

Two Belton ISD elementary students named National Math Stars



Aayana Jain

Special to the Journal

Two Belton ISD elementary students have earned national recognition as National Math Stars, a highly selective program that invests in top-performing math students and their families for 10 years.

Third-grader Aayana Jain of Lakewood Elementary and fourth-grader Rosalynn “Rosie” Canto of Sparta Elementary were among just over 100 students nationwide selected for the honor this year. Both students advanced through a rigorous process that included multiple math assessments and family interviews before being named National Math Stars.

The National Math Stars program, launched in 2021, identifies the nation’s highest-achieving second- and third-grade math students. Each selected student and



Rosalynn Rosie Canto

their family receive up to \$100,000 of support over 10 years — including academic advising, math tutoring, technology and enrichment opportunities — to nurture long-term success in STEM fields.

“This recognition not only affirms the exceptional talent of our students but also highlights the importance of building strong math foundations early,” said Dr. Deanna Lovesmith, Belton ISD Director of GT Services. “Math Stars invests in students for the long haul, and the fact that Belton ISD has two students among this year’s honorees speaks volumes about the strength of our teachers and the potential of our students.”

This was Belton ISD’s first year to participate in the program. From the district’s initial pool of 167 top

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INCLUDED IN
THIS EDITION



15th Annual Bell County Senior Expo is coming next Tuesday

Staff Report

It’s almost time for the 15th Annual Bell County Senior Expo! This event will be Tuesday, September 23rd, from 8 am to 1 pm at the Bell County Expo/Cadence Bank Center, where we’ll celebrate 250 Years of Courage and Sacrifice by our military. Enjoy a live performance by the First Cavalry Division Band and attend informative speaker sessions.

“We will have more

than \$10,000+ worth of door prizes from 250 booths, including a 5-day cruise from Mariposa at Baylor Scott and White,” said Kimberly Cables, Senior Expo Expert committee member and Belton Journal Sales Executive. “And if you attend a speaker session, you will have a chance to win a \$100 gift card.”

“You’ll also receive an entry form in your bag when you enter the event, which you can use to vote for your favorite booth and

See **EXPO**,
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Parks & Recreation holding Movie in the Park

By Shanna Grote
The Belton Journal

The City of Belton Parks and Recreation is hosting Movie in the Park on Saturday, September 20, at Harris Community Park. Grand Avenue Theatre of Belton has partnered to help make this event possible.

Encanto, a Disney film, will begin at dusk, with snacks, games, and free popcorn beginning at 6 p.m. Encanto is a family-friendly animated movie released in 2021 that encourages self-acceptance through a fun and musical storyline.

Adam Trujillo, Recreation Superintendent shared

that, “The goal is to bring our community together in a relaxed setting.” Families are the primary audience but friend groups, couples, and even solo movie goers enjoy the fun.

Movie in the Park has been a tradition for 14 years in Belton. It is free and encourages people to enjoy the parks of Belton and spend time together. This event often draws a crowd of 150-300 people of all ages. Movie in the Park is promoted on the City of Belton website, social media, the community calendar, and flyers placed

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Courtesy Photo

Belton Parks and Recreation Movie in the Park, partnered with Grand Avenue Theater, will be showing the Disney Movie “Encanto” this Saturday at Harris Community Park. Games, snacks, and free popcorn begin at 6pm, and the movie at dusk.

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Council appoints new Belton Youth Advisory Commission

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

City Council appointed nine Belton ISD students to the Youth Advisory Commission and named Anahitaa Malhotra as chair of this year’s panel. The appointments came during Tuesday’s meeting.

Those named to the Youth Advisory Commission were Malhorta, Jada Gage, Alexandra Bui, Jasmine Vuong, Shreya Muni, Matthew Bates, London Preston, Malachi

Santana, and Claire Gouveia.

The students addressed the City Council and discussed their school and personal activities.

Malhorta is a senior at Belton High and is president of the school’s Business Professionals of America and the National Honor Society chapter. She participates in Battle of the Books, UIL Academics, and volunteers as a math and SAT tutor.

Gage is a sophomore at Belton High and is involved in basketball, UIL and track. She hopes to help ani-

mals find homes through her initiative this year.

Bui is a junior at Lake Belton High, and she is a member of Business Professionals of America, HOSA, National Honor Society, UIL competitions and she plays violin and piano.

Vuong is a senior at Lake Belton and she competes in debate and speech competitions and is active in the National Honor Society and Business Professionals of America. She is interested in environmental

initiatives.

Muni, a junior at Lake Belton, is active in Business Professionals of America and wants to start a recycling program at the school. She wants to incorporate some health and environmental initiatives through the Youth Advisory Commission this year.

Bates is a sophomore at Belton High and he has been very involved

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Joseph “Joey” Agee Announces Candidacy for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Bell County



Joseph Agee

Special to the Journal

Joseph “Joey” Agee has officially announced his candidacy for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, in Bell County. A lifelong resident with over four decades of service and leadership in the community, Agee brings a deep commitment to fairness, faith, and public service. His campaign slogan is “Called to Serve. Committed to Justice.”

Joey and his wife Mandy, a dedicated educator for 26 years, who is currently teaching in the Belton ISD, have raised five children in Bell County. Their youngest is currently a senior at Lake

Belton High School.

Joey’s roots run deep in the area, he graduated from Salado High School and attended UMHB before beginning a 26-year career with AT&T, where he now serves as a Senior Technical Project Manager for North Texas.

His leadership spans across civic, church, and neighborhood organizations. Joey currently chairs both the Development Standards Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the City of Temple. He currently serves as President of the Windmill Farms HOA and has been on the board since 2014, is an ordained deacon, and has led worship throughout Bell County. He’s also the front man for The Members Only Band, an 80s cover group beloved in the region.

I’m running for Justice of the Peace because I believe God has called me to serve,” Agee said. “I’ve spent my life helping people, through my work, my church, and my community, and I see this role as another op-

portunity to lead with integrity, compassion, and fairness.”

Joey’s experience in conflict resolution, mediation, and leadership, both in union and management roles, has prepared him to serve with impartiality and wisdom. His priorities include:

- Upholding the integrity of the JP office
- Improving access to justice through innovation and efficiency
- Respecting the time and needs of citizens, law enforcement, and county agencies
- Staying connected to the community through transparency and outreach

“I want to honor the legacy of those who’ve served Bell County before me, while also bringing fresh ideas and a servant’s heart to the bench,” Agee said. “My goal is simple: to serve God and serve people, in that order.”

Joey invites residents to follow his campaign and attend future meet-and-greet events. For more information, visit Agee4JP.com.

Expo - From Page A1

get entered for a chance to win our \$1200+ Grand Prize with gift cards for dining, entertainment, shopping, pampering, and automotive care. Be sure and drop your entry form off at the “welcome tables” at either door before you leave,” said Cables.

“Everyone enjoys the giveaways and winning door prizes, and seeing the entertainers, but the Bell County Senior Expo really is a great source of information for seniors. We try to get everyone under one roof to make it easier to find the resources available. We want every senior-friendly business, non-profit, and volunteer opportunity at the event, so seniors and friends can know of their options in the area. No one likes to have to hunt down what they need,” added Cables.

This event is free and open to the public and is being provided to the community by nearly 40 sponsors and volunteer groups. You can RSVP for free tickets at

BellCountySeniorExpo2025.Eventbrite.com just to let us know you are coming. But tickets are not required to attend.

There will be free golf cart rides to transport you to and from your vehicle, 10-foot wide aisles for easy accessibility for wheelchairs and walkers, plenty of seating for resting, all on ground level, and plenty of concessions to keep your energy tank full.

To learn more about the event, visit beltonjournal.com/bell-county-senior-expo.

Pick up a Senior Expo magazine (included in this edition of The Belton Journal) from one of our sponsors and businesses throughout the Belton, Temple, and Killeen area, including HEB and Walmart, or at The Belton Journal office at 210 N. Penelope. You may also visit our Bell County Senior Expo Facebook page.



Movie - From Page A1

around town.

Trujillo stated, “Word of mouth plays a big role, especially from families who have attended in the past.” This free and accessible event builds a sense of community and offers a safe welcoming space for people of all ages. Movie-goers are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs, and their singing voice to utilize in the grassy area.

“It’s the atmosphere that makes this event so unique. Watching a movie outdoors with neighbors, kids playing on blankets, and the community coming together in a joyful way. It is simple, but it’s meaningful,” Trujillo said.

Hosting a movie outdoors is not without its challenges. Because a projection system is

used, it’s necessary to wait until after sunset to begin the movie. Previously Movie in the Park was hosted during the summer which meant very late start times. This year the City moved the event to September for cooler weather and earlier sunsets to improve the overall experience. Movie in the Park is hosted on an occasional basis. Following the September 20 event, the next Movie in the Park will be held December 5 at Christmas on the Chisolm Trail.

Belton Parks and Recreation partners with other local organizations or churches who help co-host the event or contribute in various ways like providing snacks or activities. If you are interested in becoming a partner please email cbennett@beltontexas.gov for details.

Stars - From Page A1

performers in second and third grade, 88 students applied for the next round. Five Belton ISD students advanced to the finalist stage, and ultimately, Jane and Canto were named National Math Stars.

