

Freedom boat club launches Christmas in July event



Courtesy Photo
Freedom Boat Club members enjoying a ride at North Point Marina on Belton Lake.

By Harvey Jackson Oss
The Belton Journal

On a windy Saturday afternoon, July 11, the Freedom Boat Club hosted an open-house recruitment event at North Point Marina on Belton Lake for their Christmas in July membership offer.

The Freedom Boat Club of Central Texas began operations two years ago in 2024. “We are in our second full summer, and the community is really noticing us here now... the members just love the club,” stated

Cindy Falbo, who owns and operates the club with her husband Tim Falbo.

The boat club is an alternative to personal ownership of a boat. In exchange for their dues, members avoid the inconveniences associated with boating such as cleaning, storage, maintenance, and hauling. “Our happiest members are those who are previous boat owners, because they know what’s involved,” explained Falbo.

“We celebrate big time at Christmas, and so we thought we’d bring that to the heat of the summer and

make a promotion out of it,” said Falbo. The club is offering a 50% discounted entry fee through July 16.

The Freedom Boat Club recently acquired two new boats, making a total of six that members can reserve with unlimited access. “We have the most popular styles, which are the bayliners and the tritones,” added Falbo. Members can give input as to which new boats should be purchased for the fleet. The club has less than sixty members.

Central Texas Freedom Boat Club members can also access the other 450 worldwide locations within the Freedom Boat Club organization. Under the reciprocal access policy, members can reserve boats up to four times a year at each sister location. “The possibilities are endless,” remarked Falbo.

The Freedom Boat Club contributes to different community initiatives throughout the year. One event, CAST for Kids, is a marina-wide fishing day for special needs children and their caregivers. “Our tritones are perfect because they allow wheelchair accessibility,” explained Falbo. The club also participates in the Gator Getters Lake Cleanup every September, the Baylor Scott and White Community Showcase, and hosts a toy drive in December where boat rides with Santa are offered.

The Central Texas Freedom Boat Club hopes to expand beyond North Point Marina in coming years to other lakes, such as Stillhouse Hollow, Lake Waco, and Lake Whitney.



Courtesy Photo
Casen Harrell, Belton New Tech @Waskow shows his creative work of art.

Belton ISD earns 2026 TAEA District of Distinction Honor

Special to the Journal

this year’s honorees.

“This recognition reflects the incredible work our art educators do every day to inspire creativity, critical thinking and self-expression in our students,” said Dr. Malinda Golden, superintendent of Belton ISD. “Their passion and commitment create meaningful learning experiences that enrich the educational journey of each and every student. We are grateful for their dedication and excited to see their work recognized at the state level.”

Belton ISD’s application was coordinated by the district’s Fine Arts Department and highlighted the many ways visual arts

Belton ISD has been selected as a 2026 Texas Art Education Association (TAEA) District of Distinction, recognizing the district’s commitment to providing exceptional visual arts education and creative opportunities for students.

The District of Distinction designation honors school districts that meet rigorous standards for visual arts education through student achievement, innovative programming, community engagement, and district support. The recognition will be officially announced during the Texas Art Education Association Fall Conference in November, where Belton ISD will also be recognized among

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Fontenot’s ‘commitment to Belton has been unwavering’



Fire Chief Jon Fontenot
By David Stone
The Belton Journal

July 31 will be the final day of work for Fire Chief Jon Fontenot, who is retiring from the Belton Fire Department after serving 31 years

in the fire-service profession. He has served as Belton Fire Chief since June 2020.

“I’m looking forward to slowing down a little and spending more time with my family,” Fontenot said earlier this week. “Professionally, I plan to stay involved in the fire service through consulting and other opportunities where I can continue to help departments with strategic planning, standards of cover, community risk reduction, and organizational development.”

“I don’t see retirement as stepping away from the profession completely — just transitioning into a different role,” he added.

“Angie and I plan to remain in Belton. This commu-

nity has become home, and we look forward to continuing to be part of it.”

Fontenot also plans to focus more on his “hobby” of repairing older guitars and giving them to students who can’t afford to purchase their own.

“I’ve always enjoyed playing and working on guitars, and over the years it grew into a real passion,” Fontenot said. “Through my YouTube channel, @SmokeEaterGuitars, I teach people how to repair and maintain their own instruments. I also started restoring older guitars and donating them to students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to own one.”

“Music can have a tremendous impact on a young

person’s life, and it’s rewarding to combine my love of guitar with giving back to the community,” he said.

According to Belton City Manager Sam Listi, Fontenot has become a friend to young guitarists.

“A lot of students can’t afford a new guitar, but Jon gets older guitars and fixes them up, then gives them to students,” Listi said. “He has an entire room in his house dedicated to repairing guitars.”

Belton Police Chief Larry Berg said it has been a pleasure serving with Fontenot.

“Chief Fontenot has been an outstanding partner to our Police Department and a steady presence in our

shared commitment to public service,” Berg said. “I will miss our monthly breakfasts — meetings where we addressed concerns with honesty and professionalism but also took the time to understand one another as colleagues and as friends.”

“Those conversations strengthened not only our working relationship, but the trust that makes true collaboration possible,” Berg added.

“He and his family have served this community with dignity, humility, and unwavering dedication,” Berg said. “I consider it a privilege to have worked alongside Jon and to have witnessed firsthand the integrity he brings to every responsibility he carries.”

“Just last Thursday, in a ceremony that reflected both his leadership and his sense of humor, he passed the presidency of the Belton Lions Club to me,” Berg continued. “In recognition of his service, I presented him with a ceremonial gavel — one that, by design, was as large as a Viking war axe. It was a fitting symbol for a man who leads with strength, steadiness, and purpose. I am sure he could conquer a small village with it.”

City Manager Sam Listi said Fontenot served Belton with professionalism, achieving and maintaining the Texas Fire Chief’s Association’s Best Practice Recognition.

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Former Lubbock fire chief named Belton interim

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

City Manager Sam Listi has appointed retired Lubbock Fire Chief Rhea Cooper as Belton’s interim fire chief. He will serve in a temporary role, replacing Jon Fontenot, who is stepping down July 31.

“It’s important to ensure the continuity of leadership for the department,” Listi said. “A two-step process involves first selecting an interim fire chief, then outlining a process for the selection of a permanent fire chief.”

“I have selected a seasoned professional to

serve as Belton’s interim chief,” Listi added. “He also has severed in Morgan’s Point Resort, McGregor, Texas A&M’s Forest Service, Boerne, Brenham, Horseshoe Bay and Kaufman. Additionally, he was inducted into the Texas Fire Service Hall of Honor, receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award last year.”

“We have engaged Strategic Government Resources (SGR), a firm that provides interim and permanent executive placements, as well as assisting us previously with Strategic Planning Services,” Listi continued. “Our Agreement will be with SGR, and SGR will contract with Chief Cooper for his compensation, handling all ad-

ministrative aspects of the engagement, including benefits.”

“Cooper will have access to a city vehicle, yet fortunately we will have no lodging or travel expenses since he lives in Temple. The anticipated start date is Monday, July 27, giving Interim Chief Cooper several days of transition time with Chief Fontenot.”

For selection of a permanent fire chief, Belton will conduct a national search with a Texas focus.

“We will be conducting a review of re-

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Spare time Texas in Temple gives families a break

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Spare Time Texas, family-owned and operated, is offering its FREE Summer Fun Pass for children ages 5 to 14. The event runs from June 1 through Aug 31.

Parents can go online to register their children for the pass that will allow free access for one activity Monday through Friday, before 5 p.m.

Bryan Rose, marketing manager, said, “It’s a way of giving back to the community and giving families free activities since everything’s more expensive today.”

The pass offers one game of bowling with shoes included, one laser tag mission, or a 30-minute arcade card. The passes are good through Aug. 31.

“We’re just trying to offer a place where someone can come inside, get out of the heat for a little bit, and have a free activity.”

Thousands of people sign up for the free pass every summer. Rose explained that some people come in only once, twice, maybe three or four times. And then there are families like one last year that used their pass over 40 times.



Photo

Kiddos enjoy 30 minutes in the arcade with the summer fun pass.

Another season special at Spare Time Texas is Summer Madness, for customers to play indoors or outdoors from open to close. With the Summer Madness pass, for \$19 a day per person, during the week, they can play in-

doors. The Backyard Summer Madness pass is \$16 a day per person during the week, or \$19 a day per person on the weekend.

For indoor activities, their one-day pass gives them access from open to close for bowling, including shoes, laser tag, and arcade games.

The one-day Backyard pass, patrons will find mini golf, go-karts, batting cages, and access to their ropes course. “We opened mini golf at the end of April. The last time we had mini golf in Temple was over a decade ago. You get that Summer Madness day pass and you can play a round of mini golf and do go kart races, and then come back and go do another round of mini golf. Just play all day,”

More information for each pass is at <https://sparetimetexas.com/summer-fun-pass/>,

<https://sparetimetexas.com/all-you-can-play/>, and <https://sparetimetexas.com/outdoor/>.

Stay up to date on Spare Time Texas at sparetimetexas.com. Also, follow them on Facebook, X, You Tube, TikTok at *Spare Time Texas*, and Instagram at sparetimetexas. They are located at 5434 205 Loop in Temple.

Belton seeking state outdoor recreation grant

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The City of Belton will apply to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for an outdoor recreation grant that would fund Phase 2 of the Heritage Park expansion project.

The move was approved at Tuesday’s City Council meeting. “Council approved a resolution allowing the City to submit a grant application,” said James Grant, executive director of Belton Parks & Recreation.

“This is a \$750,000 matching grant that they offer each year, and these funds are to be used for dedicated parkland in perpetuity, and the parks are to be maintained and open to the public,” Grant said.

The funding for TPWD’s Local Park Grant Program comes from a portion of the state sales tax on sporting goods.

“The City has already been allocated \$2 million from the Tax Increment Re-investment Zone fund for this project so if we are awarded the TPWD grant the matching funds are already covered,” Grant added.

“The Phase II project is a continuation of the original Heritage Parks Master Plan design developed by Covey Planning & Landscape Architecture back in early 2000,” he continued. “This design is set to be implemented in phases, and during Phase 1, we were not able to complete everything we hoped to, due to the high in-

flation cost that happened during COVID.”

Here is a list of the improvements that were accomplished during Phase 1:

- Extension of Park Avenue to East 24th Avenue
- Permanent Dog Park
- Multi-Use Recreation Field
- Additional Parking
- Concession Building, Pavilion, and Restrooms
- Fish Camp and Dock/Pier
- Mowed Meadows and Native Grass Areas

“In Phase 2, we will try and fund the items we were not able to during Phase 1, Including the walking trail connecting 13th Avenue through the park to 24th Avenue and the Family Pavilion with a shaded playground near it,” Grant said.

“If funding allows, we will make improvements to our popular disc golf course and dog park, add an event area in the Pecan Grove along the Leon River and maybe establish some fishing ponds and add additional lights to our athletic fields if the money holds out.”

Also Tuesday, Mayor David Leigh presented a proclamation declaring July as Parks & Recreation Month in Belton. The proclamation pointed out the importance of having a strong Parks & Recreation Department in the City and briefly outlined the activities of the department.

