

Courtesy Photo

Claudia Carrillo is recognized as one of the bilingual paraprofessionals of the year from Region 12 during the third annual Bilingual/ESL Support Awards Ceremony on May 12.

### Belton ISD bilingual paraprofessional recognized at third annual BESA Ceremony

Special to the Journal

Education Service Center Region 12 honored the work of bilingual and ESL educators from around Region 12 during the third annual Bilingual/ESL Support Awards Ceremony on May 12.

Award categories included parent engagement, ambassadors for content-based language instruction, paraprofessional recognition, bilingual/ESL teachers of the year, bilingual/ESL leaders of the year and more.

Claudia Carrillo, Belton ISD, was recognized along with Mireya Villasensor, Hillsboro ISD, as Paraprofessionals of the Year.

**The lineup of 2025 BESA winners also included:**

**Community Partner Award:**

Dr. Tracey Jones, Baylor University

**ESC Collaborator Award:**

Kari Kenobbie-Espin and Lindsay Olsen, ESC Region 12

**Parent, Family and Community Engagement**

**School Leader of the Year:**

Patricia Roberts, Hillsboro ISD

Parent, Family and Community Engagement - Parent Award: Laura Angélica Peña and Oscar Nicolás Peña

See **BESA**,  
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BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOCTEZUMA

Cyclists line up at the start of the 2025 Stampede on the Chisholm Trail Bike Ride at Heritage Park in Belton on Saturday morning.

By **Daniel Moctezuma**  
The Belton Journal

Cyclists from across Texas arrived at the Harris Community Center on Saturday morning for the 2025 Belton Lions Club Stampede on the Chisholm Trail Bike Ride, an annual fundraiser that winds through the Bell County countryside.

The event began with a 7:30 a.m. ceremony featuring remarks from local leaders, a prayer, and the national anthem performed by the Belton High School Madrigal Choir. The Belton High JROTC presented the colors before the ride officially started at 8 a.m.

John Corsi, Lions Club member and event announcer, reminded riders that although the event wasn't timed, it was part of the club's larger fundraising efforts.

"This is one of the annual fundraisers by the Belton Lions Club supporting community programs and our partnership with the City of Belton for Heritage Park," Corsi said.

Participants could choose between four route distances, 12, 30, 55, or 62 miles. Rest stops along each route offered snacks, pickle juice, Gatorade, and shaded areas.

Karen Stagner, one of the event organizers, said improvements were made this year based on rider feedback from 2024.

"We added canopy shade to each rest stop, increased signage, provided peanut butter sandwiches, and even relocated a stop to avoid gravel," she said.

Sherry Ayres, a first-time participant, said the event's focus connected with her past work.

"When I realized it was for special needs, which is what I used to teach, I couldn't resist," Ayres said. "I was a transition teacher for many years, and a lot of the funding goes to things I stood for."

James Powell returned for a second year and said his main reason for participating was to support local children.

"I did the 30-mile last year," Powell said. "Today I'm doing the

short ride, but it's all to help raise money for the kids."

After finishing the ride, participants were treated to hot dogs prepared by trainees from Eldred's Nursery Foundation and sno-cones served by BISD Delta Program students. The snow cone machine was donated by King of the Mountain Cyclery, the ride's official bike shop.

Sergeant Major Matthew Conrad, Belton High School's Marine Corps JROTC instructor, said the event offered a valuable experience for his cadets.

"They had a chance to perform for the community," he said. "Watching them present the colors and carry themselves professionally, it was really exciting to see."

Proceeds from the event support Lions Club programs such as scholarships for Belton High seniors, eye exams and glasses for BISD students, holiday meals for special needs families, and ongoing support for the Lions Playground at Heritage Park.



Brandon Bozon

### BISD board of trustees appoints new at-large member

By **Lynette Sowell**  
The Belton Journal

On Monday night, the Belton Independent School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to appoint Brandon Bozon to the At-Large position, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of long-time Trustee, Janet Leigh.

"It is with sincere gratitude that we acknowledge Janet's eight years of dedicated

and passionate service to our entire Belton ISD community. Her commitment has made a real difference, and while we understand her decision to focus on family, we will certainly miss her contributions," said Manuel Alcozer, board president, in a media release.

"We are delighted to welcome Brandon Bozon to the Board. A proud 2005 graduate of Belton High School, his background as the Director of Finance for the City of Belton and as the Vice President of Administrative Ser-

vices and Chief Financial Officer for Temple College will be invaluable as we navigate the complexities of leading our district.

"Mr. Bozon will serve for the remainder of Mrs. Leigh's term, which concludes in May 2026, at which point the At-Large position will be part of the regular trustee election.

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### Lowe's celebrates Belton students entering the trades

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BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOCTEZUMA

Belton students pose with BISD staff and Superintendent Dr. Ma-linda Golden

By **Daniel Moctezuma**  
The Belton Journal

Ten Belton High School seniors were celebrated last Tuesday morning as they walked the Lowe's Foundation "blue carpet" and signed letters of intent to begin careers in the skilled trades.

The event was part of Skills-USA's National Signing Day, hosted locally by the Temple Lowe's store. Each student is entering a field such as electrical technology or construction, professions currently in high demand across Texas.

"We want students to know this is something to be proud of,"

said Temple Lowe's Store Manager Alex Sisk. "Trades aren't always highlighted like sports or college decisions, but they should be. These careers build our communities."

Belton senior Tyler Cook said he first became interested in electrical work after taking a construction class.

"We started doing electrical one day, and I found it really fun," Cook said. "It was interesting to see how everyday things like switches and lights work and actually get them working your-

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# Creekside trash keeps city crews busy

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

Belton’s creekside parks are typically immaculate, a testament to the city’s efforts to eliminate trash from its popular gathering spots, but after heavy rains, a deluge of debris often finds its way to Nolan Creek and its banks.

“It happens every time it floods and the creek rises several feet,” said James Grant, director of Belton’s Parks & Recreation Department. “An inch or two of rain in Killeen can raise the creek two or three feet here.”

“Trash and debris flows from upstream drainage ditches,” he said. “When the

water recedes, it leaves piles on creek banks.”

Paul Romer, Belton’s director of communications, agreed.

“The trash can be found up and down Nolan Creek, but it is much more noticeable in areas where the grass is manicured,” Romer said. “It’s easier to spot when the grass is green and cut.”

Grant said the city has a process to clean up the creekside parks. A city staff member is assigned to each park, and it is their duty to keep the banks clear of trash and other debris that accumulates.

“After a big rise in the creek level, it’s all hands on deck,” he said. “All park staff get involved in picking



Courtesy photo

After recent rains and high waters, Nolan Creek flooded with debris which is then cleaned by city crews.

up trash and cutting brush.” equipment in the creek — “We can’t get our you have to get a special permit to do that — but we can keep the banks clean,”

Grant added. “It can be a constant struggle.”

“There’s not a lot we can do to remedy the situation. We just educate people to clean up after themselves. It’s important to keep curbside gutters clean — that helps.”

In addition to Nolan Creek, the city also keeps a mile stretch of the Leon River clear of trash and debris inside Heritage Park. But, officials said, that’s much easier to do.

“The Leon doesn’t often flood like Nolan Creek,” Grant said. “The water levels in the river are controlled by the spillway on Belton Dam. There isn’t as much trash and debris coming down the river.”

# Bell County commissioners approve precinct splits ahead of election

Special to the Journal

On Monday, April 21, the Bell County Commissioners Court unanimously approved a measure to split seven existing election precincts in preparation for the upcoming fall election.

The decision was made to ensure continued compliance with state law, which limits each precinct to a maximum of 5,000 registered voters. The total number of election precincts in Bell County will now increase to 72.

“Our office works diligently to ensure compliance with all state regulations,” said Dr. Desi Roberts, Bell County Elections Administrator. “Staying ahead of these requirements is a top priority for us.”

The need for additional precincts stems from a variety of factors, including rapid population growth, an increase in voter registration, and ongoing residential development throughout the county.

“Bell County continues to experience steady growth, and with that comes a natural rise in the number of registered voters,” said County Judge David Black-

burn. “This change reflects the evolving needs of our community and ensures that we’re prepared for the elections ahead.”

Precinct 115: Split along the Belton ISD line following Adams (FM 2305)

Precinct 115: South; 1,872 registered voters

Precinct 120: North; 2,937 registered voters

Precinct 210: Split along Trimmier Creek

Precinct 210: South; 3,775 registered voters

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## BESA- From Page A1

- Castellón, Killeen ISD
- Content-Based Language Instruction Ambassadors:** Hamilton ISD, Rice ISD and Killeen ISD
- Content-Based Language Instruction Implementor of the Year:**
- Wendy Lewis, Killeen ISD
- The Open Road to Language:**
- McDade ISD
- Elementary ESL Teacher of the Year:**
- Shelly Burns, Mexia ISD
- Junior High ESL Teacher of the Year:**
- Alfonso Weems, Marlin ISD
- High School ESL Teacher of the Year:**
- Tiffany Yoder, La Vega ISD
- New ESL Teacher of the Year:**
- Jennifer Clark, Salado ISD
- Content-Based Language Instruction Teacher of the Year:**
- Janna Whitehead, Hamilton ISD
- Dual Language Teacher of the Year:**
- Beatriz Molina, Killeen ISD
- Bilingual Team of the Year:**
- Copperas Cove Dual Language
- Data Diver:**
- Hamilton ISD
- District Leader of the Year:**
- Erika Rains, Temple ISD
- Leadership Team of the Year:**
- Deena Cornblum, Carmen Diaz Perez, Cathleen Rooney and Milissa Johnson Waco ISD -

# Council makes election results official

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

The Belton city council canvassed the results of the May 3 election during Tuesday’s meeting, then re-appointed David K Leigh as mayor and John R Holmes Sr as mayor pro-tem.

Since May 2022, Council has appointed the mayor and mayor pro-tem, and each will serve a one-year term.

After canvassing and approving the votes from the election, City Attorney John Messer administered the Oath of Office to elected council members Daniel Bucher, place 5; Luke Potts, place 6; and Stephanie O’Banion, place 7.

Some 885 Belton residents voted in the May 3 election, but only 267 voted

on Election Day. More than 600 voted early in person, and 10 voted early by mail.

The city has more than 12,000 registered voters.

