreciating the scenery.

Stan Simons, a servant leader with the community, talked about the purpose of the morning.

"We come to places of nature to open our hearts and open our senses to nature and to feel the magnificence of creation," Simons said. "We want to see God in nature, hear God in nature, and smell God in nature."

Forest Church is one of the ways the group practices their Celtic Christian faith outside of a traditional setting.

"The important thing about our group is we're not a church. We're a spiritual community," Simons said.

See **CHURCH**,
Page A7



BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOTEZUMA
Sam and Jessica Wilds and Stan Simons stand in front of a Forest Church sign at Miller Springs Park.

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SCAN ME

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Bunni Pounds to keynote Central Texas Republican Women’s May luncheon

Special to the Journal

The Central Texas Republican Women are holding their May monthly networking luncheon on Monday, Monday, May 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Harris Community Center, 401 N. Alexander St.

Keynote speaker is Bunni Pounds, founder of Christians Engaged, and she will share the journey that inspired her to author “Jesus and Politics.”

Luncheon tickets area \$20 and includes a taco bar, dessert, iced tea, and water.

RSVP and pre-pay deadline is May 13 to be included in a Door prize Drawing.

Email RSVP to rsvp-



Bunni Pounds

trw@gmail.com to pay at the door with cash or check or pay by credit card at www.ctrw-pac.com.

Bunni Pounds is the Founder and President of

Christians Engaged and the Vice President of Civic and Church Engagement for the Family Policy Alliance and Family Policy Alliance Foundation, which were founded by Dr. James Dobson.

She is the author of “Jesus and Politics: One Woman’s Walk with God in a Mudslinging Profession”, which was published by Frontline Books/Charisma House and came out nationally in February 2024. She was a political consultant for 16 years, once leading a firm with 32 clients and 9 people in her office. For years, she worked with Members of Congress running their campaigns. She then ran for Congress

in 2018, becoming the only woman to make the Republican runoff ballot in Texas out of six open seats. Christians Engaged has more than 750,000 Christians in their voter mobilization communication system, reaching all 50 states, has had over 2,200 Christians take one of their long-form classes on civics and biblical worldview, and they are strategic ministry partners with over 100 national ministries or local churches. A graduate of Christ for the Nations and Dallas Baptist University, Bunni loves Jesus and loves sharing the gospel with anyone who will listen—from the halls of Congress to her own hometown.

Senior Expo 2025 Summer Kickoff set for May 15

Special to the Journal

The upcoming Senior Expo 2025 Summer Kickoff, scheduled for May 15th from 4-7 p.m. at 475 River Fair Blvd., promises more than just a fun outing — it offers a vital boost to the health and well-being of the local senior community.

Hosted by a network of senior-focused organizations, this free event is designed to connect older adults and their families with crucial wellness resources, preventive health services, and social support.

With offerings such as health screenings, chair massages, snacks, and door prizes, the expo serves both as a health fair and a celebration of active ag-

ing.

“Our goal is to bring the community together and empower seniors with the tools and connections they need to live vibrant, healthy lives,” said a representative from one of the event sponsors. “Events like this help reduce isolation, provide access to valuable services, and create a joyful atmosphere of community connection for all.”

Attendees can explore a vendor fair featuring local healthcare providers, senior living communities, and veteran service organizations. Highlights include booths from providers like Woodland Cottages, Gentiva Hospice, CenterWell Home Health, programs offered by the Belton Police Dept., and many more.

These vendors offer information on everything from home health care and hospice services to financial planning, and senior community support.

With a focus on wellness, accessibility, and community outreach, Senior Expo 2025 is more than just an event—it’s a proactive approach to senior care. Our interactive format encourages visitors to learn, engage, and even indulge in some relaxation, all while forming meaningful connections.

Organizers encourage residents to bring their loved ones and discover the many ways the Belton community is working to support its aging population.

For more information, contact 254-613-4036.

Church - From Page A6

“We welcome everyone, any religion, any political preference, any gender. We welcome all people to come experience nature.”

Sam and Jessica Wilds, who helped start the community, were inspired after a pilgrimage to Scotland and years of studying Celtic spirituality. They teach that Scripture and nature are both ways God speaks to people.

While Forest Church events are common in parts of Europe, Simons said

they are still new to Texas.

“We’re not trying to pull people away from their traditional churches. We’re just offering them a way to be spiritual in what we call the cathedral of Earth, Sea, and Sky, which is where we’re standing,” Simons said.

After their short walk around Miller Springs Park, they returned to the benches and shared what they saw.

Jessica Wilds said being outside often helps people connect with their faith

in a different way.

“There’s something about being out here that just makes you slow down and really notice what’s around you,” Wilds said.

The next Forest Church is planned for May 31 at Miller Springs Nature Center, starting at 9:00 a.m. at the pavilion.

More information can be found at centexcelticspirit.com

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

5 inspirational gifts for Mother's Day

Mother's Day is celebrated on Sunday, May 11, 2025. Mother's Day is devoted to expressing love and showering praise on mothers, step-mothers and any other figure in one's life who has taken on a motherly role.

It is customary to lavish extra praise on moms come Mother's Day, and that often involves gift-giving. The following are five gifts that can ensure Mom knows her efforts and unconditional love have not gone unnoticed.

1. Prompt mindful thinking: The cards from Sunny Present Empowering Questions Cards pose questions to prompt meditation, journaling or simply to practice mindfulness during the day. They are a great way to encourage positive self-talk. Each of the 52 cards feature a door in the Estonian city of Tallinn. Available through Amazon and www.sunnypresent.com.