Interim- From Page A1

gional search firms, including but not limited to SGR, and we will evaluate the best approach for this important management team placement,” Listi said. “The appointment of Interim Fire Chief Cooper allows a deliberate pro-

cess, without the pressure to act hastily.”

City Council gave a thumbs-up to Listi’s appointment of Cooper during Tuesday’s meeting.

Also Tuesday, Council approved a Building Life Safety

Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for structural truss repair and fire safety improvements for Miller’s Smokehouse, 300 E Central in Belton.

Grant applicants Dusty Miller and Kourtney Odum will

use the money to assist with fire damage repair and life-safety improvements, including structural truss repairs, a new commercial fire sprinkler system and a new underground fire service line.

Miller’s Smokehouse was

heavily damaged during a Feb. 28 fire. As a result of the blaze, the building cannot be safely occupied or operated until critical structural repairs are made, according to City Planner Kofi Adarkwah.

Fontenot- From Page A1

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

City Council member Luke Potts agreed with Listi.

“I am very thankful for Chief Fontenot and his dedication to the fire service,” Potts said. “Since coming to Belton, he has become a very important part of our community. I’ve had the opportunity to get to know him through his service as president of the Belton Lions Club, and I must say that he has truly rooted himself here as an amazing servant leader.”

“His commitment to Belton has been unwavering, and we thank him for his service and wish him nothing but the very best in retirement,” Potts said.

Fontenot joined Belton after serving as Assistant Fire Chief of Operations & 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 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.

“Serving Belton residents for the past six years has been a great honor,” Fontenot said this week. “I’m grateful for the opportunity I’ve 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 the 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.

The chief 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.

According to Listi and Leigh, Belton will conduct a national search for a new fire chief.

“The process for hiring new department heads — especially the city manager, the chief of police and the fire chief -- includes some level of ‘search,’” Leigh said. “We (the council) will work with staff as they begin an assessment of the needs of the city, the needs of the Fire Department and the impact to personnel and residents. I would assume we will go through an interim phase before we begin a search.”

“In my personal experience, getting hiring decisions right is very important and rushing those decisions can have a negative impact,” the mayor added.

TAEA - From Page A1

education enriches the student experience across the district. The designation recognizes the collective efforts of art educators, campus leaders and district staff who work together to provide high-quality arts instruction.

“Receiving this distinction is a testament to the incredible talent, collaboration and dedication of our visual arts educators across Belton ISD,” said Keith Zuelke, director of fine arts. “They create learning environments where students are encouraged to think creatively, take risks and ex-

press themselves through art. This recognition celebrates the impact they make in the lives of students every day.”

The Texas Art Education Association’s District of Distinction program recognizes school districts that demonstrate excellence in visual arts education while fostering creativity, innovation and student success. The honor celebrates districts that provide meaningful opportunities for students to explore, create and grow through the visual arts.

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OBITUARIES



Perkins

Dennis E. Perkins
January 31, 1957 –
July 11, 2026

Funeral services for Dennis E. Perkins, 69, of Temple, starting at 10AM for visitation, and service at 11:00 AM, Friday, July 17, 2026, at Dossman Funeral Home Chapel in Belton. Burial will be at 12, noon, Saturday, July 18, 2026 at Terrace Cemetery in Post.

The family will receive friends for visitation at 10 AM, Friday, one hour prior to the funeral service Friday.

Mr. Perkins died Saturday, July 11, 2026, in a Temple nursing home.

Mr. Perkins was born January 31, 1957, in San Antonio, the son of B. Edwin and Ann Perkins. Dennis graduated from The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, and earned his masters at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. He married Sharman Schwartz, June 10, 1978 at First Christian Church in Temple. He was a technology project manager. He worked for Scott and White Hospital from 1982- 1989, and for USAA from 1989 until retiring in 2014

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Sharman Perkins; one son Tanner Perkins and husband Fritz Coral; one sister Paula Auter and husband Richard; two brothers-in-law, Sterling Schwartz and Allan Schwartz; and sister-in-law Sheila Sparks and husband Richard along with several nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Terrace Cemetery in Post, St. Judes Children’s Hospital or Heart of Texas Hospice.

The family would like to thank Dr. Michael McNeal, Dr. Alan Gowan, Dr. Jennifer Murillo, Dr. Calida Danko Dr. Mohit Bansal and all the staff at the Vasicek Cancer Treatment Center for their wonderful professional care. Also to Heart of Texas Hospice, and Cornerstone Gardens Nursing Home and staff for their care.

Pelton

Christopher Lee Pelton
July 6, 1971 —
May 13, 2026

Christopher Lee Pelton, born on July 6, 1971, in Waco, Texas, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Waco on May 13, 2026. Christopher’s life was marked by profound dedication and service, both to his country and to those around him.

Enlisting in the United States Navy in July of 1990, Christopher devoted two decades to honorable service, retiring in July of 2010. Throughout his military career, he exemplified commitment and excellence. For six years, he served as a Consolidated Automated Support System Test Station IMA Calibration/Advanced Maintenance Technician, showing a deep mastery in this highly specialized field. He then dedicated eleven more years as an AN/USM-629 Electro Optic Test Set Operator/Maintainer, before

serving the last thirteen years of his career as a Consolidated Automated Support System Test Station IMA Operator/Maintainer. His steadfast professionalism and technical expertise distinguished him throughout these assignments.

Christopher’s service was recognized through numerous commendations and medals, a testament to his valor and sacrifice. Among the honors he received are the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and the Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist Insignia. These medals speak to his courageous spirit and selfless service during critical moments in our nation’s history.

Christopher will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to duty and his quiet strength. While the details of his personal relationships have not been provided, it is clear that he lived a life dedicated to something larger than himself—a value that will always be honored by those who knew of his service and contributions.

A graveside service honoring Christopher Lee Pelton will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, located at 11463 TX-195, Killeen, TX 76542. All who wish to pay their respect to a faithful servant and veteran are welcome to attend.

Christopher’s life stands as a testament to service, integrity, and honor. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

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

Muniz

Ray Junior Muniz
July 24, 1976 —
June 8, 2026

Ray Junior Muniz, born on July 24, 1976, in Georgetown, Texas, passed away unexpectedly on June 8, 2026, in Manhattan, Kansas. He was a man of many talents and diverse life experiences and even when times were hard, he always found a way.

Ray graduated from Round Rock High School, laying the foundation for a life marked by service and hard work. In 1995, he enlisted in the United States Army, serving with honor as a Cannon Crewmember in HHT 1st SQDN 16th CAV TC at Fort Knox, Kentucky. His commitment to his country during his three years of service earned him several distinctions, including the National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, M16 Rifle Marksman Qualification Badge, and Hand Grenade Marksman Qualification. He left the Army in 1998 with the rank of E1, carrying with him the discipline and pride that military service instilled.

Following his military career, Ray dedicated himself to various roles that showcased his versatility, including positions in customer service, security, and car sales. These endeavors spoke to his adaptability and work ethic, traits that those who knew him admired.

For the past two decades, Junior faced deep challenges with mental health and addiction. Yet, those who truly knew him, always saw his genuine spirit. While time did not allow for every relationship to be fully restored, he remained deeply loved by everyone, even when that love had to be shared from afar.

Beyond his professional life, Ray found joy and expression in many interests. He loved singing karaoke, a pastime that allowed him to share his vibrant spirit and connect with others. Time spent with family was sacred to him, reflecting the central place they held in his heart. Ray was an avid reader and writer, with a keen interest in music lyrics, movies and storytelling. His enthusiasm extended into the modern age with creating TikTok videos and enjoying walks around town. You could always find him at the local park in town. Among his aspirations was to author a book recounting the chapters of his own life, a testament to his reflective nature and the richness of his experiences.

Ray is lovingly remembered by his surviving family members: his parents, Barbara Muniz-Withrow and Reyes Muniz; his grandmother, Gloria Allman; his children, Laten Muniz, Andrea Muniz, Jaxon Muniz, and Macy Sortor; and his grandchildren, Aiden and Abel Muniz, MaKenzie McMullen, Anayah and Avery Cantu, and Elliot Landrie. He also leaves behind his siblings Natasha Muniz, Michael Muniz, Richard Muniz, Johnathan Muniz, Amber Hayes-Trolinger, Kimberly Hayes, and Adam Allman. These individuals carry forward the legacy of his love, laughter, and strength.

He was preceded in death by his biological father, Gary Allman; his sister, Jessica Hayes; his niece, Isabella Muniz; his grandparents Mickey Withrow, Don Withrow, and Idale Ray; his aunt, Joyce Hamby; and cousins Bryan Hamby, Christina Hamby, and Shawn Hamby. Their memory remains a cherished part of Ray’s story.

Ray Junior Muniz’s life was a mosaic of dedication—to his country, his work, and above all, his family. Though his passing was sudden and unexpected, the imprint he leaves upon all who knew him is enduring. May his memory be a blessing and a source of comfort to all who loved him.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the Be Able Community to help support marginalized individuals facing homelessness, instability and life transitions, located at 431 S. 5th Street, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

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

Grimaldo

Giovanni Rene Grimaldo
November 29, 1994 —
June 29, 2026

With hearts heavy yet filled with gratitude for a life beautifully lived, we gather to honor and remember Giovanni Rene Grimaldo—affectionately known as Gia—who was called home to be with the Lord on June 29, 2026, in her cherished hometown of Temple, Texas. Born on November 29, 1994, in Temple, Gia’s life was a radiant testament to love’s enduring spirit and

the profound impact one gentle soul can have upon the world.

The tapestry of Gia’s life is woven with threads of devotion, resilience, and immeasurable kindness. From her earliest days, she shone with an inner clarity—her laughter a balm, her presence a source of comfort for all privileged to share in her journey. Gia’s warmth was felt by all who encountered her, and it is this legacy of gentle strength and selfless affection that remains with us now.

The family formed the steadfast foundation of Gia’s world. She was the beloved daughter of Ramiro Grimaldo, whose unwavering love and guidance remained her compass. Gia’s heart was further enriched by the companionship of her siblings: Chris Guadron, Ramiro Grimaldo II, Jelane Grimaldo, Asael Grimaldo, Yarezi Grimaldo.. Together, they shared countless moments of camaraderie, shaping one another’s lives with humor and unbreakable bond. Gia also cherished the special joys of aunt-hood, delighting in the presence of her nieces, Sarahi Grimaldo, and Ever’leigh Grimaldo and her nephew, Vidal Grimaldo. Their laughter and innocence brought her boundless happiness.

Though she is now reunited with her dearly missed mother, Maricela Grimaldo and grandmother Mary Ann Cavazos, the love they shared on earth remains inviolable and everlasting, a shining example for those who continue to walk the path of life without her.

As we reflect on Gia’s time among us, we recall a life marked not only by the relationships she cultivated so tenderly, but by the countless quiet acts of compassion, grace, and humility that defined her character. Hers was a spirit unyielding in its faith, and in her departure, we find solace in knowing she rests in eternal peace.

The community will come together to bid a fond and prayerful farewell in the days ahead. Visitation was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center, 4235 E. US Hwy 190, Temple, TX 76501. That evening

at 7:00 p.m., a Rosary was recited. A Mass to celebrate Gia’s life followed on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

A special thank you to Baylor Scott and White Hospital for their compassionate care

In the love and devotion that she both gave and inspired, Giovanni Rene Grimaldo’s light remains undimmed. Her memory will be cherished always, a guiding beacon for all whose lives she graced.

