

The Beltonian celebrates grand reopening

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

The Beltonian Theatre held a grand reopening under new ownership on Saturday, June 27, the same day the City of Belton started its 4th of July week-long celebration of America's 250th anniversary. The Mariachi Illusion band performed after the ribbon-cutting hosted by the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce.

New owners, Joey and Katie Carlin, held a soft opening on Friday, June 26. Over opening weekend, they offered three daily viewings of The Wizard of Oz. Online reservations were required.

"We want something playing at the Beltonian every week that someone can

bring their kids to. We want this to be primarily family-focused. We're going to have shows in the evening rated for adults, but we want a family-friendly vibe," said Katie.

Purchased in March of this year, the Carlins first moved to Belton in 2010. They love the city and the Beltonian theater.

"We saw it go on sale the previous summer, and we were very bummed. Our kid had team events there," Katie said. "We knew the community loved the theater, thinking someone would take it up and keep it a theater."

The Carlins brainstormed and dreamed, wondering, with

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BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman

The grand reopening of the Beltonian Theatre is celebrated on Saturday. The new owners have a lineup of movies and events planned.

Belton ready to celebrate the 4th of July



File Photo

A patriotic program kicks off the 4th of July festivities on Saturday morning at 8 a.m. outside the Bell County Courthouse, prior to the start of the annual 4th of July parade in downtown Belton

Special to the Journal

The 4th of July weekend will be full of activities and events in Belton, including the rodeo, parade, festival, concert and fireworks, as we "Celebrate 250 Years of the USA."

Thursday, July 2

Opening night of the 102nd annual Belton 4th of July PRCA Rodeo is Hometown Heroes night, honoring Educators, First Responders, and Healthcare Workers. The rodeo is held at the air-conditioned Huntington Bank Expo

(formerly known as the Cadence Bank Center, and more commonly known as the Bell County Expo).

Friday, July 3

Military Appreciation Night at the 102nd annual Belton 4th of July PRCA Rodeo, honoring active-duty soldiers and families from Fort Hood, as well as military veterans. The rodeo is held at the air-conditioned Huntington Bank Expo (formerly known as the Cadence Bank Center, and more commonly known as the Bell County Expo).

Saturday, July 4

Patriotic Program – 8 a.m. at the Historic Bell County Courthouse. Serving as the opening of the parade, there will be a Patriotic Program featuring the Presentation of the Colors by Fort Hood Soldiers, National Anthem by the Belton High School Madrigal, Pledge led by Troop 117 Life Rank Scout Miles Herrington, greetings from Mayor David Leigh and Bell County Judge David

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Fire Chief to retire July 31

Special to the Journal

Belton Fire Chief Jon Fontenot has notified City Manager Sam Listi that he plans to retire from the Bel-



Chief Jon Fontenot

ton Fire Department effective July 31, 2026.

Fontenot has served as Belton Fire Chief since June 2020. His retirement will conclude more than 31 years of service in the fire service profession.

"Serving the residents of Belton for the past six years has been a great honor" Fontenot said. "I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to lead the dedicated members of the Belton Fire Department, Belton Fire Marshal's Office, and administrative staff."

During his tenure in Belton, Fontenot led the Fire Department through a period of growth and modernization. It included the development and implementation of the Department's Strategic Plan, recommendations for purchase of an aerial ladder truck and an emergency blocker truck, and preliminary planning for a future fire station.

Employee retention significantly improved under Fontenot's leadership, in part because of a change in

the firefighter work schedule from a 24-on/48-off format to a 48-on/96-off platform.

Firefighter health and safety were also priorities during Fontenot's time as chief. The department established annual health and wellness evaluations for personnel, updated personal protective equipment inspection procedures, strengthened operational safety measures, and created a Peer Support Program to support firefighter mental wellness.

Fontenot strengthened the Fire Marshal's Office and supported improvements in fire prevention, inspections, and code enforcement. He also established the Community Emergency Response Team Program (CERT) to train volunteers to assist during disasters and strengthen community preparedness.

"Chief Fontenot served Belton with professionalism, achieving and maintaining Texas Fire Chief's Association Best Practice Recognition," Listi said.

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File Photo

Fireworks explode at a past 4th of July Backyard Party at Schoepf's in Belton. This year's party starts on Saturday with gates opening at 6 p.m.

Belton to close 4th of July celebration with annual Backyard Party @ Schoepf's Concert & Fireworks

Special to the Journal

The annual 4th of July Backyard Party @ Schoepf's Concert & Fireworks will once again close out the week-long Belton 4th of July Celebration.

The Backyard Party at Schoepf's Concert and Fireworks is another great annual tradition, as our community gathers for

a fun concert and fireworks show. This year's concert will feature the band with roots in Belton, Sprung, along with Jared Johnson. These musicians have been popular performers at past Backyard Parties and are returning for an encore performance.

The concert is a free, non-ticketed
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Cowboy & Cowgirl Hall of Fame holds Ring of Honor event

By **Harvey Jackson Oss**
The Belton Journal

The Bell County Cowboy & Cowgirl Hall of Fame held their annual Ring of Honor induction ceremony and fundraiser event on Saturday, June 27.

The event took place at VFW Post 4008 and began at 10:30 a.m. Barbecue plates were prepared by sponsorship committee chairman Jody Berger with 4C outreach heads Les and Paula Baker. Plates included brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad, onions, and bread, and were served at 12:00 PM. The auction began an hour later at 1 p.m.

President Mike Seiler took a moment to speak before the bidding began.

“I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart from the organization, today is going to be a good day. We’re going to honor some good people today,” Seiler said. The auction was conducted by award winning auctioneer Trey Gallaway and son Trent Gallaway.

Among the items auctioned was a rare Winchester Model 1897 shotgun, of which only 4% of production survives today. The shotgun sold for \$1,200. Other notable items included a livestock trailer that sold for \$5,700, and two Tanya Tucker autographed tequila bottles that sold for \$300 each.

A Johnny Boren memorial belt buckle purchased by the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame was donated back to the Bell County Cowboy and Cowgirl Hall of fame to be resold. In recognition, a memorial Les Hood belt buckle was also auctioned for \$600. A total of \$12,300 was raised at auction.

The money raised by the auction goes on to fund the activities of the Bell County Cowboy and Cowgirl Hall of Fame on through the year. Most of the



BELTON JOURNAL/Harvey Jackson Oss

Bell County Cowboy & Cowgirl Hall of Fame President Mike Seiler stands with 2026 Ring of Honor inductee and family.

funds are spent on charitable causes such as aid to injured cowboys, financial support for the destitute, and scholarships for 4H and FFA competitors.

Inductees included John Downing, Randy Gaitan, Chris Gott, Jimmy Hodge, Butch Martin, Denny Norman, Gary Reid, Charlie Sheffield, Missy Swartz, and Tom Wilson. Larry Carson, Fred Elms, and Ronald Wilson were recognized posthumously as empty saddle honorees.

Families of honorees spoke about the newly hon-

ored, all with interesting stories to tell.

“These guys, they’re a little older, and their riding days are over. Chris Gott never got that memo,” said one woman about Gott, who last rode two weeks ago.

“Being a cowboy, it’s not being in the arena, it’s about how you live your life,” said one man on behalf of Norman.

Platinum sponsors for 2026 included Rocking C Cattle Company, Bill Hall Auctioneer Inc., Butch Martin, Heights Lumber & Supply, and Rockin’ S Cattle.

Events in the works for Parks & Rec Month

By **David Stone**
The Belton Journal

This year marks the 41st anniversary of Parks & Recreation Month, and like much of the country, the City of Belton will be celebrating with live music, outdoor activities and events.

“July is Parks & Recreation Month, and we have a month of neat things planned here in Belton,” said James Grant, director of the city’s Parks & Recreation department. “This year, we are putting a little different spin on the celebration.”

“We have several things planned for the occasion,” Grant said. “The theme for this year’s celebration is ‘The Power of Parks & Recreation.’”

“First, we will have a month-long Bingo Game, where participants can stop by the Harris Center and pick up a Bingo card,” Grant continued. “It’s super easy — just fol-

low the directions on the Bingo Card by doing the activities, and when you have completed a row or column of activities you get a BINGO.”

“Take your completed Bingo card back to the Harris Center and turn it in before 10 am each Friday during July to be entered into a weekly drawing. Each Friday morning at 10, we will draw a lucky winner to receive a goodie bag full of Belton Parks & Rec Swag.”

On July 9, there will be a Connect & Construct Together night where participants will spend time connecting Legos and puzzles for a “peaceful and fun” activity while destressing, Grant said.

On Friday, July 17, is the Harris Center’s 90th birthday party.

“We will have the Center open for visitors to tour the facility and enjoy refreshments throughout the day,” Grant added.

The next day — Saturday, July 18 — is Hike with a Lake Ranger Day at Miller Springs Nature Center.

“It’s the ‘Power of Nature,’ and we will enjoy a nice nature hike while listening to a US Army Corps of Engineers Lake Ranger talk about all the beautiful things found in nature.”