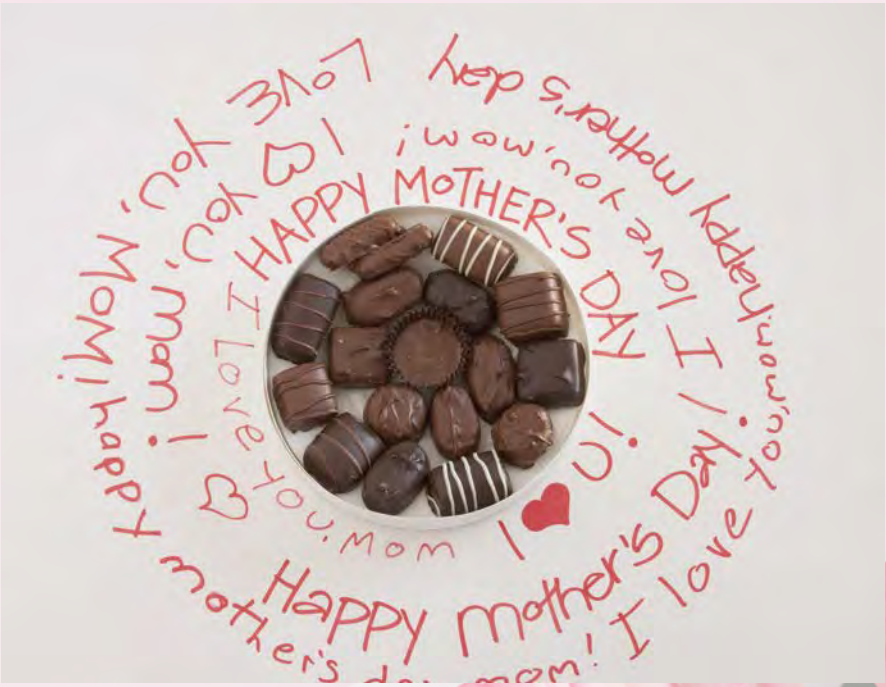
2. Motivational can-do candles: A little aromatherapy can treat any mother to an uplifting or relaxing fragrance in her special place in the home. But these inspirational candles from Bianchi Candle Co. feature names like "bravery," "joy" and "gratitude" and a motivational message. Purchase at bianchicandleco.com.

3. Inspirational coffee table book: Author and educator Natalie Friscia Pancetti wrote, "This Too... Life-Isms to Savor the Sweetness of Life and Calm You Through the Storms" to pay homage to her parents, particularly her father, who was fond of the phrase, "this too shall pass." Pancetti says people often relate the phrase to rough patches in life, but it also can refer to cherishing all the moments that are fleeting. The book offers many inspirational passages and lessons that can be applied to all aspects of life. It can be a touching gift for a mom, grandmother or another special woman. Available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and at www.nataliefrisciapancetti.com.

4. Relaxing home spa experience: Many people have turned their bathrooms into home spas, particularly empty nesters who now have more time to relax and pamper themselves. Spending time in a relaxing shower is a way for Mom to clear her mind and unwind, and Shower Steamers from Body Restore can set the ideal environment. Purchase on Amazon and include alongside additional home spa necessities like loofahs or a bathrobe.

5. Ancestry exploration: Foster greater bonds in the family by giving Mom an opportunity to further trace her heritage. Popular genealogy companies include Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com and 23andme.com, enabling anyone to enjoy a look back at the lineage that helped shape who they are today. These companies can help trace ancestors and even connect people with distant relatives.

Mother's Day gifting can revolve around inspirational and heartfelt gifts that show special mothers how much they are appreciated.





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Domination: Bronco Softball holds West Mesquite hitless

By **Tony Adams**
The Belton Journal

Lake Belton Softball's journey through the Class 5A-Division I playoffs continued Thursday, as the Broncos took on the West Mesquite Wranglers in a best two-of-three series at Hill College in Hillsboro.

The series was delayed by a day due to storms in the area.

The Broncos set the tone for the series from the outset with a 10-run first inning, and Maddison Ruiz and Natalie Hosch combined for a no-hitter in game one and a perfect game in the second game to sweep the Wranglers.

The scores of the doubleheader were 17-0 and 11-0, both games in five innings.

Ruiz struck out the first six batters she faced, tossing 23 pitches in the first two innings, with 18 strikes.

Lake Belton (33-2) began its barrage with bases-loaded walks to Brysen Gott and Ruiz. Alaysha Williams' sacrifice fly scored Madison Naser. Lily Herrera doubled home Maliyah Gooden and Gott, Alexis Ortiz drew a bases-loaded walk, Madison Perkins' two-run single scored Analicia Diaz and Addison Sims, Naser's sacrifice fly scored Ortiz, and Ruiz reached on an error that scored Perkins to give the Broncos a 10-0 lead.

The Broncos added five additional runs in the second inning. A two-run double by Perkins, a pair of RBI doubles from Gott and Sims and an RBI single by Diaz increased Lake's lead to 15-0.

Trista Sheka's sacrifice fly in the fourth and Gott's RBI single in the fifth rounded out the Broncos' scores in the opener.

Lake drew seven walks, was

hit by four pitches, and reached on one error.

Gott led the Broncos with three hits and three runs batted in. Perkins went 2-of-3 with four RBI and three runs scored and Herrera had two runs batted in. Ortiz was 2-of-2 with two walks and two runs scored.

Ruiz picked up the win in the circle. Hosch pitched three innings, allowed one walk, a baserunner on an error, and struck out five.

The Broncos hopped on the scoreboard in the top of the second, with Naser grounding out to score Ortiz and Perkins stealing home during a double-steal.

Ortiz homered over the left-field wall in the third inning, and Ruiz added an RBI single to double the Broncos' lead to 4-0. Ortiz picked up another RBI on a single to left in the fourth.