For Rosie, the recognition connects directly to her love of problem-solving. “What I enjoy most about math are the challenges. I love solving the hard stuff so I can get better. I also like failing because it teaches us new things,” she shared. Rosie, who dreams of becoming a lawyer one day, added, “Math is all about solving problems and to be a lawyer you have to be a good problem solver.”

When she first learned about the opportunity, Rosie’s excitement was immediate. “I was so excited when my mom told me and really wanted to apply. I read everything on their website the day I

found out,” she said.

Her mother, Laura Canto, said she has watched Rosie’s passion for learning deepen over the years. “Rosie has always loved learning. In the last few years she continues to ask questions and research how things work. She is always looking for the next, tougher problem to push herself and continue growing.”

Laura added that she hopes the program not only nurtures Rosie’s academic growth but also strengthens her future opportunities. “We hope this program keeps pushing Rosie to learn more, enjoy the learning and apply her love for math to her future. Programs like this provide the knowledge and opportunities to families to participate in activities that encourage a love for math. The confidence, knowledge, real-world application and excitement for math returns to the classrooms and communities through each student participating.”

ment for math returns to the classrooms and communities through each student participating.”

For Aayana, the recognition connects directly to her dream career. “The hardest part for me was taking the COGAT test, but the most exciting part was finding out the results. I want to be a doctor when I grow up, and being strong in math will help me calculate the right medicine or prepare for an operation. This recognition means so much to me and my family because it encourages me to keep growing in math. Programs like Math Stars can change a family’s future and make communities stronger by investing in STEM education,” she said.

Belton ISD Superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden praised the students’ achievement, noting that Aayana and Rosie are

shining examples of the brilliance seen every day in Belton ISD classrooms. She added that this recognition can not only be life-changing for students and their families, but it also sends a powerful message to all students — math matters, and hard work can open incredible doors.

Dr. Lovesmith added that the recognition also reflects the district’s culture of encouragement. “We want every child to know that math is not just about numbers — it’s about building confidence, solving problems, and shaping the future. Programs like this remind students that their abilities are valuable and worth celebrating.”

Belton ISD joins schools across Texas and the Midwest in celebrating the 2025 National Math Stars.



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OBITUARIES



Parker
Marietta Parker
October 29, 1925 – September 5, 2025

“O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure the saints’ and angels’ song!”, The Love of God by F. M. Lehman

Marietta Parker’s last breath came quietly in the early hours of Saturday, September 6, 2025, at her Buffalo Creek apartment in Waxahachie, Texas. During the prior weeks, she had gone about her business as usual, calling her grandchildren and great-grandchildren to sing her annual and highly-anticipated rendition of “Happy Birthday” on the phone. No one’s birthday was complete until that call came. A service in celebration of her extraordinary life was held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of Belton, 506 N. Main St., Belton, Texas, followed by family welcoming guests. Her longtime friend and cohort, Charlie Robinson, will officiate. A viewing was offered on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Dossman Funeral Home, 2525 N. Main St., Belton.

Willie Marietta Vickrey was born in Wortham, Texas, on October 29, 1925, to Will (Smiley) and Lola Wood Vickrey. On that day, another Wortham newborn could be found, just across the railroad tracks and a mile down the road. His name was Bobby. They would meet 21 years later.

By 1929, the family had moved to Kosse, near her grandparents, where her brother Leroy was born. Soon after, they moved to Mexia, where she attended the Mexia public schools. The Great Depression was in full gear and they were fortunate that her father was always able to find work. When she was 14, her dad built their house on McKinney St., where her parents resided for another 40 years.

Marietta graduated from Mexia High School in May of 1943. In May of 1946, she graduated as Valedictorian of Westminster Junior College in Tehuacana with an Associate of Arts. Soon after graduation, she was spotted selling tickets at the Mexia picture show by a young sailor just home from his wartime service, Bobby Parker. He said it was love at first sight for him. She was not quite that impetuous, but he persevered, and they were married on September 1, 1946.

While Bobby was the head football coach at Mexia High School, their first son, Bobby, Jr., was born in January of 1949. Son Mark followed six years later in January of 1955.

In 1957, the little family moved to Brownwood where Bobby was named Dean of Students at Howard Payne College. Marietta completed her education there and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business in May of 1959. The following Fall, they moved to Waco where Bobby went to work in the administration office at Baylor University. He worked his way into a teaching position in the Baylor Physical Education department. She put her degree to use by teaching typing and bookkeeping at Waco High School. Many a draft-eligible young man was recruited to her typing class with the promise that, if they would let her teach them to type and they were drafted into the Army, they would never see the front lines. Her teaching made it possible for Bobby to work on his doctorate, which she typed, edited, and undoubtedly shared her opinions. She would always speak fondly about their ten years in Waco. They developed many lifelong friendships with people they met at Baylor and Columbus Avenue Baptist Church.

In the summer of 1969, Marietta, Bobby and Mark moved to Belton. Bobby, Jr., married Kathy Blackburn in September of that year and was attending Baylor University. Bobby (now Dr. Bobby E. Parker, Sr.) had accepted the position of Vice-President at Mary Hardin-Baylor College. Marietta retired from teaching in order to devote herself to Bobby’s endeavors. In 1971, Bobby was named President of the college. They served as President and First Lady for the next 20 years. During their tenure, MHB became a co-educational college and advanced to university status. These transitions did not come easily, but the outcomes were rewarding. Through it all, Marietta was Bobby’s closest confidante and advisor. She would say that her primary career in life was as First Lady. She would also add that it was a non-paying position. She loved it and the faculty and students loved her. She crocheted an afghan for every faculty member’s child when they got married. Entertainment was her forte’, whether it was for faculty, students, governors or local and foreign dignitaries, they and their spouses were equally welcomed.

Mark married Ann Becker in late December of 1977. One week later, Bobby, Jr., and Kathy introduced Bryce into the world and Marietta (now Grammy) found her next new purpose in life—grandmother. By the end of 1983 she had six grandchildren who she adored. Mark and Ann lived in Midland, but that was never too far to

attend a recital, concert or ball game. Bobby, Jr., and Kathy lived in Odessa, Sweetwater, then Graham. Their boys never lacked for Grammy’s attention either. She made every effort to bring the grandkids together. Every summer they would get a week at “Camp Grammy.” She would keep two or three of the kids at a time to swim, attend Belton’s 4th of July events, or maybe a side trip to New Orleans. Lake houses at Lake Belton and Possum Kingdom were regular meeting spots. To have been able to watch and be a part of her grandchildren’s growing up, the graduations and weddings, and to see them all become good moms and dads, husbands and wife, was more than she could have ever expected. She thought her 12 great-grandchildren were amazing and felt blessed that she had lived long enough to know them and for them to know her.

Bobby died on December 16, 1999, after 53 years of marriage. Their life together was a series of adventures. Travel had become a major part of their retirement. By the time of his passing (including UH-related travel), they had visited all 50 states, 30 countries: Israel, Greece, Japan 3 times, to name a few, and experienced 20 cruises. Not bad for a couple of Depression kids from Mexia.

In her memoir, she stated that her preferred epitaph would say “She loved her Lord, her family and friends with all her heart and soul.” To this end, she excelled, just as her Lord, family and friends loved and cherished her. As daughter, wife, mother, mother-in-law, Grammy, sister, aunt, teacher, Sunday School teacher, and First Lady, she gave it all she had.

She was a member of the Alpha Chi, Kappa Delta Pi and Delta Kappa Gamma sororities. She was also a long-time member of the Woman’s Wednesday Club of Belton. In 1972 she was recognized as an Honorary Alumna of Mary Hardin-Baylor College. For eleven years she served on the “Absolutely Incredible Kids” luncheon committee for the Bell County Campfire Boys & Girls organization. She held her church membership at the First Baptist Church of Belton for over 55 years.

Marietta was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Bobby, granddaughter Hayley Ann Parker, and brother, Leroy Vickrey.

She is survived by her sons, Dr. Bobby E. Parker, Jr. and wife, Kathy, of Waxahachie, and Mark Parker and wife, Ann, of Dallas; grandchildren: Bryce Parker and wife, Courtney, of Waxahachie, Matthew Parker and wife, Rachel, of Katy, Koye Parker and wife, Brooke, of Waxahachie, Andrew Parker and wife Emily, Christian Parker and wife, Lindsey, and Kaitlin Camp-

bell and husband, Brian, all of Dallas; and twelve great-grandchildren: Griffin Khoury, Chase and Hayes Parker; Riann and Reese Parker, Caroline, Samantha and Madden Parker; Parker and Hayley Campbell; and Briggs and Boone Parker.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Marietta’s caregivers, the staffs at Buffalo Creek and Traditions Health (Hospice). Words can’t express our appreciation for the care, attention and friendship she received over the years from Jerry and Vicky Bawcom and Marc and Betty Anderson.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.



Ybarra
Rufina (Ruby) Avila Ybarra
July 10, 1928 – September 3, 2025

Rufina (Ruby) Avila Ybarra, 97, of Belton, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, September 3, 2025. Services were held under the direction of Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Belton.