Friday, July 24, is The Power of Play, at Chisholm Trail Park. Participants will be able to play on all the fields and courts enjoying pickleball, basketball, soccer and other games and activities.

“Friday, July 31 will wrap up National Parks & Rec Month with the Sounds of Community concert at Heritage Park, where we will hear live music from the Leon River Band,” Grant said. “The concert will be under the trees along the Leon River near the Fishing & Kayak Dock.”

Launched in 1985, National Parks & Rec Month is a nationwide celebration that happens in all 50 states.

Beltonian- From Page A1

their full-time jobs, who would run it.

They thought of a friend they’d had for fifteen years, Ben Lockwood. After talking with former owner Zachariah Baker and an act of God, it all just came together, said Katie.

Opening June 27 was not their plan.

“We were hoping to have opened a little earlier, but hiccups, inspections and just needing to get everything up to par happened to put us at this great celebration weekend,” Katie added.

Uncovering history backstage, they found a wall that has been signed by live performers dating as far

back as 1928, after the restoration from a fire.

Joey Carlin placed a photo of the oldest autograph in the lobby for patrons to see.

Renovation plans to start in the fall will capture the history of the theater.

The Carlins stepped into the movie and entertainment business without a theater background.

“We are supportive, passionate citizens who want to see this succeed in the community. We’ve been getting some community partners who know the theater and that know movies,” said Katie. “Running the Beltonian day to-day are

several workers from under the previous owner. They are very much leading us on how things run.”

The Beltonian was brought back to life for the community, and so the Carlins want community feedback. This can be given through the website and soon in a suggestion box that will be in the lobby.

A few upcoming movies listed on the website at thebeltoniantheatre.com are The Minions & Monsters, Jaws, and 42: The Jackie Robinson Story. Follow the Beltonian on Instagram and Facebook.

Fontenot - From Page A1

“Chief Fontenot also managed the City’s Emergency Operations Center and enhanced the Emergency Flood Protocol for Nolan Creek. I appreciate his leadership at the Fire Department, and his three decades of public service.”

Fontenot joined Belton after serving as Assistant Fire Chief of Operations and Training in Tomball. He previously served as an instructor in the fire program at Austin Community College, and as Emergency Management Coordinator and Interim Fire Chief in Taylor. A U.S. Army veteran, Fontenot also

served as Chief of Training for a fire and emergency service contractor in Iraq.

“My greatest accomplishment has been cultivating a department that is better prepared for the future than when I arrived — one with strong leadership, clear direction, sound planning, and firefighters who are equipped to continue serving the citizens of Belton long after my retirement,” Fontenot said.

Belton will conduct a national search for a new fire chief. Chief Fontenot’s last day with the City of Belton will be July 31, 2026.



Celebrate- From Page A1

Blackburn, and message from 13th ACSC Commander COL LaHavie Brunson representing Fort Hood. Before and after the program, the Belton Marching 100 Alumni Band will perform.

Parade – 9 a.m. The annual Belton 4th of July Parade will follow the traditional route on Main Street from UMHB to the Bell County Courthouse, east on Central Avenue, then north on Birdwell. Over 200 entries are expected to participate along with tens of thousands of spectators. The parade will also be live telecast on KWTX News 10.

Festival on Nolan Creek in Liberty Park – 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Each year following the 4th of July Parade, thousands of visitors enjoy a variety of vendors, food trucks, music,

games and displays at the Festival on Nolan Creek. Attractions and entertainment will include the return of the High5 Hot Dog Eating Contest at Noon, the annual Rev, White & Blue Car Show, static display of military equipment from Fort Hood, the Dr. Watts Cooling Tent, live music performed at the pavilion by Westbound, Kid Zone with petting zoo, games and activities, and dozens of food trucks and vendors.

Family Night at the 102nd annual Belton 4th of July PRCA Rodeo, with children age 12 and under getting in free with paid adult general admission. Family Night also features the KPA Engineers Stick Horse Stampede, where children ages 4 and up can run around on the arena floor prior to the start of the rodeo. The rodeo is held at the air-

conditioned Huntington Bank Expo (formerly known as the Cadence Bank Center, and more commonly known as the Bell County Expo).

Backyard Party at Schoepf’s Concert and Fireworks, featuring Sprung and Jared Johnson prior to the fireworks show. The concert is a free, non-ticketed event, open to the public thanks to our sponsors, but seating is only available with advance reservations for reserved picnic tables.

For more information about these events, visit the website at www.beltonchamber.com, call 254-939-3551, or email info@beltonchamber.com. Rodeo tickets are available at the Huntington Bank Expo Box Office or www.huntingtonbankexpo.com.

The Belton Journal (ISSN 1053-9131) is published every Thursday, 210 N. Penelope, Belton, TX 76513. Second Class periodical postage paid at Belton, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Belton Journal P.O. Box 180 Belton, TX 76513

Publisher: David Tuma, David@BeltonJournal.com; **Classifieds & Legals:** Elsie Wiley, Legals@BeltonJournal.com; **Advertising:** Shanna Grote, Marketing@BeltonJournal.com, Randa Miller, Sales@beltonjournal.com; **News Editor:** Lynette Sowell, News@BeltonJournal.com; **Sports Editor:** Clay Whittington, Sports@BeltonJournal.com; **Sports Reporters:** Tony Adams, Aries Ramos **Graphic Artist:** Jason Bachie; **Creative Consultant:** Susan Kolodziejczyk; **News Reporters:** David Stone, Annie Dockery, Michele Weisman, Shalee Corey-Wiebe

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OBITUARIES



Griggs

William Sanford “Bill” Griggs
October 25, 1971 – June 20, 2026

William S. “Bill” Griggs passed peacefully from this world into the loving arms of his Higher Power, God the Father, on June 20, 2026. Bill fought a prolonged and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Bill was born on October 25, 1971, to Jeanette and Clarence Griggs. He was raised in Belton, Texas, where he made lifelong friendships. Bill graduated from Belton high school. In 1996 he earned a bachelors degree in political science from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University). He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

Throughout his life, Bill built lasting friendships through school, work and the many lives he touched. Bill was quick witted, had a generous spirit, and wasn’t afraid of hard work. He was open-hearted, and unafraid to tell his friends he loved them.

Bill loved spending time on the water, fishing, skiing and boating. He was known for his invitations to Lake Travis, Lake Austin, Lake Belton, Canyon Lake and Port Aransas. He always believed in “the more, the merrier.”

Bill is survived by his wife, Beth Delaney Griggs, and her sons John and Luke, of New Braunfels; his father Clarence and wife, Jane, of Austin; his mother, Jeanette Schigut and husband Dale, of Morgan’s Point; his brother, Clarence (CV) and wife Priscilla of Rogers; his nephew, Michael Griggs and wife Faith and his great nephew, Weston Griggs. He was preceded in death by his grand-parents, CV and Mary Cathryn White Griggs and Otto and Nelda Sanford.

Bill and his joyful spirit will be deeply missed and never forgotten.

It would be a great blessing to have you and your guest(s) attend a Celebration of Life for Bill Griggs at 7:00 p.m. on Friday July 10th on the Lake Austin Riverboat “Commodore”.

The family must have an RSVP by Sunday July 5th to ensure there is enough food.

Be Blessed!
Clarence Griggs
GriggsBB51@gmail.com
To honor his memory, donations can be made to Pan-creatic Cancer Action Network, pancan.org.

Scott

Todd Alan Scott
Jan 29, 1967 — Jun 9, 2026

Todd Alan Scott, affectionately known to many as “Todd,” passed away peacefully on June 9, 2026, at a local hospital after bravely battling a long-standing heart condition. Born on January 29, 1967, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, Todd’s life journey was marked by quiet strength, steadfast dedication, and a profound connection to both his craft and the natural world.

From a young age, Todd was recognized as a special addition to his blended family, first meeting them at the tender age of two and instantly capturing their hearts with his presence, described fondly as a “little care package.” Growing up surrounded by siblings in a large, close-knit family, he graduated from Somerville High School before answering the call to serve his country. In 1986, driven by a deep patriotism and desire to demonstrate his American pride, Todd enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Following his military service, Todd pursued his passion for craftsmanship as a carpenter specializing in refurbishing boats in Tennessee. Known for his exceptional skill and meticulous attention to detail, he garnered a reputation for quality work that was in high demand. Despite the challenges posed by dyslexia, Todd’s intelligence and determination shone through as he mastered his trade, often utilizing auditory learning through videos to adapt and excel. His proudest accomplishments lay in his builds and creations, each a testament to his diligence and talent.

Although Todd was a private individual who preferred to avoid the spotlight and grand celebrations, his personality was marked by warmth and a gentle spirit. He cherished his alone time, found joy in watching movies and YouTube, and nurtured a love for working on cars. His

compassion extended deeply to animals; whether on the farm with horses or caring for dogs, cats, and any stray that crossed his path, Todd embraced them with open arms and a caring heart.