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

Brown

Darrell Ray Brown
August 16, 1948 –
July 11, 2026

Graveside services for Darrell Ray Brown, 77, of Belton will be held Monday, July 20, 2026, at Mofat Cemetery with Shelby Moeller officiating.

The family will receive friends for visitation Sunday, July 19, 2026, at the Dossman Funeral Home Chapel.

Mr. Brown died Saturday, July 11, 2026, in a Temple hospital.

Mr. Brown was born, August 16, 1948, in Mofat, the son of Sude E. K. Brown and Evlyn Shouse Brown. He attended the

Texas School for the Deaf in Austin. He worked briefly in masonry and was an electrician. He was a member of the Baptist Church in Moffat.

He was preceded by his parents and all his siblings.

Survivors include nieces and nephews.

Gannon

Helen Louise Gannon
February 6, 1930 —
July 2, 2026

Helen Louise Henderson Gannon, of Temple, Texas, passed away peacefully on July 2, 2026, at Temple Rehabilitation Hospital. Born on February 6, 1930, in Lexington, Kentucky, she was the youngest of five children born to Henry Bowyer and Mabel Wyatt Henderson.

Helen graduated from Lafayette High School in Lexington, Kentucky, and attended Transylvania University for two years before marrying Jack Wiley Gannon Sr. of Mayfield, Kentucky, June 10, 1950.

While attending Transylvania University (1948–1950), Helen was a member of Phi Mu Sorority and played point guard for the Transylvania women’s basketball team. During Jack’s service in the U.S. Air Force, Helen worked as a civilian typist for the Air Force.

See OBITS,
Page A5



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Summer blowout, an afternoon of Free fun and food for the community

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Anchor of Hope Fellowship Church is hosting its first end of summer, before school starts, Summer Blowout. Water slides, a slip-n-slide, bounce houses, and food await anyone who stops by Saturday, Aug. 1, between noon and 4:00 p.m.

The free event, at 5700 FM-439 in Belton, will have three water slides, a slip and slide, and two bounce houses. There will be a water slide for all ages. The food being served is chili dogs, hot dogs, nachos, and Frito pie.

Rainwater explained how the idea for a summer event started. He called a pastor friend in Missis-

siippi. His friend explained how their church has a big deal right before school starts that gets good attendance.

Rainwater said, “Anybody’s welcome to come. We want to provide something that lets people know we know you’re battling. It’s difficult today to just take care of your kids, let alone add anything to it.”

The church has six college students from Mary Hardin-Baylor that will return from summer vacation and help with the event.

Rainwater said, “It’s our responsibility as a church to look in the community and see what needs are. And families are in danger in today’s society. I think that it’s really important that we focus as a



BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman
Summer Blowout Anchor of Hope Fellowship Church’s Fall Festival with bounce houses draws a crowd every year.

church to do something to make our community better.”

Looking toward the future, Rainwater said, “We care about families, and we want to help families. We’re going to start a program, Parents’ Night Out, where parents can bring the kids to watch a movie, drop them off, and come back and pick them up.”

They host a fall festival every year on the second Saturday in Nov. For twelve years running, this event brings 600 to 800 people annually. Looking for ways to help with the current needs, Anchor of Hope Fellowship has a food pantry at the front entrance of the church for anyone in need.

Belton’s parks & recreation month brings fun, adventure, and community

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Belton is celebrating National Parks & Recreation Month by embracing its tagline as “The Playground of Central Texas,” said Adam Trujillo, superintendent of parks.

Throughout July, Belton Parks & Recreation is offering a variety of free, family-friendly events designed to bring neighbors together, encourage outdoor recreation and showcase the many parks and recreation facilities that make Belton a great place to live.

“We have a lot going on,” Trujillo said. “From celebrating history to exploring nature, enjoying live music, and discovering new ways to play, Belton’s Parks and Recreation Month offers something for everyone.”

“We invite the entire community to join us throughout July as we celebrate healthy living, outdoor adventure, and the places that bring our community together,” he said.

Here’s a look at some of July’s activities:

July 9 | 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Harris Community Center: Bring your creativity to **Connect & Construct Together**, an evening dedicated to building connections through hands-on fun. Families and friends can enjoy brick-building activities, puzzles, and collaborative challenges in a relaxed, come-and-go atmosphere that encourages imagination, teamwork, and quality time together.

July 11 | 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | Yettie Polk Park: Our “**Where We Meet**” **Pop-Up** brings the party to the park! Enjoy music from a live DJ, lawn games, activities for all ages, and plenty of opportunities to meet new friends while enjoying one of Belton’s neighborhood parks. It’s the perfect way to spend a summer evening outdoors.

July 18 | 8:00 a.m. | Miller Springs Nature Center: Start your morning with **Hike with a Ranger**, an all-ages guided hike through the scenic trails of Miller Springs Nature Center. Participants will discover the area’s natural beauty, learn about local wildlife and plants, and experience one of Belton’s most treasured outdoor destinations. Whether you’re an experienced hiker or simply looking for a leisurely walk, everyone is welcome.

July 21 | 10:00 a.m. | Harris Splash Pad: Beat the Texas heat during our **Splash Pad Pop-Up!** Parks and Recreation staff will be handing out free popsicles while supplies last, giving families another reason to cool off and enjoy one of Belton’s favorite summer destinations.

July 24 | 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Chisholm Trail Park: Try something new at our **Pop-Up Play in the Park!** This active evening invites participants of all ages to sample a variety of recreational sports and games, including pickleball and other fun activities. Whether you’re discovering a new hobby or just enjoying some friendly competition, there’s something for everyone.

July 31 | 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Heritage Park Kayak Launch: We wrap up Parks and Recreation Month with an unforgettable evening featuring the Leon River Band performing live along the Leon River. Guests can enjoy live music, lawn games, kayaking, and a beautiful sunset at Heritage Park’s kayak launch. Bring a chair, spend time with family and friends, and help us celebrate everything that makes Belton’s parks and recreation system special.

“Throughout the month, we’re celebrating the many ways parks and recreation reveals the power of what connects us:

The Power of Connection: Parks and recreation is where relationships grow, cultures meet and communities bond.

The Power of Play: From playgrounds to programs to youth sports, play fuels creativity, joy and lifelong learning.

The Power of Community: Public spaces offer room for everyone to gather, celebrate and heal.

The Power of Nature: Nature restores and inspires us, and parks ensure everyone can access its benefits.

The Power of Belonging: Welcoming parks and programs make every person feel valued.

The Power of Well-Being: Parks and recreation advances health, resilience and shared community benefits.”

123,284 hybrid bass added to Belton Lake this year

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Texas Parks & Wildlife has added 123,284 Sunshine bass fingerlings to Belton Lake this year, keeping the local lake well stocked and among the best fishing lakes in Central Texas.

Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, however, hasn’t been restocked in two years.

This year’s Sunshine bass additions to Belton Lake are a fraction of the numbers introduced last year. In 2025, TP&W added 1.3 million fry-sized Sunshine Bass, plus 157,697 Lone Star bass fingerlings.

Lone Star bass fingerlings are second-generation offspring of pure Florida strain ShareLunker largemouth bass

that were at least 13 pounds, said Michael Baird, district supervisor for the Waco Inland Fisheries District of Texas Parks & Wildlife.

“They have taken the place of Florida largemouth in our hatcheries and are being stocked statewide,” Baird said. “Lake Belton is a smallmouth bass brood fish source for our state hatcheries, and it consistently gets smallmouth stocked, mainly for that purpose. But it is one of the best smallmouth reservoirs in Texas for angling.”

Sunshine and Palmetto bass are crosses of white and striped bass. Sunshine bass are a hybrid of female white bass and male stripers, and the Palmetto bass are the opposite — a hybrid cross between a male white bass and a female

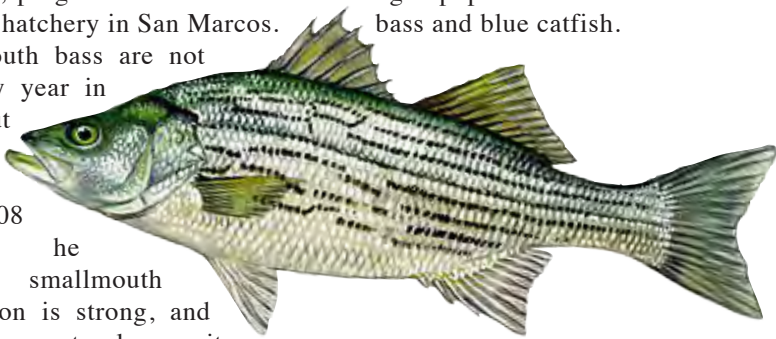
striper.

“In Belton Lake, TPWD typically stocks hybrid bass on an annual basis at 100 fry per acre — and that request shouldn’t change unless there is some unforeseen issue with production or the status of the reservoir,” according to Carl Kittel, program director of the Region 1 fish hatchery in San Marcos.

“Smallmouth bass are not stocked every year in Belton but were last stocked in 2021 (51,308 fingerlings),” he added. “The smallmouth bass population is strong, and there is some natural recruit-

ment from year to year. Whether or not TPWD stocks smallies at Belton Lake depends heavily on the status of the reservoir at the time and the outlook for hatchery production of this species.”

In addition to the hybrid striped bass, Belton Lake also is known for large populations of smallmouth bass and blue catfish.



Construction of 7-mile belhouse pipeline linking belton lake to stillhouse likely to begin in 2028

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Construction on a one-way pipeline connecting Belton Lake to Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir is expected to begin in 2028 and be operational by 2032, according to an expert with the Brazos River Authority.

BRA is a governmental entity responsible for developing, managing and protecting the water resources of the Brazos River Basin in Texas. Its activities include operating reservoirs and dams, managing water supplies for municipalities, agriculture, and industry, and providing wastewater services.

“The permitting and design phase for the project began in May of this year,” said Brad Brunett, chief operations officer for the Authority. “Design for both the intake structure and pipeline are under way by the Walker Partners engineering team and they are expected to be complete in early 2026.”

“Coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers is also in progress — construction is expected to begin in 2028,” Brunett said.

He said the pipeline route that was presented at the public hearing in 2023 will be pursued, with some minor deviations as a result of recent development.

The pipeline will allow water to flow from Belton Lake to Stillhouse, to provide water for drought-related

needs in Austin’s booming northern suburbs.

“As populations in the Georgetown and Round Rock areas grow, there won’t be enough water for Brazos River Authority customers served by Lake Georgetown,” Brunett said.

“Lake Georgetown is small — Stillhouse is about 6 times larger than Georgetown, and Belton Lake is about 14 times larger,” he said. “During dry times, there simply is not enough water in Lake Georgetown to meet the needs.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Georgetown is one of the fastest growing cities in America, and its population of 104,000 is expected to double in less than seven years.

The Brazos River Authority has been pumping water from Stillhouse to Lake Georgetown for years, but the potential amount of water being moved will soon increase, Brunett said.

A whopping 20 billion gallons of water every year could be piped from Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir to Lake Georgetown in the next few years, and up to 9.8 billion gallons could be moved annually from Lake Belton to Stillhouse by the Belhouse pipeline.