Following a public hearing, the city council approved an ordinance establishing a municipal court of record in the city of Belton.

Council members named Steve Lee as the presiding judge, Jasmine Janet Rios-Harding as associate judge and Maria G Garcia as assistant city attorney and municipal prosecutor.

Contracts were approved for all three effective Tuesday for two-year terms that end May 12, 2027. Contracts can be terminated with 90 days written notice.

To provide more efficient disposition of cases,

city management recommended converting the Belton Municipal Court into a Court of Record. According to Mike Rodgers, Belton’s director of finance, some benefits of becoming a Court of Record include:


It creates a more professional court environment;

It provides a better record of court proceedings; and

Cases can only be appealed due to procedural issues.

Tuesday was also payday for the city council members, who received \$1 for the year — May 2024 to May 2025.

The council also heard an end-of-year report on the Belton Youth Advisory Commission. Several mem-




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# OBITUARIES

## Alderete

Isabel Raquel Alderete  
December 17, 1954 –  
May 3, 2025

Isabel Raquel Alderete, 70, lovingly known as Rachel, was born on December 17, 1954, in Temple, Texas. Rachel’s journey came to a peaceful end on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at a local hospital in Temple, surrounded by her cherished family.

In 1974 she was blessed to become a proud mother with her son, Adam Castillo. Rachel was not only a dedicated professional; she was a loving wife who married Edward Louis Alderete. A grandmother whose family was her pride and joy. She cherished every moment spent with her grandchildren and made it a priority to ensure that her family’s milestones were celebrated honorably. As a wonderful mother and mother figure, she was nurturing yet knew when to be firm, always putting the needs of others before her own.

Rachel dedicated her life to her career and her family. She began her professional journey as a phlebotomist at a local hospital, where she devoted several years to helping patients. Her most fulfilling commitment spanned eight years with Our Lady of Maternity Shelter, where her heart’s passion shone brightly. Rachel was deeply invested in empowering women, striving to help them discover their potential and achieve future success. Rachel’s vibrant spirit was evident in her hobbies and interests. She loved being outdoors, gardening, and cooking, often spending countless hours tending to her garden and creating delicious meals for her loved ones. Her creativity flowed through her ceramic art, which she proudly made and sold at local market shows. Moreover, her loyalty to her favorite football team, the Texas Longhorns, was an endearing part of her character, as she enjoyed football date nights with her beloved husband. Throughout her life, Rachel displayed resilience and a fervent work ethic, often taking on double shifts to provide for her family. Her years of honorable military service, having enlisted and served from 1980 to 1985, instilled in her many principles that will carry on through her son, Adam Castillo, as he continues to honor her legacy.

Rachel is survived by her beloved husband of 39 years, Edward Alderete; her son, Adam Castillo of Temple, Texas; and her brother, Moises Mares Jr. and wife Irene of California. She also leaves behind her grandchildren, Miranda Castillo, and two great-grandchildren, Mayson Miller and Kamden Miller.

Rachel was preceded in death by her parents, Moises Mares Sr. and Ysabel S. Mares, as well as her siblings, Victor Mares, Jesse Mares, and Mary Cruz.

A Rosary and a Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025, at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center in Temple, Texas. The

Rosary is scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM, followed by the Celebration of Life at 7:00 PM. Rachel’s body will be blessed before cremation, honoring the life she lived and the memories she created.

Her positive outlook and loving nature will be deeply missed, but her spirit will forever remain in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial donation to the American Cancer society.

A special thank you to Baylor Scott & White Hospital, Standards Home Health, and Our Lady Guadalupe Catholic Church where she was a lifetime member, for their compassion and support.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center In Temple, Texas.

## Romer

Thomas Lynn Romer  
July 10, 1954 –  
May 11, 2025

Thomas Lynn Romer of Belton passed away on May 11th, 2025, at his home in Belton at the age of 70. Thomas was born on July 10th, 1954, in Anamosa, Iowa, to Lee and Marion Romer.

He grew up in Iowa and graduated from Oxford Junction High School in 1972. He joined the U.S. Navy and served from 1972 to 1976, after which he returned to Dewitt, Iowa to work at DuPont Manufacturing until a total accumulation of 78 inches of snow in 1981 found him looking for his car in the snowbanks. It was then he decided to move to Texas for the warmer climate. He then attended Texas State Technical Institute in Waco, graduating with an Associate Degree in Airframe and Powerplant Technology, which led to a career as an aircraft mechanic. Over the years, his career included working in various supervisory positions, Bluebonnet Girl Scout Camp Kachina as property manager, Bell County Harley-Davidson, Big T Cycle Repair, Camber Services and finally, RAM Aircraft Services, retiring in 2021. Once he retired, he said “The reduced Job-related stress is so welcomed!” He was a member of First Baptist Church, Temple.

Thomas was a die-hard Harley-Davidson lover! He could identify any H-D part and what year, model and bike it fit. He really enjoyed going to national antique motorcycle swap meets, finding “treasures” and chatting with everyone. Thomas was a long-time member of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America. He was multi-talented and could repair almost anything.

In 1986, he married Annette and they first made their home in Academy, then later settled in Belton. They shared 41 years together, camping, travelling, and

lots of family time. They raised her two children, Michael and Lesa Bruggman, and he couldn’t have been prouder to call them his. Michael was killed in 2018 in a workplace accident, and their world would never be the same. Once grandkids came along, he became “Pop-Pop” and these kids became his pride and joy. He loved spending time with them and taking vacations together. They knew if there was something they wanted; all they had to do was let Pop-Pop know; they will deeply miss him.

Thomas is survived by his wife, Annette, daughters Lesa and son-in-law Matthew Rowell, and four grandchildren: Alan, Jarrett, Sadie and Samuel Rowell, all of Temple and Megan and son-in-law David Lee, and granddaughter, Kiera of Monticello, Iowa.

He was predeceased by his parents, his sisters, Diane Davis and Nancy Marx.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the professionals at Baylor Scott and White Medical Center- Temple who provided comfort and support during his final days.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to First Baptist Church - Temple <https://www.firsttemple.org/> give or a cancer organization of your choice.

Thomas requested no funeral service, but a visitation will be held, from 6-8pm on Friday, May 16th, 2025, at Dossman Funeral Home, Belton, Texas.



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## Lowe’s - From Page A1

self.”

He credited teacher Michael Carrillo for pushing him and other students to succeed. Cook will begin his apprenticeship with RK Bass Electric.

Many of the students are headed to Texas State Technical College or entering apprenticeships directly with employers. RK Bass Electric Vice President Andy Bass said the company has partnered with Belton ISD for over 15 years and hired more than 20 former students in the last two years.

“These students are already employable in our community,” Bass said. “They’ve learned valuable skills. Now it’s time to get to work.”

Sisk said Lowe’s has committed \$50 million over five years through its foundation to support skilled trades education nationwide. Students at Tuesday’s event also received toolkits and gift cards to support their start.

SkillsUSA Region 4 Vice President Jana Kawasmi, a former Belton High student herself, said programs like this make a

tangible impact.

“SkillsUSA isn’t just about sponsorship,” she said. “It gives students real opportunities to apply their skills in the workforce.”


The event concluded with BISD leaders thanking teachers, families, and industry partners. Superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden reminded the audience of the broader purpose.

“You’re entering a career of purpose and value,” she told the students. “You’re showing all of us that Texas public schools don’t just prepare

students for college, but for life.”

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# Belton’s sales tax up by slim margin for month

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

The office of Texas State Comptroller Glenn Hegar’s office released its monthly sales tax revenue report for May, and the city of Belton is seeing an increase in sales tax revenue, albeit by a smaller percentage compared to previous months.

This month, Belton will receive \$870,096.44, up 1.91 percent compared to last May.

Overall for the calendar year 2025, the city of Belton continues to be strong, receiving 3.45 percent more in sales tax revenue than it did for 2024.

The May sales tax report is for sales made in March 2025 by businesses that report tax monthly, and quarterly filers who reported for January, February, and March 2025.

The city of Temple is receiving \$3,423,955.23, up 3.89 percent compared to May 2024.

Morgan’s Point Resort will receive \$41,038.19, up 30.05 percent compared to last May.

Troy will receive \$95,542.83, up 6.89 percent compared to last May.

Over in Nolanville, sales tax revenue is up 8.01 percent compared to last May, with Nolanville to receive \$147,655.58. Nolanville’s sales tax revenue is down 14.93 percent for 2025. Holland’s revenue check is \$15,020.20 this month, up 25.35 percent compared to May 2024.

May 2025 sales tax payments to area cities		
Belton	\$870,096.44	up 1.91%
Harker Heights	\$1,114,829.83	up 9.26%
Holland	\$15,020.20	up 25.35%
Killeen	\$3,446,535.98	up 5.8%
Morgan’s Point Resort	\$41,0a38.19	up 30.05%
Nolanville	\$147,655.58	up 8.01%
Salado	\$89,886.77	up 4.19%
Temple	\$3,423,955.23	up 3.89%
Troy	\$95,542.83	up 6.98%
Percentages reflect a monthly increase or decrease compared to May 2024		

Salado sees an increase of 4.19 percent this month and will receive \$89,886.77.

Harker Heights sees an increase of 9.26 percent for May 2025 compared to May 2024, and will receive \$1,114,829.83.

The city of Killeen’s sales tax revenue is up 5.8 percent at \$3,446,535.98, overall up 3.32 percent for 2025.

# UMHB Chemistry Department adds new equipment to enhance research



**Courtesy photo**  
Amber Dickey, UMHB senior chemistry major, and Larry Carothers, UMHB chemistry lab coordinator, are pictured with new equipment in the chemistry lab funded by a grant from the Robert A. Welch Foundation of Houston.

*Special to the Journal*

In late April, the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB), thanks to the generosity of the Robert A. Welch Foundation of Houston, began the installation of two new state-of-the-art instruments in the Chemistry Department. The Near-Infrared and Raman Spectrophotometers, with a combined value exceeding \$100,000, will significantly expand the university’s capacity for chemical research.

“I am very grateful to the Robert A. Welch Foundation for their generosity in providing these remarkable instruments which offer great potential to expand our students’ capabilities for research,” said Dr. Ruth Ann Murphy, chemistry professor.