Todd’s family remains a central part of his legacy. He is lovingly survived by his mother, Barbara Jean Curling; his stepmother, Ann Scott; his brother, James Scott (Nik-kie); and his sisters, Barbara Masaoka (Mike), Diana Perry (Lin), Candace Pelzel (Henry), and Robin Storey (Tim). He is preceded in death by his father, James Doyle Scott.

Throughout his life, Todd Alan Scott embodied resilience, humility, and a quiet dedication to those he loved and the work he pursued. His legacy lives on in the hearts of his family, friends, and the many lives touched by his kindness and craftsmanship. He will be remembered with deep respect and affection by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation the DAV chapter 147 for veterans assistance needs or to the VFW Post 1820 Disaster Funds.

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

Rodriguez III

Paula Davis Rodriguez III
Jan 5, 1975 — May 20, 2026

Paula Davis Rodriguez III, affectionately known as Pete, passed away peacefully on May 20, 2026, at Hillcrest Hospital in Waco, Texas. Born on January 5, 1975, in Temple, Texas, Paula was a cherished daughter, mother, sister, and friend whose vibrant spirit and caring nature touched the lives of many.

A proud graduate of Temple High School, Paula distinguished herself academically and artistically. She was honored in the Who’s Who for all four years of her high school journey and was a talented clarinet player in the school band, achieving state recognition in her senior year. Her love of music and dedication to her craft reflected the depth of her talents and commitment. She furthered her education at the local Temple Junior College.

Throughout her career, Paula dedicated herself to caring for others. She began working with child day care centers in the area, where her nurturing disposition shone brightly. Later, she served as a counter clerk at 7-11 gas stations, demonstrating hard work and dedication in every role she undertook.

Paula’s personality was marked by a cheerful and lighthearted spirit. Known for her infectious sense of humor, she brought joy and laughter to family gatherings and social functions alike. Despite facing health challenges, Paula made every effort to be present at family holidays and events, valuing the time spent with those she loved. Her role as a devoted caregiver and supporter to her younger brother during their upbringing revealed a profound strength and selflessness that defined her character.

Her interests and hobbies were as diverse as her talents. Paula found joy in needlepoint and crafting, activities that showcased her creativity and patience. She also embraced the outdoors, enjoying rides on four-wheelers, and was enthusiastic about sports such as volleyball and dodgeball. A passionate fan, Paula cheered for the Dallas Cowboys, San Antonio Spurs, and Texas Longhorns, as well as delighting in the grace and excitement of the Skating Olympics.

Paula’s greatest pride was in her children. She loved them deeply and held a special place in her heart for her beloved baby girl, Natalie, who preceded her in death. Paula would have wished to be reunited with Natalie in the next life, a hope rooted in her faith and the love that defined her existence.

She leaves behind a legacy of love and resilience, survived by her devoted parents, Eusebio M. Rodriguez and Paula D. Rodriguez; her two sons, Jonathon Joyce and his wife Lindsay Joyce, and Michael Salinas; her brother, Richard D. Rodriguez and his wife Isabel Salinas; her sister, Makayla McKissick and her husband Josh; and her treasured grandchildren, Lorelei Joyce and Julian Joyce.

Paula Davis Rodriguez III’s life was a testament to the power of kindness, humor, and unwavering family devotion. She will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by all who knew her. With God’s grace, she has gone to be with the Lord, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire and comfort those who loved her.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to help with funeral costs to the funeral home 4235 E. US HWY 190 Temple, TX 76501 or by calling 254-401-1302.

A special thank you to those who have donated already for the funeral costs especially; Rayes, and Garcia families and those who prayed over the months for the family.

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

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1634: The city of Trois-Rivières is founded in New France.

1776: The United States Declaration of Independence is adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

1939: Lou Gehrig informs the crowd at Yankee Stadium that he is retiring from baseball due to his illness.



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event, open to the public thanks to our sponsors, but seating is only available with advance reservations for reserved picnic tables, available on Schoepf’s BBQ website or social media.

“We are excited about this wonderful Belton tradition as we enjoy ‘Celebrating 250 Years of the USA’ as our theme throughout the day of family fun with the Parade, Festival on Nolan Creek in Liberty Park, and Backyard Party at Schoepf’s” stated Randy Pittenger, Belton Area Chamber President/CEO.

“Having a free concert and fireworks to close out our week-long celebration is a wonderful gift for our community to enjoy” added Pittenger. “Special thanks to Ronnie and Staci Schoepf for hosting us, and to our event sponsors: Gunter Financials, Don Ringler Automotive, John R. Holmes-Raymond James, and Tito’s Handmade Vodka for providing this great event.”

For more information about these events, visit the website at www.beltonchamber.com, call 254-939-3551, or email info@beltonchamber.com.



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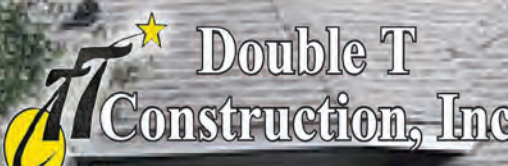
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LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Thai restaurateur brightens Belton

By **Harvey Jackson Oss**
The Belton Journal

Since 2014, restaurateur Narunya Estrada has shared her culinary vision with the Belton area. Estrada established her flagship restaurant Narunya's following her graduation from culinary school in Austin, directed to the location in downtown Belton by a classmate.

"After I graduate, I'm going to build a Thai restaurant in Belton to brighten the town," Estrada recalled writing in a pre-graduation biography.

In the following years Estrada established Toast & Tea, which occupies the neighboring lot but is connected by a back hallway utilized by staff. Narunya's menu is centered on modern Thai cuisine, while Toast & Tea is a café offering breakfast, Thai desserts, and drinks including boba tea.

Estrada trained with Japanese master chefs in New York and Japan before opening her third restaurant, Rockin' Ramen, in Temple. A second Rockin' Ramen location was also later opened in Harker Heights.

Estrada immigrated in 2007 to Texas from Southern Thailand to give her children the opportunity for a better education.

"Not just school-school, but this place became my school. I learned everything from here," explained Estrada.

After a contractor took \$40,000 and

vanished without showing up to the job, Estrada began learning how to repair the building herself.

Narunya's sources locally from Austin, where Thai ingredients are readily available from a supplier. The menu is also adapted to incorporate ingredients that are more easily found in the United States.

"I learned a lot about American vegetables, produce ... how to make it work with Thai food," explained Estrada.

"A lot of people here don't really know what Thai food is. So they think anything with peanut, with basil, with sriracha is Thai food," said Estrada. She emphasized that only a couple dishes incorporate peanuts, so nut-allergic people can safely try other items. Estrada also clarified that diners can request whatever level of spice they wish.

Among Estrada's favorite menu items is her Eggplant Tower, a signature dish you won't find anywhere else. Pad Thai is another tangy umami dish with strong flavor. For those unfamiliar with Thai cuisine, Estrada recommends weaker umami dishes like Pad See Ew to get acquainted.

For dieters, chicken wraps offer a versatile option. An authentic spicy curry dish Khua Kling was removed from the menu due to its extreme heat, but those in the know can still order it as a secret item.

"It burns, not like American spice that hits you immediately. This one starts from your neck," stated Estrada.



BELTON JOURNAL/ Harvey Jackson Oss

The Toast & Tea storefront behind Narunya's features a new flower display and bench.

Estrada recently decorated the exterior of Toast & Tea with a flower display and bench.

"This back is kind of hidden, you couldn't see nothing," said Estrada. The display helps attract customer attention.

Narunya's and connected Toast & Tea in downtown Belton occupy an aging build-

ing. With structural problems demanding constant repairs, the future of the location is uncertain. Estrada is considering the possibility of major renovations, or a move to West Adams in Temple.

"I'll try to stay here if I can find something here, but if not, then we'll probably have to say goodbye," said Estrada.

Business blooms at Belton Katy



BELTON JOURNAL/David Tuma

DeAzia Johnson has opened a new flower shop in downtown Belton called Wild Soul Florals. Her shop is near Pizza PieRos.

By **Harvey Jackson Oss**
The Belton Journal

Belton is welcoming Wild Soul Florals, a new flower shop at the MKT Depot & Katy building downtown.

Deazia Johnson, a Belton local, opens the location with years of prior experience in florals.

"I worked at another flower shop for several years. I left that job and did a few other things and decided that I really wanted to go back to flowers," said Johnson. "The Katy is awesome because it's central to downtown, other businesses are here, you get to have other things besides the flower shop too."

Johnson sources her flowers locally from vendors in Austin and Waco. Beyond just fresh flowers, Wild Soul Florals also carries plants, candles, gifts, and greeting cards.

"I am bringing in Frederick's Farm, which is a Texas based product that I don't think Belton has normally that I'm excited about. I think downtown Belton will really

appreciate that," Johnson added. "This is just a small space, so I hope we outgrow it and have to find somewhere that's bigger."

Of the many fresh flowers Johnson carries, the daisy is her favorite.