Lake put the topper on the series in the fifth inning with a bases-loaded walk to Diaz, a three-run triple by Ortiz, and RBI double by Gott.

Hosch pitched four perfect innings with one strikeout and Ruiz ended the series with three strikeouts in the fifth to seal the combined perfect game.

Ortiz went 4-of-4 with five RBI, Gott went 2-of-3 with an RBI, and Ruiz went 3-of-3 with an RBI.

"It was another good test for us," Lake Belton head coach Kelsie McEachern said. "One through nine, we were consistent and were steady in the field. Maddi and Natalie were excellent for us in the circle."

The Broncos will take on Frisco Walnut Grove in the Class 5A-Division 1 Region Semi in a one-game playoff in Alvarado Friday at 7 pm.



Dr. Jack Welch
From the Bleachers

Coaches play a critical role in shaping not only the athletic success of their players but also their personal growth and life outcomes. Their influence extends far beyond wins and losses. Research conducted by scholars at the Harris School of Public Policy analyzed hundreds of seasons of sports data and found that coaches account for 20% to 30% of the variation in team performance. This clearly demonstrates that coaching is not an interchangeable role, despite common assumptions in sports analytics.

In professional sports, coaches influence key performance variables. For instance, Major League Baseball (MLB) managers significantly affect runs allowed, run differentials, and overall victories, having a greater impact on defense than offense. In professional football, coaches influence not only points allowed and point margins but also team discipline, reflected in penalties and fumbles. At the collegiate level, particularly in football and Division I basketball, the coach's impact is even more pronounced, affecting every aspect from points scored and allowed to overall win-loss records.

But beyond stats and scoreboards, coaches serve as mentors and role models. Especially in high school settings, coaches help shape the character of young athletes by instilling core values such as discipline, respect, integrity, sportsmanship, and perseverance. Many coaches find themselves offering life advice, often reminding players, "This is something you will face sooner or later, so be prepared."

However, having a lifelong impact on players is not without its challenges. Whether new to the profession or seasoned with years of experience, coaches encounter recurring obstacles that can make or break their effectiveness:

Setting boundaries: Navigating the balance between being a mentor, a friend, and an authority figure.

Building trust: Creating a safe space where athletes feel heard and respected is critical to fostering growth.

Managing sessions: Keeping practices or meetings focused, especially when players use the time to vent frustrations.

See **WELCH**,
Page B3

Belton fights hard, falls to Corsicana in bi-district final; Krueger announces retirement

By **Tony Adams**
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers baseball team began its playoff season last Thursday as they took on the Corsicana Tigers in the Texas UIL Class 5A-Division bi-district best-of-three series at Bosque River Ballpark at McLennan Community College in Waco.

In a three-game series that was not void of excitement, gamesmanship, and good baseball, Corsicana outlasted Belton in the series, two games to one.

Corsicana took game one, 6-3 in eight innings. Belton won game two 9-7. Corsicana took home to the series-winning game, 10-5.

Belton trailed Corsicana 2-0 in the bottom of the sixth in the opener when Austin Wood walked, and Jacob Quigley doubled to set up Cole Haisler's game-tying triple. Heisler scored on a passed ball during Oakley Torres' at-bat to put Belton up 3-2.

Heisler retired one batter in the top of the seventh before a walk to Josh Portillo and double by Jordan Tamez set up Trenton Bruton's RBI ground out to tie the game at 3-3.

Trey Garcia took over for Heisler on the hill in the eighth inning. He struck out Sean Medrano to start the inning. Gabe Edgar singled, Blake Phillips was hit by a

pitch, and both runners were moved up a base on the sacrifice bunt by Conner Perkins. After an intentional walk to Easton Autrey, Portillo drew a bases-loaded walk to give Corsicana the lead. Phillips scored on a passed ball and Autrey scored on an error to put Corsicana out front, 6-3.

Quigley was hit by a pitch with two outs in the bottom of the eighth, but was stranded on base as Corsicana took the series lead.

Portillo and Tamez each had two hits, and Portillo and Bruton each drove in two runs.

Isaiah Miranda pitched six innings, allowed three runs on two hits, struck out five and walked two. Autrey picked up the win in relief, struck out six, hit a batter, and walked one over two innings.

Heisler pitched seven innings, allowed three runs on six hits, walked six, struck out five, and hit two batters. Garcia took the loss in relief, allowed three runs on one hit, hit one batter, walked three, and struck out one.

Belton jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning of game two, when Garcia's single scored Heisley, and Torres scored on a wild pitch.

Bruton's bases-loaded walk against
See **TIGERS**,
Page B3

Rydberg finishes second in State pole vault competition

By **Clay Whittington**
The Belton Journal

In her final competition, Abigail Rydberg exceeded expectations.

After spending her entire high school career attempting to overcome the odds and place herself among the state's elite pole vaulters, Lake Belton's senior standout accomplished her goal Friday.

Inside of Austin's Mike A. Myers Stadium, Rydberg cleared 12 feet, 0 inches to finish second at the University Interscholastic League Class 5A Track & Field State Championships, emerging with a silver medal after entering tied for the field's sixth highest seed mark.

The ranking did not matter, though.

"I'm super excited," she said. "I'm just glad I did my best finally. I haven't been able to perform at my best, but today, all my hard work paid off."

"The experience of being here before lessened my nerves,

and that really helped as well."

This was Rydberg's third consecutive appearance at state.

As a sophomore, she was seventh with a mark of 11-6, and last year, she replicated the performance, producing the same height and same spot in the final standings.

This time, however, Rydberg would not be denied a medal.

She easily cleared the first two vaults of 10-6 and 11-0 on her first attempts before needing a second try to clear 11-6 and move into the final five.

Three of Rydberg's competitors were eliminated in the following round, and she almost joined them after failing on her first two attempts.