While most chemistry majors graduate with a satisfactory knowledge of infrared and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, many do not have the opportunity to experience chemical research with Raman spectroscopy. This new, state-of-the-art Raman Spectrophotometer will allow students to measure the concentrations of microplastics in beverages and natural waters for environmental studies, to identify substances present in medications for pharmaceutical studies, and to conduct theoretical investigations.

Similarly, the Near-Infrared (Near-IR) Spectrophotometer will also benefit UMHB chemical research students. The Near-Infrared region (with wavelengths of 750 - 2500 nanometers) of the electromagnetic spectrum will now be accessible in the UMHB Chemistry Labs. Analysis of

plastics like polyethylene with applications to their recycling can be done with Near-IR studies. Samples can be studied through glass and plastic as they remain in their original containers.

These new acquisitions are in addition to the research-grade, digital, Peltier temperature-controlled polarimeter acquired by the UMHB Chemistry Department earlier this spring, also with a grant from the Welch Foundation. Polarimeters measure the optical activity (chirality) of compounds.

“Considering that 19 of the 20 amino acids required for humans to synthesize proteins are chiral and can be analyzed with the polarimeter, this is extremely relevant,” explained Dr. Murphy. “Additionally, the carbohydrate intake by humans also exhibits optical activity, which this instrument can measure. Exact replicas of this polarimeter are used in the development of new pharmaceuticals.”

Hands-on experience with these and other instruments (including high-pressure liquid chromatography, ultraviolet-visible spectroscopy, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, calorimetry, gas chromatograph mass spectrometry, nuclear magnetic resonance, atomic absorption analysis, calorimetry, colorimetry, tensiometry, and viscometry) in the UMHB Chemistry Department will help prepare students for success as they seek employment or acceptance to graduate programs.

To learn more about UMHB’s chemistry department, visit [umhb.edu](http://umhb.edu).

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**Courtesy Photo**  
Sydney Montana, a homeland security major from Belton, Texas (Copperas Cove HS), who will serve as an Air Defense officer on active duty, receives her commissioning at a ceremony at Slippery Rock University.

# Belton native commissioned

*Special to the Journal*

Twelve cadets from Slippery Rock University’s U.S. Army ROTC program were recognized for their commissioning as officers with the rank of second lieutenant during a ceremony on May 9 at the Performing Arts Center’s Miller Theater on campus.

The ceremony included a reading of an oath, pinning of bars with their new insignia of rank, and a first salute, a tradition between a non-commissioned officer who has influenced the newly commissioned officer.

Among them was Sydney Montana, a homeland security major from Belton, Texas (Copperas Cove HS), who will serve as an Air Defense officer on active duty.

Other cadets include:

Cayde Davidson, a health and physical education major from Greenville (Greenville HS), who will serve as an Aviation officer in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Gordon Hardy, an interdisciplinary programs major from McMurray (Peters Township HS), who will serve as an Aviation officer in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Seth Hickman, an interdisciplinary programs major from Irwin (Peters Township HS), who will serve as an Infantry officer in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

David Lucidore, a park and resource-



# EDITORIAL

## That Smell

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

It seems that smells and aromas, and odors for that matter, can trigger memories, both good and bad I suppose. Something caught my attention, smell-wise, the other day. It smelled like a barbershop, which I am missing about now. There is a unique smell to a barbershop, it has a soapy yet tonic smell, one that I remember from my youth. It has an aroma all to itself, although some smells are close enough. I mention soap because there is a little bit of that in the barbershop smell.

Going back in time there are a lot of smells that when you smell them again now, they take you back to a specific time or event. If I smell Pine-Sol I immediately go back to elementary school and think about some poor kid that just threw

up and someone had to come along and clean it up, with of course Pine-Sol. That is so embedded in mind that if I go to a friend’s house and they use Pine-Sol that is what I think of.

Other things are a bit more pleasant. It has been a long time, but I can still pick out my grandmother’s perfume, it is still made, it smells almost like her if I find a sample in a store, just not exactly. Of course her cooking had an aroma as well. I wouldn’t say my grandmother was a great cook, just a normal grandmother cook. However there were a few items that I really liked, nothing really extravagant, just the way it was made, perhaps that became my favorite because it set the bar. One of those things was her peanut butter cook-

ies. They had the right texture, not too dry but not too soft, sort of a bend and snap texture. I have tried peanut butter cookies all over the place and none meet my requirements. Since I can’t find better cookies the peanut butter cookie is not my favorite. However my grandmother’s cookies were my favorite. And I can remember the smell of those cooking. Another smell from her house was the old gas cook stove. It was a huge white enamel stove with the black grates over the gas burners. She taught me to cook on that stove, even lighting the burner with a wooden match, you got that whiff of gas, the smell of the sulfur from the match, then the odor of the flame.

There are other important smells as well.

The smell of a campfire. Not just any fire burning wood, but a campfire that is burning with people sitting around it in the middle of the night.

The aroma of a summer rain just starting on a hot day. There is something about that smell, it is not a regular rain smell. Another similar smell is standing inside of a screen door (metal screen) and the fresh rain hitting that screen. It has a distinct odor as well.

I have fond memories of my childhood vacations to the sea coast. The smell of the salt air and even the fishing smells. Of course salt water has a smell that stays with you, but (as much as I disliked fishing) fishing and bait odors are still smells that I remember. Once the actual fishing was done, my father would cook

the fish, often fried, and I really enjoy that aroma. I still like the smell of frying fish, I like eating fried fish, but mostly because I like tartar sauce, which ironically doesn’t smell that much.

Along the same lines, but fresh water fishing. There were a few places we vacationed that offered fishing, but not in the ocean. The theme of most of my childhood vacations was fishing of some sort. Most of these inland places had a shack out back where the fishing gear was stowed, or a building that housed a boat. These each had a memorable odor, not real appealing, but not bad, just something you attached to a fishing trip, so part of those vacations.

There are many, many food related aro-

mas, lots of things I like and enjoy eating. Probably too many to list. Just walking through town here there are few unique and good smells, obviously the wood fired pits cranking out the briskets, but there are a couple of places to get a burger and just down wind from those is a very good lunch aroma.

I am not sure I have a favorite smell of all time, lots of great memories with each of these. I don’t know that I have smelled some of these in many years, but they are still there. Sometimes I smell something close to my earlier memory and it takes me back. I will always have the times in my mind even if the aroma is not there again.

## Sandpaper people

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

You know them, I’m sure. Those people you see at the grocery store, at church, in the office, or maybe in the hallway at school. The Sandpaper People (not to be confused with the Star Wars Sand People, who are supposedly just as pesky).

They have nothing good to say, and more often than not, they always seem to have the exact opposite opinion from you. We don’t have to seek out people like this, but they tend to pop up in the garden of our lives like weeds that keep coming back.

Sandpaper people are hard to like. Sometimes they know more about everything than anyone else in the room. For some reason, they’re the ones who are in the middle of every

committee, every venture, those who always have not just a mere piddly two cents to offer to the world of their opinion, but always a few dollars’ worth. They’re like fingernails scraping a chalkboard, gnats nipping on your ankles, or accidentally adding salt to your sweet tea by mistake.

Sometimes I do like many of us do when encountering these people. I run the other way, especially at Wal-Mart. Don’t take it personally if you see me darting down a side aisle. It’s probably not you. Because in a small town like ours, it’s often impossible to avoid them and they take special handling and care when dealing with them.

I like to give alleged Sandpaper People a few

passes, especially if I’ve only just met them. But sometimes first impressions lie to us. How many of us have had a hard day? Maybe Mrs. Rough Sandpaper with grit #40 has a parent in the hospital, is working overtime, has a sick child, and this is just her way of dealing with stress and controlling what aspect of her life she can—namely the current encounter. Or maybe Mr. Scratchy (grit #120) always felt he wasn’t the guy everyone wanted to be around, so he’s developed a lousy, contrary attitude to prove himself right.

Maybe, sometimes, it’s also better to pick and choose our battles. I don’t have to be right all the time about everything. If my husband reads this,

he’ll probably shout, “Hallelujah!” That’s one thing to keep in mind at that next PTA meeting or committee gathering or church potluck planning meeting. Why must we have our way, or have the last word? Maybe it’s okay to step back and take a deep breath and let our blood pressure go to town.

We can’t change Sandpaper People, but maybe we can understand them a little better if we take a few moments to

think before we scratch them right back. Because, if you think about it, maybe there’s someone in your world who thinks you’re made of nothing but #40 grit paper yourself. Often, the things that scratch at us the worst from other people are the things we do ourselves. With that, I’ll quit chiming in for now, trying not to sound like a know-it-all. Because those are definitely #40 grit—and really, really can get to me. Ouch.



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### Native - From Page A4

es management major from Bethel Park (Bethel Park HS), who will serve as an Infantry officer on active duty.

Pamela Manning, a criminology and criminal justice major from Mansfield, Ohio (Lexington HS), who will serve as a Signal Corps officer, detailed to Field Artillery, on active duty.

Jillian Panizza, a safety management major from Midway (Fort Cherry HS), who will serve as a Chemical Corps officer on active duty.

Ethan Plesakov, a cybersecurity major from Slippery Rock (Slippery Rock HS), who will serve as a Signal Corps officer in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Sydney Ryan, a homeland security

major from Pittsburgh (North Hills HS), who will serve as a Medical Services officer in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Yuliya Sager, a homeland security major from Edinburg, who will serve as a Military Intelligence officer in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Bank Thomas, an accounting major from Cheswick (Fox Chapel HS), who will serve as an Air Defense officer on active duty.

Nicholas Wile, a criminology and criminal justice major from Greensburg (Hempfield HS), who will serve as an Engineer Officer, detailed to Infantry, on active duty.

### Election - From Page A2

Precinct 217: North; 1,249 registered voters  
Precinct 213: Split at Royal St./I-35 East through North Armstrong/Barnes to FM 1123  
Precinct 213: North; 3,403 registered voters  
Precinct 218: South; 1,516 registered voters  
Precinct 303: Split along I-35  
Precinct 303: West; 1,546 registered voters  
Precinct 322: East; 3,305 registered voters  
Precinct 315: Split along City of Temple SMD 4 Lines  
Precinct 315: 3,294 registered voters  
Precinct 320: 2,033 registered voters  
Precinct 318: Split along Tarver Drive and Jupiter Drive  
Precinct 318: 4,020 registered voters  
Precinct 321: 1,310 registered voters  
Precinct 408: Split along Stan Schlueter Loop  
Precinct 408: West; 1,419 registered voters  
Precinct 420: East; 3,530 registered voters  
The precinct split will go into effect on July 1, 2025.  
The precinct maps can be viewed at.  
For more information about voting in Bell County, visit Office of Elections Administration  
[https://www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/elections/precinct\\_maps.php](https://www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/elections/precinct_maps.php).