Born on July 10, 1928,

in Robstown, Texas, to Vicente and Margarita G. Avila, Ruby lived a long and fulfilling life centered around family, faith, and community. She worked in various roles throughout her life, including at Baylor Scott & White Hospital, Levi Blue Jeans Factory, Baugh Shoe Factory, and Robstown Nursing Home, always known for her strong work ethic and warm spirit.

Ruby had a deep love for arts and crafts, and her home was always filled with creativity and color. She welcomed everyone with open arms and never let a visitor leave hungry. She cherished listening to Mexican rancheras and

corridos and celebrated every holiday with joy. Ruby also had a love for garage sales, jewelry, and dressing stylishly.

Ruby is preceded by her parents, Vicente and Margarita Avila; son, Robert Ybarra Sr.; daughters, Dominga Ybarra, Eva Ybarra, and Ruby Ybarra; brothers, Simon Avila, Felipe Avila Sr., and Vicente Avila Jr.; sister, Adelina “Lily” Ybarra; and granddaughter, Victoria Ybarra.

Survivors include sons, Martin Ybarra Sr., Frank Ybarra, Johnny Ybarra, Henry Ybarra Sr., Victor Ybarra, and Hector Ybarra; daughters, Delia

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Sharon was born on February 27, 1953, to her parents, J.C. and Irene Shahan, in Oklahoma City, OK. She married Lonny Souter on July 20, 1979. They were married for 46 years and enjoyed many different adventures throughout the years. They shared a love of sports and anything

Sharon went on to graduate with a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She was a life-long learner and loved being a teacher and educator. She loved her students and would do anything to help them succeed. She held several professor and director positions over the years and retired from the Dean of Nursing position at the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor. Sharon was a proud Nana and spent a lot of time supporting her grandkids. She and Lonny made numerous road trips, sometimes multiple trips in a day. She would always have something fun planned for the grandkids during the holidays and always had a project for them to do at Christ-

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Missions Fund at First Baptist Church – Belton, TX.

Fernando “Nando” Lopez, a beloved son, husband, father, and brother,

al and personal life. In 2015 he met the love of his life, Mayra Ortiz and together they united their children and together in union they have their daughter. He was so proud to have more children and have a loving family. They enjoyed going to the lake and the simple things like watching movies as a family. Nando was known for his humor, often joking around with friends and family. He was characterized by his blunt honesty and his ability to bring people together during the holidays, hosting joyful gatherings that created lasting memories. His dedication to his family was unwavering.

He is survived by his parents, Jose Lopez and Juanita (Fernandez) Lopez, his beloved wife of ten years, Mayra Ortiz, and their three daughters, Emillia Lopez, Marisol Lopez, and Neyshmarie Caban, as well as their two sons, Nelson Caban and Edwin Caban. He also leaves behind his brother, Jose Lopez, and his wife, Francis Barrato, along with four loving sisters: Angelina Lopez and her husband Angel Lechuga, Maria Lopez and her husband Junior Cortez, Maritza Lopez and her husband Santiago Rodriguez, and Jessica Lopez and Roldando Salazar.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial donation to help the family pay for funeral services by calling Young's Daughters at 254.401.1302 or by visiting the website and clicking on the payment now button. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

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HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on a deceased individual's estate because of the individual's death, including an estate, inheritance, or death tax. The proposed amendment would prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift from an individual, family, estate, or trust, including generation-skipping transfers, if the tax was not in effect on January 1, 2025. The proposed amendment would also prohibit the legislature from

(CONTINUED)



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A6

Thursday,
September 18, 2025

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Local toddler makes it to quarter round of Hasbro's 2025 Toddler of the Year



Courtesy Photo

Local toddler Evey Carlinda Linnae May is participating in Hasbro's 2025 Toddler of the Year Contest.

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

The toddler of the year contest, sponsored by Hasbro started July 21 and has gone through voting phases rendering eliminations.

Local mom, Casey Charanza's daughter Evey Carlinda Linnae May is in the contest.

"We have been through these rounds: top twenty, top fifteen, top ten, and top five. First to quarterfinals, second to wildcard. We have been through the wildcard round, and quarterfinals. We are currently in thirteenth in the quarter finals. Then after that, we will be in the semifinals, then finals," said Casey Charanza.

The current quarterfinal round was September 11.

"I am from Belton, and we also live in Belton currently," said Charanza. "For the last round of voting, my daughter placed first in the group finalists to automatically advance to the quarter finals and bypass the wildcard round. Now she's in thirteenth."

Semifinals began September 12 and ends September 18.

The top competitors from each quarterfinals group will be divided into the semifinals group. Votes will reset, and public voting will determine the top one semifinalist from each group who will then advance to the finals.

Finals begin September 19 and end September 25. Votes will reset, and public voting will determine which finalist will be the winner of the 2025 Toddler of the Year competition, the grand prize winner. The grand prize winner will be announced on or before October 10.

Charanza lives in Belton. Her daughter is named after a TV series Charanza watched with her mom called Manifest. She heard the name and fell in love with it.

"I played with the different variations of the spelling and settled ending in a y, and the same as my name, Casey. Evey's middle name Carlinda is a combination of her two grandmothers names, Carla and Linda combined. Her name Linnae is also very special, and is a play on the spelling on my name, and my oldest daughter's Harper's middle name Linnae. Evey's oldest big sister Harper

even picked the spelling out the way she liked it before Evey was born," said Charanza.

Every one of Charanza's daughters has a middle name that starts with L. It wasn't planned in the beginning, but it kind of happened that way, and she stuck with it. May is two-and-a-half years old. Her birthday is on June 24 which happens to be her Papa Lawrence Drake's birthday as well. Her late Nanny Ruth Drake was hoping to make it to her birthday on June 24, but sadly she passed away in December.

"I believe her Nanny is her guardian angel and watches over me and all of my kids," said Charanza.

May is the youngest sibling of her adopted and biological brothers and sisters. She has green eyes and golden-brown curls.

Every 24 hours people can vote through Facebook for free. Additional votes are optional and are one dollar per vote. All proceeds go to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. There are one or two times during the voting rounds where they will have a two for one vote. Mario Lopez is the spokesman for the contest.

Human-Animal Support Coalition hosts community "Friend-Raiser"

Special to the Journal

The Human Animal Support Coalition (HASC) is excited to announce its upcoming Friend-Raiser, a community event designed to bring people together in support of pets and the families who love them. The event will take place on Friday, October 3 at Silo and Oak in Temple from 6 pm-9 pm.

"We know that when people face challenges, pets do too," said board

member Alicia Jallah. "This event is about creating new friendships, deepening partnerships, and celebrating the bond between people and animals. Every connection made strengthens the safety net for families with pets in our community."

Guests will enjoy a catered dinner, cash bar, silent and live auction items, a wine and fork pull and special adoptable pups from Journey Home Rescue. All funds raised will support plans to open and operate a low-cost spay and neuter clinic in the Temple area.

The event is open to

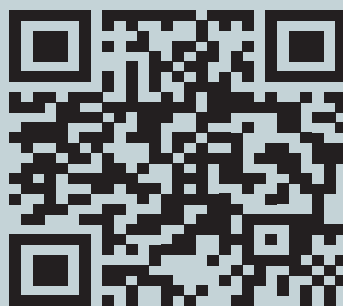
the public. Admission is \$50, and all are encouraged to attend—whether you're a pet lover, a community advocate, or someone simply wanting to learn more about the mission.

Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/fall-friend-raiser>

Silo & Oak is located at 7617 McGregor Park Rd., Temple. For more information about the Friend-Raiser or to RSVP, please visit <https://humananimalssupportcoalition.org/> or contact Amy Dixon, Hascoalition24@gmail.com.



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Body of Christ Clinic, LULAC to benefit from golf tournament

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Area golfers will tee off Sept. 26 to raise money for local charities, including Body of Christ Community Clinic and LULAC Council 4971. The event — sponsored by Charity Unite — will be held at Sammons Golf Course in Temple. “We are committed to raising awareness and funds for non-profit organizations,” said Renee Morales Boulette, CEO and founder of Charity Unite. “Our mission is to foster a stronger, more engaged community through impactful events, connecting individuals and organizations to promote positive change and support critical causes.” “We invite golfers and commu-

nity members to join us for a day of fun, camaraderie and philanthropy,” Boulette added. Together we can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.” Donna Dunn, executive director of Body of Christ Community Clinic, said she is excited that Charity Tee-Off chose the Belton clinic as one of the recipients of money raised at the golf tournament. “Funds raised will support our mission of providing medical and dental care to uninsured, low-income residents of eastern Bell County,” Dunn said. LULAC Council 4971 focuses on providing scholarships to local students, helping them further their education and empower themselves to make a positive impact within the

community. “Net proceeds from the tournament will be distributed equally between the two organizations, ensuring that every dollar raised goes directly toward supporting their vital work,” Boulette said. The event will begin with a 9 a.m. shotgun start, followed by lunch, an awards ceremony and happy hour. “Along the course, participants will enjoy special games and activities, including the Air Cannon sponsored by Dent Wolf and Roll the Dice sponsored by Horizon Bank — adding extra fun and excitement to the day,” Boulette said. For more information about the tournament or to register, visit www.charityunite.org/events.