"Each vault," Rydberg said, "I was moving up a pole, so I just kind of trusted it and jumped."

Argyle senior Peyton Berry captured the championship, posting a height of 12-3 on her first attempt, and Rydberg could not match. Gregory-Portland junior Tristen Grimes was third (11-6).

Broncos Baseball silences Red Oak to win bi-district title

By **Tony Adams**
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos baseball team began its Class 5A-Division 1 tournament with a best two-of-three bi-district playoff series against the Red Oak Hawks.

Impressive starting pitching performances from Brandon Holley and Maverik Maddux left the Hawks off balance throughout the series, as Lake Belton won the series by scores of 4-1 and 8-0.

In game one, the Broncos were the visiting team at Red Oak.

Bryce Davis started the Broncos' scoring in the top of the third with a sacrifice fly that scored Rohde Smith.

RJ Hunt singled home Braxtan Cope, and Smith and Hunt scored

on errors to give Lake a 4-0 lead in the fifth.

A bases-loaded ground out by Billy Middleton supplied the Hawks their only run of the game.

Cope, Smith, Hunt, and Zavian Rodriguez supplied Lake the four hits needed for the win.

Holley pitched 6 2/3 innings in the win, allowed one run on six hits, struck out five and walked one. Kellen Scarborough retired the only batter that he faced.

The Broncos struck in the third inning of game two. Hunt doubled home Cole Mikulas, Cameron Bartz's single up the middle scored Hunt, and Rodriguez's fielder's choice scored Bartz to give Broncos a 3-0 lead.

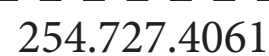
Bartz drove home

See **BRONCOS**,
Page B3

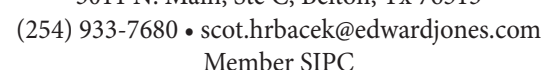


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Originally, 71 alumni with ties as far back as to the school's opening in 1909 were inducted, and over the years, the list has continued to grow.





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John Roach to be enshrined in Wall of Honor

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

John Roach had a lot to prove, and he did. The son of a former Tigers standout grew up with an understanding of exactly what it meant to be a part of Belton’s tradition, and he embraced it. Somewhat undersized for his tackle position along the offensive line, Roach overcame the odds and emerged from the football program as one its most impactful players.

Now, his contributions will never be forgotten as Roach prepares to be inducted into the Belton High School Wall of Honor next weekend, entrenching himself among numerous other elite Belton athletes. It is a fitting accomplishment after spending so much effort thriving in the gridiron’s trenches. The Class of 2024 graduate broke into the starting lineup as a sophomore, and he refused to relinquish the position. As the offensive line’s

anchor, Roach helped the Tigers average 302.4 yards per game and helped pave the way for 11 rushing touchdowns en route to returning to the playoffs for the first time since 2018. One year later, Belton was no longer fighting for postseason berths. Instead, the Tigers were contending for championships. During his final two seasons, Belton collected back-to-back district titles for the first time since repeating in 1974 and 1975. The Tigers went 8-3 in

his junior season and 10-2 when he was a senior, averaging 373.9 and 347.7 total yards per game, respectively. Each season concluded with Roach being named all-district offensive lineman of the year. Additionally, he landed on the Texas Sports Writers Association Class 5A All-State Second Team as a senior. Roach will be inducted into the Wall of Honor on May 17 during a ceremony inside the Belton High School gymnasium

foyer. The ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. One hour prior to the event, a meet-and-greet will take place, allowing the public to interact with the newest inductees ahead of their enshrinement. Other football players placed on the Wall of Honor in recent years include Logan Hall (2023), Denver Holman (2020), Garrison Vaughn (2019) and Khiry Robinson (2018). Along with Roach,

Lady Tigers soccer standout Mallory Bankhead and Belton basketball alumni T.J. Johnson and Trap Johnson will be honored. The Wall of Honor was created in 2001 as a way to immortalize former athletes and teams responsible for leaving an undeniable mark on the athletic program. Originally, 71 alumni with ties as far back as to the school’s opening in 1909 were inducted, and over the years, the list has continued to grow.

Welch - From Page B1

Focusing on the person, not the problem: Coaches must often look beyond performance issues to address deeper emotional or psychological barriers. Promoting accountability: Encouraging athletes to take ownership of their actions and development. Guiding behavioral change: Helping players recognize and adjust habits

that may hinder both their performance and personal growth. Even the most skilled coaches are sometimes caught off guard by unexpected situations. Coaching is a human-centered practice, it requires flexibility, emotional intelligence, and constant learning. By recognizing and preparing for these challenges, coaches

can strengthen their impact and better guide athletes not only through competition but also through life. Thought for the week, “A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be.” Rosalynn Carter. 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.

Broncos - From Page B1

Mikulas with an infield single, and Hunt scored on a passed ball to increase the Broncos’ lead to five. Rodriguez was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to force home Mikulas, Samuel Matous scored on a passed ball, and Kaden Ward’s ground out scored Bartz to lift Lake’s advantage to 8-0.

Bartz led the Broncos with three hits, Mikulas, Hunt, and Mees each had two hits, and Bartz and Hunt each scored twice. Maddux pitched the complete game win, allowed two hits, struck out seven, and walked one in seven innings. “I am happy with the team’s ef-

fort, and our pitching was solid,” Lake Belton head coach Chris Peacock said. Lake Belton will play North Mesquite in the Class 5A-Division 1 area round in Corsicana. Games one and two will be on Thursday starting at 4:30 pm. Game three, if necessary, will be Friday at 7 pm.