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**A6**  
Thursday,  
May 15, 2025

# LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

## Business booms for Haute Dog creator

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

Sandra Escalante has been creating gourmet hot dogs in downtown Temple and in the surrounding area for several years. But now, along with Krista Snyder of Blackbird Books & Spirits, she has added a second business — Pinky's Bar, located at 201 N East Street in Belton.

"I have a five-foot hotdog cart that has a griddle and warmer on it," Escalante said this week. "I'm self-contained and can create all kinds of items with my space, but my goal was to get a food truck one day. The plan was to get one this year, but I was contacted by Krista about an idea she had for a place called Pinky's."

The idea was to make Pinky's a type of sports bar without the sports. Geared toward women, Pinky's televisions would instead play reality shows, Golden Girls, rom-coms and Lifetime movies.

"It's a welcoming place for everyone, but we definitely gave it a pink and fun spin," Escalante said. "We host trivia games, singles nights, happy hour specials, curated tastings, Bingo, singalongs and brunch."

According to Escalante, the plan was to have an attached kitchen to serve "girl dinners," a fun way of saying comfort foods and treats.

"Krista loved my hot dogs, and I loved Blackbird and the concept for Pinky's," she said. "We went to work in November to create the space. I created the menu by building on my Haute Dog offerings."

"With a full kitchen, I was now able to expand the menu and offer more of my specialty dogs with upgraded ingredients. For example, the Bulgogi is one of my most requested dogs at the cart. But it has several components. It's a quarter-pound all-beef hotdog grilled with my bulgogi beef, spicy mayo, cabbage, kimchi and cucumber slices."

"At the cart, I use ground beef for the bulgogi, but now with Pinky's I am able to upgrade the meat to steak," Escalante said. "It really makes a difference. I am also able to make fresh street corn for my famous Elote Dog. It's fire-roasted corn



BELTON JOURNAL/DAVID TUMA

Sandra Escalante cooks up gourmet dogs at Haute Dog in downtown Temple. Escalante has teamed with Krista Snyder of Blackbird Books & Spirits to open Pinky's Bar in Belton, a sports bar of sorts that focuses on Lifetime movies and The Golden Girls.

with creamy mayo and cilantro on top of a hotdog."

Pinky's biggest sellers, especially late-night, are gourmet nachos, loaded fries and Gouda Vibes, a take on a grilled cheese with garlic-grilled sourdough with Havarti and gouda cheese and prosciutto.

"Yummy," Escalante said with a laugh.

The food has been so accepted by Pinky's customers that Escalante and Snyder have added weekend lunch buffets — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and all day on Sundays.

Although Belton is home to another popular hot dog vendor — High Five Hot Dogs — Escalante said there really isn't a competition.

"Jennifer (Ryder) and I don't compete, we col-

laborate," she said. "There are so many events, and with more than 100,000 people in the area, there is definitely room for us both. There's room for all of us to succeed."

Haute Dogs still serves downtown Temple, especially during big events.

"I don't usually do a solitary pop-up downtown Temple," she said. "I try to go where the events and crowds are. It just so happens that I do a lot of Downtown events. The city of Temple has made moves to make Downtown more appealing and build more foot traffic. The events are well attended and so much fun, and I also help out with school fundraisers when possible."

"My hotdogs are so special because they are made with lots of love. I want to create food that is fun, delicious and just makes you happy. I love fusion food and I try to combine elements of my fa-

vorite cuisines in unexpected ways. Who doesn't love a good hotdog? And a grilled hotdog with a snap and loaded toppings. That's a chef's kiss!"

"I think being local is also special," she said. "People who patronize either location are keeping their money local. It helps our communities and strengthens our local economy. Big chain corporations won't care about you spending \$20 with them, but for us small businesses, it makes a huge impact."

Escalante still hopes to add a food truck in the near future to make Haute Dog more mobile.

"I have had far too many tents ruined because of the elements. My goal is to have a fully operational food truck by the end of the year. Meanwhile, Pinky's will continue to serve the community and be a fun hangout for everyone."

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## Belton ISD announces two new elementary principals

Special to the Journal

Belton ISD announced last week the appointment of Courtney Brewer and Holly Griffith as the district's newest elementary principals.

Both leaders bring a deep understanding of Belton ISD's culture, a proven commitment to student success and a passion for cultivating positive school environments.

Courtney Brewer will continue serving as principal at High Point Elementary, a role she has held on an interim basis since February 2025. Brewer's leadership is grounded in strong instructional practices, relationship-building and a clear vision for student achievement.

With previous experience as an assistant principal at multiple Belton ISD campuses—including High Point Elementary, North Belton Middle School and Belton Early Childhood School—she is known for her data-driven decision-

making, coaching excellence and ability to build strong campus communities. Brewer began her teaching career in Killeen ISD before joining Belton ISD as a teacher and later earning multiple campus recognitions, including Teacher of the Year. She holds a Bachelor of Science in EC-6 Generalist with ESL Certification from Texas A&M University–Central Texas and earned her Principal Certification in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University in 2020.

Holly Griffith has been named the new principal of Lakewood Elementary, bringing over a decade of experience in education, including the past four years serving as the campus's assistant principal.

Throughout her time in Belton ISD, Griffith has led impactful initiatives in professional learning, data-informed instruction, and



Holly Griffith



Courtney Brewer

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## ZSD Celebrations hosts mobile events

By Michelle Rodriguez  
The Belton Journal

ZSD Celebrations hosts birthday parties, weddings, baby showers, gender reveals, and corporate events. In business since 2023, ZSD is co-owned by Sarah Tadesse and her husband, Dave.

“We are a mobile event business that hosts kids’ customization workshops. We have everything from slime to denim jackets. Slime is very popular along with our charm bracelets. We host parties for children aged three years old and up. For kids under three years old, we recommend sensory workshops with sand or Play-doh,” said Sarah Tadesse.

Art wear workshops include bucket hats, trucker hats, lunch bags, denim jackets, backpacks, branded sneakers, and non-branded sneakers. Materials are included with a 90-minute guide, followed by a fashion show and dancing games.

“Kids under three years old can build their own sensory kit too. For example, for one party recently the theme was ‘Bluey’. They built a kit from their favorite scene. We want to create a stress-free way to celebrate parent’s kids’ birthday parties,” said Tadesse.

They have a digital photo booth for adults and a kid



Courtesy photos

ZSD Celebrations offers a variety of party themes for birthdays, weddings, baby showers, gender reveals, corporate events, and more.

sized photo booth available. The adult photo booth can be used for birthday parties, weddings, and corporate events. The range of cost for workshop parties is \$19-\$55 per child depending on the workshop. A 50 percent deposit is required to reserve a party then the balance is due up to a week before the party. There is a minimum reservation of 8 kids.

“We go to people’s homes or wherever they want to host the event. We bring kid-sized tables, kid-sized chairs, tablecloths, decor and styling for the event. We go everywhere from Marble Falls to Killeen, including Austin and Pflugerville, the whole CenTex area,”

said Sarah Tadesse.

People use ZSD Celebrations for custom and affordable parties for the everyday parent. They want parents to enjoy their party, so they take care of all the details including drop off, set up, and clean up.

“Looking back at my own daughter’s parties, I didn’t get to spend time with her. Parents can hire one person, and their kids can look back and remember. We host the party, workshop, and give parents their time. I got tired of going to parties and getting junk or candy. It’s an item they will actually use for many years like a denim jacket, fanny pack, and trucker hats. Trucker hats are more expen-

sive but they are more popular,” said Tadesse.

They not only host kids workshop parties, but baby shower and gender reveal parties. They offer customized clothing for babies. Each guest can put their own touch on an item of baby clothing.

Visit their website at [www.zsdcelebrations.com](http://www.zsdcelebrations.com). There is a link on the website to book parties. They also have a Facebook and Instagram page. For questions and more information, Sarah Tadesse can be reached at 512-571-3287. Emails can be sent through their website or emailed to [zsdcelebrations@gmail.com](mailto:zsdcelebrations@gmail.com).

## Centex Vet Rides program offers transportation for veterans

By Michelle Rodriguez  
The Belton Journal

The CenTex Vet Ride program serves veterans, active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and their families and is funded by the Texas Veteran Commission (TVC) through the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG).

“The program provides transportation for veterans and their dependents to medical appointments, as well as federal, state, and local government offices, plus other destinations in support of basic needs,” said Jim Halbrook, Public Affairs Officer for TVC.

Funding for these grants is generated primarily by the Texas Lottery Commission’s games designated for veteran support. People can also donate when registering their vehicles or when getting a hunting or fishing license.



Courtesy photo

Texas Veterans Commission Vice Chair Mary Dale presents a \$300,000 grant check to CTCOG representatives Uryan Nelson, Planning and Regional Services Division Director, and Jim Reed, Executive Director of CTCOG.

“We provide grants through commissioners to local organizations that provide direct services. CTCOG is a current grantee. They were awarded up to \$300,000 for a grant that supports rides for veterans in seven counties, to include Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba,”

said Joanna Orozco, Operations Manager for Fund for Veteran’s Assistance at the Texas Veterans Commission.

The TVC partners with organizations to coordinate for veteran appointments. There are 37 varying types of services for veterans. There is a directory online.

“When veterans, active duty, and their families go to the directory, they find what service they are looking for along with the description of services and contact information for each organization. There’s also Housing for Texas Heros and Com-

See VET,  
Page A8

## Principals - From Page A6

collaborative planning. A graduate of Lamar University with a master’s degree in educational administration, Griffith has also completed the Aspiring Principals Academy through the district. Her leadership is centered around fostering a supportive school culture, strategic planning and a relentless focus on academic growth for all students.