Central Texas Republican Women to hold “Texas Round Up”

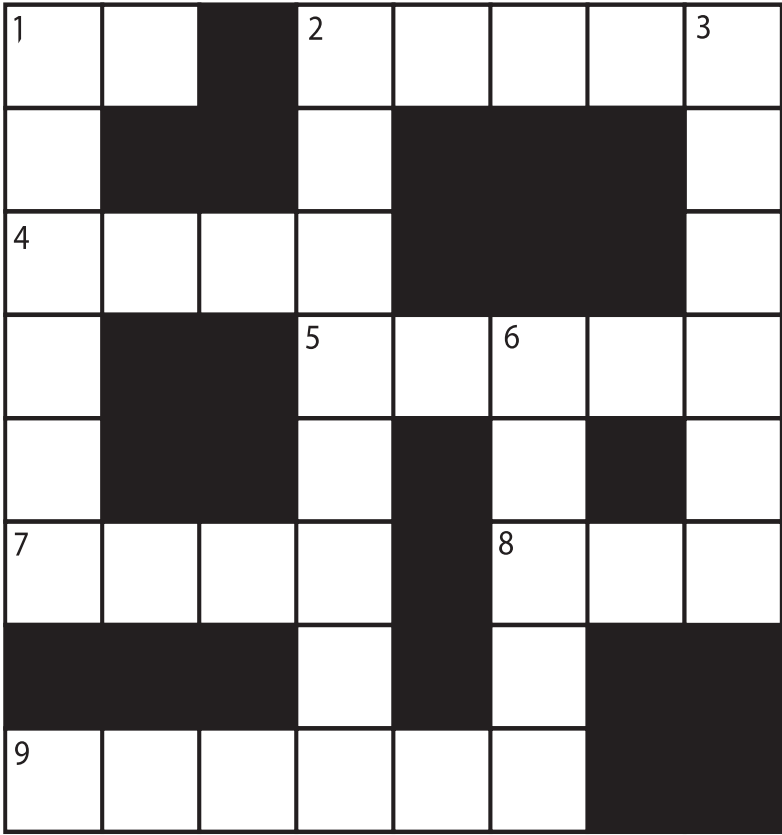
Special to the Journal

The Central Texas Republican Women will gather on Tuesday, Sept. 30th, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the famous Clem Mikeska’s in Temple for a “Texas Round Up” of Republican Officials and 2026 Candidates. Come enjoy great BBQ and hear from our Officials and Candidates as we gather to network and support a small local

business. Meet the candidates and those representing you and your neighborhoods as we discuss policy, legislation, local politics, or whatever is on your mind as a community member. Plus, renew or join CTRW during the Club 2026 Membership Launch that continues through October 30 with special incentives. Please RSVP to attend to help Clem Mikeska’s accommodate us at www.ctrw-pac.com.



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- California city (abbr.)
- Sudden fear
- Dull pain
- Rest on knees
- One who feels superior to others
- We breathe it
- Place for learning

DOWN

- They grow on trees
- Game played with a baby
- Not as hot
- Digital message

Answers:

1. LA 2. Panic 4. Ache 5. Kneel 7. Snob 8. Air
9. School
Down
1. Leaves 2. Peekaboo 3. Cooler 6. Email

Answer: Chlorophyll

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1778: The Treaty of Fort Pitt is signed between the United States and a Native American tribe.

1961: The world’s first retractable roof stadium, the Civic Arena, opens in Pittsburgh.

1983: Vanessa Williams becomes the first Black Miss America.

NEW WORD

HIBERNATE

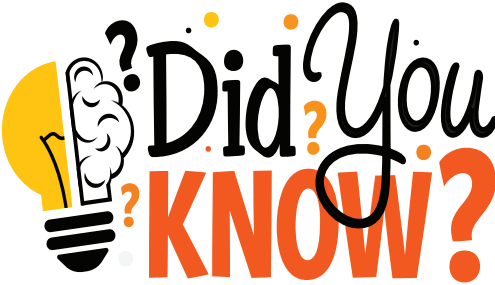
remain in an inactive state, typically during winter

Nature FACT:

Leaves change color in the fall due to the breakdown of this substance.

How they say that in...

English: Cool
Spanish: Fresco
Italian: Fresco
French: Frais
German: Kalt



Raking leaves by hand is a great form of exercise that enables people to enjoy the fresh air and does not contribute to noise pollution caused by leaf blowers.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Pumpkin



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EDITORIAL

New and Improved

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Have you picked up your favorite brand of a common product in the store and see on the label the words: New and Improved, and just wondered what that means? Well yes, now that you mention it, I often wonder what is new. I know, it was a rhetorical question, but I feel like I needed to answer it to keep the flow moving for the week.

We often see those words or something similar. I saw a common product and it said something along the lines of: new packaging but same old product inside. What is that all about? You updated your bottle or can and didn't put any effort into improving the product that I actually use? The bottle gets tossed in the trash. I know that companies need to improve their product labels and designs. However, some product labels have changed very little, only color variations and a different font for the wording, and in a way it seems comforting to know you are getting the same product your grandparents used and was common in your house as a kid. I have seen labels of products from years ago and it is not visually changed from the current version. Others change and brighten the colors and make fancy designs to keep up with the times, so what are they neglecting regarding the product itself.

What if they just make the claim that a product is new and improved when actually nothing has changed? Perhaps they cleaned out the vat that they make the product in, but nothing else really changed. What if the bottle really doesn't give you 33% more product, and the company is just

hoping you are bad at math? I see terms that would be hard to measure, like, less scrubbing, more powerful, better tasting. All of those would be difficult to prove.

A few years ago a couple of large companies, who are competitors, made the claim that they would reduce "waste" by a certain percentage within a 3-5 year period. That time came and went, there was no follow-up on the claim. Neither company stepped forth to show what they actually had done to reduce the "waste" in regard to their promise. Apparently someone that was truly interested did some checking and found out that neither company had even come close to the numbers they had given. It was just a promise to the consumers to make them feel better about purchasing these products and making an impact on the environment, when in truth, they probably intended to make a change but didn't and then wouldn't go public with their failure. And in the fast-moving market no one remembered the claims and no one really followed up, so the companies' wager that their customers were bad at math actually paid off.

Some products, such as I'm thinking about a specific cookie right now, can't be improved. As a matter of fact, the "improvements" that they did make were not improvements in my book. I like the original just as it always has been. Well then, the company made different colors, that is just a novelty, it didn't really change anything, heck I will eat the standard design cookie regardless of the season's specific

color. They tried more filling, less cookie, different filling flavors, why not just make another cookie and name it something completely unrelated to the original. I have been accused, and rightfully so, of not being really fond of change. Some things in my life have been used to for my entire life. If you can improve on that, give it a shot, warn me first and I will try it, however every "improvement" so far hasn't impressed me.

Coming next week: a new and improved column, stay tuned.

What Can I Do?

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

September 10th was a hard day.

On September 10th, I learned of a young woman who was stabbed on a train two weeks ago. She bled out and died on that train, and not a single person tried to help her.

On September 10th, I learned of another school shooting.

And on September 10th, a young man, a husband and father who had dedicated his life to the peaceful exchange of ideas because he believed communication brings understanding and peace, was assassinated.

What kind of world is this? What kind of country have we created?

September 10th was a hard day. And today, I am so sad.

I'm in mourning—along with so many of you—for the loss of what we once had. Or at least for what we thought we had.

Charlie Kirk's assassination seems, in my mind, a repeat of what happened to Martin Luther King, Jr. These were peaceful men who communicated love, yet challenged the status quo. Young husbands and fathers who dedicated their lives to sharing a message of faith and hope to a world that needed it so desperately.

When King was killed, many mourned. Others said, "Good riddance," simply because they didn't like his message.

I've watched the same opposing sentiments poured out on social media regarding Charlie Kirk.

We live in such a broken world. And there's nothing I can do. Is there?

I've asked myself what I can bring to our culture's table to make things better... but no matter what, somebody won't like my contribution. My beliefs. My ideas. My faith.

From where I stand, it seems those who shout the loudest for diversity and inclusion are often the ones who don't really want that. They only want people to agree with them. That's not diversity or inclusion.

I was glad to hear condemnation from both sides of the political aisle over this senseless murder of a man just beginning his journey. A young wife was robbed of her husband. A three-year-old and one-year-old will never know their father. And the world will never see the contributions Charlie Kirk might have made to our society. All because he talked about things that made some people uncomfortable, but that needed to be said.

When a young woman asked Kirk what he'd advise about taking drugs for gender transition, he didn't immediately respond. He asked her to share her story. Then he cautioned her against adding any kind of chemicals to her body to change who she was, because that would lead her down a path of more drugs and more surgeries and more chemicals and more efforts that would never truly achieve the results she sought. He encouraged her to find peace with her identity, just as she was.

When a minor asked how she should respond to her divorced parents, who had extremely different political views and who each pulled her to believe like them, he told her to honor and respect them. He encouraged her to maintain a strong relationship with each of them and not

to choose her beliefs—political or otherwise—to please another person. And since she was not yet of voting age, he encouraged her to focus on developing her faith and exploring her beliefs slowly and with care.

