

Temple career agency helps BISD Delta students shine



BELTON JOURNAL/HARVEY JACKSON OSS
Branch Manager Carlos Calaf poses in his auction-won photo booth that was used by Spherion in Temple during a photo shoot with BISD Delta Program students.

By Harvey Jackson Oss
The Belton Journal

On Friday, August 29, Spherion Staffing & Recruiting in Temple partnered with the Delta Program at Belton ISD to provide free professional headshots for students in the program.

Delta is a special education program designed to help students transition successfully from school to adulthood by developing real-world skills and integrating them into the community through personalized, adult-focused support.

Vicki Koon opened her Temple franchise of Spherion, a career development and placement agency, in 1994. Growing up with a disabled brother in the 1960s, Koon has always held the special needs community in her heart.

Koon and her staff first learned of the Delta Program through a Belton Chamber of Commerce newsletter promoting a reverse job fair. Delta students set up their own displays with resumes and other information to advertise themselves to attending employers. Spherion Temple connected with Delta’s director after the fair, and ultimately decided to host a free headshot event for Delta students. In the past the franchise has also hosted community resume workshop events known as “Resu-mania.”

Branch Manager Carlos Calaf spoke on the impact professional headshots could have on Delta students.

“This is really going to help them pop when they do their next job fair event,” Calaf noted that many of the students lacked professional photos, and had been using less formal candid shots on their displays.

Spherion Temple took professional headshots for around 60 students from different BISD high schools. The students were transported as groups from the schools to the studio in order to participate in the event.

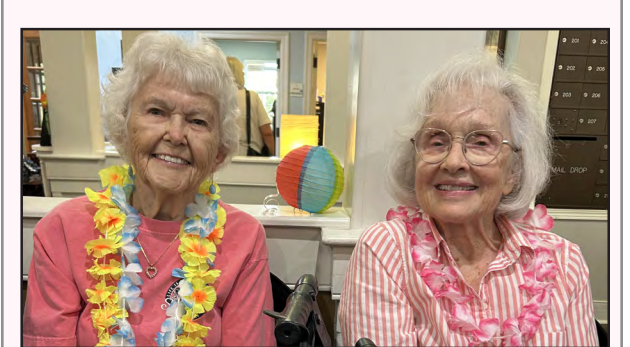
“It’s important that everybody gets a fair shot at work... helping them create a professional appearance and resume gives them a better shot,” stated Vanessa Daniel, Area Operations Manager.

The photography booth setup used for the headshot event was acquired in a silent auction at one of Spherion’s inter-franchise conferences, where Calaf outbid a team from South Texas. The proceeds of the auctions go to Spherion’s Sandy Mazur scholarship program, which has historically been awarded annually to two applicants. A student from Temple was granted the scholarship last year, and this year the number of recipients has been increased to five.

“For the teams to get involved and spend their money on the scholarship is really special,” said Koon.

Spherion Temple hopes to host similar events in the future and continue their relationship with the Delta Program.

“To do this annually would be great for them and great for us,” stated Daniel. The franchise is also planning partnerships with Fort Hood, Central Texas Workforce, with more to come in the future.



BELTON JOURNAL/MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ
Residents Hilda Dale and Sharon Cipolla at Stoney Brook of Belton celebrate the facility’s 15th anniversary with an end-of-summer luau. Local seniors, caregivers, and members of the community were invited for a tropical happy hour.

Stoney Brook of Belton celebrates 15 years with luau

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Stoney Brook of Belton senior living community recently celebrated their 15th anniversary with an end-of-summer luau celebration.

Local seniors, caregivers, and members of the community were invited for a tropical happy hour.

For the luau, refreshments were provided accompanied with live music performed by Colin Dexter. There were also community tours.

“I liked the party very much. They had some entertainment from Gatesville,” said resident Hilda Dale.

“We had refreshments. I liked the chips and salsa. I hadn’t seen the performer before,” said resident Sharon Cipolla.

“I’ve been here six months. I’m excited to see the amazing full house turnout with family and friends of residents celebrating the end of summer luau. My favorite part is the residents reminiscing of their memories when they went to Hawaii and family vacations from the past,” said Stoney Brook of Belton Life Enrichment Director Trish Taggart.

Hawaiian sundaes were served: a slice of banana bread with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, topped with toasted coconut, caramel sauce, and a cherry.

Residents were also served a Hawaiian lunch which included teriyaki chicken, coconut rice, and stir-fried vegetables with fresh fruit.

Samantha O’Neil, director of sales and marketing of Stoney Brook of Belton

See **CELEBRATES,** Page A2

Bells Across America ceremony to be held at the Bell County Courthouse

Special to the Journal

The Betty Martin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will join chapters across the nation in celebrating Constitution Day by leading the annual “Bells Across America” event on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 3 p.m. at the Bell County Courthouse.

The Bells Across America tradition traces its roots to September 17, 1787, when church bells rang in Philadelphia to mark the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

Nearly two centuries later, in 1955, the DAR petitioned Congress to establish Constitution Week, a national observance held annually from September 17–23. President

Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the resolution into law in 1956. Since then, DAR chapters across the country have worked to keep alive the spirit of the day through educational outreach and public ceremonies—most notably by ringing bells on Constitution Day.

Here in Bell County, the Betty Martin Chapter will bring the tradition to life at 3 p.m., when bells will ring simultaneously across the community. Temple ISD, Belton ISD, and Salado ISD students will take part in ringing bells, while the University of Mary Hardin–Baylor will also ring its campus bells in recognition of the historic moment.

The public is invited to attend the celebration at the Bell



County Courthouse, where local dignitaries will gather for a short public program. The event will include a reading of

members across the county.

DAR leaders say the purpose of the event is not only to honor the Constitution but also to remind citizens of their responsibility to uphold and protect it.

“The ringing of the bells is a joyful and unifying sound that links us to the history of 1787, while reminding us of the freedoms and responsibilities we share today,” said a spokesperson for the Betty Martin Chapter.

The community is encouraged to participate by ringing bells of their own—church chimes, school bells, handbells, cell phone bell tone, or even small bells at home—at 3 p.m. on Sept. 17.

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Strategic plan, fee schedule and annual budget expected to be adopted Sept. 9

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The Belton City Council heard presentations last week on the 2026-2030 strategic plan, a proposed fee and rate schedule for 2026 and the proposed Fiscal 2026 budget.

No action was taken during last Tuesday’s meeting, but all three items are expected to be adopted Sept. 9.

According to City Manager Sam Listi, the five-year strategic plan has been updated and there are several

key changes expected. The new plan includes six proposed “pillars,” including connectivity, business development, quality of life, infrastructure, engagement and public safety.

“There are 41 initiatives within the six pillars that emerged from the May 30-31 retreat,” Listi said in a report to Council.

Connectivity pillar initiatives include critical street, trail and sidewalk projects, including work on Interstates 14 and 35, Loop 121, Sixth Avenue, FM 39, Texas 317, Connell Street and the Spring Street bridge.

Business development initiatives include Imagine Belton projects, utility work at Belton Economic Development Corporation properties, updated building codes, and landscaping, murals and sidewalk work.

Quality of life initiatives include developing a new parks master plan and various partnerships to improve historical and cultural districts.

Listi said infrastructure initiatives include work on water and wastewater master plans, a Central Texas Water

Alliance and street maintenance programs.

Exceptional customer service, marketing and educating Belton residents are key initiatives to the engagement pillar, and public safety initiatives include occupancy of the recently purchased Miller Heights Elementary School, cybersecurity, location of a new fire station and community safety.

A draft of the strategic plan was placed on Belton’s website on Aug. 30

See **BUDGET** Page A4

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Courtesy Photo

A ceremony will take place Friday at 9 a.m. for Charter Oak Elementary’s garden, built by the PTO and other volunteers.

Charter Oak Elementary students dig into gardening

Special to the Journal

Students at Charter Oak Elementary are learning the science of gardening by getting their hands dirty. Every grade level — including special education classrooms — now has its own garden bed to care for, with third graders specifically growing cabbage through the Bonnie’s Cabbage Program.

Thanks to their efforts and the vision of Principal Ashlie Thomas, the campus now has a dedicated garden.

Thomas shared her idea with PTO President Mickayla Lewis last year, and together with PTO members and support from local businesses, they gathered materials,

secured donations and put in the hard work to bring the garden to life.

Lewis said, “When Principal Thomas shared her vision for a garden, I knew it was something our PTO could bring to life. It’s been incredible to see parents, staff and community partners come together to build this space. More importantly, it’s giving our kids hands-on learning that goes far beyond the classroom.”

“Our hope is that this garden continues to grow right alongside our students,” said Thomas. “One day, we’d love to be able to grow enough fruits and vegetables to use in our own campus meals and lessons. Beyond that, it’s about teaching kids

where their food comes from, the value of hard work and the joy of seeing something flourish because of their care.”

Superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden added, “This project is a wonderful example of what makes Belton ISD so special. When our staff, parents and community partners come together around an idea, amazing things happen for kids. I’m thrilled to see Charter Oak leading the way with such a creative, hands-on learning opportunity.”

The campus will celebrate this new space with a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony on Friday, Sept. 5, at 9 a.m. at Charter Oak Elementary, 8402 Poison Oak Road in Temple.