“We are thrilled to welcome these talented leaders into their new roles,” said Denise Sharp, Executive Director of Campus Leadership for Elementary Campuses of

Belton ISD. “Both Courtney and Holly are committed educators who understand the heart of Belton ISD. Their leadership will inspire staff, engage families, and, most importantly, create thriving

learning environments for students.”

Please join us in celebrating and supporting these outstanding leaders as they begin their next chapters in Belton ISD on July 7, 2025.

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Courtesy Photos

City staff and friends recognized outgoing City Councilmember Wayne Carpenter on April 29 for his decades of service as a councilmember and mayor. Mayor David K. Leigh shared a Proclamation to honor Councilmember Carpenter, City Manager Sam Listi shared perspective on the growth of the city during Carpenter’s tenure, and a Burr Oak was planted in his honor at Heritage Park. Councilmember Carpenter gave a brief speech where he honored Belton employees by name for their dedicated service to the public. He pointed out that what makes Belton great goes far beyond those who serve on boards and commissions and that dedicated employees are also needed to meet the needs of the public.

Appoints - From Page A1

“These are significant times for Belton ISD as we continue to address the uncertainties surrounding public education funding and prioritize the needs that will allow our district to thrive. Please know that your Board of Trustees remains united in our commitment to the vision, values, and beliefs that our community holds dear for the children, staff, and families we are privileged to serve.”

“I am honored for the opportunity to serve and sincerely grateful for the confidence and trust of the Board of Trustees. As an alumnus, child of a Belton Tiger and now having children in Belton ISD, I am excited to serve the school district that has had such a positive impact on my family for generations,” said Bozon. “I look forward to working with the Board and Administrative team to continue the positive work and build upon what makes Belton ISD a special place.”

Bozon has a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Accounting and a Master of Science (MS) in Finance from Texas A&M University. He is a Certified Public Accountant and Cer-

tified Government Finance Officer.

He began his career at KPMG in Dallas and was the Director of Finance for the City of Belton from March 2014 to June 2019; Vice President of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer for Temple College from July 2019 to September 2024.

He currently serves as Chief Business Officer for Shine Branch, LLC.

Bozon has served on the Belton Education Foundation Board since 2019, and as a member of the 2022 BISD Bond Exploration Committee and Bond Oversight Committee. He has been on the Belton Economic Development Corporation Board since 2019 and has served on the Bell County Rising Leaders Board since 2020. He served on the BCWCID #6 Board from 2017-2022.

He and his wife, Jessica, have four children, Ellie, Ben, Joe and Teddy. The oldest, Ellie, attends Lakewood Elementary, and Ben will start there next fall. He is the son of Carl and Barbara Bozon. Carl is an alum of the Belton High School Class of 1977.

VET - From Page A7

community in Service,” said Orozco.

Veterans can find assistance from organizations in the directory at <https://tvc.texas.gov/directory/directory-category/grants>.

“The directory can be set to find services by county. Users should know that some organizations provide service statewide. So, for example, if one looks for a service in Bell County and the organization is listed as in Houston, it’s a statewide service with HQ in Houston,” said Halbrook.

Other organizations funded by TVC for transportation programs and services in Bell County include Camp Shield (After Military Service), Catholic Charities of Centex, Community Learning

Center, Endeavors, Heros Resource Center (Heros Night Out), Hope for Warriors, Houston Area Urban League, Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation, and USA Cares.

The Central Texas Aging Disability and Veterans Resource Center in partnership with The HOP will utilize the Micro Transit Ride Share system for the TVC grant.

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## BISD athletes ink college commitments

By Clay Whittington  
*The Belton Journal*

For a majority of their careers, 23 local athletes have represented Belton ISD. Soon, however, their talents will be spread across the country.

Belton and Lake Belton each conducted collegiate signing ceremonies last week with multiple standouts making their commitments official and taking the first steps toward longtime dreams of performing at the next level.

While every signature was a milestone moment, only one propelled an athlete into an NCAA Division I program.

After competing at the varsity level all four years of high school, Lady Tigers distance runner Olivia Brillhart committed to the University of Houston for both track and cross country.

In cross country, she qualified for state every year, placing 17th overall as a sophomore, and she capped off her senior year by advancing to the state track meet for the first time, finishing fifth in the 3200-meter run.

Additionally, she reached the regional meet all four years in the 1600.

She was joined by multiple friendly faces at the school's joint ceremony inside the field house.

Along with Brillhart, seven more Belton athletes inked their letters of intent in a variety of events.

Tigers pitcher Jacob Quigley (Southwestern University), soccer player Lennin Malvaiz (Southwestern Adventist University), track standout Miguel Manners (Hendrix College, AR.), linebacker Damien Tiumalu (Colorado State University Pueblo), soft-

ball player Hailey Schutz (Northern Oklahoma College) and cheerleader Briley Campbell (Abilene Christian University) also participated.

Quigley, who also plays first base, posted a 6-1 record on the mound this season with 62 strikeouts, while Malvaiz is coming off his first selection to the all-district first team. Additionally, Manners helped all three of the Tigers' relay teams advance to the area meet this year, Tiumalu was part of two playoff teams, Schutz is a former all-district outfielder of the year, and Campbell was captain of her squad.

Lake Belton also held a joint ceremony for its collection of 15 athletes, and some will remain together at the next level.

Broncos football players Tate Lisenbe, Tommy Stephens, Joey Read and

Jeremiah Battreall each committed to Mary Hardin-Baylor, while teammate Josh Mallard is bound for Abilene Christian University.

The quintet combined to help Lake Belton advance to the playoffs for a third consecutive season.

Furthermore, baseball players Ely Vaughn and Andrew Ramos both signed with Nelson University, while four teammates are headed elsewhere.

Rohde Smith will play at East Texas Baptist University, Kellen Scarbough is going to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Brandon Holley signed with Richland Junior College.

Together, the group earned the district championship as seniors.

Rounding out Lake Belton's 15 athletes was Broncos golfer Nicholas Brooks (Central Method-

ist University, MO.), Lady Broncos basketball player Natalie Maldonado (Colorado College), Lady Broncos soccer player Olivia Sibley (University of Chester in the United Kingdom) and Broncos soccer player Benjamin Asuncion Crabb (Centenary College of Louisiana).

All four helped their teams reach the postseason, and Asuncion Crabb now holds the distinction as the first Broncos soccer player to commit to a college program

Maldonado departs after accounting for 522 points, 287 rebounds, 148 assists and 147 steals during her four-year career, Brooks was fourth at this year's district tournament and Sibley helped the Lady Broncos play defending state champion Midlothian to a 1-0 halftime deficit in the post-season's opening round.



Dr. Jack Welch  
From the Bleachers

### Briles Bruised by Social Media, But Never Proven Guilty

A few years ago, the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) scheduled former Baylor head football coach Art Briles to speak at their convention. The day before his scheduled appearance, he was quietly removed. The stated reason? Public backlash, most notably on social media.

But no one paying attention knew this was coming. Surely, the AFCA leaders weren't caught off guard by the controversy Briles' name can spark. And yet, they folded. Just as others have done before.

Since his dismissal from Baylor in 2016, Briles has seen multiple job opportunities evaporate overnight. First, a consulting job with the Cleveland Browns. Then, a coaching position with the CFL's Hamilton Tiger-Cats. Most recently, the speaking gig with the AFCA. Each time, public pressure was cited. Each time, organizations reversed decisions they initially stood behind.

Let's be honest: any organization hiring Briles knows the baggage that comes with his name. The question is not whether the backlash is real, of course it is. The real issue is the lack of backbone by the institutions that hire him and then backtrack. What does it say about an organization when it makes a controversial decision, then abandons it at the first sign of noise?

I believe Art Briles is a good hire. But if you do hire him, someone controversial, you'd better be ready to defend your decision. You should know the fallout is coming and prepare for it.

Let's deal with facts, not emotions. Has Briles been charged with a crime? No. Not once. Has he been proven guilty of any wrongdoing in a court of law? No. In fact, Baylor University's own letter to Briles dated May 23, 2017, obtained by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, is telling. Signed by the university's general counsel, Christopher W. Holmes, the letter states:

"As you speak with others regarding  
See **WELCH**,  
Page B2

## Johnson brothers to be enshrined Saturday

By Clay Whittington  
*The Belton Journal*

T.J. Johnson and Trap Johnson guided the Tigers to numerous memorable moments inside Belton's gymnasium, and Saturday, the brothers will be enshrined there.

In 2021, the pair of four-year varsity members helped the Tigers snap a playoff drought, and they have not missed the post-season since.

As a result, the two will be permanently honored Saturday morning, when they are inducted into the Belton High School Athletic Wall of Honor.

The ceremony is set to begin at 10 a.m. with a meet-and-greet occurring at 9 a.m.

T.J. Johnson's first two seasons ended in disappointment as Belton produced a combined district record of 10-22, but it did not deter his individual accomplishments.

En route to eventually becoming the program's all-time leading scorer with 2,672 points and one of team's most prolific rebounders (1,213), T.J. Johnson's career started with him being named the all-district newcomer of the year.

He proved worthy of the title.

One year later, T.J. Johnson was a member of the all-district first team before being named offensive player of the year in 2021.

In his senior year, T.J. Johnson was bestowed the title of all-district most valuable player and repeated as an all-region selection after guiding the Tigers to a share of its first district since 2004.

He also committed to Lipscomb in the same season, establishing him as just the second Belton player since 1961 to

receive an NCAA Division I scholarship.

Currently, T.J. Johnson plays for Virginia Military Institute, where he started all 33 games as a sophomore, ranking fourth in the conference with 2.8 3-pointers per game and fifth in the conference with 32.6 minutes per game.

His brother mimicked the trajectory.

Playing alongside T.J. Johnson, Trap Johnson was an all-district second-team selection as a freshman in 2021, but his stature quickly grew during the ensuing seasons.

When T.J. Johnson was MVP, Trap Johnson gained first-team notoriety, and after his brother's departure, the accolades continued coming.

Trap Johnson, who never missed a game, finished his high school career with two straight all-district superlatives, repeating as offensive player of the year to go along with back-to-back appearances on the all-region team.

Equally important, Belton earned its first playoff victory in almost two decades in 2023.

Trap Johnson added a pair of all-state selections to his resume and totaled 2,398 points (second in school history), 1,010 rebounds and 407 blocks before departing to college with a 104-30 combined record.