“We first started pumping in 2006, and we added multiple pumps in 2011,” Brunett said. “We have four pumps capable of pumping 42 million gallons a day. We are replacing those with four higher-capacity pumps that can

move 56 million gallons per day. There will still be one pipeline, but we will be able to move more water.”

“We are currently in the pump design phase, and it will be two or three years before they are operational,” he said. Once complete, they will have the capacity to transfer about 61,000-acre-feet — 19.88 billion gallons — from Stillhouse to Georgetown annually.

The amount of water actually transferred is related directly to ongoing drought conditions.

“The pumps don’t run constantly,” Brunett said. “It all depends on the weather and how much natural runoff goes into Lake Georgetown. In 2016, the pumps didn’t run at all. But, in 2022, they ran most of the year.”

The projected Belhouse pipeline connecting Lake Belton to Stillhouse will be approximately seven miles long and up to four feet in diameter.

According to Brunett, the intake structure will be located near Dead Fish Grill and the Belton Dam. The pipeline will feed into Stillhouse between the dam and Three Creeks Boulevard.

Brunett said the water lines from Belton Lake to Stillhouse and from Stillhouse to Lake Georgetown will be one-way. In other words, water cannot be pumped in reverse to transfer water into Belton Lake.

While the Brazos River Authority has deemed the



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Obits - From Page A3

Following his discharge, Jack returned to college to complete his degree while the couple began raising their family. Four years later, they moved to Jack's hometown in Mayfield, Kentucky.

Once their children were in school, Helen returned to the workforce. For many years, she managed forty rental properties for Dr. Robert O. Vaughn from her home in Mayfield. She later served as receptionist and secretary to Kentucky State Senator Carroll Hubbard before becoming a teller at Exchange Bank of Mayfield.

In 1975, Helen and Jack embarked on a new venture, purchasing a franchised hardware store in Hickman, Kentucky. Working side by side, they operated the business for nearly four decades, evolving from Western Auto (1975–1984) to Gannon's True Value (1984–2003) and ultimately Gannon's Hardware (2003–2012). For several years, Helen also served as secretary of the Hickman River City Development Corporation (HRCDC).

Faith was a guiding force throughout Helen's life. A lifelong member of the Christian Church, she faithfully attended in her hometown of Lexington, directed the children's choir for many years in Mayfield, and remained active in the church while living in Hickman. After moving to Temple in 2017, she was a devoted viewer who continued to find spiritual encouragement through the messages of Dr. Charles Stanley.

During Helen's years in Temple, she enjoyed attending many SPJST events with family members and creating cherished memories together. She was also proud to be a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and had maintained her membership in the Betty Martin Chapter for the past six years.

Helen was a devoted and supportive mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother. She is lovingly remembered by her children: Terry Lynn Gannon Pinkston (Bill) of Rockville Maryland; Nancy Anne Gannon Miller (Jerry) of Temple, Texas; Jack Wiley Gannon Jr.

(Molly) of Hickman, Kentucky; and David Neil Gannon (Beth) of Richmond, Kentucky.

She also leaves behind twelve cherished grandchildren: Amanda Pinkston (Peter Dennis), Matthew (Amelia) Pinkston, Russell (Sophie) Pinkston, Jennifer Miller, Danielle Miller, Kathleen Miller, John Wiley Gannon, Catherine Gannon, Caitlin G. (Dylan) Darnell, Bryanna G. (Jon) Sowder, Allyson G. (Zach) Lehman, and Neely Gannon.

Helen was blessed with six great-grandchildren and eagerly anticipated the arrival of another. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and their families, all of whom held a special place in her heart.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Jack; her parents, Henry Bowyer and Mabel Wyatt Henderson; her sisters, Virginia H. Pieratt and Shields H. Wash; and her brothers, Henry B. Henderson Jr. and Joseph Henderson.

Helen will be remembered for her enduring faith, strong work ethic, devotion to family, and the kindness and encouragement she shared with all who knew her.

Memorial services will be held in Hickman, Kentucky, with burial at Highland Cemetery in Mayfield, Kentucky at a later date.

Cole

Marsha Lynn Cole

May 6, 1944 — July 7, 2026

Marsha Lynn (Hartman) Cole, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, in Temple, Texas, at the age of 82. Born on May 6, 1944, in Emporia, Kansas. She graduated high school in her hometown before continuing her education at Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia, Kansas, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree. Her academic achievements reflect a lifelong commitment to personal growth and excellence. Marsha's life was enriched not only by her accomplishments but also by the relationships she cultivated and her love for God.

She is lovingly remembered by her husband, Mark Cole; her children to include daughter, Tiffany Drewa and her husband David; son, Ariah Cole and his wife Elena; son Adrian Cole and his wife Sarah; daughter, Gabrielle Bielefeldt and her husband Chris. She was a grandmother to Milam Drewa, Joshua Cole, Jordan Cole, Joseph Cole, Savannah Cole, Alex Cole, Cole Bielefeldt, and Luke Bielefeldt.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marjorie and Jack Hartman.

Marsha found great pleasure in her hobbies, with a particular love for hospitality, decorating and gardening. These creative passions reflected her keen eye for beauty in her garden and her talent for finding the jewels of antiques to make any place full of thoughtful touches. Marsha will be fondly remembered for her tenacity, her wisdom, and strength.

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

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LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL



Courtesy Photo

This furry rabbit, who resembles a Tribble from Star Trek, was one of several unique “guests” recently at the Bell County Animal Shelter.

Despite being packed with puppies, animal shelter hosts unique guests

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

When thoughts of an animal shelter come to mind, the usual visions are of dogs and cats. But, recent guests at the Bell County Animal Shelter have included exotic birds, a bull named Bo Jangles and a rabbit who resembles a Tribble from the Star Trek series.

“We’ve had a few things occur at the Bell County shelter recently,” said Lt. Jared Alton, director of the facility.

“One, we recently had two cockatiels and an African Gray Parrot come into our shelter,” Alton said. “Their original owner passed away and the family was unable to care for the birds. It was an interesting few days — almost a week — of having these birds.”

“They were friendly, liked to sit on people’s shoulders and preen their hair, and they really loved dancing to Justin Bieber songs,” he said with a grin. “The shelter staff was able to locate placement for the birds with a gentleman who lost his own birds a few months back.”

“We also had a very ornery bull named Bo Jangles who gave us fits for about a week. He was found loose northeast of the Temple city limits. We ran into a scheduling and space conflict with the people we normally house livestock with, so we had to attempt to house him at the animal shelter for a weekend.”

“He did not like our accommodations and broke out on the first night. We chased him into a heavily wooded field not far from the Huntington Bank Expo but were unable to catch him.”

“The next morning,” Alton said, “we attempted to locate him to no avail. For the next five days, Animal

Control and Patrol attempted to locate Bo Jangles. He was eventually found about a mile away from where he was last seen in a pasture full of heifers.”

“He had jumped at least two fences and crossed two cattle guards to go live his best life. Bo Jangles was reunited with his owners after almost a week of freedom.”

The unusual guests continued to arrive at the Bell County Animal Shelter.

“Belton Animal Control recently brought us the most unusual looking rabbit,” Alton said. “When I first saw it, I thought it was a prop from Star Trek because it looks like a tribble, but then it moved and I realized it was alive. Once its 72-hour stray hold was over, we sent it to a rescue that works with rabbits and livestock.”

Also, for a few days the shelter had the cutest little lamb. Belton Animal Control found the little guy wandering in a neighborhood and brought him to the shelter, said Lt. Jared Alton, shelter director. “He was so soft and cuddly, and he would run and play in one of our outside play yards. He was sent to live on a farm that raises sheep for their wool.”

According to Alton, on most days the shelter is at maximum capacity.

“This kitten and puppy season hit us hard, and my dedicated staff has been working hard to find forever homes for the animals,” he said. Please remember to spay or neuter your pets and get them microchipped. Those microchips help us reunite lost pets with their family more than any other means at our disposal.”

“We also have an adoption event coming up on July 18 at Killeen Mall. Our outreach coordinator, Tiffani O’Brien, will have animals available for adoption from noon to 4 p.m.”

A sweet success: honey is big business for former educator



Courtesy Photo

A group of students visits Grandpa Bill’s Honey Farm in Belton. The farm is operated by former Temple ISD and Salado ISD superintendent Robin Battershell.

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

A family-owned Belton-area honey farm will harvest later this summer, and owners hope to top the 250-pounds of honey produced last year.

Grandpa Bill’s Honey Farm, owned by Robin Battershell, son Christopher and husband Brian,

is located just southwest of the city near Chisholm Trail Elementary. Brian helps with the heavy lifting.

The farm is named after Robin’s father, who was a local farmer for many years.

“We’ve been in the honey business for about nine years,” said Robin, who was superintendent

of Temple schools from 2008 to 2018. “A teacher at Temple High raised bees, and he got us started with three hives.”

“We lost two of those hives during our second year of business — they just left their hives,” she said. “We really didn’t know what we were doing — we just had to jump in there and figure it out.”

“I read up on bees,” Robin added. It’s a long-term gig and it takes a lot of work. But over the years, we expanded. We started ordering bees from a company up north, but the bees didn’t travel well. Eventually, I found a local bee source. When a hive got full, we would split it and order a new queen bee. We would take part of the brood from the original hive.”

According to Robin, each hive can have up to 200,000 bees, and Grandpa Bill’s now has 20 hives. So how much honey do all of those bees produce? That varies with each hive and weather patterns, she said.

“Bees make honey out of nectar, and if rain washes away nectar, you will have smaller quantities,” she continued. “We sold 250 pounds of honey last year, and we will harvest more honey in August. We likely will sell out by October.”

“We don’t sell in stores — it’s all by word of mouth,” Robin added. “We have a list of regulars that we serve every year, and that list continues to expand. Demand far exceeds our supply.”

Honey produced on Grandpa Bill’s Honey Farm is very dark and only filtered once.

“It’s a gorgeous honey,” Robin said. “It takes a lot of hard work.”

All the processing and bottling is done on the farm.

Community rallies for baby RaRa at Belton VFW benefit

By Shalee Corey-Wiebe
The Belton Journal

A benefit was held at the Belton VFW Post on July 11th to help raise money to cover the medical costs for little baby Kiahaura Mateo Salley, otherwise known as “RaRa,” who was born with Down syndrome and had open-heart surgery at only six months old. She was later found to also have leukemia and had to undergo six rounds of chemotherapy. Now she is in remission.

The benefit on Saturday lasted from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and

included a car meet, a raffle, BBQ plates, and a live auction where even the leftover brisket and potato salad were sold.

RaRa’s mother, Karina Mateo, said the hardest part for her during RaRa’s treatments was, “trying to manage and stay sane, to be strong for RaRa and still be there for my older daughter, and not lose my mind in the process.”

Karina said that it was hard to see the chemo taking a toll on RaRa, but being around other families going through the same struggles helped. “In the hospital, you get to meet all the family



Courtesy Photo

Supporters gathered at the Belton VFW Post on July 11 to raise funds for baby Kiahaura Mateo Salley—affectionately known as “RaRa”—who has overcome both open-heart surgery and leukemia.

members. They’re going through the same thing, and I got to meet moms. They had kids with Down syndrome and with leukemia. So, you build a special bond with them because they know what you’re going through.”

Karina credited RaRa’s dad, Kenneth Salley; her oldest daughter; and the rest of her family members with being the biggest supporters at home. The community has also been supportive, especially Danny McDonald, who put on the benefit for RaRa.