Celebrates - From Page A1

thanked everyone for coming out.

Some home health companies were on hand to visit residents. Rosa Hernandez and Marcie Conde with Enhabit Home Health brought the punch and helped serve.

“We provide home health and hospice. We help with what they need with healthcare and special events,” said Hernandez and Conde.

Pam Krumnow with Aspen brought popcorn and ham and cheese cups, refreshments, and helped set up.

“I come out and get the privilege to help Trish with activities once a month like fun trivia games and music to soothe the soul,” said Krumnow.

Kim Dipple and Jana Chepulis with Tex Med Home Health also helped.

Stoney Brook of Belton is an assisted living and memory care community offering a full range of lifestyle options for older adults,

enabling them to live life to the fullest. Residents select from studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom apartments, and cottages. They offer secure, pet-friendly accommodations including generously sized layouts, private patios, and porches. Each home comes accompanied by support from amazing caregivers, who help with activities of daily living and handle chores like housekeeping, landscaping, laundry, and trash removal.

To learn more about life at Stoney Brook of Belton, visit www.stoneybrookseniorliving.org or contact Samantha O’Neil at 254-933-3800. Stoney Brook Senior Living is locally owned and is managed by the Long Hill company, a subsidiary of Masonicare, a leading not-for-profit provider of senior living and healthcare services.

Bell County Historical Commission awards grants

Special to the Journal

The Bell County Historical Commission has issued four grants for the 2026 county fiscal year.

The goal of the small grants is to promote and/or preserve Bell County history. The funding is provided to the Commission by the Bell County Commissioners Court.

Josh Hogan on behalf of The Al Edwards Central Texas Juneteenth Association 7 Star Cemetery Restoration Eagle Project, will receive \$2,820.

This historic African American cemetery has 480 graves, with three being soldiers. One of these includes a Buffalo soldier. The project goal is to replace some, if not all, of the 400 faded and deteriorating concrete paver gravestones. The old stones have UNKNOWN spray painted on them. These

pavers will be respectfully replaced with garnet markers.

The Killeen Area Heritage Association will receive \$665. The aim of the project is to update and print brochures that identify historical places and promote Killeen history.

The Railroad and Heritage Museum in Temple will receive \$1,800. Funding for the project will provide for the purchase of frames. The frames are for interpretive exhibits that highlight historical images around Temple, Texas. The frames will be used for present as well as future exhibits.

The Bartlett Activity Center will receive \$2,715. The project will replace the missing flooring on the 2nd floor, 5th grade classroom. This 1909 structure was originally the Bartlett School. Community efforts are going to preserve this jewel of architectural history.

Funding available for wildfire mitigation in Bell County

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Bell County landowners are eligible to apply for cost-share reimbursement for wildfire mitigation practices through the Texas A&M Forest Service’s Mechanical Fuel Reduction Grant through Sept. 12.

Bell is one of 33 Central Texas counties eligible to apply for the grant, which aims to reduce the risk of home loss to wildfire by using fuel reduction practices, including hand-cut and mulching treatments.

Eligible applicants can receive up to \$750 per acre for hand-cutting treatment, \$2,000 per acre for mulching treatment or \$1,500 per acre for a combination of hand-cutting and mulching treatments.

“The Mechanical Fuel Reduction Grant helps landowners, municipalities and homeowner associations take proactive measures in protecting their homes, land and communities,” said Victoria Wenkman, Texas A&M Forest Service wildfire mitigation and prevention specialist.

“Landowners and communities can slow the progression of wildfire by reducing fuel sources, such as removing flammable materials near structures and creating defensible spaces,” she said.

Fuel reduction practices include the removal of excessive or hazardous fuels, such as vegetative debris, immature trees, shrubs and dead or downed branches. Shrubs and small trees can serve as “ladder fuels,” which can carry a ground fire into the crown of trees, increasing the complexity of the fire.

Other wildfire mitigation practices include creating fuel breaks and defensible spaces around structures.

Fuel breaks are a section of removed vegetation that can slow incoming wildfires, decrease the intensity of fires and protect first responders by providing wide access lanes.

“A fuel break can also benefit native vegetation and wildlife, allowing for shaded fuel breaks where large native trees remain and smaller invasive species are removed,” Wenkman said.

Defensible spaces in residential and commercial landscapes are natural or manmade areas spanning at least 30 feet around a structure where combustible material has been cleared or removed, providing a barrier between an advancing wildfire.

To apply for the grant, visit <https://shorturl.at/1bEP4>.

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OBITUARIES

Minor
Joe Minor
May 31, 1960 –
September 1, 2025

Joe Minor of Holland, Texas, passed away at the hospital in Temple, Texas on September 1, 2025. He was 65 years of age. Funeral Service will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 5th, 2025, at Dossman Funeral Home, Belton, Texas. Burial to follow at North Belton Cemetery. Joe was born on May 31, 1960, in Belton Texas to Santos and Petra Alejandro Minor. Joe is survived by his brothers; Jesse Minor of Belton, Texas, and Santos and wife Jill Minor jr. and their nine children and eight grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, sister SanJuana and her husband Gonzalo Mora,

Culver
Shirley Anne Culver
August 26, 1948 –
August 17, 2025

Shirley Anne Culver, born August 26, 1948 and longtime resident of Salado, passed away on Sunday August 17, 2025. She is survived by her son Russell and wife Michele; her daughter LonAnne and Mike; her grandchildren Mason, Madison and husband David, Austin and wife Maggie, Thomas and William; and by her Dearest Steve - her dance partner for the last 20 years. Shirley is also survived by her sister Alice Wells; her sister Margaret Hardin and husband Rodney; her brother Jim West and wife Carol; her sister-in-law Pam Downing and many nieces and nephews who adore her. Shirley is preceded in death by her husband Bill Culver of Salado; her parents Jack and Bettye West of Groom; her grandparents Elton and Maggie Ruth Johnston of McLean and Charley and Ina West of McLean. “Miss” Shirley was married to her high school sweetheart and soul mate, Bill, for thirty-three and a half years and is now reunited with him in heaven.

Working as a Certified Financial Planner in Bell County from 1980 to 2021, Shirley found her calling getting to know people and their families and helping them attain their goals and dreams. Shirley will always be remembered for her love for her family and friends, for her service to the people she counseled throughout her years as a financial planner, and for her connection to strangers who were drawn to share their stories with her. She truly had a gift for making everyone feel they had an important place in the world. A private family gathering is planned. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials sent to one of the following organizations or to any charity of your choice: Route 66 Roping Arena, c/o Bill Homer, P.O. Box 339, Groom, TX 79039

Families in Crisis, P.O. Box 25, Killeen, TX 76541 -- www.familiesin crisis.net
So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, and what is unseen is eternal. ~2 Corinthians 4:18

Sanchez
Thelma Yvonne Sanchez
July 28, 1944 –
August 16, 2025

Thelma was born in Elmhurst, IL to Julian Serna and Elena Cortez Cassiano, the eldest of three children. She started as a young, single mother, and with the help of her parents, she developed a fun life for her family; whether picnics at the lake, movies at the drive-in theater or just girls night dancing in the living room with her three daughters. Thelma was always learning and working to better her life for herself and her family. Her time at MHMR of Temple, TX was her most rewarding job experience, as she was able to obtain her high school diploma and an associate degree from Temple College. She had to kiss a few frogs, but at 69, she finally married her prince, Jessie Sanchez, a friend since her teenage years. Jessie treated her like a queen and made her last twelve years her happiest. Mamma loved Jessie, her family, and her plants. She created beautiful needlepoint pieces and was the family plant doctor. Her Spanish rice, banana bread, and homemade jellies were always a hit with her friends and family. Thelma was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, and four children. She is survived by her husband, her sister, Mary Petke of IL, daughter, Yvonne M. Fleshman of Belton, and two sons, Ralph Sanchez of San Antonio, and Maximus Wayne of Dallas, 6 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and many life-long friends. Thelma left a legacy of blessed memories and will be missed.

Pishner
Linda Pishner
April 18, 1943 –
August 29 2025

Linda Pishner, a devoted wife, loving mother, adored grandmother, and cherished friend, passed away on August 29, 2025, in Temple, Texas. Born on April 18, 1943, Linda dedicated over 26 years of her life to proudly serving at the VA Hospital in Temple, where she made a significant impact in the fields of dietetics and food service. Linda was known for her warm and caring personality, always extending her love and support to her family. She found great joy in playing cards, particularly 500 Rummy, often drawing her family into friendly competition. Many fond memories were shared as laughter filled the air while they played. Her playful spirit resonated especially

with her grandchildren, to whom she delighted in giving gummy bears, a sweet gesture that will surely be remembered with affection. In her free time, Linda nurtured various hobbies. She enjoyed collecting crystal and china and often indulged in dining out, where she could share good meals and create lasting memories with loved ones. She loved animals and would feed the 30 plus deer that showed up for dinner from her porch nightly. Her heart was also filled with love for her dogs, especially her faithful companion, Andy, who brought her endless joy. Linda’s proudest accomplishment was undoubtedly her family. She is survived by her sons, Joseph Nicolas Pishner Jr. of Temple, and Michael John Pishner of Fort Worth; her sister, Anna Marie Cantaberry of Fayetteville, WV; her three granddaughters, Rebecca Turney of Temple, Christina Miller of Temple, and Mary Minick of Belton; her great-grandchildren, Shon Miller, Miriah Miller, Addison Turney, Emma Turney, and one on the way. Each of them will carry forward her legacy of love and compassion.