Next year, Trap Johnson will play for Montana State as a freshman, joining his brother at the NCAA Division I level.

The duo will be inducted along with former Belton girls soccer standout goalkeeper Mallory Bankhead and former Tigers offensive lineman John Roach, joining a list of elite athletes from the school that stretches back to 1909.

## Lake Belton Baseball sweeps North Mesquite; McKinney North awaits Region semifinal

By Tony Adams  
*The Belton Journal*

The Lake Belton Broncos baseball team traveled to Corsicana last Thursday to take on the North Mesquite Stallions in the Class 5A-Div. 1 Area Round.

The Broncos outpaced the Stallions in game one, 12-2, and won by a nose in game two, 8-6, in nine innings.

"It was another great series where our guys bat-

tled from beginning to end," Lake Belton head coach Chris Peacock said. "North Mesquite has a solid team and to come away with a sweep indicates how hard we battled."

Lake got off to an early offensive start against the Stallions. Bryce Davis scored on Cooper Mees' sacrifice fly in the bottom of the first.

In the top of the second, the Stallions tied the game on a bases-loaded walk to Bren-

dan Rees from a 13-pitch at-bat. Jacob Hardage singled home Christopher Salas to give North Mesquite a 2-1 lead.

The Broncos answered in the bottom of the second to retake the lead. Rohde Smith's sacrifice bunt scored Braxtan Cope and Cole Mikulas scored on a double play.

Lake posted a five-run third inning to open a six-run

See **BASEBALL**,  
Page B3

## Bronco Softball beats Walnut Grove 2-1; rematch with Melissa on deck

By Tony Adams  
*The Belton Journal*

The Lake Belton Broncos and Prosper Walnut Grove embarked in a one-game winner-take-all Region Semifinal playoff on Friday in Alvarado.

Lake responded to an early deficit with a tying RBI double by Madison Naser and eventual game-winning RBI single by Brysen Gott. Madison Ruiz did the rest in the circle with a 12-strikeout performance to lift the Broncos to a 2-1 win over Walnut Grove.

"I thought we did a great job staying composed," Lake Belton head coach Kelsie McEachern said. "With the stress of a one-game playoff and then getting behind early, I thought that we were doing good things so I was not too concerned early. They made the push to come back, and I am very proud of them."

The Wildcats' first threat to score came in the first inning, when Lyndsey Hooker doubled to start the inning. Ruiz induced an Emma Berlage fly out to Naser at first base, a swinging strikeout by Vivian McKernan, and pop out by Kailee James to Alexis Ortiz at second base to end the inning.

Penelope Robles was hit by a pitch to start the bottom of the second. Robles stole second base and advanced to third on the throw that leaked into centerfield, and scored on an error to give the Wildcats a 1-0 lead. Ortiz's single with

one out started Lake's rally in the third. Madison Perkins advanced Ortiz to first on a groundout that JoJo appeared to beat out at first. With two outs, Naser's liner down the right field line scored Ortiz, and landed at second. Two pitches later, Gott drilled a line shot off the base of the left centerfield wall that scored Naser to give Lake their first lead of the game, 2-1.

Two-out walks to Perkins and Naser set up a solid scoring opportunity for Lake in the top of the fifth. Gott's deep fly ball to right center was chased down by Robles to end the inning.

Hannah Adkins led off the bottom of the inning with a double. With one out, Hooker was intentionally walked. Ruiz induced a pop fly by Berlage and struck out McKernan to end the Wildcats' threat.

Lilliana Herrera doubled with two outs in the top of the sixth, but was stranded.

After having issued a leadoff walk to James, Ruiz struck out Roble, Lauren Robinson, and Naomi Redman to end the sixth.

There was a 15-minute rain delay in the top of the seventh, as the umpires directed the teams off the field as a rain squall made its way over Alvarado.

In the bottom of the seventh with two outs, McEachern directed Hooker to be intentionally walked for a second time, which put the

See **WRESTLING**,  
Page B3


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Welch - From Page B1

these issues, you can be assured you may make certain statements without fear of contradiction from Baylor based on the information currently known to us. In particular, at this time we are unaware of any situation where you personally had contact with anyone who directly reported to you being the victim of sexual assault or that you directly discouraged the victim of an alleged sexual assault from reporting to law enforcement or University officials. Nor are we aware of any situation where you played a student athlete who had been found responsible for sexual assault.”

This is a far cry from the narrative that Briles was directly involved in covering up sexual assaults. Again, this doesn’t absolve the entire Baylor athletic program or administration of responsibility. But as far as Briles himself is concerned, there is no

legal finding of guilt, no criminal charge, and no direct evidence that he knowingly enabled or shielded misconduct.

The pattern here is clear. The social media court rushes to judgment. And organizations fold in response, despite their own vetting, their own decisions, and even, in

some cases, the legal facts.


So, let’s be clear: Briles is only controversial because the situation was mishandled. He is not a criminal. He has never been legally proven guilty of any wrongdoing. If institutions choose to hire him, they should do so with full awareness of the potential backlash

and the integrity to stand by their decision. Because if you don’t have the conviction to stand behind someone after you’ve offered them a job, maybe don’t offer it in the first place.

Thought for the week, “It’s so easy to create a controversy.” Santhosh Narayanan

Dr. Jack Welch is an educator and professional football coach. His doctorate is in educational administration, and he has been an educator, administrator, and football coach, mentoring young minds, for over 40 years.

He is also the author of Foundations of Coaching. He can be reached at jackwelch1975@gmail.com.



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Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

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ments.

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By the way, May 29 — “five, two, nine” — is Save for Education Day. It’s a good day to commit, or recommit, to having a strategy to pay for education.

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

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# An Epic Rematch: Lake Belton vs. Melissa, 2025

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

The 2024 Class 5A State Semifinal. It was the first state tournament that a Belton Independent School District team had been a part of since the 1994 Belton Tigers Baseball squad claimed the Texas UIL Class 4A State Championship.

Following a 5-3 start to start the 2024 campaign, the Broncos set a school district record with 31 consecutive wins, eclipsing the Belton Tigers’ 29-straight winning streak of 2016. The record was derailed by a come-from-behind win by College Station to even up the Region II Quarterfinal. The two-run, series walk-off home run by Angie DeLeon in the ninth inning of game three propelled the team past the Cougars and knocked off perennial powerhouse Mont Belvieu Barbers Hill in the Region II semifinal in a one-game playoff.

Just when you think the team had overcome adversity, game one of their Region II Final against Montgomery Lake Creek was delayed after taking a 5-0 lead on homers by DeLeon and Haley Hoffman.

While the Broncos were battling the Lions in Mumford on that May 22 evening, West Temple was hit with a pair of devastating tornadoes that left nearly 500 homes and businesses either destroyed or severely damaged. Lake Belton’s graduation, slated for the next night, was delayed to May 29 due to the loss of power at Cadence Bank Center, the school’s graduation venue.

With vengeance, the Broncos picked up the pieces. They returned to Mumford two days later, held on for a 5-4 win and downed the defending Class 5A champions two days later to punch their ticket to Austin.

It was the Melissa Cardinals that ended Lake’s epic journey in 2024 with a 4-0 win on May 31. The Cardinals became the new Class 5A State Champion the next day with an 8-0 win over Harlingen South.

Lake Belton finished their season 40-5, with the bitterness of tastes in their mouths.

The year 2025 arrived, and Lake Belton reset their sights on Austin. The Class 5A No. 4 Broncos started the season 6-0 before an 11-1 loss to Conroe at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Tournament in College Station shook things up after the opening tourney. Following another four wins and a 9-1 loss to a stout Leander squad, who is battling Comal Smithson Valley in the Region IV Final this week, the Broncos have won 24 straight games, which included a 10-0 through District 16-5A for their fifth consecutive district championship.

The last five wins have come in the new playoff format that the Texas UIL has in place this season: the 5A-D I and 5A-D II tournaments. With Lake’s enrollment, they qualified for the 5A-D I tournament. They opened the playoffs with a 1-0 win over Ennis. In the three games that followed, they dispatched Ennis and West Mesquite by a combined score of 40-2. They then battled Prosper Walnut Grove over seven innings in a one-game, winner-take-all

tournament to win 2-1.

Lake has hit .390 and has an on-base percentage of .481 through 36 games. With 317 runs scored, 121 extra base hits, 21 homers and 265 runs batted in, they may not have the power numbers of last season’s team, but they get on base, move up (121 stolen bases), and set up opportunities to cross the plate.

Alexis Ortiz (.527 batting average, .602 on-base percentage, four homers, 44 RBI, 58 hits, 52 runs scored, 15 doubles, 17 stolen bases), Madison Perkins (.520 BA, .600 OBP, 21 RBI, 29 stolen bases), and Maddison Ruiz (.500 BA, .574 OBP, 52 hits, seven homers, 47 RBI) are three of the key cogs of the offensive arsenal for the Broncos.

With Ruiz (20-1, 0.53 ERA, 245 strikeouts, 37 walks) and Natalie Hosch (14-1, 1.98 ERA, 76 strikeouts, 9 walks) combining for a 1.11 earned run average and an opponent’s batting average of .163, the Broncos have provided enough run support, and the pitching staff has backed up the offense just the same.

“This team has battled to get back here. They have put in the work,” Lake Belton head coach Kelsie McEachern. “That loss to Melissa at the state tournament last year put a bad taste in our mouths, and we got back to work.”

At 34-2 and in the Region II Final, it is where Lake needed to be: on the lip of the cup in Region II and awaiting their next opponent to return to the state stage again.

Now returning to the main stage: You guessed it. The Melissa Cardinals.

Melissa’s freight train of a season has been a national story. The Cardinals are the reigning 2024 Class 5A State Champion, this season’s number one team in Class 5A, in both the Texas Girls’ Coaches Association Top 25 poll and in MaxPreps National 25 poll. The Cardinals are on a 48-game win streak going back to an 8-1 loss to Lucas Lovejoy on March 28, 2024.

The closest ANY team has come to defeating Melissa this season: Waco Midway, who took the Cardinals to an extra inning before falling 1-0.

So far in the playoffs, Melissa is 5-0 having outscored their opponents 64-3.

They set a national record 106 home runs in 33 games, eclipsing the former mark of 105 homers in 39 games set by the North DeSoto Griffins out of Stonewall, La. They exited the Midlothian series with 112 round trippers in 34 games.