Danny has been putting on benefits for 25 years now, raising money for a variety of reasons, but many for kids going through cancer treatments. Danny listed several organizations to support people going through cancer treatments, including Pink Warrior Angels, Na-deiah’s Warriors Foundation, B.I.G. Love Cancer Care, and The Brooklynn Miller Foundation. To donate to RaRa specifically, Danny can be contacted at 254-541-1030.



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Escape from “Someday Isle”



John C. Perry

A recent post on my Facebook feed caught my eye with a familiar quote: “In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count, it’s the life in your years.”

This insight is often mistakenly attributed to Abraham Lincoln, but he never said it. Others credit

Adlai Stevenson, and although he used a version of the phrase, he wasn’t the first either. The quote actually originates from a 1947 book written by Dr. Edward J. Stieglitz. But regardless of who first penned the words, the truth they carry is vital to keep top of mind.

That quote came back to me vividly during a recent trip to Florida. I had managed to hurt my right calf muscle. While Sandra was checking out at the grocery store, I spotted a nearby bench where I could rest my leg.

There was already a man sitting on one end of the bench, and we struck up a conversation. He was a former tile floor layer, and he explained that his knees were

completely gone from decades of hard, physical labor. As we talked, it turned out we were the exact same age.

My self-pity over a temporarily sore calf evaporated instantly. He told me he could only walk for about five minutes before the pain forced him to stop and rest. He lamented the things he could no longer do, wishing he had made different choices in his youth. His regret was heavy, and it made me realize how easily we take our everyday strength for granted, right up until the moment it’s gone.

What about your life? Are you living just going through the motions, or are you living your life to the fullest? Look at Charlie Kirk,

who was doing what he loved, living the life he wanted before his tragic assassination last year. He lived fewer years than many, but did he ever make an impact, pouring himself fully into what he believed in.

As Christians, we know God wants us to fully embrace the life He has granted us. I am reminded of Psalm 90:12: “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” This verse is a beautiful prayer asking God to help us grasp the limited time we have on this earth. By “numbering our days,” we become acutely aware of life’s brevity. That awareness shouldn’t paralyze us; it should encourage us to prioritize what truly

matters, making choices that honor God and benefit others.

Today, take that quote to heart. My prayer for you is that you do not look back on a life filled with the refrain, “Oh, someday I’ll do this or that.” None of us are guaranteed tomorrow. Don’t maroon yourself on the “Someday Isle.” That is a dangerous place to get stuck, a fictional shoreline lined with unfulfilled callings, where we comfortably wait for “perfect timing” that never actually arrives. Live fully. Live gratefully and live a life that honors God and fulfills His will on this earth!

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.

Pipeline - From Page A4

pipeline solution that moves water from Belton Lake to Stillhouse, then to Lake Georgetown, as the best option for getting water to where it is needed, BRA has considered other options.

“We are always looking for new water supply sources,” he said. “We have considered new reservoirs in the Little River watershed and in Milam County, but those were met with a lot of opposition from local residents so those options are no longer in our water plan.”

“All of the major rivers in Williamson and Bell counties already have reservoirs,

and there likely isn’t enough water to justify building new reservoirs on those rivers,” Brunett said. “The San Gabriel River has Lake Georgetown and Lake Granger, the Leon River has Belton Lake and Lake Proctor, and the Lampasas has Stillhouse.”

“Another option we have looked at is raising the Lake Georgetown dam so the lake could hold more water. But, new development has gone in and that option is no longer on the table.”

According to Brunett, Lake Belton serves many water districts and municipalities. One of the largest customers is

Belton-based 439 Water Supply, which provides water to Killeen, Harker Heights, Copperas Cove and parts of Fort Hood. The lake also provides water to Bluebonnet Water Supply, Belton, Coryell Water Supply, Fort Gates, Gatesville, The Grove Water Supply and others.

Although Temple pulls its water from the Leon River below the Lake Belton dam, water must be released from the lake to meet the city’s water needs, Burnet said.

Bell County Judge David Blackburn said BRA contracts in place give water customers in the Georgetown area rights to water from Stillhouse.

“It is my understanding that current contracts afford the customers to our south the rights to the water,” Blackburn said. “It is also my understanding that no current system water rights holder will be impacted by a pipeline connecting Belton Lake and Stillhouse.”

The Belhouse Drought Preparedness Project — the official name of the water transport system linking Belton Lake to Stillhouse Hollow — has been planned for years to provide access to water where it is needed. It is designed to delay the need for

the development of additional new sources of water, including the building of new reservoirs, which could cost millions, if not billions of dollars.

“With growth and development occurring in Bell County, I think it would be wise for Bell County water purveyors to explore strategies that will better ensure that our water needs in the future are met,” Blackburn added.

“Aquifer Storage & Recovery is but one example of a strategy that should continue to be explored in order to better ensure that the water needs of Bell County are met in the years to come,” Blackburn said.

Aquifer Storage & Recovery is the process of injecting water into the ground for storage and later recovering that water for use. One common use of ASR is for management of peak demand and raw water supply in public drinking water systems.

Temple is already launching an Aquifer Storage & Recovery system and other Bell County entities are considering following suit.



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THE BELTON JOURNAL





Champions crowned at the Belton 4th of July Rodeo



Courtesy Photo

Legendary rodeo clown Johnny “Backflip” Dudley poses with bull riding champion Taylor Toves at the Belton 4th of July Rodeo.

Special to the Journal

The 102nd annual Belton 4th of July PRCA Rodeo was held July 2-4 at the Huntington Bank Expo. With big crowds returning, including a complete sellout on Friday night and near capacity crowd Saturday, those in attendance saw some amazing performances by contestants on all three nights.

With the great reputation of this outstanding rodeo, contestants were eager to come to Belton to perform. Contestants came from across Texas, 11 other states, and as far away as Canada, Brazil and Australia, making this another great field of contestants.

Legendary Rodeo Clown/Barrelman Johnny “Backflip” Dudley, sponsored by Tanner Roofing along with Bull Fighters Brody Smith and Cody Emerson, entertained the crowd each night, along with The Belles, Bell County 4H Horse Equestrian Drill Team, as well as the always entertaining Mutton Bustin’ sponsored by Vista Real Estate, the awesome Stick Horse Stampede sponsored by KPA Engineers on Saturday, and a popular new audience participation event, Adult Calf Scramble.

The results for the rodeo events indicate the high quality of competition this year. In addition to \$44,053 in prize money, championship buckles are awarded to the first-place finisher in each event.

The fast pace WPRA event, Breakaway Roping, sponsored by Covington Real Estate, had a total payoff of \$7,670. The Champion was Fallon Hanson from Itasca, Texas with a time of 2.2 seconds, earning \$1,764. Second place (tie) went to Brooklyn Balch from Buckholts, TXs and Jayme Marcum from Springton, TX with a time of 2.4 seconds, earning \$1,419 each. Fourth place went to Holly Manahan with a time of 2.5 seconds, earning \$1,074. Fifth place went to Katie Rector from Sumner, TX with a time of 2.9 seconds, earning \$844. Sixth place went to Molly Hamilton from Shawnee, OK with a time of 3.2 seconds, earning \$614. Seventh place went to McKaitlin Mckee from Hockley, TX with a time of 3.3 seconds, earning \$384. Eighth place (tie) went to Carlee Martinez, Shelby Osceola-Moody, and Ashlea

Pierce with a time of 3.4 seconds, earning \$51 each.

The Champion in Bareback Riding was Ethan Couch from Gonzales, TX with 79 points on Lancaster Pro Rodeo Company’s Cowtown Misfit, earning \$1,495. Second place went to Brayze Schill from West Columbus, TX with a score of 64, earning \$897. There were no other qualifying rides with the horses bucking all other contestants.

The Champion in Steer Wrestling sponsored by Brockway, Gersbach, Franklin and Niemeier, Certified Public Accountants, was Tony Aska from Hempstead, TX with a time of 4.2 seconds, earning \$1,370. Second place went to Adam Newman from Henryetta, OK with a time of 4.3 seconds, earning \$1,134. Third place went to Walt Arnold from Coleman, TX, earning \$897. Fourth place went to Sam Shofner from Jasper, TX with a time of 5.4 seconds, earning \$661. Fifth place went to Cade Staton from Bastrop, TX with a time of 5.7 seconds, earning \$425. Sixth place (tie) went to Traden Anderson from Hanna, Ok and Cole Pugh from Jasper, TX with a time of 6.1 seconds, earning \$118 each.

Billy Bob Brown and Blaine Vick were the Champions for Team Roping sponsored by Lone Star Grading and Materials, with a time of 4.4 seconds, earning \$1,336 each. Second place went to Bridger Ketcham and Corey Hendrick with a time of 4.9 seconds, earning \$1,106. Third place went to Kelvin Medeiros and Tyson Thompson with a time of 5.1 seconds, earning \$875. Fourth place went to Zach Kilgus and Evan Arnold with a time of 5.4 seconds, earning \$645. Fifth place went to Jacon Stansbury and Hayden Sanders with a time of 5.9 seconds, earning \$415. Sixth place went to Zane Kilgus and Seth Smithson with a time of 6.3 seconds, earning \$230.

The Champion in Saddle Bronc Riding, sponsored by Leadership Belton, was Blake Starrett from Poolville, TX, with 74 points on Lancaster Pro Rodeo Company’s Fire Proof, earning \$1,042. Second place went to Dean Wadsworth from Ovalo, TX with a score of

See **RODEO**,
Page B2

Lake Belton Broncos welcome Dezmun Williams as new defensive line coach and special teams coordinator



By **Aries Ramos**
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos have added a new piece to their coaching staff for the upcoming season, bringing in Dezmun Williams

to lead the defensive line and coordinate special teams. The hire adds a coach with a track record of building units at every stop along the way.

Williams’ football background traces back to Howard Payne University, where he suited up as a defensive lineman during his playing days. That experience in the trenches has shaped the coaching path he’s followed ever since, one that has taken him through several programs in Central Texas before landing him in Belton ISD.

Williams began his coaching career at Westwood High School, where he spent the 2022 and 2023 seasons serving as special teams coordinator and inside linebackers coach. During that stretch, he built a foundation in two of the most detail oriented phases of the game.

That foundation paid off. Heading into the 2024 season, Westwood promoted Williams to assistant head coach and defensive coordinator, a role he held through the 2025 season. The jump from position coach to coordinator marked a significant step in his career, handing him responsibility for an entire side of the ball rather than a single unit. Running a defense as a coordinator demands a broader command of scheme, game planning, and in game adjustments, and the promotion reflected the trust Westwood’s program placed in him after two years of position group success.

From there, Williams made the move to Pflugerville ISD, joining Connally High School as a co-special teams coordinator and defensive line coach. The role allowed him to return to hands on work in the trenches while continuing to oversee special teams, blending

the two areas of expertise he had cultivated earlier in his career.

Now Williams brings that combined background to Lake Belton, where he will take over as the Broncos’ defensive line coach and special teams coordinator. His arrival gives Lake Belton a coach who has seen the game from multiple angles, as a player in the trenches, as a position coach, and as a coordinator calling the shots for an entire defense. That range of experience figures to be an asset for a Broncos program looking to sharpen its defensive front and special teams play heading into the new season.