Linda was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Joseph Pishner Sr., her parents, John and Dora Ramella, her brother, John L. Ramella Jr., and her sister, Nidia Harrison. The tender memory of Linda will forever live in the hearts of those who knew her, leaving an indelible mark on their lives. Friends and family are invited to gather to celebrate Linda’s life. Visitation will be held on September 9, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., followed by a Rosary service at 7 p.m. at Crotty Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Belton, Texas. A Funeral Service will take place at St. Luke Catholic Church in Temple, Texas, on September 10, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. Linda will be laid to rest at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen on the same day at 1 p.m. In mourning the loss of Linda Pishner, we remember and celebrate a life devoted to family, love, and service to others—qualities that will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her.

Parmer
Charlie Dean Parmer
March 27, 1938 –
August 29, 2025

Reverend Dr. Charlie Dean Parmer was born on March 27, 1938, in Bell County, Texas. He went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on August 29, 2025. Dr. Parmer earned degrees from Texas A&M College (now Texas A&M University) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He began his professional life as a teacher at Belton Junior High School before devoting himself full-time to ministry. Over the course of his lifetime, Dr. Parmer faithfully served nu-

merous congregations, including First Baptist Church, Bennington, Oklahoma; San Gabriel Baptist Church, San Gabriel, Texas; First Baptist Church, Lyford, Texas; First Baptist Church, Lexington, Texas; Elliott Baptist Church, Elliott, Texas; First Baptist Church, Kosse, Texas; Pershing Park Baptist, Killeen, Texas; Parker Lane Baptist Church, Austin, Texas; First Baptist Church, Bartlett, Texas; First Baptist Church, Nolanville, Texas; Marlboro Heights Missionary Baptist Church, Killeen, Texas (Min. of Ed); Pioneer Baptist Church, Nolanville, Texas; and Trimmier Baptist Church, Killeen, Texas.

Dr. Parmer also worked at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, where he played a key role in establishing the International Student Program in the early 1980s. Later in life, he founded the New American International Bible Institute and Seminary, through which he ministered to and taught hundreds of students. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robbie Ray Parmer and Mary O’Dell Parmer; his sister, Joyce Evelyn Parmer; his brother, William Ray Parmer; his first wife, Lyndal Wolverton Parmer; and his second wife, Jeanette Moore Parmer. He is survived by his sisters, Doris Mae Parmer Saylor of Cedar Park and Leona Marie Parmer of Harker Heights, Texas; his children, Teri Parmer Sutterfield and husband

Dale of Kerrville, Deana Parmer Garrick and husband Jonathan of Harker Heights, and Martin “Chip” Ray Parmer and wife Clarissa of Marlin, Texas. He is also lovingly remembered by his grandchildren: Lt. Commander Bryson Sutterfield and wife Kelsey of Round Rock, Braden Sutterfield and wife Mary Elizabeth of Plainview, Alyxis Garrick Wood and husband Josh of Harker Heights, Joshua Garrick and wife Ashley of Harker Heights, Anaissa Parmer of College Station, Andrew Parmer, and Ariel Parmer of Marlin, along with seven great-grandchildren. Visitation for friends and family will be held

from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, September 4, 2025, at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Killeen. A private burial service for immediate family will be held at a later time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Texas A&M Former Student Association (https://www.aggienetwork.com/memorial/) (notate gift for Charlie D. Parmer), BSW – Central Texas Foundation/Hospice, Temple (2401 S 31st St, MS 20-5103, Temple, TX 76508), GAP Ministry (gloriaalpadre.org), or Trimmier Baptist Church, Killeen, Texas. brother Cruz Minor.



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Thursday,
September 4, 2025

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Ruby Tea Room celebrates one year in business

By **Michelle Rodriguez**
The Belton Journal

Ruby Tea Room offers seasonal tea experiences and special events to bring the “communi-tea” together. They are located inside Arusha’s at 126 N. East St., but they also can bring the “par-tea” to you offering private tea parties and business tea services. They celebrated their first birthday party this past weekend.

Their tea is in its purist form, USDA certified organic, kosher, free of artificial flavors, harsh chemicals, GMOs, and sourced ethically from around the world.

Their tea profiles include black with high caffeine, green with moderate caffeine, white with low caffeine, herbal that is caffeine free, oolong that is moderately caffeinated, rooibos that is caffeine free, and botanical, also caffeine free.

Guests were invited to celebrate the Ruby Royal Celebration tea and reserve their individual seat or group table.

“Guests were served afternoon tea of their choice with the par-tea special being our white tea: champagne and raspberry flavored, and a three-tier service that includes bacon cheddar quiches, chicken with cheddar, shallot, and rosemary prosecco and clementine jam from Crow and Cactus sandwich, smoked salmon, cream cheese, with a caper dill spread

sandwich, raspberry and lemon scone and almond scone served with a whipped cream cheese spread, cherry cream tarte, coconut crisp, macaroons, and a slice of red velvet birthday cake,” said chef and co-owner Sara Nevarez.

Guests received parting gifts of a bag of popcorn in birthday cake flavor from Popcorn Friday, a tiara, a ruby gem, and a red paper origami heart. Guests sang happy birthday to Ruby Tea Room’s Nevarez and co-owner Kristie Whites, then they blew out a single candle on a slice of red velvet cake. They were accompanied by their husbands and Nevarez’s son.

Ruby Tea Room offers a free weekly “communi-tea table” every Thursday from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. They also offer an afternoon tea service starting at \$30. Other upcoming events at Ruby Tea Room include Teatime Etiquette on September 6 at 1 p.m., Tea and Tarot on October 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Fall Tea Blending on November 6 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Upcoming events hosted at Popcorn Friday located at 213 E. Central Avenue include “Swif-tea: Sing and dance along” on September 14 from noon to 2 p.m., Tea and Tarot on October 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and “Haunted Tea and Treats” on October 25 from noon until 2 p.m.

Upcoming event hosted at Crow and



Courtesy photo

Chef and co-owners Sara Nevarez and Kristie Whites are celebrating Ruby Tea Room’s First Birthday Par-tea.

Cactus, located at 122A N. Penelope Street is “Craf-tea: Succulent Teacups and Tea” on September 25 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Upcoming event hosted at Blackbird Books and Spirits located at 203 N. East St., Suite E are “Witchy Afternoon Tea” on October 19 from noon to 2 p.m.

Upcoming event hosted at Level 3, located at 202 E. Central Ave, is “Madd Hatter Tea” on October 26 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Reserve your seat or group table on their website at <https://rubytearoom.com>. They also have a Facebook page.



Courtesy photo

The Belton Police Department recently opened the South Substation at the former Miller Heights Elementary on Aug. 26. Chief Berg toured renovated spaces, that includes an informal interview room with chairs and a side table, an evidence storage room, and an office space with a desk, office supplies, mini-fridge, and coffee maker. Nearby classroom spaces also may be utilized by the Police Department in the future. The substation will not be staffed 24/7. Residents should be directed to call the PD’s non-emergency phone line if they need assistance in areas serviced by the South Substation.

Budget - From Page A1

with an invitation for public input at last week’s Council meeting.

A public hearing was held last week on the proposed Fiscal 2026 fee and rate schedule. As part of the annual budget process, city staff analyzes all fees and rates for services. The proposed schedule, which is expected to be approved Sept. 9, includes increases on several permit and inspection fees, adding a fee for appealing a case in Municipal Court, increasing fees for city-installed fire-line taps, and increasing fees for meter box and meter box lid replacement.

According to Scott Hodde, director of Public Works, most of the changes will have a minimal impact. Inspection fees, fence permits, above-ground swimming pool permits, irrigation permits and roof permits all will increase from \$35 to \$50.

The fee to appeal Municipal Court cases will be \$25 plus the cost of transcription.

Also last week, a public hearing was held on the Fiscal 2026 proposed budget, which will raise more total property taxes than last year’s budget by \$1.2 million or 9.91 percent. Of that amount, \$443,526 is tax revenue to be raised from new property that will be added to the tax roll this year, said Mike Rodgers, director of Finance.

“The city manager presented the proposed annual budget to City Council on July 8, and on Aug. 12, Council proposed a property tax rate of \$0.5225 per \$100 of taxable value,” Rodgers said in a statement. “The Texas Local Government Code requires the governing body to conduct a public hearing before the budget can be adopted.”

Compared to the FY 2025 originally adopted budget, total resources for FY 2026 increase by 3.6 percent to \$52.87 million while total expenditures decrease by 1.6 percent to \$47.9 million.

“The budget for Fiscal 2026 is intended to be lean without significant changes from FY 2025,” Rodgers added.

Some highlights of the Fiscal 2026 proposed budget includes no change to the total property tax rate; no change to utility rates; no new positions; modest sales tax revenue growth; limited pay increases for employees; rising health insurance costs; data center and software upgrades; and higher debt service costs.