"I really like daisies, and I know they're just not a popular flower, but I really like daisies. I always have," she said.

Johnson is excited to provide Belton locals another option to buy flowers without having to drive to Temple.

Wild Soul Florals is also set apart by their in-house refrigeration unit.

"I have a huge walk-in cooler that I don't think Belton has... I put a lot of blood, sweat, and tears into that thing," said Johnson.

Wild Soul Florals will hold soft openings on July 2 and July 3, before hosting their grand opening event on July 4. The event will feature door prizes as well as a drawing to win a floral arrangement. Refreshments will be served.

"After the parade, if people want to come by, that would be awesome," Johnson said.

Retired designer helps create community garden at Chisholm Trail Senior Village

By **Michele Weisman**
The Belton Journal

Susan Cotton, a retired interior designer of 40 years, saw the need for a community garden at Chisholm Trail Senior Village (CTSV), where she resides.

Cotton said, "I decided I needed to do some exercise. If I'm going to do that much work, I want something to show for it. I love the idea of going down there every morning and checking things out, and deadheading."

Stacey Fisher, the property manager of CTSV, said, "She is an artist. She really is. She may not claim that title, but she's an artist in whatever she does."

This is the second year of the 46-by 18-foot garden, and Cotton thought she would add wildflowers this year. She has plans to bring tulips into the garden.

"We had some sunflowers last year that were so large that the squirrels were sitting on top of them," she said. "In October, we'll start looking at putting some things in the wildflower bed that will come up in the spring. We're going to plant tulips in there in the fall, so they'll come up in the spring and have a large spring tulip display. By next February, March, we'll go back to the zinnias and cosmos and marigolds; it's a simple garden."

Cotton is a first-time gardener and started the garden with under \$200. She leaves tending to the produce from the two vegetable varieties to her neighbor, Gail Thomas.

She invited the community at CTSV to contribute in any way.

Cotton is the only resident that is able to do the actual exercise of garden-



Above Left: Sunflowers grew taller than the packet description said. Above Right The water station provides ground water that Cotton beautifully disguised behind plants.

ing, while others, said Fisher and Cotton, are donating supplies.

CTSV provided the mulch while residents donated money, plants, garden statues, plant stands, and from outside the community, tree stumps, upon

one of which a bear statue sits.

Cotton's daughter dropped off and helped place a stump she brought from Houston. She tells the story of a stump she saw left on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue that was too

heavy. But when she two young men jogging down the hill she asked them to help and they did.

Cotton said, "Last week there were quite a few green tomatoes, and Gail put them out on the table in a bowl. Then they were



BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman

gone, so someone's enjoying fried green tomatoes.

"There's a precious lady here that's close to 90. She has a dog, and she makes her rounds every morning and evening. Her favorite thing to do is to stop in the garden. She sits and enjoys and thinks back because she used to garden a lot."

Pollinators have come to enjoy the garden too: bees, birds, butterflies, and squirrels, who Cotton said are planting trees in the garden.

The CTSV has provided a picnic bench and umbrella by the garden and the ADA accessible walkway. It has become a place where the residents gather, Fisher said.

The public is invited to visit the garden at 1003 W Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, while, remembering their 10 mph speed limit.

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The Treasure I Couldn't Keep



John C. Perry

I'm writing this from Florida. We arrived two days ago and headed straight for the beach. Yesterday we spent most of the day on the beautiful white sand and in the clear water of Destin — and I have the sunburn to prove it. Turns out my Texas tan doesn't hold up so well in the Florida sunshine.

While out there, there was a dad and his son, who I guess was 6 or 7 years old, he did safely have floaties on, as the water was way over his head. I spoke to them; we were the only ones out that far. The boy began dog paddling towards me, and he said, "Mister, do you want a sand dollar?"

I approached him and he held out his hand, somewhat beaming with pride, and said, "look what I found!" He held a sand dollar in his hand, and he gave it to me, saying, "You can have it!" I took it and told him, "Thank you but you keep it." He explained

he had found a lot of them, and he wanted me to have one.

Of course I told him how kind that was, but when I looked at it, I saw its brownish color and its many tiny spines, and right away I knew it was alive. Sand dollars are not shells but are living creatures. The ones we find on the beach are white because they are dead and you are literally finding their skeletons.

I had two thoughts about his encounter. First, the little boy thought he was giving me a pristine, collectible treasure, but what he actually was giving

me was a living creature that needed to stay in its environment to survive. They cannot last longer than a few minutes outside of the water.

Don't you find that often in life, we try to capture, possess, or freeze beautiful things, relationships, memories, or even seasons of life, to turn them into permanent, polished "keepsakes." But sometimes, in trying to take them out of the elements where they belong, we drain the life right out of them.

True appreciation sometimes means admiring something precisely where

it is meant to be, rather than trying to take it home and put it on a shelf. The living, fuzzy sand dollar in the deep water is infinitely more wondrous than the bleached, empty skeleton on the sand.

My second thought was about the little boy. He wanted to give a total stranger a grand gift from his morning adventure.

The boy's gift was pure and well-intentioned, even if he didn't realize the sand dollar couldn't survive out of water. It's a perfect picture of how we often offer our best to others or to God, imperfect, slightly misguided,

or unaware of the bigger picture, but given with a completely open heart.

It's a lesson in how we view the gifts and efforts of others. Grace looks past the "brownish, fuzzy" imperfections of the offering and sees the generosity behind it.

And sometimes God uses a child out in the Gulf, to remind us of that. He is always teaching us, even when we least expect it!

John C. Perry is the Lay Leader Emeritus with New Life Methodist Church. They meet every Sunday at 9 a.m. (Bible Study) and 10 a.m. (Worship Service) at 1245 Williams Road in Salado.



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THE BELTON JOURNAL





Former UMHB hoops standout named Broncos assistant coach

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Antoine Chaney fondly remembers his time in Belton, and now, he is back.

After spending the past two seasons as an assistant coach at Killeen, Chaney returns to the city where his basketball career blossomed, accepting a similar role at Lake Belton.

While he grew up in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, attending Duncanville, Chaney made his way onto the roster at Mary-Hardin Baylor after transferring from Temple Junior College. As a junior in 2013, he helped the Crusaders make their historic first appearance in the NCAA Division III National Championship game.

More than a decade later, Chaney hopes to help bring similar success back to the city.

“I definitely feel like being back in this area is a coming home type of thing,” he said. “It is exciting, but there is going to be a lot of pressure too, because I do that to myself. I want to see exactly what we can do.

“I just want to keep building on what has been built here.”

Chaney is very familiar with the architect of the program.

Prior to constructing the Broncos from scratch as



the team’s inaugural head coach, Zane Johnston served as an assistant coach at UMHB during Chaney’s stay, helping the raw athlete develop into one of the Crusaders’ most consistent competitors.

“UMHB was really, really good for me,” Chaney said. “My head coach (Ken DeWeese) came in and impacted my life in so many different ways, and he was just a great mentor and life coach. Zane was equally influential

“I was so young at that time, and they definitely put me on the right path as I matured.”

Johnston, however, departed from Lake Belton to take over as head coach at Little River-Academy, ushering in a new era for the squad.

Veteran head coach Jason Fossett was named his

replacement with the hopes of replicating the success delivered to multiple other area teams.

Local fans recognize the name as Fossett resurrected Belton’s program during his six-year stay, guiding the Tigers into the state rankings and delivering four consecutive playoff appearances beginning in 2021. They reached the third round three times in the span after producing just one postseason berth since 2004 before Fossett’s arrival.

He also won a combined eight district championships with Killeen and Killeen Harker Heights, spending the last two seasons leading the Knights to league titles.

Chaney hopes the Broncos’ first coaching transition is a smooth one as Lake Belton elevates to Class 6A competition following struggles in the years since reaching the playoffs in 2022. Lake Belton is 8-40 in district play, winning just one league game in each of the previous two seasons.

Although his interactions with players have been limited thus far, Chaney sees plenty of potential to turn things around.

“Those guys work hard,” he said. “They are committed, and they want to win. They are definitely going to buy in.

“Anytime I’ve asked something from one of them, they say ‘Yes, sir,’ and we move on. That is ideal for what we want to achieve.”

Broncos begin new era at TABC Showcase

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Broncos took their first steps over the weekend.

After being guided by the same head coach since the program’s creation six years ago, a shockwave was sent through Lake Belton following the season as Zane Johnston surprisingly resigned from the role of overseeing the squad.

For the first time, the Broncos were bound for change.

The transformation was initiated recently when former Belton head coach Jason Fossett was hired as Johnston’s replacement, and while the season-opener is still months away, the process of forging a new program has now begun.

Lake Belton traveled to Duncanville and Mansfield for the three-day, multisite Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Boys Showcase, where teams’ head coaches are permitted to oversee their squads, and Fossett’s first experience on the sideline proved his team intends to be competitive.

The Broncos fell short in all three of their games at the prestigious event known for drawing collegiate coaches and scouts from all across the state and nation, but they did not succumb without a fight.