He didn't tell her what to believe. He told her to love her parents.

This is the man who was publicly assassinated, the actual moment of his death shared across social media like it was some kind of twisted entertainment. We must do better. We must be better.

There was a song on Christian radio in the 1980s titled, "What Can I Do?" It went like this:

What can I do to bring them home to You?

What can I do to help them on their way?

There is no time to waste, there is so much at stake.

What can I do?

The last line of the song? *Just love them.*

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:7-8

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City of Morgan's Point Resort discusses budget and tax rates for 2025-26, special sessions upcoming

There are You Tube videos for people to watch the City Council sessions and workshops.

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Pig Calling Contest for Youth (Ages 12 and Under)
Pig Calling Contest for Adults (Ages 13 and Up) & Awards
The Damn Torpedoes - Tom Petty Tribute Band



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Following first win of season, Broncos team build during bye

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos cast their sights on the Killeen Kangaroos last Thursday night at Tiger Field, with visions of their first win of the season in their minds.

Lake scored all 28 points in the first half, and the defense held the prolific Killeen offense to three touchdowns and a couple of key stops as the Broncos defeated the Roos, 28-21.

The win, the first of the season for Lake, also ended the program’s first two-game slide.

Maverik Maddux made his return behind center, throwing for 162 yards, including a 62-yard strike to Christian Onchweri and 37-yard touchdown pass to Davion Peters. AJ Arrington added 76 yards and two rushing touchdowns. Gavin Owens had 10 tackles, Alexander, Ji’yson Sherman and Gavin Stewart added interceptions, and Onchweri scooped up a fumble.

“I am really proud of these guys,” Lake Belton head coach Brian Cope said. “They rose up and responded to the challenge. Being able to hold Killeen to 21 points while playing great team defense.”

The team reviewed the video this week and will enjoy some down time to get healthy and contribute to community events.

While the team will continue to practice some during the bye week, Belton ISD Night of Champions Football and Cheer will be held in a post-press time event on Wednesday evening at Bronco Field.

“It’s an event where the two school’s programs come together for BISD’s special programs,” Cope said. “It’s a blast for everyone.”

District 8-5A-I action begins on Sept. 25 against Leander Rouse at Tiger Field.



Tigers set to host San Angelo in historic rivalry

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

If history is any indication, it is the Tigers’ turn to win.

Since 2021, Belton and San Angelo Central have played each other every season, taking turns making the 200-mile trek for the nondistrict encounter.

Unfortunately for the road teams, the drives home have not been celebratory.

Three years ago, the host Bobcats earned a 35-12 victory before suffering a 41-38 defeat at Belton one year later, and last season, the trend continued with Belton falling 33-8 inside San Angelo Stadium.

The rivalry continues Friday, when the Tigers welcome Central back to town with the intention of once again spoiling the Bobcats’ lengthy road trip.

First, however, they must rebound from last week’s loss.

Belton scored the first 10 points against visiting Georgetown East View before losing all momentum and committing six turnovers en route to a 24-10 defeat.

Junior quarterback Will Shepard capped off the game’s opening drive by punching in a one-yard touchdown, and soon after, senior kicker Corin Ramesar added a 25-yard field goal to the total.

East View responded with an eight-play, 65-yard scoring drive that concluded with quarterback Cormyc Guerrero finding Caleb Hill for a 10-yard touchdown, and a mere 91 seconds later, the Patriots were back in the end zone.

On the first play of the second quarter, a botched snap on a punt attempt led to a dropped ball, and Sam Arnett

scooped it up and returned the fumble six yards for a score, suddenly propelling East View ahead 14-10.

The Patriots padded the cushion as time expired in the half thanks in part to Jason Mehollin’s interception that helped set up a successful 35-yard field goal from Cavan Gonzalez, and the Tigers could not recover, finishing with their fewest points in a game this season.

Shepard completed 22 of 31 passes for 276 yards and three interceptions in the defeat, and he was Belton’s leading rusher, carrying the ball 11 times for 52 yards.

Gavin Ross, a junior, had a game-high 121 yards on eight receptions, and senior teammate Asa Thomas had five catches for 60 yards.

Defensively, Azian Wilkinson led the Tigers with eight total tackles, including seven solo, while Jabari James was responsible for four tackles with one going for a loss, and he broke up a pass.

While the Tigers (2-1) are looking to bounce back from their first loss, Central (1-2) will try to build on its first victory.

After losing 42-21 at Abilene and 41-21 to visiting Amarillo, the Bobcats used a 16-point, fourth-quarter outburst to rally for a 40-35 win against Abilene Cooper on Friday.

Regardless of how the contest unfolds, Belton’s separation from its District 10-5A, Division II schedule is shrinking.

Next week, when the Tigers travel to Cuero, marks the final nondistrict game, and they follow with a bye. Then, Belton begins league play versus Killeen Ellison on Oct. 9.

Bronco
Invitational
set for today

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The annual Bronco Invitational is set for this morning, and Lake Belton appears poised to compete for the girls team title.

Last week, the Lady Broncos placed third at the Ken Gaston “Race at the Lake” Invitational, landing four runners among the field’s first 30 to cross the finish line.

Traversing a five-kilometer course at Grand Prairie’s Lynn Creek Park, freshman Keira Dzenowski paced Lake Belton, placing ninth with a time of 20 minutes, 25.2 seconds, and within a minute, the remaining Lady Broncos started to finish.

The junior trio of Jenna Benedick, Madelyn Rivas and Sarah Gray were 23rd (21:16.9), 28th (21:21.4) and 29th (21:33.6), respectively, while sophomore Lucy Loa (35th, 21:57.9) completed the total.

The Lady Broncos scored 93 points — a mere six points behind Class 5A-6A champion Arlington Martin (87). Thanks in part to individual winner Lincoln Husbands (18:57.1), Midlothian was second with 89 points.

Justin Northwest junior Zoe Banis (2nd, 19:20.0) and Hamilton senior Presley Long (3rd, 19:34.8) joined Husbands on the medal stand.

Amarillo Tascosa was fourth (121) in the final standings.

While their times

did not count toward the team total, sophomores Elizabeth Sandlin (49th, 22:39.4), Alayna Fulton (52nd, 22:42.1) and Claire Henn (68th, 23:12.7) and seniors Demi Fisher (54th, 22:47.9) and Isabella Romero (71st, 23:25.3) also represented Lake Belton.

The Lady Tigers were 10th, amassing 267 points.

Isabella Warner, a sophomore, had the team’s top time of 21:44.3 to place 33rd, while sophomore Ai Kirkland (64th, 23:05.2) followed. The trio of senior Destiny Schutz (75th, 23:36.7), junior Roxanna Delgado (81st, 23:46.0) and freshman Natalie Mott (82nd, 23:46.7) rounded out the score.

Additionally, Belton junior Nataly Valdez (83rd, 23:48.3), freshman Ayla Wakershauser (95th, 24:16.5), junior Fancy Jaime (102nd, 24:32.2), sophomore Lilian Baggett (110th, 24:59.2) and freshman Ella Johnson (147th, 26:24.8) raced.

In the boys division, Lake Belton was 11th (331) behind junior Wyatt Potts’ 38th-place time of 17:50.8.

His showing was complemented by junior Jack McCullagh (62nd, 18:30.8), sophomore Cooper Schels (76th, 18:46.5), freshman Drew Houston (83rd, 18:55.2) and sophomore Tyler Adkins-Beltran (88th, 18:58.2).

See XC,
Page B2



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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Lady Tigers traveled to Lorena on Tuesday and suffered a four-set loss, falling 25-20, 25-18, 26-28, 25-18.

With the defeat, Belton falls to 21-10 heading into Friday’s nondistrict finale versus visiting West. The match is set to start at 5 p.m.

District 16-5A play begins Tuesday, when the Lady Tigers host Lake Belton at 6:30 p.m.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Registration is now open for the Belton Christian Youth Center 2025 basketball league.

Boys and girls in kindergarten through eighth grade can participate.

Early registration discounts are available until Sept. 28 with the deadline set for Oct. 31. The fall season begins Nov. 22.

Spots are limited.

Forms are available at [BCYCsports.com](#), and information about sponsorships can be obtained by calling 254-939-5759. For more information, visit BeltonYouth.com.

FUNDRAISER

The seventh-annual Rockin for Youth benefit for the Clements Boys and Girls Club, Belton Tiger Athletic Booster Club and Lake Belton High School Athletic Booster Club will be held Oct. 11 at 301 Thomas Arnold Road in Salado. The event will begin at 5 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$25 at the door and \$20 if purchased in advance at [OutHouseTickets.com](#). Kids ages 12 and under are free.

ATHLETIC PASSES

Belton ISD family passes are on sale for \$75 and can be purchased at the Belton High School field house or at the Belton ISD administration office.

The pass allows the owner and all immediate family members entry into any Belton ISD athletic event played at home, excluding football games.



When investing, one of the best abilities is durability

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

You’ve probably heard about investors who got in on the “ground floor” of a company that grew to be a huge success.

But successful investing isn’t about luck or genius. Instead, it’s about building durability.

Here are some suggestions:

First, think long-term. Most investors make their money over time, not overnight. You’ll want a well-diversified portfolio of quality investments and plan to own them for the long term.