The Sept. 9 meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. in the Wright Room of the Harris Community Center.

Medieval fun set for Sept. 13 in Belton

By **David Stone**
The Belton Journal

A day of medieval-inspired fun — including live music, games and giveaways, a costume contest and a bar crawl — will be held Sept. 13 in and around downtown Belton.

“This is the fourth pub crawl we’ve done with Blackbird Books & Spirits, Pinky’s and Level 3 (now called Drinks Near Me),” said Kenna Calderon, manager and co-owner of Nolan Creek Brewery.

Event highlights include: Artisan Market: Shop unique goods and handcrafted wares from local vendors. The market will be located by Blackbird on East Street in front of the Katy Train Depot. Pub Crawl: The crawl will be 4 p.m. to 10, and the theme is Renaissance. Enjoy specialty drinks and medieval-inspired cocktails at participating stops.

Costume Contest: Prizes awarded for the best-dressed Lords, Ladies, and jesters.

Live Entertainment: Music, minstrels, and street performers throughout the day.

Games & Giveaways: Interactive activities and prizes for attendees.

“Blackbird is the main host for this pub crawl,” Calderon said. “The costume contest will be held at their venue starting around 9:30 p.m., along with the door-prize raffle.”

“Participants can pick up a punch card from any of the four participating bars,” she added. “As people stop at each location and make a food or drink purchase, they will receive a punch. Fully punched cards can be turned in at the end for the door-prize raffle.”

Though not required, costumes are highly encouraged so attendees can fully immerse themselves in the Renaissance spirit.

“Whether dressed as a knight, a wench, a bard, or simply enjoying as a spectator, all are welcome to take part in this lively celebration,” Calderon said.



Courtesy Photo

Blackbird Books & Spirits in downtown Belton will be the hub for an artisan market and local pub crawl with a Renaissance theme.



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Local Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

09/01: Bookworms, Chat n Canasta
09/02: Footloose Singles
09/03: Monthly Luncheon, Popcorn Bridge
09/04: 42 Dominoes
09/09: Couples Night Out, Singing Bluebonnets
09/11: 42 Dominoes, Mexican Train Dominoes
09/12: TGIF Lunch
09/15: Snack Time Mah Jongg
09/16: Bunco
09/17: Popcorn Bridge
09/18: Meet & Greet, 42 Dominoes
09/20: Exploring Wine
09/22: Well Read Woman, Monday Canasta
09/23: Singing Bluebonnets
09/24: Crochet/Knit, Fun Lunch
09/25: 42 Dominoes, Mexican Train Dominoes
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 Retired School Employees - Sept 4

The first meeting of the 2025 2026 year for Bell County Retired School Employees is scheduled for Thursday, September 4 at 2 PM at Saint Francis Episcopal Church in Temple. Our special guests will be representatives Brad Buckley and Hilary Hickland to speak about the 89 legislative and special sessions. Come and hear about the big issues that were resolved and the big issues to come. You will be able to ask questions. Refreshments will be served.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry - Sept 5

Skip the work and the cleanup and come out to enjoy a fish dinner in support of our seminarians and wheelchair fundraisers. Dine-in or take-out. Friday, September 5, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Christ the King Family Life Center 250 E 24th Ave, Belton.

Soggy Doggy Day - Sept 6

Pups help end the Splash Pad Season in Belton. Right after Harris Community Park's Splash Pad closes to humans for the season, we fence it off and let dogs in!

This year's Soggy Doggy Day will be Saturday, September 6, 2025. For more information contact Belton Parks & Recreation at 254-933-5860.

Master Gardeners Sept 6

Ready to grow your own herb garden the smart way? Join Master Gardener Gary Slanga as he shares practical tips for propagating herbs using cuttings, seeds, and divisions- all tailored for Central Texas gardeners. By the end of this seminar, you will learn which propagation techniques work best for different plants, what tools are needed to get started, and you'll understand the pitfalls to avoid in our climate. 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at AgriLife Extension Grounds Learning Center, Belton, 1605 N. Main St., Belton. Class Limit: 50 participants. Register at RSVP BCMGA1998@gmail.com to secure your spot!

Golf Tournament - Sept 8

Temple Breakfast Lions Club is hosting their inaugural Golf Tournament in memory of Randy Sepulvado at Sammons Golf Course, 2727 W Adams, Temple on September 8, 2025. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. and begin playing at 8:30 a.m. For more information about email templebreakfastlionsclub@gmail.com.

Stronger Together Gala - Sept 11

Mark your calendars, shine your boots, and get ready for a night to remember! The first-ever Stronger Together Gala is coming to the Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center in Temple on Thursday, September 11, 2025 — and you're invited to eat, drink, dance, and make a difference. And while you're two-stepping the night away, you'll also be helping raise money to support mental health awareness and resources right here in our community. Your ticket, table, or auction donation will help benefit two extraordinary organizations dedicated to mental and behavioral health: the Intrepid Spirit Center at Fort Hood and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central Texas — Temple Chapter. For tickets, tables, and donation info, visit www.StrongerTogetherGala.org.

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 & Fundraiser — 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.

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 information 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 month at VFW 3859. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. 201 VFW Dr, Harker heights, Tx 76548. Email commandant@mccl1249tx.com for more information.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on TUESDAY, Sept. 9th and 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 aspenhealthcare.net or call 512-856-5668 for more information.

Young's Daughters Funeral Home Dementia/Alzheimer's Caregiver Support

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

Bell County Historical Commission holds their meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the historical Bell County Court House, 101 E. Central Ave in Belton. Join us in our vision of preserving and promoting Bell County's rich historical heritage for current and future generations. We are dedicated to initiating and conducting programs that preserve and celebrate the county's historic cultural resources in alignment with state laws governing historical preservation in Texas. Our community resources consist of a research room, book repository, cemetery information, historical markers and monument records. Our services include information on historic preservation, educational programming, history community outreach and partnerships. We welcome you to join other history minded folks and get involved by serving on one of our committees that consist of preservation, cemetery, markers and education. To volunteer or for more information please visit historicalcommission@bellcounty.texas.gov, call 254-933-5917 or visit the office located in the historic Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave., RM 117.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community Information

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

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

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

Citizens Helping in Police Service (CHIPS)

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

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

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

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



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Anchor of Hope Fellowship
5700 F.M. 439 ~ 254.721.6514

Belton Christian Church
9425 W FM ~ 436 254.939.1172

Belton Church of Christ
3003 N. Main ~ 254.939.1816

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

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

Belton Lighthouse
1001 NE Loop 121 ~ 254.654.7278

Belton Nazarene Church
1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404

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

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

Christ Bible Baptist Church
1590 Jack Rabbit Rd ~ 254.939.9247

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

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

Cornerstone Community Church
5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250

Crossroads Church
500 South I-35 ~ 254.939.2122

Dominion Life Chapel
105 Green Briar St. ~ 254.563.0472

Elm Grove Baptist Church
6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127

Family Gospel Church
2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707

Fellowship Baptist Church
2025 Morgan's Point Rd ~ 254.780.2388

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

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

First Presbyterian Church of Belton
2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115

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

Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus
1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201

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

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

Hope Community Church
507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222

Hope Tabernacle
202 E. 1st Ave. ~ 254.933.8222

Iglesia de Cristo
3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910

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

Lakeview Baptist Church
7717 N Hwy. 317 ~ 254.780.1884

Liberty Church
302 E. Central Ave. ~ 254.933.7107

Liberty in Christ Church
2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337

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

Ministerios Vida
2020 S. IH-35 ~ 254.624.8015

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

New Life Fellowship
706 E. 4th. ~ 254.939.8011

Nolan Valley Baptist Church
13206 W. FM 93~ 254.721.5998

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

Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church
2378 FM 1670 ~ 818.519.9855

Tapestry Community Church
of Belton
1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.218.4008

Temple Vision de lo Alto
4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231

Trinity Full Gospel
810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673

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

~ TEMPLE ~

Chalice Church - Disciples of Christ
300 N 5th St ~ (254) 773-9061

Christ Episcopal Church and School
300 N. Main St. ~ 254.773.1657

Christian Life Church
4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626

Covenant Lutheran Church
4202 Hickory Rd. ~ 254.733.7718

Eighth Street Baptist Church
215 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. ~
254.773.2598

First Baptist Church Temple
8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866

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

First Presbyterian Church Temple
12 West French ~ 254.773.3407

Foundation Church
10751 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673

Grace Baptist Church
740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401

Grace Comm. Primitive Baptist Church
3111 N. 3rd St ~ 254.774.8192

Grace Presbyterian Church
2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134

Harvest Church
2501 General Bruce Dr. ~ 254.780.3566

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898

Leon Valley Church of Christ
4404 Twin City Blvd. ~ 254.939.0682

New Hope Church of God
2005 W. Ave D., Suite D. ~ 254.742.2181

Oak Park United Methodist Church
5505 South 31st St. ~ 254.773.3021

St. Francis Episcopal Church & School
5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255

St. Luke's Catholic Church
2807 Oakdale Dr. ~ 254.773.1561

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1018 S 7th St. ~254.773.4541