From the hundreds of teams in attendance, Lake Belton drew Dallas White — a playoff qualifier from a year ago — and was overwhelmed, suffering a

20-point, 65-45, defeat.

Their remaining contests, however, would not be as lopsided.

Each of the Broncos’ remaining games were determined by a mere two points. They closed with a 49-47 loss to Brenham and a 57-55 loss to La Porte.

With the event complete, Fossett and his players can begin the next stage of the process in preparing for the upcoming season and turning around the program’s fortunes.

Since opening, Lake Belton has qualified for the playoffs only once, earning a berth in 2022, but in the seasons since, district victories have been elusive.

Despite finishing with a 20-14 overall record last season, the Broncos concluded District 16-5A play with just one win for the second consecutive year, and during the previous four seasons, they are a combined 8-40 in league play.

Fossett, on the other hand, is accustomed to celebrating championships.

With the Tigers, he claimed a pair of district titles and delivered four playoff appearances highlighted by a school-record 30-win season before departing for Killeen Harker Heights, where he spent the past two seasons guiding the Knights to a pair of league titles.

Additionally, as the head coach at Killeen, Fossett won six consecutive district championships starting in 2005.

The Broncos will primarily utilize Mikey Lockett, a guard, who was placed on the all-district first team



as a junior last season, guard Allen Muchunu and center Jackson Striegler, who were both named honorable mentions, to spearhead the squad.

Along with changes in the coaching staff and on the roster, Lake Belton will be forced to contend with an elevation in competition.

The University Interscholastic League placed the Broncos in Class 6A during its biennial realignment, and Lake Belton will reside in District 12 along with Bryan, Copperas Cove, Killeen Chaparral, Harker Heights, Temple and Waco Midway for at least the next two school years.

Tigers compete at TABC Showcase, end 2-1

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The summer stage doesn’t come much bigger for Texas high school hoops, and the Belton Tigers made the most of it. Competing at the TABC Showcase in Duncanville from June 26–28, an NCAA approved scholastic event designed to put high school players directly in front of college coaches and scouts, the Tigers finished the weekend 2-1 with a pair of hard earned wins.

Belton opened the showcase on June 26 against Cypress Falls and never let the moment feel too big.

The Tigers controlled the tempo from the jump and pulled away for a 51-43 victory, leaning on their guard heavy rotation to dictate pace and grind out a defensive minded win.

That second game brought a stiffer challenge.

Facing Highland Park in the evening slot at the Duncanville Fieldhouse, the Tigers ran into a wall and fell 78-49. Highland Park’s size and depth proved difficult to match over four quarters, and the result served as a reminder of the level of competition the showcase is built



to provide.

For a Belton squad stocked with underclassmen and 2027 prospects, the loss offered valuable film and a benchmark to measure against as the offseason continues.

The Tigers responded the way good teams do.

Belton closed out its weekend with a heart stopping 76-75 win over Waxahachie, surviving a one-point thriller that came down to the wire. In a game with no margin for error, the Tigers made the plays that mattered late to escape with the victory and finish the showcase on a high

note.

Bouncing back from a lopsided loss to win a nail biter the very next day speaks to the resilience and competitive edge this group carries into the summer.

Belton’s showcase roster reflected a program building for the future, headlined by a deep backcourt.

The Tigers featured guards Taj Keeler (2028), Quentin West (2027), Gavin Ross (2027), Jareus Mitchell (2029), Hunter Hurst (2027), Luke Munden (2027) and Ty Johnson (2027), alongside forwards Abnan Knight (2027), Parker Munz (2027) and David McCallum (2028). The blend of experienced 2027 talent and promising younger players gives Belton a foundation to grow around.

Events like the TABC Showcase are about far more than the final score.

For these Tigers, the weekend meant reps against elite competition and, just as importantly, meaningful exposure in front of the college coaches and scouts who fill the stands.

Going 2-1 against quality opponents is a strong summer statement, and it’s the kind of showing that gets a program noticed.



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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Lake Belton has found its new head softball coach, naming Taylor Ellis the successor of the prestigious position.

Ellis, however, is also extremely familiar with success on the field.

She joins the Lady Broncos after serving as an assistant coach at Waco Midway, where her presence helped the Pantherettes win the Class 6A, Division state championship during a run of three consecutive appearances in the finals.

Ellis, who was also a standout player at Baylor, will attempt to fill the void left by former Lake Belton head coach Kelsie McEachern, who resigned from the role after guiding the program for three years in order to accept the same position at Klein.

In her time with the Lady Broncos, McEachern led the squad to at least the third round of the playoffs each season, including an appearance in the Class 5A state semifinals in 2024.

She amassed an overall record of 107-17 with the Lady Broncos, winning the dis-



trict championship each year.

McEachern is also the current Belton ISD Coach of the Year after recently receiving the accolade.

The two premier programs are set to become rivals in the spring after the University Interscholastic League elevated Lake Belton to Class 6A during its biennial realignment. The Lady Broncos and Mid-

way are joined by Bryan, Copperas Cove, Killeen Chaparral, Killeen Harker Heights and Temple in District 12.

GOLF

For the second time this summer, incoming Lake Belton freshman Hayes Pethel claimed a tournament championship.

Pethel shot 1-over-par score of 145 at the Summer Showdown hosted by College Station's Pebble Creek Country Club. He posted an opening-round 71 to set the tone for his two-day showing.

FOOTBALL

The football season is rapidly approaching, and the Tigers recently released their schedule of events leading up to the opening-night kickoff.

A mandatory parent meeting will be held July 30 at 6 p.m. before the first practice is conducted Aug. 3. On Aug. 6, a group fundraiser will start, and an intra-squad scrimmage and youth football clinic is set for Aug. 8.

Tiger Moms Camp and media day follow on Aug. 15, and Dads/Guardians and Decals will take place Aug. 22.

The regular-season schedule opens Aug. 28 with a home game against Pflugerville Hendrickson.

SUMMER CAMPS

Belton and Lake Belton are now offering summer sports camps to area youth.

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

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

Dates and times will vary by sport.

The next camps will be conducted by the Lady Broncos volleyball program.

The three-day events begin Monday with third- and fourth-graders attending from noon to 2:30 p.m. each day, while fifth- and sixth-graders will follow from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration is open at events.hometownticketing.com/beltonisd.

For more information, [BeltonTigers.com](#) or [LakeBeltonAthletics.com](#).

WRESTLING

Lake Belton is currently holding summer skills sessions each week.

The sessions run every Monday and Wednesday from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Belton's and Lake Belton's summer strength and conditioning programs are underway and are open to all middle school and high school athletes.

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

Regardless of school, all girls will begin each day at 9 a.m.

For more information, visit [BeltonTigers.com](#).

Lake Belton's sessions begin with football players attending from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. before being joined by all other boy and girl athletes until 10 a.m.

Then, middle school boys and girls will workout from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

All of Lake Belton's sessions will run from Monday to Thursday.

For more information, visit [LakeBeltonAthletics.com](#).

RUNNING

Registration for the Lions on the Leon Captain "D" Dash for Sight is open until race day Oct. 3.

Hosted by the Belton Lions Club, the five-kilometer race will be held at Heritage Park beginning at 8:30 a.m. An opening ceremony will start at 8:15 a.m.

The event will begin and end at the Lions Pavillion.

Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each age group, and an award will be given to the best pirate costume.

The race proceeds help provide eye exams and glasses for those in need, and donations of used glasses will be accepted for recycling.

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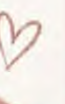
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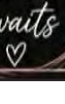
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Broncos looking ahead to Friday nights with summer strength training



By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The alarm clocks go off early for the Lake Belton athletes these days. Long before the stadium lights flip on this fall, the Broncos are already at work, meeting four mornings a week to lay the groundwork for a season that is still weeks away. For new head coach Kirk Rogers, that early morning commitment is where a successful season is quietly born.