Williams joins a Lake Belton staff aiming to build on recent momentum, and his background suggests he’ll bring both technical coaching chops and coordinator level football IQ to the two units now under his direction.

Lake Belton volleyball camps build skills and camaraderie for future Broncos

By **Aries Ramos**
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton volleyball program continued its summer camp series this week, hosting Camps 3 and 4 back to back on July 13th as part of a slate of sessions running through July 15th. The two camps targeted different age groups but shared a common goal, preparing the next wave of Broncos volleyball talent for the season ahead.

Camp 3 opened the day, running from 12 to 2:30 p.m. and welcoming incoming seventh graders eager for a taste of organized volleyball instruction at the

high school level. To kick things off, current Lake Belton High School players joined the young campers for a sit down session, sharing their own experiences as high school athletes and fielding questions from the group. For many of the incoming seventh graders, the conversation offered a first real glimpse into what awaits them, both on and off the court, as they prepare for their first round of middle school tryouts. The current players spoke candidly about the jump from middle school to high school volleyball, offering advice on everything from work ethic to handling the nerves that come with tryouts.

Beyond the mentorship component, Camp 3 stuck to a tradition that has become a staple of the program’s summer sessions, naming campers of the day. Two standout seventh graders were recognized for their effort and improvement throughout the session, a small but meaningful nod that campers and coaches alike look forward to at each camp.

Camp 4 followed immediately after, running from 2:30 to 5 p.m. and drawing a slightly older group of incoming eighth and ninth graders. With two grade levels represented, the coaching staff structured the recognition a little differently, naming two

campers of the day for each grade rather than combining the honor across the whole session. That meant four campers walked away with recognition by the end of the afternoon, two eighth graders and two ninth graders, each acknowledged for standing out among their peers during the two and a half hour session.

The back to back format allowed the coaching staff to tailor instruction to the specific needs of each age group, giving the seventh graders foundational guidance and mentorship while pushing the eighth and ninth graders with more advanced competition and skill work. Combined, the

two camps kept courts busy for the better part of five hours and gave dozens of young athletes a chance to work directly with the Lake Belton coaching staff and current players.

Camps 3 and 4 are part of a broader summer camp series that continues through July 15th, with the program aiming to build interest and fundamentals across every level of Belton ISD volleyball. The campers of the day tradition, along with the mentorship opportunities from current players, continue to be a hallmark of how the Broncos approach player development long before tryouts begin.



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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Lady Broncos are searching for an assistant soccer coach to join the successful program.

Lake Belton is the defending district champion, accounting for its fourth league title, and it has qualified for the playoffs six times.

The candidate would also coach a second sport.

To apply, visit BISD.net or contact Lady Broncos head coach Jamie Tibbetts at Jamie.Tibbetts@BISD.net for more information.

VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball season is less than a month away from beginning, and the Lady Tigers are counting down the days.

Belton recently released its schedule for tryouts, which begin Aug. 1 — the first day the University Interscholastic League allows teams to start workouts.

Freshmen will check in at 7 a.m. with their first session of the day following from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Sophomores, juniors and seniors will check in at 9:30 a.m. and workout from 10 a.m. to noon.

Then, all four grade levels will combine for a session from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

All participants will work out next on Aug. 3 from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The first round of cuts will follow.

A freshman intrasquad scrimmage will take place Aug. 4 at 3:30 p.m. with final cuts following. A junior varsity intrasquad scrimmage will be conducted at 4:45 p.m. with final cuts following.

The week concludes with practices and team pictures before the season’s opening scrimmage is held at home on Aug. 7. A scrimmage at Round Rock Cedar Ridge will be held Aug. 8 at 9 a.m., and the regular season schedule begins Aug. 11 at Round Rock McNeil.

A current physical and all necessary paperwork must be submitted prior to participating in tryouts.

All participants need to wear a T-shirt with school colors, appropriate shoes and shorts, knee pads and bring



water to the gym for each day of tryouts.

For more information, contact Lady Tigers head coach Haleigh Johnson at Haleigh.Johnson@BISD.net.

The Lady Broncos are also preparing for the upcoming campaign with a preseason parent meeting set for July 29 at 6 p.m.

FOOTBALL

The Tigers will hold a mandatory parent meeting July 30 at 6 p.m. before the first practice is conducted Aug. 3. On Aug. 6, a group fundraiser will start, and an intrasquad 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

Lake Belton has two sports camps remaining for area youth before the summer concludes, offering a softball camp and football camp from July 27-29.

The softball camp is open to third through ninth graders and will run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day, while the football camp is available to all kids from kindergarten to ninth grade. It will run from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. each day.

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

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

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

At Belton, on the available dates throughout July, high school boys 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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Rodeo- From Page B1

71, earning \$790. There were no other qualified rides.

Sterling Smith from Stephenville, TX was the Champion in Tie-Down Roping, sponsored by Dickson Ranch, with a time of 9.7 seconds, earning \$1,492. Second place went to Guy Raasch from Sweeny, TX with a time of 10.3 seconds, earning \$1,235. Third place went to Clay McCuist from Sanger, TX with a time of 10.8, earning \$978. Fourth place went to Connor Atkinson, with a time of 11.0, earning \$721. Fifth place went to Cross Fulford from Moore Haven, Florida with a time of 11.3, earning \$463. Sixth place (tie) went to Colton Greene Rocksprings, TX and Ryan Thibodeaux from Stephenville, with a time of 11.9, earning \$129 each.

In the other WPRA event, Barrel Racing, sponsored by Watercolor Pools, Stormie Wisnoski from Navasota, TX was the Champion with a time of 15.41 seconds, earning \$1,048. Second place went to Tara Carr from Sudan, TX with a time of 15.51 seconds, earning \$898. Third place went to Shayna Wimberly with a time of 15.60, earning \$749. Fourth place (tie) went to Brooklyn Balch from Buckholts, TX and Shea Durfey from Millsap, TX in a time of 15.61, earning \$574 each. Sixth place

went to Kenna Kaminski from Bellville, TX with a time of 15.65, earning \$399. Seventh place went to Zoey Kunkel with a time of 15.73, earning \$299. Eighth place went to Jo Fisher from Millsap, TX in a time of 15.77, earning \$200. Ninth place went to Tori Wimberly with a time of 15.82, earning \$150. Tenth place went to Jessica Kennerly from Grapeland, TX with a time of 15.85, earning \$100.

Taylor Toves from Stephenville, TX was the Champion in Bull Riding sponsored by Cavender’s with 80 points on Lancaster Pro Rodeo Company’s Grand Theft, earning \$1,860. Second place went to Kristopher Baker from Coldspring, TX, with 76 points, earning \$1,584. There were no other qualified rides as the other bulls threw the cowboys off.

The All-Around Cowboy award went to Zane Kilgus from Stephenville, Texas. He participated in Tie-Down Roping and Team Roping, earning a \$230 bonus.

“We appreciate the exceptional work of all those who work the rodeo, including our awesome volunteer Rodeo Committee, led by Keith Smith, who did a great job of planning and executing an excellent rodeo,” stated Randy Pittenger, President/CEO of the

Belton Area Chamber of Commerce.

“Special thanks to all of our sponsors, including event sponsors listed above, ProStar Rental, CGI Technologies and Solutions, KWTX News10, Cefco, Keg1 O’Neal, Mac Haik Dodge, The Carlson Law Firm, PaperGraphics, Fox44, CRW Construction, Vista Real Estate, Bo’s Barn, Extraco Banks, Murdoch’s, Schoepf’s BBQ, First Community Title, First National Bank, Monteith Abstract and Title, R.K. Bass Electric, Groundworks, Hill & Wilkerson Contractors, MEP Electric, Popelka Paint Contracting, Roam Roof & Solar, the City of Belton, and the Huntington Bank Expo.”

“Thanks also to Rodeo Secretary Beckie Frazier, Officials Carl Burkholder and Glen Sullivan, Timers Lynn Lancaster and Beckie Frazier, Announcers Charlie Throckmorton and Blue Jeanes, Bullfighters Brody Smith and Cody Emerson, Flankman Chad Lancaster, Chute bosses Keith Smith and Ray Lancaster, Pickup Men Preston Burr and Justin Wahlberg, Music Director Rocket Ryan Litwin, Video by Omega Productions, and the Lancaster Pro Rodeo Company for helping produce a great rodeo. We’ll see you again next year at the 103rd Belton 4th of July Rodeo!”

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Belton fencing students range in age from 7 to 63

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

A recreational fencing program at the Harris Community Center in Belton draws a wide range of youth and adult students to exercise and compete with foil, epee and saber weapons.

“We’ve had as many as 26 students, but right now we have 16 — the numbers vary,” said Jo Tye, head fencing coach at programs in Belton and Harker Heights. “Our youngest student is 7, and right now our oldest is 63.”

“This is a recreational fencing program with an optional achievement level that students may choose to attain through academic study, physical practice and developmental skills,” Tye said. “Students of all levels learn to spar with other students in the class. Focus is on the fencing skills of decision making, speed, point control, concentration, strategy, and fun!”

The Belton program is four years old, and Tye has been directing the Heights program for 11 years. All three fencing weapons have different targets and all have their own rules, according to Tye.

“We have three big tournaments a year — spring, summer and fall,”



Courtesy Photo
Jake Reid (left) and Sophia McGurk compete in a 12-and-under Foil challenge at the Harris Community Center in Belton. The Swordplay Recreational Fencing program is instructed by head coach Jo Tye, who runs a similar program in Harker Heights.

she said. “The spring and fall tournaments are in Heights — the summer tournament is in Belton. This February, we had a men’s saber tournament, and on Aug. 15 we will have a women’s foil competition in Belton. The women’s event will have two age groups — 12 and under and 13 and over.”

Tye has added advancement levels to the two programs that work similar to a belt system in karate.

“Fencing is an expensive sport,” she said. “There’s equipment and coaching fees. I have a lot of equipment that has been donated that beginning students can use. Usually, they get their own equip-

ment within three to six months.”

“For recreational fencing, students need a fencing mask, a fencing jacket, weapons, gloves and long pants. I require students to wear closed-toe shoes. Sanctioned events require electronic equipment.”

The cost for the Harris Community Center fencing classes is \$50 per month, and that’s paid to the Belton Parks & Recreation Department. Tye is paid through the city.

Tye got into coaching the sport after fencing for two years in Round Rock.

“I’ve done 25 years of scouting and putting together fencing events,” she said. “Eventually I started doing coaching seminars

online.”

Tye said about 80 percent of her school-aged students are homeschooled and have strong leadership abilities.



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Just don’t let college savings crowd out your retirement fund. Loans exist for college but not for retirement.

It’s never too early to begin saving for your child’s education.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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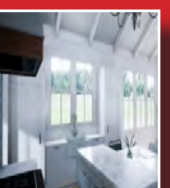


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for the Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer’s Permit (BG) by FMG14 Restaurant Inc dba El Green Chile to be located at 12217 FM 2305 Belton Tx 76513 in Bell County Texas. Officer of said Corporation is Maria Luna (President and Secretary) 07.09,07.16pd

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

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LEGALS

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 07.02,09,16,23PD

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION - CIVIL CAUSE NO. 26DCV362075

To THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SAMUEL T HIGHTS AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF DEBORAH LANELL ROBERTSON Greetings: You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the plaintiff’s original petition at or before 10 o’clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o’clock AM, before the Honorable 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL PETITION was filed in said court on May 29, 2026.