Taylor's Valley Baptist Church
2497 W. FM 93 ~ 254.939.0503

Temple Bible Church
3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233

Temple First Church of the Nazarene
5000 S. 31st ~ 254.773.3744

Unity Church of Temple
318 N. 2nd ~ 254.770.0070

Vineyard Christian Fellowship
7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802

Vista Community Church
7051 Stonehollow Dr. ~ 254.774.7992

Wildwood Baptist Church
5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

A Gold Coin and a Grateful Heart



John C. Perry

This week, Sandra and I had the privilege of accompanying our daughter Jennifer and her husband Eric as they brought our granddaughter Hannah to begin her college journey at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas. Hannah will be playing softball for the Eagles, a new chapter for her, and a proud moment for all of us. Moving into a dorm usually means bracing for some heavy lifting, but this time, something felt different from the moment we pulled up. Before I could even grab a box, six or seven smiling students rushed toward us. “We’re here to move Hannah in,” they said cheerfully. And they meant it. These young volunteers carried every bag, every bin, every pillow,

with joy and purpose. I stood there, empty-handed, marveling at the welcome. Then came Freshman Orientation, and again, the tone surprised me. When I was in college, the message was simple: “Sink or swim, and we don’t care.” Back then, if a student struggled, they were on their own. But here, the staff and faculty spoke with conviction and care. Their goal wasn’t just to educate, it was to graduate, and to do it in four years. Repeatedly, they told students and families alike, “We’re committed to seeing your child walk across that stage.” And they back it up. Free one-on-one tutoring. Extended faculty office hours. Advisors who meet with students twice a week. Even though their graduation rate is 10% above the national average, they’re not satisfied, they’re still striving to do better. The campus itself is a gem, nestled in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains. But what truly sets it apart is the heart behind it. The Christian foundation isn’t just a label, it’s a living presence. You feel it in the warmth of the staff, the sincerity of the faculty, and the way they speak about students not as

numbers, but as young people entrusted to their care. The day ended in the university’s historic chapel with a Matriculation Ceremony. Each freshman received a gold coin and was invited to commit to a set of standards. Faculty pledged to support them. Then, one by one, each student was called to the stage, introduced, and asked to drop their coin into a wooden box, a symbol of their commitment to graduate. They’ll receive it back when they do. It was simple. It was sacred. And yes, it brought tears. What we witnessed was more than a college, it was a community. A place where students are known, supported, and loved. A place where faith and education walk hand in hand. And as we drove away, I couldn’t help but thank God for leading Hannah to this very special place. If you have a spare prayer this week, please lift-up Hannah, and a college that truly cares for its students: the University of the Ozarks.

John C. Perry is the Lay Leader with New Life Methodist Church. They meet every Sunday at 9 a.m. (Bible Study) and 10 a.m. (Worship Service) in the Salado Middle School at 1169 Williams Rd.



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EDITORIAL

Randomness

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Why is it called a refrigerator? The prefix “re” means to repeat or do something again. Usually, we put things into a refrigerator that are already cold. Although if you grocery shop in Texas in the summer I guess “re-cooling” something is accurate. But then why is half of that appliance a “re” something and the other half is just a plain old freezer? Doesn’t it refreeze things?

Another confusing appliance is the device you cook. Is it a stove, a range, a cooktop, or whatever? I guess range is probably the most common these days. Is it ironic that you might cook “free range” chicken on your kitchen range?

When you squeeze a tube of toothpaste to flatten out the end, with the lid on, when you open the top, it doesn’t squirt out. Actually, you end up with a void of toothpaste for a bit before you get back to the paste. And we still call it toothpaste yet about half of the time it is a gel.

I think most cars have a defroster setting. Wouldn’t it be more accurate and less confusing to call it an “un-froster?” I mean, if you think about it, you get into your vehicle in the morning, still half asleep, you haven’t had any coffee as of this point, and you have to decipher the meaning of “de” in front of a common word. We all know that “un” means to undo, so that makes a lot of sense; “I can’t see out of my rear window, it needs unfrosted...”

About “unfrosted”, perhaps that was the big improvement for shredded wheat. “Hey Bob, your new shredded wheat cereal is like eating straw and no one is buying it, how about if we coat one side with sugar and call them frosted

mini straw bundles, or something like that?” That did seem to work with corn flakes, once dull cereal spiced up, so to speak, with a nice frosting.

I drink my coffee black with nothing added, and often I prefer a less sweet breakfast, I feel better that way. Now when I was young, I really enjoyed a breakfast cereal known for staying crunchy all the way through, it was named after a pirate of sorts. Even in those days the sugar would get to me, but it didn’t really hit until the third bowl, that is if no one was watching.

Are pancakes just an excuse to have syrup? You do know that you can get more syrup on a waffle and it holds up better? Just a little helpful breakfast advice.

Is it fair that a centaur has six limbs? I mean we do quite well with four, although I guess

having a horse rear end following you around brings its own set of problems. I do think there would be some positive points about being a centaur. I am sure the downside is that people are always wanting to ride you, but at least you can speak where a horse can’t. Of all the potential combinations of a person and an animal I think I might come up with a better set than a horse and a man, how about a tiger, maybe a half man and killer whale that way you could just swim down and take a look at the Titanic without the hassle of getting into a suspect contraption.

Do you ever wonder what was in the water in Greece that had those folks coming up with all those mythical creatures?

Recently there was a news story about how some lunar scientists had identified a new crater on the moon as a potential crash site of a Russian spacecraft. We don’t have much to go on as far as arguing the point, I just don’t know the moon that well. However, can you imagine having such a dull life that you look at the moon and spot a new dent and then research what might have caused it? Perhaps that scientist needs to get outside a bit more.

Even if the Russian spacecraft crashed while trying to land, that is more than the US has done in the past few decades regarding the moon. We went and then just thought; “heck we didn’t leave anything there so why go back...”. Except that we did leave some things there, at the least an early version of a Tesla that now has four flats and long since dead batteries.

Have a week worth thinking about.

Why we love fall so much

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

Everywhere we look, we see evidence of autumn—from ads for pumpkin spice-flavored treats to the smell of newly-sharpened pencils to colorful leaves drifting to their resting places on the ground. This kaleidoscope of sensory pleasures has been scientifically proven to improve our moods. But this week, as I breathed in the (slightly) cooler air, I wondered why. What makes fall so special?

Then I googled it, and I was surprised to learn there’s science behind our love for this time of year!

The answer lies deep in our memories and is tied to *nostalgia*... specifically when it comes to our sense of smell. Research shows that scents provide powerful links to memories, especially memories from childhood. These aroma-connected memories are often more emotional and vivid than those brought on by words or images. This explains why the smell of chocolate-chip cookies, cinnamon, or freshly brewed coffee can transport us back to fond memories of family gatherings and childhood joy. Here are just a few specific reasons why fall is such a special time for many people:

New Beginnings: Autumn serves as a temporal landmark – a psychological flag that signifies change and new beginnings. The beginning of fall stirs up memories of a new school year and often prompts us to set goals, rethink priorities, or set up new routines. Even as adults, fall serves as a marker for

renewal and fresh starts.

Time in Nature: Spending time outdoors has benefits any time of year. It’s been linked to lowered stress, anxiety and depression. It also improves mood, focus, and creativity. But research tells us autumn offers extra benefits. One study showed that simply viewing pictures of colorful fall foliage calmed the brain and improved mood. And back to those smells — while the great outdoors offerearthy scents throughout the summer, the heat causes them to meld together like a big stew. Autumn’s cooler weather calms this mix down and allows individual smells to stand out. Whether we consciously realize it or not, our brains see this as an exciting challenge to identify the smells of pine, decaying leaves, and mushrooms. This results in an overall sense of grounding and comfort.

Social Traditions: Fall brings many societal traditions and opportunities for social connections. Bonfires, football games, hayrides, and Halloween parties often get us out of our routine and encourage time spent with family and friends. This brings a sense of belonging, which improves our resilience and decreases feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Comfort and Coziness: Cooler weather forces us to ditch the bathing suits and invites looser, more comfortable clothing. We’re not under so much stress to be beach-body perfect.

Instead, we’re encouraged to indulge in sweet treats and relish the soft fabric of a favorite sweater. This aligns with a Danish concept called *hygge*, which is the innate desire to seek out cozy, comfortable environments and experiences. This pursuit helps keep symptoms of SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) at bay by creating emotional warmth as the days grow cool and dark.

The fragrances, colors, and traditions of fall bring about more than just a change in seasons. They act as psychological markers for comfort and inspiration. This fall, I plan to take advantage of the emotional boost that comes with the season. I’ll spend time outdoors, join in seasonal events and celebrations, and bask in the cozy warmth of soft sweaters and cinnamon-scented treats. And I think I’ll start with a nice, tall cup of frothy pumpkin-pie-spice flavored calories.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

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**UMHB offers opportunities
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Special to the Journal

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) has several events on campus this week, including a One Voice concert, Cru Football’s first home game of the season, and an outdoor concert under the stars.

The College of Visual and Performing Arts’ first guest artist of the fall is The Concert Truck.

This traveling music venue strengthens communities by redefining the concert experience, making live music accessible to everyone. The outdoor concert is at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4, on Moore Ave. Some seating will be provided, but guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs to enjoy a night of live music under the stars. Tickets are not required, and the event is

free.