Tigers - From Page B1

Quigley in the bottom of the first cut the margin to one going into the top of the second. In the bottom of the second, Autrey’s RBI double, an errant pickoff throw scored Autrey, and Bruton’s RBI groundout put Corsicana up 5-2. Billy Young’s sacrifice fly in the third inning scored Torres to cut the deficit to two runs. Corsicana scored on an RBI double by Autrey and Phillips hit bases-loaded pitch to give Corsicana a 7-3 lead. Pecos Smith’s RBI double in the fifth inning scored Gage Flores to start a string of six runs over the next two innings. Flores’ sacrifice fly scored Heisler, Smith drew a bases-loaded walk, Wood’s two-run double scored Peoples and Young to give Belton the lead, and Smith scored on a balk to give Belton a 9-7 advantage. Torres led Belton with three hits and three runs scored. Haisler and Garcia each scored twice, and Wood and Smith each drove in two runs. Quigley pitched 3 1/3 innings, allowed seven runs on five hits, issued eight walks, hit a batter, and struck out four. Jose Rangel picked up the win in relief,

allowed two hits, hit three batters, walked one and struck out one. Autrey led Corsicana with two hits and three runs batted in. Belton took another early lead, this time in game three. Torres’ fielder’s choice scored Wood and Rayshawn Peoples’ bases-loaded walk to give Belton a two-run lead. Corsicana’s four-run second gave them the lead. Autrey’s RBI single, Tamez was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, and Bruton singled home Jaxon McGraw. Wood’s RBI single in the bottom of the third scored Peoples to clip the deficit back to one run. The three-run fourth inning managed to be the difference in the final game. Bruton doubled in Portillo and Maverick Dill’s two-run single score Bruton and Gabe Sodd put Corsicana up 7-3. Belton scored twice in the bottom of the fifth inning as Wood’s RBI single brought home Peoples and Quigley’s single scored Will Shepard. Corsicana posted two runs in the sixth and one more in the seventh created the five-run final margin. Six different Belton players collected hits, with

Wood having collected two RBI. Garcia pitched 3 2/3 innings, allowed seven runs on six hits, walked five, hit four batters, and struck out three. Young pitched 3 1/3 innings, allowed three runs on four hits, and hit three batters. Perkins pitched 4 2/3 innings, allowed five runs (two earned) on six hits, walked five, and struck out four. Brody Dobbs struck out three batters and walked two over two innings of relief. “It was a tough, hard-fought series,” Belton head coach Mark Krueger said. “Our guys fought back when their back was against the wall.” In the series, Corsicana was hit by pitches 14 times to Belton’s three. Corsicana crowded the right-handed batter’s box on the inside part of the plate to take away Belton’s ability of pitch inside. Belton had a record of 16-12, with a second-place finish in District 16-5A and a bi-district final appearance. The third game of the series was the final one of the high school careers of Gage Flores, Trey Garcia, Cole Heisler, Rayshawn Peoples, Jose Rangel,

Collin Sallee, and Austin Wood. Coach Mark Krueger announces retirement After the game, Belton head coach Mark Krueger announced his retirement to the team during their post season meeting at Bosque River Ballpark. He was a Belton assistant baseball coach for 22 seasons, which included the 1994 Class 4A State Championship team, before being promoted to head coach in July 2016. Krueger won 157 games over nine seasons. His retirement breaks the direct lineage of players and coaches linked to the team from 1994.



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

DYLAN MICHAEL GREEN, Applicant,
on May 02, 2025, filed an application
to determine heirship and for letters of
independent administration - intestate in
a proceeding styled: BRIANNA RENEE'
GREEN, Deceased, and bearing the number

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FOR SALE

25CPB00302 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 08, 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: PATRICK RIDLEY, 2582 BLUE MEADOW DRIVE, PO BOX 1141, TEMPLE TX 76503

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on May 02, 2025.

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 48, 1201 Huey Roa, Belton, TX 76513

By: Sophia Nieto Deputy
05.08

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 35285

To: The Estate of Ernest Castillo III, Deceased & Unknown Heirs of Ernest Castillo III;
Joe H. Castillo
Gloria L. Green, Applicant, on April 14, 2025, filed a petition for judicial discharge of independent executor in a proceeding styled: JANIE CASTILLO, Deceased, and bearing the number 35285 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 08, 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 M. VILLANUEVA ,2106 BIRD CREEK DRIVE, 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 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 May 02, 2025.

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

By: Sophia Nieto Deputy
05.08

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KATHRYN W. FARRELL, on April 3, 2024, in Cause No. 24CPB00025, pending in the County Court at Law Number ONE (1) of Bell County, Texas, to JAMES E. FARRELL. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o PATRICK J. RIDLEY, 2582 Blue Meadow Drive, P.O. Box 1141, Temple, TX 76502

Dated: May 1, 2025

PATRICK J. RIDLEY Attorney for Executor of the Estate of KATHRYN W. FARRELL
05.08

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JEANNINE M. HOOPINGARNER (a/k/a Jeannine Margaret Hoopingarner), were issued January 16, 2025, in Cause No.

LEGALS

25CPB00767, pending in the County Court at Law Number ONE (1) of Bell County, Texas, to ROBERT HOOPINGARNER.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o PATRICK J. RIDLEY, 2582 Blue Meadow Drive, P.O. Box 1141, Temple, TX 76502

Dated: May 1, 2025

PATRICK J. RIDLEY Attorney for Executor of the Estate of JEANNINE M. HOOPINGARNER
05.08

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BOBBY GLEN WHATLEY, Deceased, were issued on April 23, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00248, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: AMANDA NICOLE DELLE DONNE and BOBBY GLEN WHATLEY, II.

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

c/o: Jim Thigpen Attorney at Law, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503

DATED the 1st day of May 2025.