The Cardinals have scored 445 runs this season while having allowed 30 through 34 games. Lake’s last opponent, Walnut Grove, scored seven of the 30 runs against Melissa, the only runs the Cardinals allowed in District 9-5A play.

Kennedy Bradley (23 HR, 53 RBI), Finlee Williams (17 HR, 55 RBI), Caigan Crabtree (17 HR, 53 RBI), Hutton Lulu Adrian (16 HR, 55 RBI), Paisley Needham (11 HR, 56 RBI), and Izzy Gonzales (10 HR, 51 RBI) all had double-digit homers and 50-plus runs batted in for the Cardinals.

While the Cardinals’ offense garners the headlines, their pitching holds down the fort. With a team earned run average of 1.24 over 158 1/3 innings, Eloisa Maes (27-0, 1.17 ERA, 199 strikeouts, 24 walks) and Makenna Ramsey (6-0, 1.49

ERA, 11 saves, 46 strikeouts, 15 walks) are a duo that does not need a great deal of run support to get the job done.

While this may look like a mismatch on paper, anything can happen and that is why the games are played on the field.

“No matter who we face, we will fight, and we will battle,” McEachern said. “We will be ready.”

Game one of the series will be on Wednesday in Alvarado at 7 pm. Game two will be in Cleburne at 7 pm. If a game three is needed, it will be played in Alvarado at 1 pm.

## Baseball - From Page B1

lead. Kaden Ward singled home Zavian Rodriguez, Mikulas’ single scored Ward and Mees, and RJ Hunt doubled home Mikulas and Brent Thomson.

The Broncos slammed the door in game one with a four-run fifth. Smith doubled home Thomson and Mikulas, Smith scored on a wild pitch, and Ty Green singled in Hunt to end the game in run-rule fashion.

Mikulas went 3-for-3 with two runs batted in, Smith had two hits and three runs batted in, and Cope went 2-for-3.

Brandon Holley picked up the game one win, pitched five innings, allowed two runs on five hits, struck out four and walked one.

James Hernandez took the loss for the Stallions, having pitched 2 1/3 innings, allowed eight runs on night hits, walked three, and struck out one. Jeremiah Berumen pitched 1 2/3 innings of relief, allowed four runs (three earned) on three hits, and two walks.

Hernandez gave North Mesquite the lead in the opening inning of the second game with a two-run double.

Smith put the Broncos on the scoreboard in the second inning on Smith’s single that scored Ward.

The score stayed 2-1 until the top of the sixth when Mikula’s ground out scored Jori Holland to tie the game. Hunt singled home Cope to put Lake out front, and Davis’ double plated Hunt and Smith increase Lake’s lead to three, 5-2. They extended the lead to four in the top of the seven when a balk by Eric Hernandez scored Mikulas.

Eric Hernandez’s bases-clearing triple and Miguel Perez’s game-tying single forced the game into extra innings.

In the top of the ninth. Mikula’s broke the tie with a double that scored Ward. Colby Anthony’s single scored Mikulas to lift the score to 8-6.

The Stallions loaded the bases in the bottom of the ninth with a walk, single, and hit-by-pitch. Kellen Scarborough fanned Perez and induced a flyout by Damien Richardson to Ward to end the series.

Ward, Hunt, and Cameron Bartz each had two hits in Lake’s 11-hit output. Mikulas and Davis each had two hits.

Maverik Maddux pitched 6 2/3 innings, allowed six runs on six hits, hit two batters, struck out seven and walked two. Ely Vaughan pitched 1 2/3 innings of relief for the win, allowed one hit and one walk. Scarborough picked up the save, having pitched 2/3 inning, hit a batter, and struck out one.

James Hernandez and Eric Hernandez each had two hits.

Perez earned a no-decision, pitched 6 2/3 innings, allowed five runs (four earned) on eight hits, hit three batters, struck out 10 and walked one. Eric Hernandez took the loss, pitched two innings, allowed three runs (two earned) on three hits, walked three, and walked three.

The Broncos will take on McKinney North in the UIL Class 5A-Division 1 Region Semifinal at Alvarado.

Game one will be Thursday at 7:30 pm, game two will be on Friday at 7 pm, and game three, if necessary, will be Saturday at 2 pm. The winner will take on the Frisco Reedy-Midlothian series winner in the UIL Class 5A Division I Region II final next week. Their series will be played Thursday and Friday at Dallas Baptist University.

## Softball - From Page B1

potential tying run on first base.

“We knew that she was their best player coming in,” McEachern said. “If we ever got in a situation, we were going to put her on and let someone else try to beat us. It happened to work out twice in our favor. Maddi did a great job in staying composed, knowing that we were going to do that.”

Berlage lined out to Ortiz at shortstop to end the game.

Naser had two of Lake’s five hits and scored a run along with Ortiz.

Ruiz pitched a complete game victory, having pitched seven innings, allowed an unearned run on two hits, struck out 12, walked five and hit a batter.

Hooker took the loss for Walnut Grove having pitched three innings, allowed two runs on four hits, walked one and struck out one. Adkins pitched four innings in relief, allowed one hits, struck out two, and walked two.

With the 225’ outfield, Perkins, Addison Sims, and Alaysha Williams used their speed to cover a ton of ground throughout the night, with Perkins running down to balls by the base of the centerfield wall.

“We knew that it was going to be a deep ball park,” McEachern said. “We knew some hitters that we were going to have to

play deeper with. I’m especially of Jo (Perkins) who chased down two balls that would have been gone at other parks.”

The win for Lake Belton (34-3) sets up Class 5A Division 1 Region 2 final with the Melissa Cardinals (33-0), who walloped Midlothian in a two-game sweep where they outscored the Panthers, 29-1. It is a much-anticipated rematch of the two schools from the Class 5A State Semifinal from 2024, a game that Melissa won 4-0 on their way to a Class 5A State Championship.

“We are going to fight and compete, no matter what and no matter who it is,” McEachern said. “Last year

left a bitter taste in our mouth, and we do have some returners from last year’s team. So they know that feeling. We are going to be hungry, we are going to make sure that we do our homework and are ready to go.”

Game one of the series will be on Wednesday in Alvarado at 7 pm. Game two will be in Cleburne at 7 pm. If a game three is needed, it will be played in Alvarado at 1 pm.

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16, 2024, against Aimee Jacobs and Unknown Father, Respondent(s), numbered 24DFAM346331, and entitled “In the Interest of IRAGENE HAWKINS, minor child.” The suit requests to terminate the parent-child relationships and/or to appoint a managing conservator of the child. The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit is: IRAGENE HAWKINS, DOB: March 23, 2016, Place of birth: Texas

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

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025

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

By: C. Rodriguez, Deputy  
05.15

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS  
HAVING CLAIMS  
AGAINST THE ESTATE OF  
MARGARETTA HANNAH,  
DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary were issued on May 7,2025, in a proceeding styled Estate of Margaretta Hannah, Deceased, in Cause Number 25CPB00260, pending in the County Court at Law #1 of Bell County. Texas.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor, addressed as follows: Jaward David Hannah, II Independent Executor of the Estate of Margaretta Hannah. Deceased c / o B u r k R o b e r t s, Roberts &Roberts, L.L.P. 2501 East Elms Rd., Ste. A, Killeen, Texas 76542-3023

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the

LEGALS

time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Signed on May 8, 2025.

Roberts &Roberts, L.L.P., Attorneys for Jaward David Hannah, II

By: Burk Roberts 05.15

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS  
HAVING CLAIMS  
AGAINST THE ESTATE OF  
CLODENE GREER DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary were issued on May 7,2025 in a proceeding styled Estate of Clodene Greer. Deceased, in Cause Number 25CPB0016L pending in the County Court of Bell County, Texas. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executrix, addressed as follows: Tammy Lynn Mills Independent Executrix of the Estate of Clodene Greer. Deceased c/o Burk Roberts, Roberts &Roberts, L.L.P., 2501 East Elms Rd.. Ste. A, Killeen Texas 76542-3023

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

Signed on May 8, 2025.

Roberts &Roberts, L.L.P., Attorneys for Tammy Lynn Mills

By: Burk Roberts  
05.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of JOHN WESLEY TARVER, JR., Deceased, were issued on May 1, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00219, pending in the County Court-At-Law: Number one, Bell County, Texas, to: JUDITH MARITZA TARVER.

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: JAY R. BEATTY Attorney at Law, 3106 South W.S. Young Drive Building D, Suite 401, KILLEEN, TX 76542

DATED the 8th day of May 2025

JAY R. BEATTY, State Bar No.: 01992450, 3106 South W.S. Young Drive ,Building D, Suite 401,

LEGALS

KILLEEN, TX 76542, Telephone: (254) 526-3024, Facsimile: (254) 526-2545,

E-mail: jbeatty@mbaattorneys.com

Attorney for Judith Maritza Tarver 05.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert Carroll Bailey, Deceased, were issued on April 30, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00178, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: Kimala Wilson.

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: Kimala Wilson  
5680 CR 142  
Gatesville, Texas 76528

DATED the 7th day of May, 2025.

/s/ Chuck P. Stermer, Chuck P. Stermer, Attorney for Kimala Wilson, State Bar No.: 24094964, 619 E. Main St., Gatesville, Texas 76528, Telephone: (254) 865-6003, Facsimile: (254) 323-0070, Email: chuck.stermerlaw@gmail.com

05.15

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00309

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

MARY CLAIRE CASTERLINE, Applicant, on May 07, 2025, filed an Application for Determination of Heirship and for Letters of Independent Administration in a proceeding styled: PATRICE MARIE MENDELSON, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00309 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 15, 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

LEGALS

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: JOHN ERIC STOEBNER, 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 07, 2025.

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

By: Lillian Phillips Deputy  
05.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BRENDA K. LASLY, Deceased, were issued on May 7, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00273, pending in the

County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: CINDY KAY LEVINGSTON.

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 BRENDA K. LASLY, c/o: CINDY KAY LEVINGSTON1,538 Clarence Rd., Temple, Texas 76501

DATED May 12, 2025.