On Saturday, Sept. 6, at 3 p.m., as part of UMHB’s Family Weekend, One Voice will perform in the Baugh Performance Hall located in the Sue & Frank Mayborn Performing Arts Center. Tickets are not required, and the event is free.

To learn more about these musical performances, visit www.umhb.edu/cvpa.

Also on Saturday, Sept. 6, the Cru Football team kicks off at 6 p.m. against Bethel University for the first home football game of the season in Crusader Stadium. To learn more about this game and other upcoming events, visit www.cruathletics.com.

To learn more about Family Weekend, visit www.umhb.edu/familyweek-end.



Courtesy Photo

The Sue & Frank Mayborn Performing Arts Center will be the setting for a free concert on Saturday, Sept. 6.

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Belton goes undefeated at Academy Tournament, wins title

By **Tony Adams**
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers volleyball team had the opportunity to play a pre-district tournament close to home this past weekend against solid competition.

The Tigers took part in the 2025 Little River Academy Tournament, located at Academy High School and Academy Middle School.

Belton played six matches, and won all six while just dropping one game, to capture the tournament championship.

On Thursday, the Tigers played in Pool B of the tournament at Academy Middle School.

Belton defeated Moody 25-11 and 25-17 in the opening of pool play. CJ Stites had a handful of kills for the Tigers, as they used smart play up front and good, aerial ball movement to establish dominance over the Bearcats.

The Tigers took on the Robinson Rockets to finish pool action.

Belton endured several Robinson rallies, and forced several key mistakes to defeat the Rockets, 25-17 and 25-21.

Brylee Renegar, Malu Pula, Miley Davila and Landry Duggan stepped up to help the Tigers' success in the Thursday pool.

"I was proud of the way they played in

both games," Belton assistant coach Jayna Parker said. "They moved the ball around well, and made very few mistakes."

On Friday, the Tigers played in the top pool against Little River Academy and Shoemaker in the newest edition of The Hive, which opened in the fall of 2024.

Belton went three rounds with the hosts and outlasted the Bumblebees, 2-1.

The final game on Friday pitted the Tigers against Killeen Shoemaker.

The Tigers cut the Grey Wolves off from any momentum and swept Shoemaker, 2-0. The scores of the contest were 25-13 and 25-9.

In the Saturday tournament semifinal, the Tigers played a rematch against Robinson.

The Rockets gave the Tigers a test late, but Belton held off the late push to sweep Robinson. The scores of the match were 25-15 and 27-25.

The win set up the tournament final between Belton and Gatesville.

Tigers played an excellent match where the rotations communicated harmoniously in a 2-0 sweep of the Hornets. Scores of the championship match were 25-17 and 25-22.

Stites and Davila were named to the All-Tournament Team, with Stites having earned her second All-Tournament Team honor of the season.



With AMC in rear view, Broncos set sights on McNeil

By **Tony Adams**
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos are on the mend after a physical matchup against A&M Consolidated last Friday.

The Broncos had several opportunities in the first half of their 44-17 loss to the Tigers.

"We had our chances in the first half and needed to capitalize," Lake Belton head coach Brian Cope said. "Between the turnovers and getting stopped on first down, that put us behind. On defense, we allowed too many big plays because we did not execute what was called. We have to get back to not pressing and doing our job to the best of our ability. The

special teams were good all night. We have areas to improve but we won that which was a positive out of the night."

It has been often said that a team's biggest improvement comes from between game one and two. Lake had 165 passing yards, with Maverik Maddux was 6-of-18 for 90 yards, a touchdown and an interception, and Reese Rosenbaum going 7-of-7 for 75 yards. Zion Harness caught seven passes for 123 yards and a touchdown.

The Broncos earned just 52 yards on 30 carries. Arrington Alexander led the way with 46 yards on 10 carries and a touchdown.

See **LAKE**,
Page B3

Broncos challenged at Volleypalooza, sweeps Robinson

By **Tony Adams**
The Belton Journal

The 2025 Volleypalooza Tournament in Round Rock was a challenging three days that Lake Belton volleyball head coach Allison Waits knew was going to be a tough time no matter how she and the Broncos looked at it.

"There were teams from all over the nation at the tournament," Waits said. "We had played 5A and 6A teams from all over the state coming in. But it was an entirely different level altogether.

In the tournament's opening day, Lake Belton was pooled together with Mount St. Mary out of Oklahoma City, Katy Tompkins, and Liberty

Hill.

MSM defeated the Broncos in the opener, 25-21 and 25-19. Tompkins nipped the Broncos in the second match, 25-19 and 25-22. Liberty Hill handed Lake Belton their third pool loss of the day, 25-19 and 25-14.

Day two of pool play was no easier. Rockwall swept the Broncos, 25-15 and 25-21. Lake battled Clear Springs hard but was swept 25-21 and 25-22. The Broncos ended pool play in the win column against Lago Vista, 25-15 and 25-22.

The Broncos led off play on Saturday with a matchup against the Stony Point Tigers. Lake bounced back from a rough start to trip the Tigers

2-1, by scores of 11-25, 25-20, and 25-21.

Lake Belton faced Westwood to finish the tournament and finished the match with a sweep by scores of 25-15 and 25-22.

Madison Bingham logged her 2,000th career assist on Friday.

The Broncos finished Volleypalooza with a 3-5 record, and a three-game winning streak. It set them up well for a matchup against the Robinson Rockets on the road.

The Rockets had come off a 5-2 mark at the Little River Academy Tournament, with the Belton Tigers handing Robinson both losses. The Tigers won on Thursday 25-17 and 25-21, and in the

tournament semifinal on Saturday, 25-15 and 27-25.

The Broncos jumped out to big leads in all three games, fought off Rocket rallies in the final two games, and pulled off the road sweep, 3-0. Scores of the match were 25-14, 25-19, and 25-23.

Lake led 13-6 in game one, with Kaitlyn Hutchins and Ava Wood earning a handful of kills and Bingham and Natalia Partida picking up key assists. The Broncos overpowered the Rockets, as they lead by as many as 13 points.

Game two was much of the same, although Robinson sliced away at a 16-9 margin with six straight points. It was 20-19 when Abbi Jones' kill highlighted a 5-0 run to give Lake a six-point win in game two.

The Rockets never led by more than one point over the course of the three games, and it happened just three times: at the beginning of the match, the beginning of game three, and 23-22 in the third game. Lake closed out the game with three straight points to seal the sweep.


"We got a little bit slow in our game, in our pace of game," Waits said. "We got to use some players in different positions that we wanted to see them in. With that, we lost some of our team chemistry. But we finished it out. I would have loved to have finished it out in a little different way."

Lake Belton is now 14-11 in the season following their win at Robinson.



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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Lady Tigers traveled to Killeen on Tuesday and earned a straight-set victory against the host Lady Kangaroos, winning 25-11, 25-23, 25-10.

Leading 14-0 in the opening set, Belton embarked on an 11-1 run to conclude the set as senior outside hitter C.J. Stites and sophomore hitter Malu Pula accounted for two kills apiece, while senior Landry Duggan served up a pair of aces during the stretch.

The second set saw the Lady Tigers build a 19-15 advantage before the Lady Kangaroos rallied, claiming a 23-21 lead and forcing Belton to call a timeout.

The decision paid off as the Lady Tigers won the next four points to take a 2-0 lead in the match before cruising to a one-sided decision in the third set.

With the victory, Belton improves to 20-9 on the season as it prepares for Friday’s home match versus China Spring. The varsity encounter is scheduled to start at 5 p.m.

The Lady Tigers remain at home Tuesday, hosting Georgetown East View at 6:30 p.m.

WRESTLING

Belton recently released its schedule for the upcoming season, and the Tigers and Lady Tigers open by hosting Waco Midway on Nov. 12 before traveling to Azle for a two-day meet beginning Nov. 20.

Belton ISD venues will host six more events before Belton High serves as the site for the District 6-5A meet Jan. 28.

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.



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travel to broaden your horizons or stay close to home, volunteering your time in your community? The path you choose has financial implications, such as the amount of money you’ll need to withdraw from your retirement accounts.

Even your health is part of your financial outlook. If you ever need some type of expensive long-term care, you’ll need to plan for it.

Look at your situation holistically — when creating a lifetime financial strategy, every part of your life matters.

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

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Tigers travel to Pflugerville to avenge loss from 2024 campaign

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Tigers’ revenge tour is set to make its second stop.

One year ago, Belton suffered through seven consecutive defeats before finally celebrating its first victory, which helped propel the Tigers into the playoffs for a fourth straight season.

While the campaign concluded in the postseason, there was plenty of disappointment along the way, and Belton has not forgotten the experience.

Last week, the Tigers avenged one of their losses, traveling to The Pfield, where they defeated Pflugerville Hendrickson 21-17 thanks in part to a pair of late touchdowns. In 2024, the Hawks earned a 14-0 win in the encounter.

Friday, Belton attempts to do it again.

The Tigers kickoff their contest at Georgetown at 7 p.m. with the hopes of altering the result from last year, when they fell to the Eagles by 29 points, 39-10.

Georgetown is coming off a one-sided 27-0 victory at Victoria East, but Belton has momentum as well.