Next, invest in quality.

For stocks, quality is often measured by the steadiness of earnings and dividend growth over time. For bonds, one measure is an investment-grade credit rating with a relatively low risk of default.

And finally, build a long-term strategy to provide a roadmap for your investment choices. You may want to make changes periodically, but do it for the right reasons, like changing goals or tolerance for risk.

But overall, follow a durable strategy personalized for your life.

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

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Lake Belton beats both West, China Spring in four games

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos continued to navigate the rough waters of brutal tail end of their 2025 pre-district schedule this past week.

On Friday afternoon, the Broncos traveled to West to take on a Trojans squad playing their way through a brutal pre-district docket.

The Broncos shook off early West momentum swings and outlasted the Trojans in four games.

Scores of the match were 20-25, 25-10, 25-23, and 25-12.

After resting over the weekend, the Broncos hosted the China Spring Cougars, a team that played a BISD matchup at Belton 10 days ago as the Tigers took three of four.

Lake overcame a pair of leads in the first two games, the latter with a 20-4 run, and outdueling the Cougars in four games.

Scores of the highly contested matchup were 25-20, 25-13, 17-25, and 25-22.

The Broncos jumped out to an early 4-0 start, thanks to kills from Kaitlyn Hutchins and Morgan Kukulski, and an ace from Madi Bingham.

China Spring responded with a 9-3 run, which was countered by a Bronco seven-point swing.

The Cougars pulled to within a pair of points at mid-game. However, Lake stayed the course to win the opening game by five.

Game two appeared as if the Cougars would run away, as they scored the first four points and led 6-2.

With China Spring in a 7-6 lead, Haylee Kasser served nine straight points, which included three consecutive aces and four aces in a five-point stretch to give Lake a 15-7 lead.

“She is a great server, and that just gives her that much more confidence,” Lake Belton head coach Allison Waits said. “Her short serve is a dangerous weapon that has front lines on their toes.”

Lake finished the game at a 10-6 pace to take game two by 12.

The Cougars edged out to a 12-7 lead in game three when the Broncos went on a 9-2 run to take a 16-14 lead. During the stretch, Hutchins, Kukulski, Ava Wood, and Thia Allison contributed kills.

The Cougars ripped an 11-1 run to end the third game, which kept the match alive.

In the fourth game, the Cougars led 3-1 when consecutive kills by Abbi Jones tied the game. Two slick diving digs by

See LAKE, Page B4



XC - From Page B1

The quintet of junior Ezra Kahler (85th, 18:56.0), junior Jose Perez-Diaz (94th, 19:03.1), junior Alexander Castelan (125th, 19:31.3), freshman Ethan Trevino (144th, 19:52.2) and junior Hayden Brown (145th, 19:53.0) combined to score 555 points for 20th-place Belton.

Tigers sophomore Marcus Hernandez (163rd, 20:06.8), senior Rosalio Parra (170th, 20:18.6) and sophomore Harrison Booher (204th, 21:33.7) and Broncos junior Josiah Briggs (100th, 19:09.7), senior Robert Thomas (134th, 19:38.5), senior Robert Klotz (154th, 20:00.4), sophomore Efren Romero-Meza (162nd, 20:05.7) and junior Austin Adams (171st, 20:20.0) competed as well.

Northwest easily won the team title with 64 points, while Midlothian (114) was a distant second despite having the second- (junior Gavin Czerwieski, 15:56.8) and third-place (junior Casyn Bridgins, 16:19.0) finishers.

Arlington Houston (3rd, 164) and Martin (4th, 170) followed.

North Mesquite junior Joshua Loera won the individual championship with a time of 15:41.5.

Races at the Bronco Invitational will begin at 7:30 a.m., and the event will be held at Temple’s Crossroads Park.

New Tech was idle last week, but the Dragons and Lady Dragons return to action Friday, when they travel to Cameron for the annual Dale Keen Invitational.

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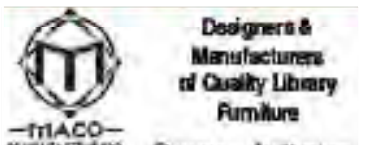
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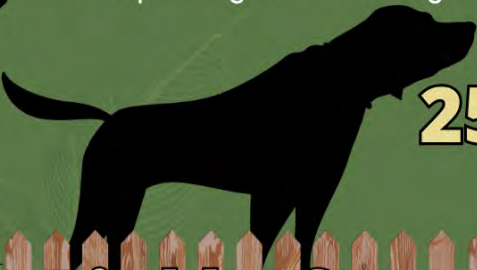
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Food Truck Competition with Bacon Inspired Dishes
Jay White and the Blues Commanders
Pig Calling Contest for Youth (Ages 12 and Under)
Pig Calling Contest for Adults (Ages 13 and Up) & Awards
The Damn Torpedoes - Tom Petty Tribute Band



FOR MORE INFO VISIT:
SEEBELTON.COM

Lake - From Page B2

Kruz Smith and Keileigh Krueger set up a pair of Bingham assists on two Hutchins kills.

The Broncos built a pair of four-point leads, only to have the Cougars claw back. Lake took the lead for good on a Kukulski kill to make the score 20-19.

“It wasn’t a pretty game, and we have plen-

ty of work to do,” Waits said. “But we played hard and won the match.”

Lake Belton (18-11) will have two tough matches this week. On Friday, they conclude non-district play against at powerhouse Pflugerville Weiss, who is 13-0 at home and 28-6 on the year.

The Broncos will

start District 16-5A play on Tuesday as they take on Belton (21-9) at Tiger Gym.



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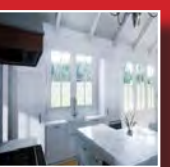
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Belton Lake Stillhouse

GOOD. Water normal stain; 87 degrees; 0.13 feet above pool. Water surface temperature is likely the hottest we will see for 2025 now that there are multiple cold fronts due in the next week. The drastic drop in water level and increased water temperature has adversely impacted the white bass fishing for the time being. Any concentrations of fish and shad are very hard to come by. Life seems to be scattered between 25-30 feet deep over the entire lake. White bass fishing is poor right now and likely to remain so until the release of water is finalized. Perhaps two in three mornings will see some light topwater action as white bass force shad to the surface for about 30 minutes either side of sunrise on Cork Rigs equipped with Sandy Sandwich streamers. Downriggers rigged with #12, or #13 Pet Spoons are the way to go to cover lots of ground; when fish are found, work that area until you stop catching, then down-rig again to find another concentration of fish. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are good. Anglers can find blue catfish around points and river channels in 10-25 feet of water. Larger fresh cut baits have been effective for trophy-size fish. Eater fish under 10 pounds can be caught slow-drifting with small cut shad along ledges and river channels. Channel catfish are great on punch bait in 10-20 feet of water. Flatheads are good on live bait in shallow water around river mouths. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

FAIR. Water stained; 87-88 degrees; 0.58 feet above pool. Dropping about 0.04 feet per day with a 200+ CFS release ongoing. Water surface temperature is likely the hottest we'll see for 2025, given multiple cold fronts due in the next 10 days. USACE has reopened all boat ramps except Cedar Gap near the FM3481 bridge. The drastic drop in water level and increased water temperature has adversely impacted the white bass fishing for the time being. Any concentrations of fish and shad are very hard to come by. Life seems to be scattered between 25-30 feet deep over the lower two-thirds of the lake. White bass fishing is poor right now and likely to remain so until we get a drop in temperatures. If you fish, downriggers rigged with #12 Pet Spoons are the way to go to cover lots of ground; when fish are found, work that area until you stop catching, then down-rig again to find another concentration of fish. Keep a Cork Rig with Sandy Sandwich streamer handy for eruptions of topwater feeding by schoolie-sized largemouth and white bass. They seem to stay on the surface for just moments at a time. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Fish have been shallow since it flooded but with the water receding, the bass have moved back out. Look for grass on humps and underwater points and work those areas with Texas-rigged worms or craws. Working the coves in deeper water are producing as well. Worms and creature baits work well in those areas. Report by Bryan Cotter, Texas Hawgs.



Fishing REPORT



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Local **Activities & Events**

Newcomers Club Activities

09/17: Popcorn Bridge	09/23: Singing Bluebonnets
09/18: Meet & amp; Greet, 42 Dominoes	09/24: Crochet/Knit, Fun Lunch
09/20: Exploring Wine	09/25: 42 Dominoes, Mexican Train Dominoes
09/22: Well Read Woman, Monday Canasta	09/26: Trailblazers Walking Group
	09/27: Jimmy’s Egg

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

CAC announces 2025 concert lineups

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

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

AN CLIBURN FINALIST CLAYTON STEPHENSON — Oct. 18
American pianist Clayton Stephenson’s love for music is immediately apparent in his joyous charisma onstage, expressive power and natural ease at the instrument.

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL — Nov. 8
Founded in 1970, Asleep at the Wheel has been part of the American roots music landscape for more than 50 years.

SHINYRIBS - Dec. 6
Shinyribs, a regular visitor to the CAC, defies genres as a melting pot of Texas blues, New Orleans funk, horn-driven Memphis soul, country twang, border music, big band swing and roots-rock. The 2025 CTOS Classic Music Series includes four big shows.