The file number of said suit being No. 26DCV362075. The names of the parties in said suit are: FELICITAS ORTIZ VS. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SAMUEL T. HIGHTS AND UNKNOWN HEIRS OF DEBORAH LANELL ROBERTSON

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit: A civil action seeking to quiet title to real property has been filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, in Cause No. 26DCV362075, styled Felicitas Ortiz vs. Unknown Heirs of Samuel T. Hights and Unknown Heirs of Deborah Lanell Robertson. The subject of the suit is a quiet title action, where Plaintiff seeks a judicial determination of her ownership in the real property, located in Bell County, commonly known as 411 n. 16TH St., Temple, Bell County, Texas, and legally described as Lot Number Eight (8), in Block Number Eleven (11) of McCelvey’s Addition to the City of Temple, Bell County, Texas. Plaintiff alleges that title has vested in Plaintiff through adverse possession under applicable statutes, based on her possession of the Property for the statutory period. Plaintiff requests the Court declare Plaintiff the lawful owner of the property, remove cloud on title, and bar Defendants and all persons claiming under them from asserting any right, title, or interest adverse to Plaintiff.

This was issued at the request of attorney: RICHARD D. WILSON, HARRELL STOEBNER & VILLANUEVA PC, 2106 BIRD CREEK DRIVE, TEMPLE TX 76502. 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 30, 2026. Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, Texas 76513 By: M Cortez Deputy Clerk 07.09,07.16,07.23,07.30

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of RAY VERNON LAWHORN, JR., Deceased, were issued on July 9, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00237, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: KEVIN TODD LAWHORN. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. ESTATE OF RAY VERNON LAWHORN, JR. c/o: KEVIN TODD LAWHORN 113 Ottoway Dr. Temple, Texas 76501 DATED July 9, 2026. KAREN M. VILLANUEVA, State Bar No.: 24102608, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: karen@templelawoffice.com 07.16

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that letters of guardianship for the person and estate of DENNIS MARTIN WYNNE, an incapacitated person, were issued on July 7, 2026, in Docket No. 26CPB00003, pending in County Court at Law of Bell County, Texas, to DENNIS JESSE WYNNE, Guardian, as guardian of the person and estate. The residence of Guardian is in Bell County, Texas, and the mailing address is: Guardian of the person and estate of DENNIS MARTIN WYNNE, c/o DENNIS JESSE WYNNE, 3130 Sand and Gravel Lane, Belton, Texas. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within 120 days of this notice. SIGNED on July 9th 2026 Rainey & Rainey, PLLC, Christopher T. Freyder Attorney for Guardian ,State Bar No. 24126570, Email: chris@raineyandrainey.com, 204 IH-35, Suite 100, Georgetown, Texas 78628, Telephone: (512) 598-9005, Fax: (512) 598-9006 07.16

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SHIRLEY DAUNE LATHAM, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary were issued on July 8, 2026 in a proceeding styled Estate of Shirley Daune Latham, Deceased, in Cause Number 26CPB00331, pending in the County Court At Law #1 of Bell County, Texas. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor, addressed as follows: Freddie Lee Latham Independent Executor of the Estate of Shirley Daune Latham, Deceased c/o Burk Roberts, Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., 2501 East Elms Rd., Ste. A, Killeen, Texas 76542-3023 All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Signed on July 9, 2026. Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., Attorneys for Freddie Lee Latham By: Burk Roberts 07.16

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 25CPB00036

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS JAMES HOSEY HICKS, Applicant, on January 21, 2025, filed an Application for Judgment Determining Heirship and for an Independent Administration and Letters of Administration in a proceeding styled: MARY NELL HICKS, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00036 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 16, 2026 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

LEGALS

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: JAMES O. CURE, 2584 BLUE MEADOW DRIVE, TEMPLE TX 76502

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on July 09, 2026.

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

By: Andrea Marks Deputy

07.16

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00430

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

CHRISTOPHER S. GARRETT, Applicant, on July 07, 2026, filed an Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Independent Administration and Determination of Heirship in a proceeding styled: JERRY GARRETT, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00430 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 16, 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: P. JAMES RAINEY, 3809 W WACO DRIVE, WACO TX 76710

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 July 08, 2026.

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

By: Andrea Marks Deputy

07.16

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROBERTA LYNN WILGUS AKA ROBERTA L. WILGUS, Deceased, were issued on July 2, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00373, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: ASHLEY CLAPPER.

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: ASHLEY CLAPPER Attorney at Law, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541

DATED the 8th day of July 2026.

CORBIN & CLAPPER, PC, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541, Tel: (254) 526-4523, Fax: (254) 526-6711

By: ASHLEY CLAPPER, DANIEL A.

LEGALS

CORBIN, State Bar No. 04814300 ,ASHLEY CLAPPER, State Bar No. 24076317, Legal@CorbinLegalTeam.com, Attorney for KENNETH KARL WILGUS

07.16

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PATRICK ENGLAND, AKA WILLIAM PATRICK ENGLAND, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Administration were issued on July 7, 2026, in a proceeding styled Estate of Patrick England, aka William Patrick England, Deceased, in Cause Number 26CPB00092, pending in the County Court At Law 1 of Bell County, Texas. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Administrator, addressed as follows: Gary L. England (Administrator) Independent Administrator of the Estate of Patrick England, Deceased, c/o Burk Roberts, Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., 2501 East Elms Rd., Ste. A, Killeen, Texas 76542-3 023

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

Signed on July 7th, 2026.

Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., Attorneys for Gary L. England (Administrator)

By: Burk Roberts

07.16

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

for an original Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit (BQ) for RAKESH & RITA, LLC. dba EVEREST MART to be located at 908 TERRACE RD, KILLEEN, BELL COUNTY, Texas 76541. RAKESH KC – MANAGER

07.16,07.23PD

Registration open for Zone After School Program for six Belton campuses

Special to the Journal

happy.

Through Zone, children build friendships, strengthen teamwork skills and explore new interests in a safe, supportive environment.

Register early as spots are limited. The program starts on Thursday, August 13.

To learn more about the Zone After School Program, visit www.templeparks.com/zone

Registration is officially open for the Zone After School Program, put on by the City of Temple's Parks and Recreation Department.

The program provides children with quality recreation activities, scheduled homework time and a daily snack onsite at six Belton ISD elementary schools.

Schools that offer the program include Charter Oak Elementary, High Point Elementary, Lakewood Elementary, Pirtle Elementary, Alice J. Tarver Elementary, and Burrell Elementary.

The Zone program offers a great staff-to-student ratio and takes pride in keeping children safe and

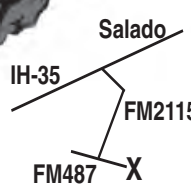


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✗ Does Not Cover Migrants in the US		✓ Migrants w/ITIN Can Get Coverage

 **TEXT: (Healthcare) to David for more info @ 254-681-5321**

LOCAL DENTAL OFFICE REPORTS BREACH POTENTIALLY EXPOSING DATA OF 878 PATIENTS

BELTON, TX — 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 initial 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>

EDITORIAL

Life, a box of new crayons

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

Temperatures tell us that it’s still summer, but for weeks now the stores have reminded us that school days are upon us, with every 90-degree-plus-humidity day that passes. You can’t go grocery shopping without seeing mammoth stacks of paper and notebooks and bins of the other ten dozen items that the store marketers and school officials tell us the kids will need. Whether they’ll really need some of those items or not might be up for debate. One item usually goes into shopping baskets without argument. It’s that fresh, new, unspoiled box of crayons.

When I was a kid, one of my favorite things was a new box of crayons. Pop open the lid just right, and I’d find colors ready and waiting to make a coloring book page beautiful. The brand matters, too.

There’s simply no substitute for a box of Crayola 64’s (complete with sharpener). Schools never asked that we pick up the large box, but somehow I always got a box of the 64’s too. I believe there are even larger boxes now.

Do you remember the smell of the crayons, the scent of new wax sticks, waiting to create a masterpiece for the family refrigerator?

The going debate during my school days was if you

were supposed to color in the coloring book with true to life colors, or feel free to color your horse pink or the bear yellow. The purist in the group would always insist there was no such thing as pink horses or yellow bears, or trees with ocean blue leaves. Another debate surrounded how to care for the crayons as you colored down on your favorite shades. Did you carefully peel the label and sharpen your crayon, or just take the whole peel off?

Of course, there are kids for whom a broken crayon won’t do, and parents must convince them the broken ones still color just as well.

When I was a kid, the ultimate sacrilege was peeling all the wrappers off the crayons and throwing all of them in a community box for the whole class. How could an artist stay organized if they couldn’t find the aquamarine? I was also territorial about my crayons.

There were some teachers who asked us to color an entire blank sheet of paper with blocks of different colors, then color over the entire thing with a black crayon. Then we could “draw” by scraping off the black crayon with a needle to reveal the color underneath. Ah, those were the days, the simplest of times when kids didn’t need a tablet

or smartphone to be entertained.

One thing about a new box of crayons is that you have to use them to get any entertainment at all.

You can’t just sit there and watch them, expecting them to do something.

Your brain has to work when you use crayons. Pick one up, find a blank sheet of paper or a coloring book, and start coloring the corner where you live.

A friend of mine says that coloring relaxes her, and she’s well into her thirties. Maybe it’s the kid still inside her, remembering back to the school days when things were easier, and all you had to do for fun was open a box of crayons.

The saying “times have changed” might be true. People haven’t changed, and children long to be creative, and need to be creative. We have that innate, God-given urge to create and to make our world a more beautiful place and imitate the Creator. It doesn’t need to be complicated or expensive. Take a few dollars and get the box of Crayola 64’s, and a fresh coloring book. Because every day is like a box of Crayola 64’s. Open it up and make something beautiful with it, no matter how small.

Orange cat stories 3

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

After speaking with a number of other individuals who have experiences raising orange cats, I’ve decided to tell yet another story about these little furry chaos engines.

Once upon a time, one of my brothers had a certain orange cat. All three animals he and his wife had at the time – a dog who someone may or may not have attempted to train as a working dog, a fluffy girl kitty who made her way to our front porch one morning, and the screwball in question – were rescues, and the orange guy here was the youngest of the three. My first orange dude, the guy I wrote about in the first two installments, “mentored” him for a brief period, seemingly ordaining him as a successor.

Well, while this dude had his quirks, he was also quite clever in his own right. For example, the way my brother’s house

at the time was laid out, whenever the dog needed to go outside it was quicker and easier to just open the sliding glass door into the backyard instead of leading the dog through the garage to the actual back door. Well, dude figured out that if he did it right, he could use the curtains as cover; if we didn’t notice him when we went to let the dog back inside, then he’d have a split second to dart out back before we could respond. He wasn’t a “feline mastermind” so to speak, but he was observant and cunning in his own right.

Well, my sister-in-law would sometimes give the cats a bit of catnip to keep them happy. Dude eventually figured out that my sister-in-law kept the catnip in the small pantry that was in the kitchen. This got the wheels turning in his little noggin.

At some point, he started to observe as my brother and sister-in-law went into the pantry. We’re not sure how long he was doing this, but it was long enough for him to figure out how to get the pantry open. From there, it was just a matter of waiting until both my brother & sister-in-law were gone for a while and dude’s two little companions weren’t in a position to intervene.