Rogers has his players in the building Monday through Thursday from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m., pairing the lifting and conditioning with skill sessions a couple of times a week to sharpen fundamentals and position specific technique. Having arrived at Lake Belton this offseason, Rogers isn't interested in measuring this summer against last year's. What he can speak to is what he sees in front of him, and so far, the effort has impressed him. "They've been work-

ing hard, and I'm excited about the progress they're making," Rogers said. For a coach installing a new culture, June and July carry weight that casual observers rarely see. The fans show up on Friday nights, but Rogers is convinced the outcome of those nights is determined months earlier. "If you want to be good at anything, you have to put the work in," he said. "You can't expect to be prepared to play at an elite level if you don't put in the work during the summer. The foundation for a successful season is built long before the first game." That foundation, in Rogers' view, rests on three pillars that can't be rushed once games begin. The summer is his window to develop mental and physical toughness while forging team chemistry, and he treats all three as inseparable. Neglect one, he believes, and a team caps its own ceiling. "Physical training, mental toughness, and team chemistry all go hand in hand," Rogers said. "If you're lacking in any one of those three areas, you won't be as good as you can be. The goal is to develop all three together throughout the summer." Plenty of Broncos have caught the coach's eye through the grind. On defense, Rogers points to Noah Stevens, Chris Harmon, Jyson Sherman, Tristan Aldredge, Carter Mach, and Kia Robertson. On offense, Jessiah James, Luke Phillips, Zion Harness, Tanner Olivera, Colton Colvin, Isaiah Fulk, and Caleb True love have all stood out. A handful of younger players have made positive impressions too, though Rogers is careful to note that time will tell whether they're ready for larger roles once the season arrives. Getting teenagers to grind with no game on the calendar is its own challenge, and Rogers keeps his message to them simple and direct. "I try to stress to them that you get out what you put in," he said. "If you want to be great, you have to be willing to put in the work. There are no shortcuts to success." Just as encouraging for Rogers is the leadership beginning to surface within the group. He's a believer that the best teams are driven by their own players rather than their coaches, and he's working to develop Broncos who will lead by example and hold their teammates accountable. As for tracking progress, the weight room and conditioning numbers matter, but the metric Rogers values most is attendance. "It's hard to improve if your attendance is spo-



The Hidden Danger of Investing Too Cautiously

One significant risk investors face isn't losing money in a market dip; it's failing to reach their long-term financial goals. Many people focus on avoiding short-term losses and invest too conservatively, which can limit growth over time and may impact your retirement security.

A thoughtful approach starts with understanding three things: how much risk you're comfortable taking, how much risk you can afford based on your financial situation and time horizon, and how much growth you need to reach your goals. You'll want to find the balance between your level of risk and long-term goals. Spreading

your investments across a diverse set of investment and asset types can help manage market ups and downs while still pursuing growth, though it doesn't guarantee profits or protect against losses. Investing well isn't about avoiding risk. It's about taking a balanced approach that merges your level of comfort with the future you're working toward.

Investors should understand the risks involved with owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates and investors can lose some or all of their principal.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
Western District of Texas

Nationstar Mortgage, LLC)

Plaintiff)
v.)
Jordan Isaiah Escamilla Brown, et al.)

Defendant)

Civil Action No. **6:25-cv-00469**

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: Jordan Isaiah Escamilla Brown and Lizett Laguna

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 28 days after the issuance of this summons, you (and each of you) must appear before the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Waco Division, at the Courthouse being located at U.S. District Clerk's Office, 800 Franklin Ave., Room 380, Waco Texas 76701, by filing a written answer, or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on or before the first Monday next after the expiration of twenty-eight days from the date of the issuance of this citation, the date for answer being Monday, _____, to Plaintiff's Original Complaint filed in said court, on October 10, 2025 as Civil Action number 6:25-cv-00469 and styled Nationstar Mortgage LLC v. Jordan Isaiah Escamilla Brown, Lizett Laguna, and United States of America, on behalf of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The answer or motion must be served on the Plaintiff or Plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
Attn: Bradley Conway
16415 Addison Road, Suite 725
Addison, Texas 75001

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows:

This proceeding is seeking judicial foreclosure of the real property located at 301 N. 7th St., Nolanville, TX 76559 and more particularly described in Exhibit A attached to the Deed of Trust that is recorded as instrument number 2022034951 in the real property records of Bell County, Texas.

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

CLERK OF COURT

Date: 06/24/2026


Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk



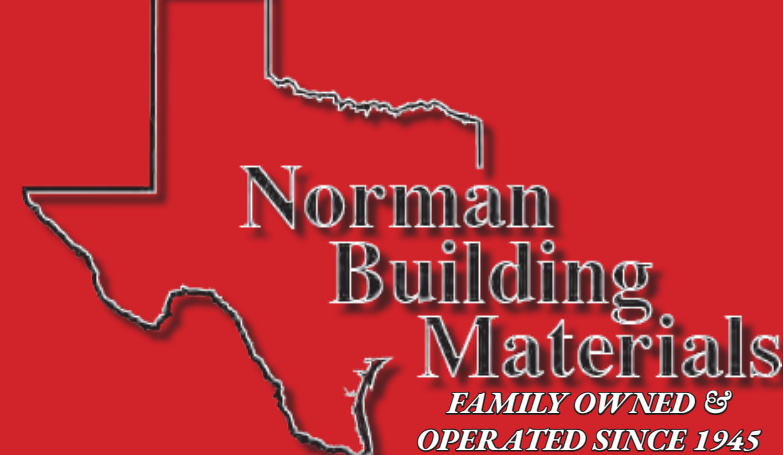
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LEGALS

Cure Dental announced on Monday that a recent cyberattack may have compromised the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of up to 878 current and former patients. According to the practice’s compliance staff, the unauthorized intrusion was detected on June 25, 2025. An intial investigation revealed that the practice’s cybersecurity platform detected and effectively stopped movement of malicious activity across the network. In response, the network was immediately locked down and any external connections were terminated. Also, all accounts with access to remote desktop web access were disabled and an office-wide password reset was forced. Through the investigation, it was determined that certain personal information of patients associated with the practice might have been accessed. The affected data may have included names, addresses, dates of birth, social security numbers, and driver’s license numbers. However, the incident did not affect any patient Protected Health Information (PHI) such as treatment and payment information. “We deeply regret this incident and sincerely apologize for any concern it may cause our community,” said Dr. Tejas Patel, Cure Dental practice owner. “In the aftermath of this incident, we worked diligently with our cybersecurity experts to prevent this from ever happening again.” The practice confirmed that affected patients were notified via email or mail with detailed instructions on how to enroll in free credit monitoring services to protect against identity theft, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) was notified of the breach. Additionally, the practice has established a dedicated toll-free helpline at 1-888-766-1488 for patients who have questions about this matter. Patients are also encouraged to visit the Texas Attorney General website below to find information regarding protection against identity theft: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/identity-theft/help-prevent-identity-theft> 06.25,07.02PD

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Carlos Estate of Carlos Guillermo Solismendoza a/k/a/ Carlos Guillermo Solis, Deceased were issued on 6-4-2026 in Cause No. 25CPB00771, pending In the on County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: Karla Elizabeth Solis. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Dori Ray Mystic, Attorney at

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LEGALS

Law 907 S. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522
DATED the 25 day of 2026.
Dori Ray Mystic Attorney for Karla Elizabeth Solis, State Bar No.: 04091800, 907 S. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522, Telephone: (254) 547-6000, Email: dori-raymistic@hotmail.com 07.02

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION – CIVIL
CAUSE NO. 26DCV361378

To
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF ALICE CRUMLEY, DECEASED
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF WILLIAM THOMAS CRUMLEY SR , DECEASED
Greetings:
You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the ORIGINAL PETITION at or before 10 o’clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o’clock AM, before the Honorable 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said ORIGINAL PETITION was filed in said court on April 29, 2026. The file number of said suit being No. 26DCV361378. The names of the parties in said suit are:

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION
VSSHIANCA LATOSHA TAYLOR,
BONNIE TAYLOR JR., DIANA TURNER-ROBERT, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF ALICE CRUMLEY, DECEASED AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF WILLIAM THOMAS CRUMLEY SR., DECEASED
The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:

This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 2402 Lake Rd., Killeen, TX 76543, and more particularly described as LOT 10, BLOCK 9, KIRBY CREEK VILLAGE, SECTION IV, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF
RECORDED IN VOLUME 97120, PAGE 256, MAP RECORDS OF DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS.
This was issued at the request of attorney: TENIA OUELLETTE TROMBERG MILLER MORRIS & PARTNERS 6080 TENNYSON PKWY STE 100 PLANO TX 75024.

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on June 25, 2026.
Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road ,P.O. Box 909, Belton, Texas 76513
By: M Cortez ,Deputy Clerk 07.02,09,16,23

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00403
TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS
COLIN MCDOWELL, Applicant, on June 24, 2026, filed an Application to Determine heirship and for Letters of Independent Administration in a proceeding styled: CHANCE JOSEPH MCDOWELL,

LEGALS

Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00403 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 July 02, 2026 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it. Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: KAREN M. VILLANUEVA, 2106 BIRD CREEK DR, TEMPLE TX 76502
The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return 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 June 24, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Andrea Marks Deputy 07.02

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00400

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS
AMBAR MELANIA COLLIS, Applicant, on June 23, 2026, filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Dependent Administration in a proceeding styled: JOHN PETROU COLLIS, JR, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00400 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 July 02, 2026 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it. Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: STEVE BLYTHE, 319 N THIRD ST, PO BOX 2088, TEMPLE TX 76503

The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication. Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on June 24, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Andrea Marks Deputy 07.02

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of ERNEST

LEGALS

Mary Wiley Attorney for Michelle Ford, 100
W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 306,
Harker Heights, Texas 76548, Telephone:
(254) 634-6969, Facsimile: (254)634-
6587, Email:mary@lindleylawoffices.com
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See **SPJST**,
Page B8

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EDITORIAL

Out of the many, one

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

Here is another birthday for our country, another chance for us to gather with family and friends, eat, have a day off (some of us) and maybe watch some fireworks. We pull out quotes from our Founding Fathers (FF) and play patriotic, inspirational music to commemorate the official signing of the Declaration of Independence, our country’s “birthday.”