Bell County Master Gardeners - Sept 18
Join us for an inspiring program with Master Gardener Laura Weiser Erlandson as she shares practical ways Central Texas gardeners can create welcoming spaces for butterflies. In this seminar you will learn how to choose the right host and nectar plants for our region. You’ll learn how to support the monarch’s remarkable migration and how to incorporate native species into your garden. Learn how to design spaces that provide food, shelter, and seasonal resources. Don’t miss this chance to bring beauty and pollinators into your garden! Thursday, September 18, 6:00 p.m.Bell County Extension Office Learning Center, 1605 N. Main Street in Belton. Register at txmg.org/bell/

Central Texas Republican Women - Sept 17
Central Texas Republican Women invites you to attend our next “RED ROOF Connections Lunch Break” on Wednesday, September 17th at MasFajitas at 1902 SW HK Dodgen Loop in Temple. Come and enjoy Mexican food, margaritas, and the good company of friends and neighbors while supporting our local small businesses. The event is on Wednesday, September 17thth from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00pm. Join us for a conversation about policy, legislation, local politics, or whatever is on your mind as a community member. Let’s chat. Beverage and food purchases are on your own. The conversation is free. We look forward to meeting you. For more information about Central Texas Republican Women, visit www.ctrw-pac.com.

Firehouse Chili & Salsa Copetition - Sept 20
Mark your Calendar: On Saturday, September 20th, we have scheduled our annual Firehouse Chili and Salsa Competition, at Kleypas Park, by the Swimming Pool, in Morgan’s Point Resort on Morgan’s Point Boulevard. The event is one of our annual fundraisers; and we’re focusing this year’s funds to purchase accessories for the new Brush Truck - FIONA. Questions contact kastagne@att.net. Cook Team, Sponsor-Supporter, Vendor, Auction Contributor forms can be found at: morganspointresorttx.com/civicalert

Movies in the Park - Sept 20
The Parks & Recreation Department hosts the Movie in the Park series each year. Movies and activities are free and open to the public.Encanto will be shown at Harris Community Park, 312 N. Alexander, Belton. For more information contact Belton Parks & Recreation at 254-933-5860.

MPR Explorer - Sept 25
The MPR Explorers (sponsored by the Mary Ruth Briggs Library) is holding their monthly “Conversation over Coffee” with Interim Fire Chief Shane Sibley, on Thursday, September 25 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Garrett and Mic Hill Event Center (60 Morgan’s Point Road).

Celebrating the Oktoberfest Season - Oct 4
This family-friendly celebration and fundraiser for the Friends of the Mary Ruth Briggs Library will be part of the City’s Community Yard Sale and features Jam Session Challenge for volunteer musicians and singers, Beginner’s line dance class and open dancing, German food contest, Bold Republic Brewing and much more. MPR Page Turner’s Party & Fundrais-er – Celebrating the Oktoberfest Season on Oct 4, 2025, 100 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Ansay Park (between Thistle and Lake Forest Drive), Morgan’s Point Resort. Email volunteers.mpr@gmail.com with any questions.

McDowell Cemetary Association - Oct 4
The annual mettof the McDowell Cemetary Associatio is scheduled for Saturady, Oct 4, 2025, 10:00 a.m. in the the sanctuary of Nolan Valley Bap-tist Church, 13206 FM 93, Belton, located near the cemetary. The associ-ation continues to solicit funds or any input about past burials. Inquiries or donations may be sent to John Alexander at McDowell Cemetary Asso-ciation, 706 N Main St, Belton, Tx 76513. If you have any questions or comments contact Mr. Alexander at 254-541-4349.

Family Camp Out - Oct 24 - 26
Roll up your sleeping bags and hit the trail for a campout at Heritage Park.

Activities include fishing, kayaking, and s’mores. This year we are offering an extended weekend of fun, Saturday-Sunday, October 24-26, 2025. Stay tuned for registration infor-mation from Bellton Pars & Recreation.

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@mc11249tx.comfor more inforamtion.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on TUESDAY, Sept. 23rd at 6:30pm at the Temple VA Hospital. Use the entrance on the Valet parking side of the hospital and take the elevator to the 5th floor -Conference Room 5G31. Both care-givers, supporters and those suffering from mental illness are welcome to join us for mutual support and sharing of information . For more information, call 254-771-3638

Aspen Hospice and Palliative Care Volunteers Needed Listed here are many ways you can help make a difference for our hospice patients. You can provide companionship, listen to music, read, reminisce, play games, cards, checkers, paint nails, apply makeup, curl hair or take them on walks. Please visit aspenshospice.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 Bereave-ment Center is located at 4235 East Hwy 190 in Temple.

Bell County Historical Commisison 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 historicalcommis-sion@bellcounty.texas.gov, call 254-933-5917 or visit the office located in the historic Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave., RM 117.

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

Bell Fine Arts Visitors welcome Wednesday’s from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 306 E 5th Ave in Belton. Majong games are available every Monday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come join the fun and meet new folks. For more information text Jeanne at 409-313-0611.

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

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

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

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

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

Community Information

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

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

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

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

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

Slam the Scam Throughout the year, we give you the tools to recognize scams and stop scammers from steal-ing 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

THE BELTON JOURNAL

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LAURENE ANNETTE GLOVER, A.K.A. LAURENE MCBRIDE GLVOER, Deceased, were issued on Aug. 28, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00486, pending in County Court No. 1, Bell County, Texas, to: LAURENE ANNETTE GLOVER, A.K.A LAURENE MCBRIDE GLOVER.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the under- signed within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Mary Wiley Attorney at Law, 100 W. Central Texas

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LEGALS

Expressway, Suite 306, Harker Heights, Texas 76548
DATED the 10th day of September, 2025.
MARY WILEY Attorney for BRIAN GLOVER, State Bar No.: 2403266,9 100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 306, Harker Heights, Texas 76548 ,Telephone: (254) 634-6969, Facsimile: (254) 634-6587, E-mail: mary@lindleylawoffices.com 09.18

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION - CIVIL
CAUSE NO. 25DCV353776

TO: XVAVIER TUCK
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 May 09, 2025.

The file number of said suit being No. 25DCV353776. The names of the parties in said suit are:
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC VS. STEPHANO TUCK,XAVIER TUCK,THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JAMES D. TUCK, 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 4305 Hank Drive, Killeen, TX 76549, and more particularly described as LOT TWENTY-FOUR (24), IN BLOCK SEVEN (7), OF CONDER VALLEY PHASE FOUR, IN THE CITY OF KILLEEN, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF RECORD IN CABINET C, SLIDE 368-B, C & D, PLAT RECORDS OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS.

This was issued at the request of attorney: BRADLEY CONWAY MILLER GEORGE & SUGGS PLLC 6080 TENNYSON PKWY STE 100 Plano TX 75024.
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty- two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on SEPTEMBER 11, 2025.
Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, Texas 76513
By: M Cortez Deputy
09.18, 09.25,10.02,10.09

LEGALS

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00572

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
STEVEN J. SERRANO, Applicant, on September 10, 2025, filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Independent Administration - Intestate in a proceeding styled: ALMA N. SERRANO, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00572 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 September 18, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it. Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: W. RANDY HARRELL, 2106 BIRD CREEK, DRIVE TEMPLE TX 76502
The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on September 10, 2025. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Lillian Phillips Deputy
09.18

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ANGELIQUE SUZANNE RICE, Deceased, were issued on August 6, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00301, pending in the County Court of Bell County, Texas, to: ANGELIQUE RICE-ESTRADA.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: DANIEL A. CORBIN Attorney at Law, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541
DATED the 10th day of Sept. 2025.
CORBIN, STAPLER & CLAPPER, PC, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541, Tel: (254) 526-4523, Fax: (254) 526-6711
By: ASHLEY CLAPPER
DANIEL A. CORBIN, State Bar No. 04814300, JAMES BERRY STAPLER, State Bar No. 24013557, ASHLEY CLAPPER, State Bar No. 24076317, Legal@CorbinLegalTeam.com Attorney for ANGELIQUE RICE-ESTRADA
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Tips for winterizing exterior living areas

When the summer entertaining season draws to a close, homeowners need to ensure their outdoor living areas can handle weather that's right around the corner. Although outdoor furniture and other items tend to be durable, the impact snow, wind and ice can have on them may lead to damage over time. That is why many homeowners take steps to winterize their outdoor spaces and protect their belongings. Here's a look at how to prepare for the winter to come.

• Furniture: Cover or store furniture to protect it from the elements. Covering it with weather-proof covers can be adequate if storing items indoors is not possible.

• Deep clean: Items that will be covered or stored should be thoroughly cleaned prior to being removed from spaces for the season. Lingering dirt and moisture can cause damage.

• Insulate and drain: Don't risk damage to pipes, which can freeze and crack in the cold. Shut off the water supply to exterior faucets and drain water lines to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting. Use foam pipe insulation to prevent freezing and cover any exposed pipes.

• Apply mulch: After cleaning up garden debris, think about applying mulch to garden beds and cover tender plants to protect them from the weather.