Jim/Thigpen Attorney for AMANDA NICOLE DELLE DONNE and BOBBY GLEN WHATLEY, II ,
State Bar No.: 19837300, PO Box 428 Temple, TX 76503, Telephone: (254) 773-1663,
Facsimile: (254) 773-2574, Email: jim.thigpen@linzythigpen.com
05.08

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00301

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
MONIQUE RICE-ESTRADA, Applicant, on May 01, 2025, filed an Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration and Application to Determine Heirship in a proceeding styled: ANGELIQUE SUZANNE RICE, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00301 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 08, 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: DAN CORBIN, CORBIN, STAPLER & CLAPPER PC, 603 N 8TH, KILLEEN TX 76541

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on May 01, 2025.

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

By: Lillian Phillips Deputy
05.08

No. 25CPB00022

IN THE ESTATE OF JIMMY DUANE BEESON DECEASED IN COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of JIMMY DUANE BEESON, Deceased, were issued on April 30, 2025, under Cause No. 245PB00022, pending in the County Court of Bell County, Texas, to DAVID BEESON. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: David Beeson

Independent Administrator of the Estate of Jimmy Duane Beeson, C/O John C. Blazier Attorney for the Estate Blazier, Christensen, Browder & Virr, P.C., 901 S Mopac, Bldg. V., Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78746

LEGALS

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

DATED the 1st day of May 2025.

JOHN C. BLAZIER Attorney for the Estate
05.08

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of VICKI LYNN HATTON, Deceased, were issued on April 17, 2025, in Cause No. 24CPB00547, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: MICHAEL HATTON.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: DANIEL A. CORBIN Attorney at Law 603 North 8th Street Killeen, TX 76541

DATED the 30th day of April 2025.

CORBIN, STAPLER & CLAPPER, PC, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541, Tel: (254) 526-4523, Fax: (254) 526-6711, DANIEL A. CORBIN ,State Bar No. 04814300, JAMES BERRY STAPLER, State Bar No. 24013557, ASHLEY CLAPPER, State Bar No. 24076317, Legal@CorbinLegalTeam.com Attorney for MICHAEL HATTON
05.08

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00300

To: Other Living Relatives
NELSON R. GRULLON and SANTA N. GRULLON, Applicants, on April 29, 2025, filed an Application for Appointment of Co-Guardians of the Person with Full Authority in a proceeding styled: KENNEY R. GFULLON, Incapacitated, and bearing the number 25CPB00300 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 08, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

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

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

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on May 06, 2025.

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

By Lillian Phillips Deputy 05.08

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of TRAVIS WILLIAM BURCH, Deceased, were issued on April 22, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00035 pending in the County Court at Law No. 1, Bell County, Texas, to: CHERRY LAGUERTA BURCH.

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.

c/o: Mary Wiley Attorney at Law 100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 306 Harker Heights, Texas 76548

DATED the 29 day of April 2025.

MARY WILEY Attorney for CHERRY LAGUERTA BURCH, State Bar No.: 24032669,
100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 306, Harker Heights, Texas 76548, Telephone: (254) 634-6969, Facsimile: (254) 634-6587, E-mail: mary@lindleylawoffices.com
05.08

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of SUZANNE MARIE LA LONE, Deceased, were issued on April 11, 2025, in Cause No. 24CPB00621, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: JOHN LA LONE.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: DANIEL A. CORBIN Attorney at Law 603 North 8th Street Killeen, TX 76541

DATED the 29th day of April 2025.

CORBIN, STAPLER & CLAPPER, PC, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541, Tel: (254) 526-4523, Fax: (254) 526-6711, By: ASHLEY CLAPPER,DANIEL A. CORBIN, State Bar No. 04814300, JAMES BERRY STAPLER, State Bar No. 24013557, ASHLEY CLAPPER, State Bar No. 24076317, Legal@CorbinLegalTeam.com Attorney for JOHN LA LONE 05.08

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Nancy Lee Hammonds, Deceased, were issued on April 9, 2025 in Cause No. 25CPB00160, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: Johnny Ware Hammonds.

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

c/o: Dori Ray Mystic Attorney at Law, 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522

DATED the 1st day of May 2025.

Dori Ray Mystic Attorney for Johnny Ware Hammonds, State Bar No.: 04091800, 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522, Telephone: (254) 547-6000, Email: doriraymystic@hotmail.com
05.08

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of STEPHEN PETER KNEUPER, Deceased, were issued on May 2, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00261, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: BARBARA MANSON.

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 STEPHEN PETER KNEUPER , c/o: BARBARA MANSON, 5403 Southern Belle Dr., Killeen, Texas 76542

DATED May 5, 2025.

KAREN M. VILLANUEVA, State Bar No.: 24102608, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: karen@templelawoffice.com
05.08





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Local

Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

MAY

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

**"To join or for more information, please call:
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Visit the website: 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, heart-felt 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.

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.

Tanglefoot club of Bell County Extension Education Association - May 12

The Tanglefoot club of Bell County Extension Education Association will have our monthly meeting on Monday May 12, 2025 at St. Luke Catholic Church (2807 Oakdale Drive, Temple 76502) from 10am to noon. There will be a presentation from our Extension Agent Bev Hodges about "Preparing Your Home for the Texas Summer." We will enjoy a potluck luncheon after the meeting. This meeting is open to the public. If you are interested in learning, supporting our community, helping 4-H and Agrilife Extension Agents, please come and join us.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on TUESDAY, May 13th and 27th at 6:30pm at the Temple VA Hospital. Use the entrance on the Valet parking side of the hospital and take the elevator to the 5th floor -Conference Room 5G31. Both care-givers, supporters and those suffering from mental illness are welcome to join us for mutual support and sharing of information. For more information, call 254-771-3638.

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 aspenhealth-care.net or call 512-856-5668 for more information.