After entering the fourth quarter against Hendrickson trailing 10-7, the Tigers both captured and lost the lead in the final minutes with junior quarterback Will Shepard finding senior running back Gino Zecca for a game-winning 16-yard touchdown with 76 seconds remaining in regulation.

Shepard delivered a go-ahead touchdown on a two-yard run, giving Belton a 14-10 cushion with 4:53 left in the fourth quarter, but Hendrickson immediately responded with a 70-yard scoring drive to reclaim a 17-14 lead just 51 seconds later, setting the stage for the Tigers’ dramatic drive.

Shepard completed 20 of 32 passes for 213 yards and two touchdowns with junior receiver Gavin Ross accounting for a dozen catches for 146 yards and a score. On the ground,

See **FOOTBALL**,
Page B3



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Belton ISD Cross Country teams in full stride as season continues

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

A friendly rivalry is blossoming. Over the course of the season’s first few weeks, a pair of Belton ISD sophomores have established themselves as two of the area’s top runners, and last week, they proved why.

Lake Belton standout Lucy Loa and Belton harrier Isabella Warner finished within three spots of each other at Friday’s Temple Pro-Fit Invitational, situating themselves within the ultra competitive field’s top 15.

Racing along a three-mile course at Temple’s James Wilson Park, Warner completed the trek in 20 minutes, 57.7 seconds to place 11th overall, while Loa was 14th with a time of 21:20.6.

Loa’s performance propelled the Lady Broncos to a fifth-place showing in the Class 5A-6A division, scoring 117 points to finish behind Georgetown East View (4th, 105) in the final standings.

Her outing was complemented by junior teammates Sarah Gray (19th, 21:46.6), Jenna Benedick (24th, 21:59.0) and Madelyn Rivas (29th,

22:34.3), who were all in the top 30, and sophomore Alayna Fulton (35th, 22:59.3).

The remainder of the Lady Tigers’ points were produced by junior Nataly Valdez (39th, 23:12.1), junior Roxanna Delgado (47th, 23:35.4), senior Destiny Schutz (57th, 23:59.8) and freshman Ayla Wakershauser (68th, 24:12.7).

Additionally, Lake Belton sophomore Elizabeth Sandlin (37th, 23:07.9), sophomore Claire Henn (42nd, 23:23.2), senior Clara Hill (50th, 23:44.8), freshman Emyle Love (51st, 23:45.9) and senior Isabela Romero (55th, 23:50.8) and Belton sophomore Ai Kirkland (82nd, 24:58.3), junior Temperance Nunn (83rd, 25:00.7), sophomore Madyson Hartnett (87th, 25:08.5) and freshman Ella Johnson (92nd, 25:32.6) also competed, but their times did not count toward their team’s total.

Also racing for the Lady Tigers as individuals was sophomore Lilian Baggett (59th, 24:01.8), junior Fancy Jamie (72nd, 24:28.1), senior Gabrielle Lewis (109th, 28:04.4) and senior Joan Peninger (115th, 32:02.6).

Salado claimed the team title with

33 points, beating out Round Rock McNeil (2nd, 47) and Temple (3rd, 92).

In the boys division, McNeil (1st, 76), Salado (2nd, 100) and Georgetown East View (3rd, 109) occupied the top three spots, while Lake Belton and Belton followed at 11th (289) and 12th (296), respectively.

Broncos junior Wyatt Potts paced his team with a 36th-place time of 17:50.2, while the quartet of junior Jack McCullagh (64th, 18:43.0), junior Josiah Briggs (66th, 18:46.5), sophomore Cooper Schlesinger (70th, 18:49.4) and sophomore Tyler Adkins-Beltran (71st, 18:51.2) completed the course within 10 seconds of each other.

Lake Belton also saw junior Austin Adams (76th, 19:09.5), freshman Drew Houston (77th, 19:09.5), senior Leonardo Piedra (97th, 19:50.4) and sophomore Efren Romero-Meza compete.

The Tigers’ top five finishers were junior Jose Perez-Diaz (43rd, 18:08.5), junior Ezra Kaylee (50th, 18:27.8), senior Paul Maringathuparambil (53rd, 18:32.1), junior Hayden Brown (85th, 19:25.7) and junior Alexander

Castelan (87th, 19:34.8).

Additional participants for Belton were freshman Luke Roberts (88th, 19:35.7), sophomore Nelson Funez (108th, 20:16.5), senior Daniel Arroyo (109th, 20:18.3) and senior Corbin Ramesar (110th, 20:20.7).

Belton and Lake Belton return to action today, traveling for the Waco Midway Invitational.

NEW TECH

The Dragons and Lady Dragons were also in attendance, but neither fielded a complete team.

In the Class 1A-4A boys division, freshman David Martinez finished the three-mile race 99th, and he was followed by teammates Daniel Zubaty (113th) and Zorian Hajduk (134th).

Lady Dragons freshman Ellie Megoulloa produced her team’s best time, completing the two-mile course in 16:30.0, while senior Claire Thomas (89th, 16:41.7), sophomore Daniella Idumebor (129th, 19:11.9) and freshman Ileana Antolak (140th, 21:35.0) also competed.

New Tech will attempt to build on the performance at today’s Waco Midway Invitational.

Lake - From Page B1

“We have to be able to run the ball better,” Cope said. “We also are already pretty banged up going into the second game, so we will need players to step up. On defense, it comes back to doing our job on each and every play and we must tackle better.”

The McNeil Mavericks are the Broncos next opponent at Gupton Stadium on Thursday. The Mavericks were doubled up by the Weiss Wolves last Thursday, 56-28.

Weiss scored 35 second-half points, including 28 unanswered on three TD passes from Jaxon Schad and a fumble recovery. Despite seven turnovers, the Mavericks ran for 172 yards and four touchdowns. Jarrell Gary had 64 yards and a score, Aden Taylor rushed for 56 yards and two touchdowns, and receiver Zach Christie had 105 yards on eight catches.

“They are electric on offense,” Cope said. “We have to manage the big play and get them into obvious

passing downs. They have multiple running backs and multiple receivers and all of it is out of the same personnel package.

The Mavericks held up well against a prolific Weiss offense before the Wolves scored at will in the final quarter.

“They run the Iowa State 3-3 defense with three high safeties,” Cope said. “It is built to stop spread offenses. So, we have to be able to handle them up front to win. It will come down to how well we can

run the football.”

In Cope’s point of view, a focus on execution will be a major key on Thursday night.

“We must become disciplined with our execution,” Cope said. “Last Friday, the schemes were good, but the execution was not. We have a short week, and great opportunity to have a short-term memory and move on. We are looking forward to a fun night.”



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Football - From Page B2

junior running back Jarvis Planz led the attack with 21 carries for 76 yards.

While everything ended in Belton’s favor, things did not look promising early in the contest, which took some time to begin.

Lightning delays began affecting the game about an hour before its scheduled kickoff, and after a pair of suspensions, players made their way to the field for warmups.

Then, with just five minutes until the game was set to start, another lightning delay literally sent teams from inside their inflatable tunnels back inside their respective locker rooms.

Approximately 40 minutes later, the contest began, and immediately, the Tigers were in trouble.

Hawks senior Trevor Morgan returned the open-

ing kickoff 88 yards for a touchdown, giving his team a 7-0 advantage with only 12 seconds elapsed from the clock.

Belton responded by forcing a turnover on downs and recovering a fumble, but the Tigers were unable to generate enough offense to reach the end zone and went into the second period trailing by seven points.

Hendrickson added to its advantage on its first drive of the quarter as senior kicker Brennan Mercado sent a 35-yard field goal attempt through the uprights.

Moments later, however, Belton ended its drought.

After a Hawks’ penalty on fourth down kept the Tigers’ drive alive, Shepard found Ross for a 41-yard touchdown with 5:08 sec-

onds remaining in the half.

Maintaining the momentum will be difficult, though, as Belton has only defeated Georgetown twice since 2004 with the last time occurring in 2021, when then-sophomore quarterback Ty Brown completed 18 of 22 passes for 269 yards and four touchdowns in a 35-31 win.

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EDITORIAL

Makeup Mirrors and Graveyards

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

“Every man should have a fair-sized cemetery in which to bury the faults of his friends.”
-- Henry Brooks Adams

I have no idea who Henry Brooks Adams is, but the guy made a great point.
When I was in college, I had a lighted makeup mirror. It had a border of bright lights and the mirror could be switched to a magnifier. All I can say now is “ugh” about the thought of magnification. Every little line, pore, and blemish—I can’t hide from what I see.
The same is true with friendship. The more time we spend with someone, I can say with 100% certainty that we’ll see flaws and faults we didn’t notice at first. Just like looking in the mirror, we can’t miss those imperfections. They’re magnified. We can’t escape the reflection of truth. And sooner or later, lest we get smug and congratulate ourselves at what

a wonderful friend we are, we end up showing own faults for our friends to see.
So it shouldn’t surprise me when friends show me their faults, and I should head out to the cemetery that Mr. Adams speaks of. I should shoulder my shovel, drag my friend’s offending fault behind me, and start shoveling.
When digging, say, “I know this is my friend’s fault/flip. Because they are my friend and I love them, I will bury this fault and won’t keep it with me. I choose not to hold this against them.” We are all works in progress, and our friends remind us of this without saying a word.
Sometimes small offenses can pile up over time, and before we know it, we’re lugging a wheelbarrow full of them around with us.
One friend or another has misspoken or treated us carelessly, and we never make that trip to bury their fault. This can damage friendships over time, even small things.
Recently I have learned just that. Someone had offended me, not in a large way, but in a series of “offenses” that have piled up. I lugged the pile around for far longer than I should have. I still see it, in the corner, not quite buried yet.