• Check gutters: Be sure that gutters and downspouts are clear of leaves and any additional debris. If gutters and downspouts are not cleaned, ice dams may form on the roof and cause water damage.

• Inspect and repair: Inspect walkways and driveways for any damage and make repairs now so water will not seep in and cause further issues with freeze-thaw cycles. Consider applying a sealant to protect surfaces from snow and ice.

• Pools and spas: It's es-

sential to follow the industry or manufacturer recommendations for closing down swimming pools and spas for the season. While covers may not be essential in all climates, covering can help prevent leaves and other debris from getting in the water. Water should be expelled from pipes and tubing to prevent freezing and bursting. If space allows, consider moving the pool pump indoors to prolong its longevity. Turn off the electricity to the outlet where the filter is plugged in.

There may be additional, region-specific steps to winterize a property, but these pointers are a good starting point to protect outdoor spaces.



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Local woman celebrates 101st Birthday

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Majorie Ferrill’s birthday party invitations to friends, family, neighbors, and caregivers read, “101 Years Blessed.”

For her very first tea party, the 32 guests were encouraged to wear fancy hats and vintage accessories at Tirzah’s, downtown Belton, on Thursday, Sept. 11.

Receiving a police escort entering Tirzah, two Belton officers held the doors open. Guests cheered and applauded her entrance.

Ferrill’s youngest daughter, Cynthia Jackson, and daughter-in-law, Linda Schwertner, co-hosted the tea party. Jackson emceed the event, with tea history and special mentions of all the guests, highlighting her care team and neighbors.

Jackson said, “It takes a village to raise a 101-year-old woman...watch after her and care for her.”

Melissa Curtis, Ferrill’s oldest grandchild, sang “Sentimental Journey” and “They Can’t Take That Away From Me.”

Ferrill’s granddaughter, Natalie Nelson, served her table.

The key to a long life, Ferrill said, “just enjoy life, enjoy people, and have faith in God.”

For her daily routine with her caretakers, she



Belton Journal/Michele Weisman
Marjorie Farrill with her birthday cake.

said, “We have a Bible reading...we take exercise every morning, and they try to keep up with me.”

“I had good, wonderful parents,” said Ferrill of George and Linnie Frank. “I was loved, and they were going to give me the best they could...born during the Depression...I wore a lot of feed sack clothes. But Mom sewed, and she put a little lace here, a little something there, and I thought I had a cute wardrobe.”

The three-course high tea, served on antique China, offered a variety of finger sandwiches, scones, and for dessert, small bundt cakes with cookies. Centerpieces of light pink roses and baby’s breath decorated the tables.

A moment of silence was observed for those affected by 9/11.

Ferrill is the mother of Margaret Psencik (Don), Ray Schwertner (Linda), and Cynthia Jackson (Don). She has eight grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great granddaughter.

She retired from Scott & White Clinic as an administrator and is a lifetime member of First Christian Church, Temple.

She established scholarships at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Texas A&M, Temple College and gave generously to Baylor Scott & White’s Cancer Treatment Center. Ferrill is a cancer survivor.

EDITORIAL

The unseen: who and what I’m thankful for

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

In the news business, we stay busy covering many events in our community. Every time we turn around, especially this time of year, a lot of people step up to meet the needs of those who are going through tough times in our community.

We take a lot of pictures of people donating lots of things, time and money for others. They’re the ones who get their photos all over the place.

We should recognize the great things that people do in our community. I’m writing about the unseen in our community who I’m thankful for, and I’m thankful for what they do.

Every Monday morning, a truck rolls up in front of our house and hauls away what’s inside a big blue container. If we didn’t have someone to do that vital service, we’d be in a world of hurt. Who wants to haul their trash away and get rid of it themselves?

Some people still do, and quite frankly, I’m glad I don’t have to.

These individuals rarely get the glistening photo opps, and let’s face it, their job stinks. Literally. I’ve witnessed firsthand that the aroma of the tipping room floor is not for the faint of heart.

I’m thankful for the ones behind the scenes who get this dirty job done out of the public eye and see all our dirty little secrets we put on our curbs every week.

Another group of people I’m thankful for are the ones who deal with, ah, our “waste” in other ways. I don’t think about it, but I’m sure happy whenever we flush a toilet in my home, all that, ah, “waste” goes away and I never have to worry about it again.

The department receiving the results of our flushing never gets their photos in the paper, yet they keep

doing what they’re doing and I’m happy that system works.

When the lights go out during a storm or other incident, I pick up my phone and call a number, and I know that these unseen people are out there, often while the storm is still going on, trying to fix the problem.

They don’t get their photos in the paper, either, and yet I’m sure glad they’re around and ready at a moment’s notice to get their job done.

So thank you, solid waste and water treatment people, and the utility company people who do what you do without any recognition or glamor shots in the newspaper or “film at eleven,” unless something goes wrong. You do a lot right and don’t get much thanks for it. I’m very thankful for you.

Roll The Bones

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

As I’ve mentioned before, one of my hobbies is tabletop role-playing games. I started playing “Battletech” in 1990, moved on to “Dungeons & Dragons” not long after, and have played many other systems as well.

For those who have never done any sort of gaming, a key part of gaming is that at various points dice will be rolled to determine randomized events, such as whether or not an attack is successful or if a character successfully uses a skill they have. You have the 20-sided dice, which is the main dice used in “Dungeons & Dragons” and games following off of its rules sets. You have the 12-sided dice. You have the 10-sided dice, with most pre-assembled dice sets providing a regular 10-sider and a 10-sider marked by 10s so that the two dice can be used to generate percentages. You have an 8-sided dice. You have

a 6-sided dice. And you have a pyramid-shaped 4-sided dice, which is infamous for how much it can hurt to step on one. These are the normal dice most gamers will have, although a few stores will sell 30-sided dice, 100-sided dice, and dice with random odds and ends (like hit locations) instead of numbers.

Once upon a time, any dice other than a d6 was rare. If you did find them, they were often made of a soft material that caused the edges to wear down over time, and you actually had to color the number in with a crayon. Nowadays, you can go to just about any gaming shop and purchase dice a la carte for as little as \$0.25 apiece. Don’t have a local gaming shop? The average Wal-Mart will have three-packs of pre-built sets (d4, d6, d8, d10 normal, d10 tens, d12, d20) for \$10 a three-pack, and you can then go to Dollar Tree and get a

ten-pack of d6 for \$1.25 to supplement those sets.

I’ve spoken before about emergency preparedness, and as I type this I’m trying to assemble a series of “bug-out bags” that I could use if a situation required a hasty evacuation, such as a wildfire or flood. Bag #1, my camera / church bag, already has some first aid supplies, some granola bars, and a few other supplies. Bag #2 will have clothes, toiletries, and some entertainment items. Yes, entertainment. When people are frightened, worried, or even bored, having something to do can keep their mind off of the present situation.

Well, the “Anime 5E” game manual I have is self-contained (you can play it without needing any other books), so if things go down then that’s going to go in there. I’ve already picked up a Wal-Mart three-pack and those Dollar Tree d6. This

means that I can run at least two other people through a hypothetical gaming campaign, more if everyone agrees to share dice. This way, I can help distract at least two other people from worry and fear.

Folks, when things go wrong, it’s easy to fixate on ourselves, saving our own skin, and ensuring our own comfort. But there comes a time when we need to – if possible – see who else is in trouble and figure out what we can do to help them. This is especially the case if we have pets, children, or individuals with limitations who we are responsible for taking care of, as such situations can have an outsize effect on them. This is a big part of why emergency preparedness checklists now often stipulate that you have what you need to take care of them. We’re all in this together.

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		6		2			8	
8		1		3				
3					4			5
	2					7		
						3		6
		5						
			2		7		4	1
9			1				2	
		8	6					

Level: Intermediate

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7	3	5	6	4	9	6	8	2
8	2	6	3	5	1	4	7	9
4	1	9	7	8	2	3	6	5
2	9	8	7	6	4	5	1	3
6	1	3	2	5	9	7	4	8
4	5	7	8	1	3	9	2	6
5	7	4	1	7	5	3	9	2
9	6	2	3	5	7	4	1	8
3	8	1	4	2	9	5	6	7

ANSWER:

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

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Answer: Turn the page

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This year we are honored to have the 1st Cavalry Division band entertaining. You can read more about them in our **100 page magazine that will be inserted into next weeks paper & details the free event.**

Miss Hayden Maroney will be singing patriotic songs!! She's a sophomore at Lake Belton High School and participates in choir, basketball, and tennis. She is also a member of the Hope Squad, which is a national movement to support peer-to-peer suicide prevention. She's really excited to join the Hope Squad in the program's first full year. We have lost several students recently due to suicide. It's been really difficult for her to navigate and she really wants to make a difference for those struggling with mental health. Hayden's Mom teaches special education and Hayden always loves helping with her students with the skills they are learning. In her spare time, Hayden loves to crochet. She is a member of 1st Baptist Church of Moffat. She is looking forward to being able to honor Veterans through her singing.

For more information and **FREE TICKETS** to the **September 23rd** event, please visit **BellCountySeniorExpo2025.Eventbrite.com** It is truly an **AMAZING EVENT FOR ALL AGES!** And shows you **all the resources you need, but didn't know were available!**

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