Like most new babies, the FF probably were like most new parents: What in the world do we do with her now? How do we help her grow? How do we “do” things better than the places we came from? What do liberty and freedom mean to us?

Such as the right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” these “unalienable rights” we have from our Creator.

I note that we have the right to pursue happiness. Doesn’t mean happiness is a guarantee. We make our own happiness. That’s another column for another day.

Many of the FF had opinions about liberty, as they kept telling the British, “Um, you have no business governing us anymore.”

Tea was a big thing back then and nobody wanted to pay the additional tea tax. The FF had an issue with the fact

that none of the colonists had a voice about that taxation. This was just one of the issue the FF had with Great Britain’s rule. Hence, the Boston tea party. Those rabblersousers! (Side note – I was in Boston not so long ago, and no, their tea is not as good as Texas sweet tea.)

Back to the FF. They objected and claimed their independence over and over throughout the next years in words and eventually in battle until the British conceded.

To this very day, we still have people who have plenty of opinions on government. (Some we call keyboard warriors. Others, we call politicians.) Today’s variety have nothing on the early politicians back then. We love to romanticize those who fought for independence, but they were just “regular” people like today. Just like ours today.

They were a varied group of farmers, businessmen, plantation owners, merchants. They fought with each other, carried on like party boys sometimes, and some of their escapades would have made great headlines. I wonder how some of their political careers would have fared in this age of social media.

It’s said that Ben Franklin, for example, enjoyed walking around in the buff at home while creating his inventions.

Thomas Jefferson had slaves and died broke. He and Alexander Hamilton couldn’t stand each other. Jefferson and John Adams (who both died on July 4, 1826) also had a major falling out that lasted for years.

Once the Constitution had been framed and voted on, not everyone got what they wanted. Alexander Hamilton wanted a lifetime term limit for the President. James Madison wanted to give the federal government the power to veto any state legislation. A number of the signers of the Declaration of Independence didn’t want to ratify the Constitution.

Some of these things we aren’t taught in school. I like to think that hopefully we’ve been taught one of the most important things about them.

These people learned how to compromise, at least to the extent that they could work together and get business done. They realized not everyone would get what they wanted and learned to make concessions.

E. pluribus Unum—out of the many, one— began on Independence Day, but it was and still is a work in progress. Maybe our powers that be now can take a few cues from these imperfect heroes.

USA 101: Maine Coon Cats

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

Yes folks, there’s an All-American breed of feline that’s named for one of the nation’s fifty states.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine_Coon

This giant among cats – yes, adult males can be as large as 18 pounds (8.2 kilograms) and can be well over 3 feet (nearly 1 meter) from tip of the nose to tip of the tale – is generally believed to hail from the state of Maine. Their large size, coupled with their thick, shaggy coat and typically grey coloration, is by some sources reputed to have led people to mistake them for some type of raccoon, hence the name. Also frequently bigger than normal? Their paws; Maine Coons have a higher than normal incidence rate of polydactyly, in which they have one or more extra toes on their paws.

Talk to a Maine Coon, and they’ll tell

you that they regard themselves as American royalty. Indeed, they make it a point to carry themselves with a regal air, and don’t be surprised if they get a bit finicky about food, their daily routine, your daily routine, and so forth. They want the best, they expect the best, and they’re smart enough to know what “best” means; yes, not only are they larger than the average cat, they’re typically smarter as well.

However, when it comes to Maine Coons, something else is generally quite large as well: their capacity for kindness. While they can be quite aloof when first encountering a new person or animal, it’s rare for them to remain that way. Instead, once a Maine Coon recognizes someone as a companion, they’ll usually start to warm up to them and can in time become a loving friend. If you happen to be their favorite human, you can expect to have a

rather large cuddle buddy curling up on top of you whenever you stop moving for five minutes.

Another thing that Maine Coons tend to have an excess of is energy. In nature, this served them well as the cold climates they hailed from meant they had to actively hunt to survive. Your little household fluff-ball still has that energy, but by virtue of being an indoor kitty it’ll need some sort of outlet. That translates into play time. Yes, Maine Coons *love* to play, whether it’s with the humans in their lives, other animals they’re on good terms with, or even motorized toys if they haven’t figured out the gimmick yet. If play time conflicts with your planned activity, they will find a way to make sure that play time wins out. Keep in mind that Maine Coons can also be quite clumsy, and so you need to make sure they don’t hurt themselves with their misadven-

tures.

That being said, having a Maine Coon isn’t all fun and games. Their being larger than other cats means they need to eat and drink more than other cats. Their thick fur needs to be brushed regularly or they risk developing hairballs if they try to groom themselves. And the breed does have associated health conditions, such as hip dysplasia (a condition wherein the hip joints didn’t form properly), kidney issues, and heart disease. You’ll have to be mindful of their overall health and make sure they receive regular checkups from a certified veterinarian.

Even with these issues, however, Maine Coons can live for over 12 years if properly cared for and no unforeseen factors emerge. That’s 12 years of loving companionship from your fluff baby. Just make sure you can keep up.

Random Thinks

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

A few thoughts for the week. Why isn’t a bath towel the cleanest textile item in the house? If you think about it, that makes sense.

When “girls” are shopping they can see an outfit hanging on a rack and think it is “so cute.” A guy will see a pair of blue jeans and make sure they are the right size and then pick a shirt based on their favorite color, even if it may clash with the jeans.

To be transparent (which is a “thing” these days), I do have a bit of a fascination with boots (although there are a few shoes that fall into this category). I can see a pair of boots (cowboy boots, just in case that wasn’t apparent) and immediately like them. Of course, the word “cute” never is mentioned in the transaction, and it doesn’t matter if they match anything else that I own, they will certainly go with my jeans.

Somewhere along the line a clerk entered my name into a travel rewards program that covers several companies. The issue is that they used my entire name, first, middle and last. When I get an email from one of those companies it is like they are mad at me, it is just a text version of when I was called back to the house when I was a kid for doing something wrong. You knew instantly that if you heard your full name yelled from the front door that

you were probably going to be in trouble.

If you were with a friend and one of their parents called them back to the house using their full names, you just quietly went home or to another friend’s house, you didn’t mention that event the next time you saw them.

There is an app that I have seen advertised recently. It transcribes a phone conversation into texts that you can read if you have hearing issues. I am not quite certain if those app developers have listened to some of the voice-mails that I have received from friends and family. I know the person and can’t understand them, and honestly Apple isn’t having any luck converting their voicemail into text that I can read. I have had some words replaced with something completely unrelated to the context of the message, and honestly, I have been offended by a few of the “greetings” that are typed out. I mean, it is hard enough to have poor hearing and then getting a call from a family member and the typed out text is meaningless.

I have an automatic opening trash can in my kitchen. It seems to work fine... most of the time. If you just want to throw junk-mail away it happily opens for you. However, if you have a handful of something gooey then it seems to want a magic word before it opens for you to dispose of whatever it is that you have.

Here is a bit of a survey question: what feels the best, cool bed sheets in the summer or warm bed sheets in the winter?

In the summer you move around to find a cool spot in the sheets. In the winter if you get up during the night you get right back into the same exact spot for those warm sheets.

For me, I am going with warm sheets in the winter. The only thing better was when I was a kid and was sleeping in a sleeping bag, I would wrap up and not move, often with just my breathing mechanisms open to the cold air.

Have you ever noticed that a wet cat looks very mad? I know that cats do not like water. However, even cats that are being comfortably bathed look quite upset. Maybe they are just really mad and are just resigned to their current situation.

Do you ever see some ridiculous pricing advertised? It is usually something online, you see an item that the original price is \$899.99, but it is marked down to \$19.95 and if you order now, you get an additional \$10.00 off and free shipping!

Think things this week and have a couple of smiles along the way.

Prep Work

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

This week, I’m painting my dining room. When you walk in my front door, you’re greeted with plastic sheeting and ladders and masking tape everywhere. Yesterday, I broke a stool when I was trying to reach a difficult spot. I ended up with a bruise no one can see. I never liked that stool anyway.

I have paint under my fingernails. My hair is a mess. I now officially own painter’s clothing. And I even have shoes to match. I finished the first half of the project at around 10:00 last night and went to bed. Today, I tackle the other half.

I really don’t mind painting. The actual painting part, that is. What I hate is the stuff that comes before. The prep work. All your flat surfaces must be covered. All the edges have to be taped off. The walls need to be clean and ready.

The painting is fun – like a kindergarten art project. As long as the walls have been properly prepared, it’s hard to mess up. I like to take the roller and make zig-zag pictures first. Then, voila! One swipe covers it

all up.