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

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Local

Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

MAY

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

JUNE

06/02: Chat N Canasta  
06/03: Footloose Singles  
06/04: Monthly Luncheon,  
Popcorn Bridge  
06/05: 42 Dominoes  
06/09: Bookworms  
06/12: 42 Dominoes  
06/13: TGIF  
06/14: Couples Night Out  
06/16: Snack time Mahjong  
06/17: Bunco  
06/18: Popcorn Bridge  
06/19: 42 Dominoes; Nonfiction Book  
Club  
06/20: Trailblazers Walking Group  
06/23: Well-read Women; Monday  
Canasta  
06/25: Crochet And Knit; Fun Lunch  
06/26: 42 Dominoes  
06/28: Jimmy's Egg

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

CAC announces 2025 concert lineups

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

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

SHAWN COLVIN — May 16

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

RUTHIE FOSTER JAZZ BAND — July 12

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

AN CLIBURN FINALIST CLAYTON STEPHENSON — Oct. 18

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

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL — Nov. 8

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

SHINYRIBS — Dec. 6

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

Bell County Master Gardeners - May 15

The Bell County Master Gardeners Association will be hosting our free monthly seminar on Thursday, May 15th, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., at the BCMGA Learning Center, 1605 N. Main St., Belton. Certified Master Gardeners Jan George, Carol Morisset, and Annette Schubert take you through caring for and propagating succulents for gardens in your garden and in containers. Class Limit: 60. Please Register at [bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com](mailto:bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com) by May 13 th to secure your spot. Registration is not required but is desired to ensure we have enough materials and seats available.

Bell County Master Gardeners - May 21

The Bell County Master Gardener and the Harker Heights Activities Center presents "Gardening with Herbs" on Tuesday, May 21st from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Harker Heights Activity Center, 400 Indian Trail, Harker Heights. Come learn from Certified Master Gardener, Sylvia Meadgen, what is an herb; planting the various types of herbs; benefits of herbs; uses for herbs; pests and diseases; and harvesting your herbs. Sylvia's personal experience in growing and using herbs in your garden and on your plate. Class Limit: 50. Please register at <https://bit.ly/3DRcaID>.

MPR Explorers - May 29

The MPR Explorers (sponsored by the Mary Ruth Briggs Library) is holding their monthly "Conversation over Coffee" with Nayda Santana, MPR Government Relations & Procurement Director, on Thursday, May 29 from 9 am to Noon at the Garrett and Mic Hill Event Center (60 Morgan's Point Road).

Wilhite Family Reunion - June 7

The descendants and families of George Albert Wilhite and Frances Jane Martin Wilhite will hold a family reunion from 11am to 4pm, Saturday, June 7, at the Belton Church of Christ, 3003 N. Main St. in Belton. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish for lunch. For information call Cindy Bounds Gilleland at 254-939-6761.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on TUESDAY, May 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 [aspenhealthcare.net](http://aspenhealthcare.net) or call 512-856-5668 for more information.

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

Bell County Historical Commission holds their meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the historical Bell County Court House, 101 E. Central Ave in Belton. Join us in our vision of preserving and promoting Bell County's rich historical heritage for current and future generations. We are dedicated to initiating and conducting programs that preserve and celebrate the county's historic cultural resources in alignment with state laws governing historical preservation in Texas. Our community resources consist of a research room, book repository, cemetery information, historical markers and monument records. Our services include information on historic preservation, educational programming, history community outreach and partnerships. We welcome you to come join other history minded folks and get involved by serving on one of our committees that consist of preservation, cemetery, markers and education. To volunteer or for more information please visit [historicalcommission@bellcounty.texas.gov](mailto: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](mailto:bettyreichert@yahoo.com) or Kathy Bement at [katshookandneedle@gmail.com](mailto:katshookandneedle@gmail.com). Anyone interested in joining the local chapter of the Crochet Guild of America will also need to join the National Crochet Guild of America. Visit [www.crochet.org](http://www.crochet.org) for details.

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

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

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

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

Community Information

TAKE ME HOME PROGRAM The Belton Police Department is adopting the Take Me Home Program, aimed at helping individuals who need special assistance to return safely home after getting lost. The program is a database with photos and personal information to help police officers find someone who is lost or wandered away from home. Take Me Home is designed for individuals who may need additional aid including those with Dementia, Autism or specific mental health needs. It's free to register someone and the data is kept confidential to first responders. You can sign up a loved one here: [www.beltontexas.gov/takemehome](http://www.beltontexas.gov/takemehome). Read more about the program here: [https://www.beltontexas.gov/news\\_detail\\_T11\\_R1166.php](https://www.beltontexas.gov/news_detail_T11_R1166.php).

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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

**Taylors 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

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

From Resentment to Respect



John C. Perry

The other day, I was chatting with an acquaintance about a local political issue. He referenced someone's stance but quickly dismissed it, saying, "What does he know? He's a jerk!"

That struck me. I asked, "What makes him a jerk? How well do you know him?" After a pause, he admitted he didn't know him at all, only by reputation.

That moment got me thinking about how often we prejudge others without truly knowing them. I've certainly been guilty of it myself. One experience stands out from my days at

Temple High School.

I had always struggled with math, and Algebra II was my nemesis. I flunked the class, and to graduate, I had to retake it in summer school. Unfortunately, I found myself back under the instruction of the same teacher who had failed me the first time, Miss Welch.

She seemed ancient to me back then (though in reality, she was probably younger than I am now!). The idea of having her again filled me with dread, and I recall venting to a friend, "I hate her!"

Determined to pass, I tried my best, but by the end of the first week, I was already lost. I gave up, convinced I was destined to be a high school dropout. My half-hearted assignments made it clear I had checked out.

One day, after class, Miss Welch asked me to stay behind. She saw what was happening and

offered an incredible deal: if I stayed an extra hour or so after each class, she would stay too and walk me through the material.

I agreed, and with her patience and guidance, I finally started to understand algebra. She went above and beyond, dedicating her own time to help a student who had not only failed, but had outright resented her.

How wrong I had been about her! She was far from the rigid, uncaring teacher I had imagined, she was compassionate, committed, and deeply invested in my success. By the end of summer school, she had completely transformed in my eyes, going from my least favorite teacher to one I deeply appreciated and respected.

That experience taught me a powerful lesson: prejudging people based on appearances, reputation, or

shallow impressions can lead to serious misunderstandings. Assumptions breed mistrust, unnecessary conflict, and even exclusion.

The Bible warns against this. James 2:1-4 speaks against favoritism based on wealth or appearance, reminding us that discrimination is unjust in God's eyes. Mother Teresa's words resonate deeply: "If you judge people, you have no time to love them." You could easily swap "love them" for "understand them," "appreciate them," or "learn from them."

So, the next time you find yourself making a snap judgment about someone you don't truly know, pause. Give them a chance. Or as Rosa Jordan wisely put it: "Prejudging people is the same as closing a book before you've read it." Let's all keep reading, my dear friends!

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# EDITORIAL

## Unused Resources

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

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

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

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

Our conversation went something like this:

Her: How do you find stuff?

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

Her: Why don’t you use folders?

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

Her: Have you tried hanging folders?

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

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

One of the best things she taught me was to move all my handwritten addresses from my spiral-bound, polka-dotted address book to my computer. I’d had this program for years but never took the time to learn it. It had been there, waiting to be accessed, while I scrambled through that little alphabetized address book with all its mark-outs and changes, where things weren’t really alphabetized because how do you really keep things in ABC order in one of those books? “I’m sorry, Mr. Abdo. I can’t add your

name here. Mr. Applebaum is already in the system, and there’s no room.” Every time somebody moves or gets married, you’ve gotta buy a new book. It’s a nightmare.

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

I’d had that computer address book available to me for years before I actually used it. There’s no telling how many wasted hours I spent, plodding through my little spiral scratch-out system, stressing because I couldn’t find what I needed, when the perfect solution was right there.

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

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

to anyone who asks.

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

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

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

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

## A Moving Summer

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

For many, summer is a season for fun, frolic, festivals, and a great many other things.

*(How many other summer-related words can you think of that start with the letter “F”, kids?)*

However, there are those for whom summer will bring upheaval.

You see, in the United States most school districts and even many colleges don’t have classes for a 2 – 3 month period during summer. As a result, summer is a major period of time for people to relocate. This could be a younger individual going off to college, someone taking a job transfer (the United States military, in particular, usually prioritizes issuing transfer reassignments for the summer months), or even a person looking to start fresh in another city. Either way, moving is more than just getting on the highway and driving for a while.

Yes, people will need to arrange for lodging during their travels and an actual residence upon arrival. Some people are fortunate enough to be able to arrange everything well before they head on out, or at least have begun the process; many US military bases, for example, provide on-base housing that a person can apply for. Others have to figure things out as they go.

Then of course there’s the logistics of it all. There’s the process of sorting through what physical goods (like furniture, clothing, entertainment media, and toys) that will be going on the next leg of life’s journey and which will be divested. There’s the process of determining whether to hire a moving company or to attempt the move oneself. There’s the process of carefully managing one’s food stores to ensure that little beyond snacks and such will be left to transport given the risk of spoilage. Et cetera.

But the most difficult part of moving

is often the mental and emotional part. This is where people rip up whatever metaphorical roots they’ve laid down, say goodbye to those they know and love, and leave the familiar in the rear-view mirror as they head off to a largely unknown locale. Children and those who are neurodivergent will be especially affected by this and may have a particularly hard time adjusting. For those who have never experienced the sensation of doing any of this, fire up Phil Collins’ “We Said Hello Goodbye”.

For those who are in this situation, time does march on. And it has marched on in more ways than one... especially when it comes to technology. Email, social media, and voice over internet allow us to keep in contact with people no matter how far apart we are. Apps and websites like iHeart and TuneIn allow us to stream radio stations from far distant places, allowing us to learn more

about other regions while helping us stay grounded to where we’ve been. Individual television stations often have apps and websites of their own, allowing for the same level of connection, and sites like Wikipedia often have lists of radio and television stations in a given region we can use when we look for and through these apps. Many newspapers now offer digital subscriptions. And so forth.

These advances won’t entirely remove the pain, but they can help make it a little easier while also helping to make the destination a little less mysterious and scary. And parents, while sorting things out, try to ensure that your kids will carry a few favorite things with them on the trip as a comfort and to help them establish the new normal once they arrive.

Trust me folks, I know a little about all of this...

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