My sister-in-law came home first, so she was the one to discover the aftermath.

You see, dude pulled off his daring little raid. With nobody there to stop him, he went into the kitchen, got the pantry door open, and got inside. He soon found two full boxes of catnip my sister-in-law had in there, ripped them both open, and went on an epic little kitty binge. If memory serves, when my sister-in-law found

him, he was literally laying in a mound of catnip from the torn-open boxes.

It took him about a day or so to come down from having that much catnip. At this point, the joy and delight he had from his little binge turned into an equally epic hangover. Even the slightest of whispers was far too much for his little kitty head to withstand. He got what he wanted all right, and it came at a very heavy, if still temporary, cost. Suffice to say that my sister-in-law found a different place to store the catnip from then on out, and he was far more cautious with it from then on out.

Yes folks, there can, indeed, be too much of a good thing. He had to learn that the hard way, but you don’t have to. Moderation can prevent quite a few problems down the road.

Time traveling

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

There have been a few news stories recently about “time travel”, albeit not the most respectable or accredited news outlets.

Of course, being the curious type, I read these anyway, just to see if they were potentially accurate. I owe it to my readers to do my research and ensure that what I present here is correct and not in any way misleading.

My interest was piqued by one of the articles. I decided to look into the topic a bit more. I found a couple of places online that offered time travel for what I considered a reasonable price, and one of those had a rating of 3+ stars, which is my cutoff for a restaurant so I decided to give it a shot. I mean, nothing is too good for my readers and the cost was probably easy enough to put into my expense report for the newspaper, which I had to code accordingly so it wasn’t flagged, and by the time this column comes out my expenses were paid so I am good.

I knew there would be some risks so I calculated out the best time range for the travel into the future that if something did happen I would just hang out and wait for myself to catch up with me, if that is the way these things work. I figured that just going 100 years into the future was the best choice, not too far ahead that if I needed to hang around I was fine with that. I purposely did not look up any details about my life or anyone that I know, well knew as the case may be, I didn’t want to find specific dates.

What I did find was interesting enough. We still do not

have flying cars! Well to be more clear, apparently we did have flying cars, but people were not any more attentive to their flying than they were to driving so we just went back to cars that stay on the ground. Tesla made a nice variety of flying cars, however their self-flying was not very good. And the mileage range was still not that good. When the batteries were low the flying car just “plopped” down in a cornfield and you were responsible for getting a tow truck, so to speak, to get you to a charging station. Tesla is still a big name in automobiles, along with the same names we have now, every automaker is making electric cars. There are still “gas” powered cars on the road, however they run on corn syrup.

Apparently, people wanted to go back to pure sugar so there was an excess of corn syrup, so that is the new “gas”. For us purists the muscle cars are quite desirable. If you have one then you are very elite. The original muscle cars and the newer versions are prized and bring a healthy price. I am currently looking for a few to buy cheap now and holding onto them for a generation or so.

As for food, it is quite similar to what the Jetsons had. The daily foods are dehydrated and you pop them into the cooker with little effort and you have supper. Of course if you were ever in the military then you know that some foods are good as dehydrated options, others are not. That part is still not perfected. The good thing about the food in the future is that everyone can have something different for supper and it is not a problem. Of course you can still cook foods the old fash-

ioned way, over normal heat. The days of gas flames are gone, everything is electric, although there is a button that creates the image of a flame as you are cooking.

Clothing didn’t really improve a lot. The younger generations seem to dress as they do now, like they shopped from the dumpster behind Goodwill, which is still in business believe it or not. You can certainly tell the differences in generations by how that person dresses. I looked slightly odd in my boots and jeans, but I was transported to Texas so I seemed almost normal.

The smartphone thing evolved a lot. Most people either wear a helmet or glasses, this becomes their phone. Through the lens you can get instant information about a business, you can see the ratings of a restaurant and a menu, of course your device knows your preferences so it sorts through all of this for you. Your phone can monitor basic thoughts, so phone calls are automatic. You can also mention a place that you want to go and your device acts as a GPS and points you in the right direction.

From my point of view we are even more disconnected from life in the future than the younger generation is now. Laptops are a thing of the past, no one uses personal computers in the future.

I was quite happy to return to my current life, and of course being fully particalized (a new word) into one piece. I think I will stay here and live out my life. Although I would like to do the whole flying car bit at some point.

Bathing Ginger

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

Last Saturday was a banner day at my house. We gave Ginger, our not-quite-pure-blooded Bassett Hound, a bath. She didn’t like it. I didn’t like it. But it needed to be done.

Ginger is a farm dog. That’s a nice way to say she lives outside, barks at possums and armadillos at 3:00 am, and protects us from lions, tigers and sharks. She does a great job, too. I haven’t seen a lion, tiger, or shark on my property, ever.

Despite her rugged farm dog persona, she needed a trip to the spa. She needed scented shampoo. She needed a full-body makeover.

Because there’s an extended wait time for dog groomers in our town, and because I wasn’t okay with waiting one more minute, I took her to the pet store. They have a made-for-dogs bathing room in the back. I recruited my daugh-

ter and future son-in-law to help, and good thing, too, because Ginger refused to walk up the little doggy stairs into the metal bathing bucket spa. It took all three of us to lift her thick, slightly-too-pudgy deadweight into the container.

We tethered her in, and the fun began. We sprayed. Shampooed. (The first time, the shampoo didn’t even lather. She was that filthy.) Rinsed. Spray, shampoo, rinse, five, six times we repeated the process. Then we turned on the blow-dry nozzle, which could have blown Dorothy straight out of Kansas. But since Ginger is slightly heavier than a young Judy Garland, she stayed grounded in Texas.

At long last, Ginger was clean and dry. At least, I think it was Ginger. She was a shade or two lighter than the dog I brought with me to the spa. She smelled better, too.

I was afraid I was on Ginger’s permanent naughty list, so I atoned for my forced-bathing sin by buying her a gourmet doggie treat. It had white frosting and sprinkles. She ate it right away, but her eyes still held animosity. I bought her a bigger treat, shaped like a football, because if you saw her, you’d see she’s kind of shaped that way. I didn’t tell her that, though.

Now she’s shiny and healthy. I can tell she feels better, too. There’s something about the way she carries herself, since that bath, that says, “I’m strong. I’m healthy. I’m beautiful!”

I wonder how many hard things in my life have been orchestrated by God, because I really, really needed a bath. I wonder how many times He’s had to force me through a circumstance that I resisted, because He knew it would make

me cleaner, shinier, healthier. I’ve fought against Him, so many times, because I couldn’t see how the path He led me down could possibly lead to anything good, ever.

But God has a way of always getting His way. And His way is always powered by love, kindness, and with my best intentions in mind. The more I resist, the longer it takes. When will I learn to just give in, trust His heart, and let Him have His way?

Because when I do, I always feel renewed. Stronger, cleaner, and more resilient. His love has a way of making even the worst situation into something beautiful.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10



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."

Bell County Master Gardener - July 16
If you thought Spring was your only chance to garden, think again- Central Texas has a second growing season! Don't put away your gardening gloves just yet, join Master Gardener Zendi Carmona for a special seminar that will help you make the most of our Fall gardening season. This session will have easy-to-follow advice that will especially benefit the beginner gardener. July 16, 2026, 6:00 p.m to 7:30 p.m. Bell County Extension Office- Learning Center, 1605 N. Main Street, Belton This seminar is free to the public.

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.

SPJST State Youth Showcase- July 25
Discover the remarkable talents of tomorrow's leaders at the SPJST State Youth Showcase Saturday, July 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center in Temple. This family-friendly event features exhibits and live performances from talented SPJST youth, ages 4 to 18. Admission and parking are free, and everyone is welcome.

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 aspen-healthcare.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 Court-house, 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 pres-

ent 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 similiar 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.

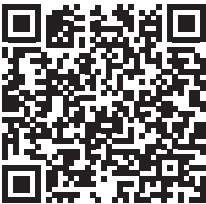
Bell County Texas Democratic Women holds their monthly meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Belton AgriLife Center, 1605 N Main in Belton. Join us to hear from local and state candidates and about important issues and events. This is open to the public.

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.

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

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

STAY CONNECTED: STAY INFORMED

GOT A LOCAL EVENT, CHURCH GATHERING, OR MEETING?
TELL US AND KEEP EVERYONE IN THE LOOP.

EMAIL DETAILS TO:
NEWS@BELTONJOURNAL.COM
OR CALL (254) 939-5754

IF WANT TO SPONSOR THIS PAGE
EMAIL: DAVID@BELTONJOURNAL.COM



BELTON ISD HONORS 2026 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Belton ISD celebrated 23 outstanding educators selected as 2025-26 Teachers of the Year, recognizing their dedication to students, commitment to excellence and lasting impact across the district. Charter Oak Elementary teacher Yanitza Arroyo was named Elementary Teacher of the Year, while North Belton Middle School teacher Brianna “Bree” Strnad earned Secondary Teacher of the Year honors and both advanced to represent the district in the Region 12 competition.

Here are the educators honored as Belton ISD’s 2026 Teachers of the Year:



Belton Early Childhood - Molly Kacal
James L. Burrell - Laura Williams
Charter Oak - Yanitza Arroyo Sifuentes
Chisholm Trail - Kelly Farris
High Point - Heath Conde
Hubbard Branch - Lorin Rhodes
Lakewood - Laura McGuire
Leon Heights - Bonnie Dominguez
Joe M. Pirtle - Lindsey Vasquez
Southwest - Angelica Rodriguez
Sparta - Jennie Green

Alice J. Tarver - Heather Self
Belton Middle - Sarah Hardin-Trimble
Lake Belton Middle - Dorothy Payne
North Belton Middle - Brianna Strnad
South Belton Middle - Robin Fisher
Belton New Tech @ Waskow - Laura deWet
Belton High - CoryLynn Upton
Lake Belton High - Chris Sellers
Special Programs (Southwest) - Macie Thigpen
Coach (LBHS) - Kelsie McEachern
Fine Arts (BHS) - Tonya Lovorn
CTE (LBHS) - Nicolas Warren



JUNE 2026



DESTINATION 2031

DESTINATION 2031

DESTINATION 2031
Inspiring dreams. Empowering Futures.

Empower each and every learner to pursue their dreams and enrich their communities.

WE BELIEVE

TRUST



is built through honesty, clear communication, and keeping our commitments.

EMPOWERMENT



is having ownership, being accountable, and leading with purpose.

ADAPTABILITY



is embracing change, being resilient, and celebrating achievements.

COMMUNITY



is cultivated through respect for others, meaningful engagement, and strong partnerships.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS



is the commitment to academic excellence, driven by innovation and a relentless focus on continuous improvement.

OUR PRIORITIES

1 STUDENTS

Ensure exceptional learning experiences that bring our "Journey of a Graduate" to life for each and every student.

2 STAFF

Attract, support, and retain exceptional educators and staff to ensure every student is guided and supported by an outstanding team.

3 COMMUNITY

Grow meaningful engagement and partnerships with parents, staff, and community members in support of our shared vision for each and every learner.

4 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Maximize student experiences through transparent, strategic, and sustainable fiscal management.



FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS: WWW.BISD.NET/DESTINATION2031



Jerry Graves TACLA21562E

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