I’ve learned the importance of prep work the hard way. In the past, I’ve gotten in a hurry, been lazy, and tried to paint a room without taping the edges first. It wasn’t a good experience. There was paint on the ceiling, on the windowsills, on the baseboard, on the carpet. It took more time and effort to fix it than it would have taken just to do it the right way to begin with.

It doesn’t seem fair that ninety percent of the work goes into what you can’t see. No one will ever step into my dining room and say, “Wow. She did a nice job taping off those edges. Her prep work is impressive.” But if I hadn’t taped the edges, my fun kindergarten art project would look like a kindergarten art project.

Life is like that. Much of our effort goes into the prep work. Most of our time is spent on the menial, difficult labor no one ever sees. What we present to the world is just the finished product. Wouldn’t it be nice if we could be polished, wise, kind, educated, interesting people without all the boring, back-breaking work

it takes to be polished and kind and wise?

But if we skip the behind-the-scenes work, our lives will probably turn into a big ol’ mess. And those kinds of messes are hard to clean up.

The prep work of our lives is important work. This is the time we study for tests, gather food for the long drought ahead, make little mistakes so we won’t make the bigger ones. This is the learning time, the growing time, the praying time. And much of this work takes place in our minds and hearts – where no one can see.

But when we make the effort to properly prepare ourselves, we end up with a finished product we can be proud to display. And whether we’re showing off a pretty dining room or a loving and wise heart, we’ll be glad we spent the time, did the work, and taped the edges.

Proverbs 6:6 – 8 “Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.”



Local Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

"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."

Belton 4th of July Celebration - June 27 to July 4
Celebrate America’s 250th, starting with the Downtown Street Party on June 27, PRCA Rodeo July second through the fourth, the historic parade and fireworks on the Fourth of July. Visit beltonchamber.com for the full schedule.

Bell County Master Gardener - July 1
Join Master Gardener Barbara Ishikawa to learn about the many benefits birds bring to our landscapes and discover ways to make your garden a welcoming environment for our Texas feathered friends. From habitat and food sources to gardening practices that support bird populations, you’ll leave with ideas for creating a more vibrant, bird-friendly landscape. July 1, 2026, 6:00 p.m. SMART Museum, 408 N.10th Street, Nolanville. Free to public, email bellcountymastergardeners@gmail.com to register.
America’s 250th Birthdayay Party, MPR - July 3
Bring the family for a morning of patriotic fun as Morgan’s Point Resort celebrates America’s 250th birthday! The event begins with a 10:00 a.m. ceremony at the City Hall flagpole, Morgan’s Point Resort City Hall, 8 Morgan’s Point Blvd., Morgan’s Point Resort. Followed by outdoor games, birthday cake, and a Glow Room Party inside the Library. Additional activities may be added as the date approaches. All are welcome.

MPR Summer Reading Program 2026 - July 18
Join us for a fun time each week for games, crafts and food! All programs will have live animals in attendance and give you the opportunity to learn all about them! Mary Ruth Briggs Library located in Morgan’s Point Resort proudly presents our annual Summer Reading Program. Our program this year is titled “Our 4-legged Friends” and will include:
Saturday, July 18: Firehouse Dogs and Police Dogs. Nayla and Sadie will appear with their handlers.
Saturday, July 25: Therapy Horses
Saturday, Aug.1: Sit Means Sit
Saturday, Aug 8: Goats
Time: 10 AM until Noon
Mary Ruth Briggs Library, 8 Morgan’s Point Blvd, MPR Texas 76513, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Free of charge for children pre-K through 5th grade! Free backpacks on the last day filled with school supplies! Sign up at City Hall with paper applications in the Lobby OR online at morganspointresorttx.com

Bell County Master Gardeners- July 18
Join us for Propagation: Seed Collecting, Saving and Planting. Master Gardener Dave Slaughter will present sexual reproduction in the garden. He will help us develop the skills to properly harvest, handle, store and then test your seeds. Learn to plant using the correct temperature to maximize the seed starting process. July 18th, Thursday, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., at Bell County Extension Office- Learning Center, 1605 N. Main Street. No registration needed.

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

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

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

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

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

Bell County Historical Commission holds their meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the historical Bell County Court House, 101 E. Central Ave in Belton. Join us in our vision of preserving and promoting Bell County’s rich historical heritage for current and future generations. We are dedicated to initiating and conducting programs that preserve and celebrate the county’s historic cultural resources in alignment with state laws governing historical preservation in Texas. Our community resources consist of a research room, book repository, cemetery information, historical markers and monument records. Our services include information on historic preservation, educational programming, history community outreach and partnerships. We welcome you to join other history minded folks and get involved by serving on one of our committees that consist of preservation, cemetery, markers and education. To volunteer or for more information please visit historicalcommission@bellcounty.texas.gov, call 254-933-5917

or visit the office located in the historic Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave., RM 117.

The Bell County Genealogical Society meets the fourth Saturday of each month. The group offers free Genealogy Guidance. Members of the Bell County Genealogical Society will be present to help those with questions about researching their family trees. General meetings are held in the Bell County Museum, 201 North Main St., Belton, TX. All meetings are open to the public. You do not have to be from Bell County or have ancestors from Bell County to participate. For additional information please visit our website at https://txbcgs.org/home/events/

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

Bell Fine Arts Visitors welcome Wednesday’s from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 306 E 5th Ave in Belton. If you have a desire to meet, learn, and work together with those of similair interests or just curious, come visit with us and see what we are about. Mah Jong 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 or just come by.

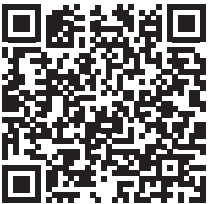
Local chapter of the Crochet Guild of America meets from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Lena Armstrong Public Library, 301 E. First St., in Belton. The group is open to anyone interested in crochet. All skill levels are welcome. For information email Betty Reichert at bettyreichert@yahoo.com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

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

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

Community Information

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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Fiddles Faith & Frontier Communities program set for July 10



File Photo
Colin MacLeod, known as the Celtic Fiddle Guru, will be one of the presenters at next week's Fiddles, Faith & Frontier Communities program to be held in Salado.

Special to the Journal

Salado Museum and College Park, the museum of Salado, Texas, presents Fiddles, Faith & Frontier Communities,

a special program that unites Texas history and storytelling with Scottish heritage and live fiddle music, Friday, July 10, 2:00 p.m. in the Lucile A. Robertson Event Center, 423 South Main St. with a suggested donation of \$10 at the door. The program, led by Texas historian Kurt Terry and Scottish fiddler Colin MacLeod, blends frontier storytelling, music, faith traditions and cultural exploration from the Scots settlers in Salado across the Southwest frontier. Weaving words and images with live fiddle performances, this program offers a journey into the sounds, stories, and communities of 19th-century Texas and beyond. "We will follow the movement of people and ideas along frontier routes linking the historic village of Salado with the wider western frontier to reveal how music and faith traveled together to shape the spirit and cultural fabric of America," said Colin MacLeod. "This includes spiritual traditions that influ-

enced daily life across the Southwest through hymns, fiddle tunes, communal singing, dances and shared gatherings." Kurt Terry is a Professor of History at Temple College. He holds a BA in History from Baylor University, an MA in History from Stephen F. Austin State University, and is a doctoral candidate in History at Oklahoma State University. He has given a number of presentations at educational conferences, including a joint session with the Texas

State Historical Association. Colin MacLeod, known as the Celtic Fiddle Guru, has been playing Celtic fiddle since the age of seven, growing up in Scotland amid a rich family tradition of ceilidhs and communal music-making. Trained to Grade 8 Violin Distinction and having performed with Celtic bands in Australia, he has taught fiddle by ear to students across Scotland, Australia and the United States since 2007.

SPJST - From Page B5

Youth leadership. SPJST introduces the new SPJST Ambassador Scholarship Program. The program replaces the former Royalty Scholarship structure for top senior winners. The new model emphasizes proven leadership, service, mentorship, and professional development. The program prepares students for college, careers, and community leadership. Mr. and Miss SPJST winners will complete yearlong service projects benefiting Texas communities. Participants will build leadership portfolios and develop practical career skills. Successful completion earns SPJST's highest youth honor, SPJST Ambassador. The program also awards a \$2,000 scholarship upon completion and enrollment in higher education. SPJST Communications Specialist Autumn Baker is a lead developer and mentor in the Ambassador Scholarship

Program. "SPJST wants its youth to shine," Baker said. "The SPJST Ambassador Program gives our teens an opportunity to not only develop real-world skills but also make a difference in Texas." The SPJST Ambassador Program was developed to strengthen leadership skills while making a positive impact. "Leadership is not something learned in theory. It is something that grows through service, mentorship, and stepping into new challenges," Baker said. "The Ambassador Scholarship Program is designed to help youth connect their talents with their future goals while also encouraging good citizenship." SPJST invites the public to attend and support Texas youth. Families can explore exhibits, enjoy live performances, and learn more about SPJST programs. For more information about SYS, visit spjst.org or call 254-773-1575.

CAR MEET FOR RaRa!

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