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

Bell County Historical Commission holds their meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the historical Bell County Court House, 101 E. Central Ave in Belton. Join us in our vision of preserving and promoting Bell County's rich historical heritage for current and future generations. We are dedicated to initiating and conducting programs that preserve and celebrate the county's historic cultural resources in alignment with state laws governing historical preservation in Texas. Our community resources consist of a research room, book repository, cemetery information, historical markers and monument records. Our services include information on historic preservation, educational programming, history community outreach and partnerships. We welcome you to come join other history minded folks and get involved by serving on one of our committees that consist of preservation, cemetery, markers and education. To volunteer or for more information please visit historicalcommission@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 text Jeanne at 409-313-0611.

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

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

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

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

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. Read more about the program here: https://www.beltontexas.gov/news_detail_T11_R1166.php.

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

Text-to-911 for speech/ hearing impaired, those unable to call or speak due to home invasion, abduction or domestic violence or physically incapable. Providing location, city name and nature of the emergency in the first message is imperative. For further education on this service, don't hesitate to call 254-933-5500.

Citizens Helping in Police Service (CHIPS)

are extra eyes and ears while in areas where large groups may gather. Contact the Belton Police Dept. to join.

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

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

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



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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
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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
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Trinity Full Gospel
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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bell County
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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

New Life Methodist Church (Salado Middle School)
1169 Williams Rd. ~ 254.493.8482

Salado United Methodist Church
650 Royal St. ~ 254.947.5482

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

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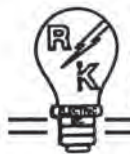
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John Perry

The other day, I came across a political article that included the phrase, “You are not the man you claim to be.” This statement struck a chord with me, prompting some deep introspection. Am I truly the person I claim to be?

Before you can answer that question for yourself, you need to define who you claim to be. For me, I see myself as a devout Christian, a family man, a devoted husband, a father, a grandfather, an

honest person, and a fair to all person. But how well do I live up to these claims?

Answering this question requires a high degree of honesty and even some courage. Here are some key points to consider:

Do my actions consistently align with my words? The person you claim to be is defined not by intentions, but by what you do when no one is watching.

Are you living your core values, such as faith, honesty, loyalty, resilience, and kindness? Do you reflect these values even in difficult circumstances?

How do the people who truly know you perceive you? Sometimes, the truest mirror is how others see you. Do very close friends and family see you as

the person you claim to be?

It’s easy to live by ideals when life is smooth, but who are you when you are really tested? When faced with adversity or temptation, do you still uphold your character?

My self-analysis revealed some disappointing results. I know it’s human to stumble, but I need to work on being the person I claim to be. James 2:26 declares, “Faith without works is dead.” It’s not enough to just profess my beliefs; they must be lived out in all my actions. I now realize I have some work to do in many aspects of my life. The old saying, “walk the talk,” comes to mind.

If someone were to describe you at the end of your life, would their words match the

identity you claim now? What story are you writing with your actions today? For me, I have work to do. I am striving to be a better human being, but it will require a concerted effort to improve. My time on this Earth is limited, so I have some real catching up to do.

Where are you today? Matthew 5:16 teaches us, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Staying true to one’s beliefs will make you a better person and will also inspire others. I humbly invite you to join me on this journey to become the person you claim to be.

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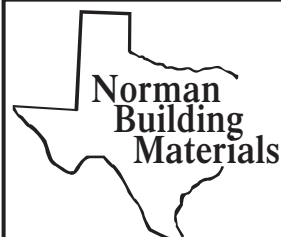


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EDITORIAL

Bottomless Coffee

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

I recently shared that I’ve cut way back on my coffee intake. This has been a good choice for my sleep schedule. But it means my one cup of coffee, first thing in the morning, is a beautiful thing. I savor it. I treasure it. I make it last as long as possible.

Last week was a rough week for my coffee. One day, I had car trouble, and Rick had to rescue me on the road and take me to work. As if that weren’t stressful enough, when he let me off in the parking lot, I dropped my entire mug. Creamy rivulets of coffee spread over the concrete, mimicking the tears spreading through my soul.

The next day, I used a different mug. I noticed the airflow hole wasn’t working great, and I had a hard time getting the coffee to flow. Frustrating, but I powered through and made it work. Until, it didn’t. I tilted the mug all the way back, but that dang hole just wouldn’t let

my coffee come through. I tapped the mug. Shook it. Finally, I removed the lid to find the real reason for my dilemma.

The mug was empty.

I wasn’t even embarrassed at my mistake. I was just offended. I wasn’t ready to be done with my coffee. That’s when I started thinking, somebody needs to invent a bottomless coffee mug that keeps the coffee hot and creamy and sweetened to your liking and doesn’t run out until you’ve had your fill. And you decide when that is.

This may be a ridiculous idea. But several decades ago, I would have thought a phone that takes pictures was ridiculous. Yet here we are.

Though I may not get my bottomless coffee mug any time soon, I do have a bottomless source of a different kind of joy. When my soul feels empty or sad, disturbed or annoyed, all it

takes is a few taps at my Creator’s door to get a refill. He is the source of all good things, and He’s happy to fill my cup to overflowing, any time I ask.

You may wonder how these “taps” work. If you want to get in on this offer of unlimited joy, peace, and serenity, all you need to do is claim God’s promises, like a coupon code. True joy isn’t dependent on our circumstances. It’s based on our connection with God. Any other source of joy will fizzle out, leaving us with an empty cup long before we’re satisfied.

Psalms 16:11 tells us, “In Your presence there is fullness of joy.” John 15:11 says, “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” And Galatians 5:22 reminds us that joy is a fruit of the Spirit. In other words, true joy is evidence that we have His Spirit living in us.

