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Polka, pints and plenty of fun at Polka on the Square



BELTON JOURNAL/Christopher Winston

Dressed in traditional German attire, a festival goer and his partner share a dance, during Polka on the Square.

By Jack Freedman
The Belton Journal

The City of Belton held its second annual Polka on the Square festival kicking off the month of October. From Oct. 9 to 10, Belton residents gathered around the Bell County Courthouse to eat good food and dance to the music of live polka bands from across the state. The event was free and open to the public.

The event had a wide variety of food vendors, many of which sold Bavarian-inspired foods such as bratwurst and schnitzel. Many of the local breweries present from Bacon, Blues and Brews returned. It was not uncommon to see both vendors and attendees wearing German attire. There were several different spectacles, including a stein holding contest, a petting zoo, and a broadcast of the Texas-Oklahoma football game on Saturday.

"This is our first time coming to one of these, and we really enjoyed it," Jo Parker, who came with her husband Don Parker, said. "I think that they should keep having these."

"I grew up on this kind of music, so it's nice to be here," Don said. "We really love German culture." Both Parkers came with their family, including their granddaughters.

Over the weekend, a variety of people from different age groups showed up, with many of the attendees being senior citizens. Despite this, there were still plenty of families with children who showed up and others who came with their dogs.

"It's my first time at one of these, and I had fun," Shelby Galarneau, an attendee, said. "It's good to see people dancing and having a good time. I didn't do any dancing, but I did compete in the stein holding competition."

There were a total of six bands who per-

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THE BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman

A welcoming table for Hope Mommies for all the families that attended the event.

Recognition and fellowship helping families heal

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Hope Mommies Central Texas Chapter hosted a Wave of Light special event, honoring families who have experienced pregnancy and infant loss. The event took place Saturday, Oct. 10, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Heritage Park.

A picnic dinner was followed by a ceremony, with tea light candles in mason jars. Hope Mommies is a non-profit designed to support mothers and their families who've experienced miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss, with the hope of seeing their babies in eternity.

Lisa Morgan, the chapter president, was on hand to welcome moms and their families. There was a table set with mason jars, tea light candles, and craft paper so participants could fill their own jar in memory of their baby or babies.

Morgan said, "The heart of Hope Mommies is giving that place for Hope Mommies going through the loss and to bring the people who want to come around them. It's a full circle effect that they're surrounded by that care and that love."

Cristen Simcox, a young mom, said, "It's my first event with this group. It's hard, but good. It's just really meaningful to have other moms in the area who know what you're going through and understand the emotional ups and downs that come with it, and having that sup-

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Council OKs proclamation policy, hears project review

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Belton City Council approved a new proclamation policy during Tuesday night's regular meeting.

According to City Clerk Amy M Casey, the city regularly receives requests from community organizations, businesses, schools and individuals to recognize special events, causes, historical milestones, and community achievements through the issuance of proclamations.

Proclamations provide the Mayor David Leigh and the City Council with an opportunity to recognize and celebrate individuals, organizations, events, and causes that contribute to the Belton community. Casey's Office has developed a formal Proclamation Policy to establish a consistent and transparent process for reviewing, preparing, approving, and presenting proclamations.

The new policy establishes guidelines for:

Submitting and processing proclamation requests;

Determining whether a request is appropriate for City recognition;

Establishing reasonable deadlines for requests;

Providing consistent criteria for the issuance of proclamations; and

Coordinating the presentation of proclamations at City Council meetings.

This new policy is intended to provide consistency in the city's response to proclamation requests while allowing the mayor discretion in determining which matters receive official recognition.

"The adoption of the policy provides requestors with a clear understanding of the city's process and ex-

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Former Tiger athlete gives back to the community through The Cages

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal



Courtesy photo

The ribbon cutting for The Cages Belton held on Sept 17.

While the Belton Tigers' athletics program spans over 100 years, many athletes have given back to the community in many endeavors. The Douglas family has always been instrumental in giving back to the community, whether in the classroom or on the field.

Jillian Douglas-Kinsey has had a passion for athletics since she began to walk. Playing baseball and softball as a child, the diamonds were always the backdrop of her athletic accomplishments.

A standout athlete for the Belton Tigers Softball, Douglas can be seen around the area. Whether it is helping coach her daughter in softball practice or games or serving as a Texas Association of Sports Officials referee (15-year veteran) for volleyball, Jillian is never far from a court or a field.

"I played boy's baseball first before mom and dad moved me over to softball whenever the boys started making fun of me," Kinsey said. "At age 8, I played travel team, did all of that, and went to the national tournament in Chattanooga, TN, for 10U. Then, I played through high school, was on the Belton Softball team. I played on the club team at Baylor, but chose not to pursue a collegiate career. I wanted to become a student and have a life outside of sports."