On the other hand, I am also reminded that my own faults can irritate, or worse, injure my friends. But this is what friends are for--not to be injured, but to remind us of where we fall short. Friends are the ones who will not hold our faults against us. Instead, our friends will simply hug us, pick up their shovel, and head for the graveyard of forgiveness where our faults are buried.
Some good questions to ask:
Am I carrying reminders of my friend’s faults?
Do I need to forgive my friend’s offenses or bury irritations?
Am I the one who needs to think before I speak and/or act?
Am I thinking of what I want, more than what is important to my friend?
Do I need to ask forgiveness from my friend?
Maybe asking those questions of ourselves is overthinking things (just a little), but true friends can be scarce in this world, and we do well when we take care of those friendships.
The writer of Proverbs said it well:
“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

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

Stand and Never Yield!

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

To quote author Ben Thompson, “From both a military and a civilian capacity, it’s hard to argue with the statement that Rick Rescorla is one of the greatest heroes in modern American history.”
At the age of 16, Rescorla, a native of Cornwall in the United Kingdom, quit school to join the British military. After training as a paratrooper, he was sent to Cyprus, where he served in a military intelligence unit during the EOKA Cypriot Insurgency. From there, he was shipped off to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where he served as a paramilitary police inspector. While serving in both locations, he found himself engaged in direct combat with Communist-backed forces.
It was in Rhodesia that he met Dan Hill, an American mercenary helping to fight the insurgency. Hill convinced Rescorla to return with him to America and enlist in the military. Due to his prior military experience, after he finished basic training he was immediately sent to officer candidate school. Upon completion, he was assigned to the 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).
The 7th, in turn, was assigned to Ia Drang, the first major American battle of the war.
For most of the men under his command, it was their first taste of action. But Rescorla, by this time, was an experienced veteran. He knew what needed to be done, and he did it.
As he personally dug foxholes and cleared brush, Rescorla began singing a mix of old Cornish folk songs. This was the tonic his soldiers needed, as his calmness while performing even mundane duties under immediate threat of enemy action brought order and courage back to the unit. Not only did he and his men eventually repulse four large-scale North Vietnamese offensives within a two-hour period, as soon as the sun came up Rescorla (who had gone more than 48 hours without sleep) ordered his men to fix bayonets. The enemy forces were soon driven before them.
But this wasn’t the end of the fighting for his unit. While his unit was being evacuated, Rescorla heard that the main body of the battalion was being hit by a heavy offensive. He responded by ordering the helicopter pilot to turn around so that he and his men could engage.
Rescorla ultimately retired from the Army Reserve in 1990, eventually becoming director of security for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, which was headquartered in the World Trade Center. When a truck bomb hit the facility in 1993, Rescorla evacuated the offices; he was the last person out of the building.
Sadly, this proved to merely be a dress rehearsal for 9/11.
When the first plane hit, Rescorla went right back into action. He grabbed a bullhorn, went across all twenty floors of the company’s offices, rallied the employees, and – despite being in his sixties and dying of cancer – led them down the stairs, once more signing old Cornish songs as he did so. He was last seen going back in to check for others when the tower went down. Of the 2,700 company employees who were there that day, all but 6 made it out.
Cyprus. Rhodesia. Vietnam. The World Trade Center. No matter the situation, he was a professional. His courage, skill, determination, and calmness in the face of grave danger ensured that thousands of others would live.
Godspeed.
“Men of Cornwall stop your dreaming, Can’t you see their spearpoints gleaming?, See their warriors’ pennants streaming, To this battlefield. Men of Cornwall stand ye steady, It cannot be ever said ye for the battle were not ready Stand and never yield!”

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LEGALS

Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day here-of, 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 August 26, 2025.
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480 ,1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Sophia Nieto Deputy
09.04

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION-PARENT AND CHILD

To: Nicholas Edmonds, any Unknown Father and All Whom It May Concern, Respondents, in the hereinafter-styled and -numbered cause: 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 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The Motion of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, on February 19, 2025, against Ashley Zachary, Nicholas Edmonds,, Derrick Wooley, who is deceased, Nathaniel Barrs, Respondent(s), numbered 22DFAM334673, and entitled “In the Interest of ARMANI ZACHARY, et al., minor children.” The suit requests to appoint a managing conservator of the children. The date and place of birth of the children who are the subject of the suit are: ARMANI ZACHARY, DOB: June 30, 2016, Place of birth: Unknown, DRAYLIN WOOLEY, DOB: May 7, 2019, Place of birth: Unknown, MALAHKI BARRS, DOB: July 7, 2021, Place of birth: Unknown
The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the children’s interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child’s adoption.
The name and address of the attorney for plaintiff is Harold Hardy II, Bell County Attorney’s Office, P.O. Box 1127, Belton, TX 76513
Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the 26 day of August 2025
Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, TX 76513
By: C. Rodrigues Deputy 09.04

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LYNNWOOD M. JOHNSON, III aka LYNNWOOD MURAT JOHNSON, III, Deceased, were issued on July 29, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00424, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: SALLY JOHNSON. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required

LEGALS

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 25 day of Aug. 2025.
ASHLEY CLAPPER, CORBIN, STAPLER & CLAPPER, PC, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541, Tel: (254) 526-4523, Fax: (254) 526-6711,
By: 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 SALLY JOHNSON
09.04

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00542

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
JABARA M. WILLIAMS, Applicant, on August 26, 2025, filed an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in a proceeding styled: NELSON JUNIOR WILLIAMS aka NELSON J. WILLIAMS, JR., Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00542 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 04, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it. Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is:
KAREN VILLANUEVA, 2106 BIRD CREEK DR, TEMPLE TX 76502
The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on August 26, 2025.
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road ,Belton, TX 76513
By: Sophia Nieto Deputy
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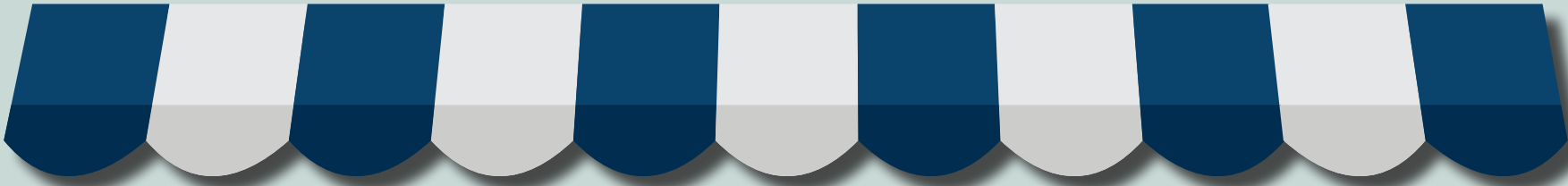
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Tips for starting a home-based business

Starting a home-based business can be a viable way to gain financial independence and pursue a passion. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, 50 percent of all businesses start at home. The SBA also reports that 60 percent of all businesses without staff are home-based.

While the process of starting a home-based business may seem daunting, it can be broken down into manageable steps. Here's how to navigate the journey successfully.

- Identify a business idea. Individuals can assess their skills and passions as a starting off point for developing a home-based business. Then these passions can be paired with market research to determine if there is sufficient demand for the product or service.
- Consider feasibility. It's important to evaluate if a business idea can be realistically run from home. Certain business ideas, such as freelance writing, are much more conducive to being done from home than a wedding catering business.
- Compile a business plan. Every business should have a well written and concise business plan. A plan should include a summary of the mission and goals of the business, a detailed description of the business and its legal structure, target audience, a clear explanation of what is being offered to customers, and an estimate of costs, income and expenses.
- Set it up legally. Even though the business may be home-based, this doesn't mean one should take shortcuts around the proper channels for establishing the business. Decide if the business will be a sole

proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, or a corporation. These designations come with different implications for taxes, liability and administrative complexity. Next, register the business name with the appropriate agencies. An Employer Identification Number likely will be needed for U.S.-based businesses. Licenses and permits, including a sales tax permit if products will be sold, also may be required.

- Secure your finances. Decide what capital will be used to start the business, whether it is personal funds or from investors or a loan. Also, it is wise to open a dedicated business bank account and credit card to help separate personal and business finances. This will make accounting and filing taxes easier.
 - Reassess insurance policies. One might consider business liability insurance to protect assets and the home from potential risks. A home insurance policy may not cover business-related incidents, even if they are at home.
 - Develop a marketing strategy. As with any business, a home-based business requires a marketing plan. Develop a strategy to promote the business and reach the target market.
 - Retrofit the home. While many home-based businesses can work seamlessly without home modifications, others may require some changes and a dedicated space. Assess needs and then make changes accordingly.
- Home-based businesses can be viable ways to make money and turn a passion into a profession.

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