The joy God gives remains full in the face

of hardships, trials, poor health, divorce, financial troubles, loss of a loved one... the list goes on. When we’re connected to the source of joy, our circumstances don’t change the flow. We can feel sad and still feel joy. We can be depressed or anxious or annoyed and still experience joy, because this kind of joy is based on our relationship, not our situation.

I’m glad I have this unlimited supply of joy. Unlike my coffee, it can spill over and still remain full. As for my caffeine intake, I may need to reconsider the one-cup-a-day thing. I think I’ll make myself a second cup right now.

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4

Booking It

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

In the 1970s, disco band The Village People famously did a song about the YMCA, a network of non-profit youth centers. As the song explains, “they have everything for a young man to enjoy”: athletics, social events, counseling services, hot meals, showers, beds to rent, and so forth. The band was explaining this as if they were explaining it to a young man who was down on his luck in a new town, and were recommending that the young man visit the local YMCA as an inexpensive means of finding both a safe haven and a fresh start.

As I’ve mentioned before, I have wound up in a position to where I have been talking with and giving advice to younger individuals. Well, there’s a place I’ve been recommending that a number of these individuals spend some time at, a place most towns and cities have. And since it’s taxpayer-supported, the majority of the services they offer come at no further charge to the public.

I’m talking about the local public library. Yes, you’re probably envisioning a large place that has shelf upon shelf of books. Well, it’s time to update that mental image.

Consider the books themselves. Many libraries have decided to

increase the variety and type of books they carry so that they can appeal to a broader selection of audiences. Special interest titles, graphic novels & manga, and recent biographies can frequently be had alongside a mix of periodicals like the local newspapers and special interest magazines. Some libraries, like the public library where I live, even have the kids’ materials off in a separate section to make them easier to locate.

But libraries have more to them than just books. Even when I was younger, they had multi-media materials like film reels and VHS tapes. Nowadays, they have DVDs, audiobooks, and other such content to lend out. A few even have e-books as well.

Got a report due at school but your computer at home is kaput? A lot of modern libraries allow the public to use a number of library-owned machines, usually for a limited amount of time. Just understand that each library has different rules regarding what rewritable media you can use with their machines, you’re more than likely going to have to supply your own headphones, and there will usually be a token fee for each page you need to print off.

Many libraries also make it a point to host youth clubs, speakers, local organizations, and other events that are typically free to the public, allowing individuals to meet new people, discover new interests, and generally expand their horizons. This is on top of the summer reading program a lot of libraries offer for younger readers, with the local libraries paying for them through sales of second-hand media like books and DVDs (either pulled from circulation or donated by the public). Yes, if your library accepts donated materials for sale, you’ll be doing your local community a favor by donating materials or purchasing what’s for sale.

And of course, some libraries also offer free wi-fi. I’ve literally seen people go to these libraries just to catch up on their streaming.

Whatever age you might find yourself at, odds are there’s something for you to enjoy at your local library. And they’re usually located in a convenient place in town, so they aren’t hard to find or to get to. My local library is actually downtown, across the street from a family diner.

So yeah, even if your body can’t travel, your mind can still cross vast horizons.

Business Showcase

Bell County Museum



ACROSS THE OCEAN: AN ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER CULTURAL FAIR

Visit the museum to learn more about the cultures of Guam, the Philippines, and Korea! There will be a variety of crafts and activities as well as beautiful traditional dances and music.

Date: May 17, 2025
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Korean dance performances:
11:00-11:20am
Chamorro dance performances:
11:45am & 12:30pm



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BellCountyMuseum.Org

Explore ancient cultures and artifacts at the Museum this May

Join us at the museum on May 8 at 6:00pm, as Dr. Jon Lohse gives an inside look at the Gault Archaeological Site, located in Bell County. The Gault Site is one of the most significant archaeological dig sites in North America. His presentation will focus on the peopling of the Americas, an overview of work at Gault, and current undertakings of the Gault School of Archaeological Research. The event is completely FREE, but pre-registration is required.

Additionally, on May 10, you can join us at the Gault Site for a tour to learn about the many artifacts excavated and the Paleoindian culture found right here in Bell County! All tours are fully guided by a representative of the Gault School across the 2.5 miles site.

This is not an active dig site, however, research is still being conducted on the over one million artifacts found at the site.

On May 17, we will learn more about the cultures of Guam, the Philippines, and Korea with our Across The Ocean: An Asian-Pacific Islander Cultural Fair. See details on this page.

Our permanent exhibits are always available as well: Discover Bell County takes visitors on a journey through our History. Explore our Land, Agriculture and Ranching, Transportation and Industry, and Education and Culture.

Gault Site includes large murals, discovery drawers, microscopes and the film, “The Gault Project: An Adventure in Time.” This

exhibit also features an interactive dig pit, a chance to be an archaeologist, a chalkboard for cave drawings, discovery drawers, and more.

Little River Log Cabin was built in the 1850s near Little River/Academy, the area of earliest Anglo settlement in Bell County. It can be seen from the museum exterior.

Our traveling exhibitions and upcoming events are on Facebook or at BellCountyMuseum.Org. Teachers: schedule a field trip, reserve a classroom travel trunk, or register for a virtual class program or tour.

Visit us at 201 N. Main St. in Belton and make your time at the museum valuable and engaging. 254-933-5243, museum@bell-county.texas.gov.

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THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1639: William Coddington founds Newport, Rhode Island.

1927: Charles Nungesser and Francois Coli disappear after attempting to make the first non-stop transatlantic flight from Paris to New York.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1602: Cape Cod is sighted by navigator Bartholomew Gosnold.

1905: The city of Las Vegas, Nevada is founded.

1940: Richard and Maurice McDonald open the first McDonald’s restaurant.

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