Her husband, Deshon, was a Mary Hardin-Baylor Football standout.

The Kinseys opened a new facility called The Cages Belton at 12211 W. Adams Ave. The ribbon cutting for the facility was held on Thursday, Sept. 17.

"I have always wanted an opportunity to be engaged in a project like this," Kinsey said. "I grew up going to Strike Zone with Mike Ward. Ever since then, it has always been in my system to give back to the community and provide an indoor facility. We do not have many of those around here to where teams and individuals can practice. I was able to find the right space and was able to get all of the financials together."

The business is not only the idea of giving back to the community: it is to honor her father, the late Chuck Douglas. Coach Douglas spent many years in Belton ISD, served as a coach and educator, an TASO official, and as a color analyst in Belton Tigers Football radio broadcasts.

"My dad was a baseball coach at Belton and Mary Hardin-Baylor," Kinsey said. "So, we grew up with a net in our back yard. We spent a lot of time out there. He would pitch to us, he would throw at us, and we would throw at him.

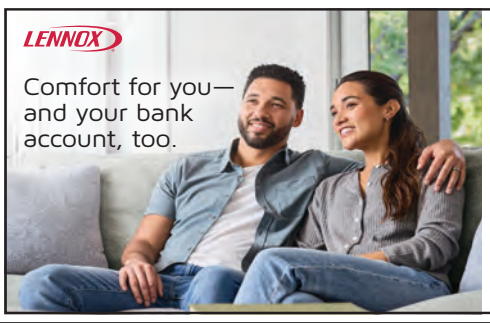
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Courtesy Photo

Cynthia Hernandez, executive director of the Belton Economic Development Corporation, was recognized with the City of Belton's 25 Years of Service award during a farewell reception at Tirza as she concludes her tenure and begins a new chapter in her career.

Temple Christmas Parade applications being accepted

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

It's not quite beginning to look like Christmas, but preparations for the grand holiday are under way. The city of Temple, for instance, is already accepting applications for the 80th annual Christmas Parade set for Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The parade is held in downtown Temple, but entries from across the area will be featured.

The theme for this year's parade is "An 80s Christmas," and it invites participants to showcase creativity with festive displays, designs, bright lights and music.

The deadline to enter is **Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 5 p.m.**, and to submit an application, visit **discover-temple.com/parade.**

All entries must reflect a holiday there or the designated parade theme, and should not be commercial.

Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. To participate, applicants must complete an online application, pay the entry fee and sign a waiver of liability.

According to Lauren Spears, a public relations specialist with Temple, all entries are eligible to be judged and compete for prizes, though participation in judging is optional. Additionally, for the safety of attendees and participants, pets are not allowed.

"The entry fee for commercial and retail businesses is $70," Spears said. "All other entries, including residents, churches, private schools, non-profit organizations, service clubs and professional organizations, are $40."

"Tax-supported entities such as public schools, military and police and fire departments may enter at no cost unless they wish to be judged, in which case a $40 judging fee will apply," she added.

Entries may also request one additional 40-foot space for $40. Space is limited to a maximum of two total spaces (80 feet). Any entry requiring more than 80 feet must contact parade organizers directly to discuss accommodations.

A Christmas tradition in Central Texas

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal



Courtesy Photo

CTMS connecting with the audience through impactful choral music.

Central Texas Master Singers (CTMS), led by Founder Steven Kirkpatrick, will perform their 17th Christmas concert with an orchestra the weekend of Dec. 5 and 6. *The Glorias of Christmas* will be their largest assembly of singers since 2020 with over 30 members.

Performing twenty-two anthems, the all-volunteer choir will sing for 90 minutes. Three performances will be held over the two days, two at Immanuel Baptist Church in Temple and one at First Baptist Church in Cameron.

Founder Kirkpatrick sums up the mission and vision as "enriching lives through choral music."

Kirkpatrick said, "Most traditional classically trained Choirs appear to sing for you. We want to sing to you. We want to make an impact by making a connection and having a direct relationship between the singers and the audience. We believe the anthems are not merely stories, but direct messages at certain times of a person's life. Much of the music we sing is direct biblical text."

An audience member from the 2024 Christmas concert names Valerie H. said, "As always, beautifully done and quite moving. I loved the interactions with the audience and the director. Especially enjoyed seeing the next generation."

Sound recording is by Randy Sapp from Colorado, and Symphony professionals are hired for the performances. Kirkpatrick said, "Most of them are high school teachers and college professors, and middle school band directors. And I have student musicians. My son will play some percussion for us this Christmas."

CTMS has families that return year after year to hear the choral music, some flying from out of state. But the singers have reasons to return as well.

Kathy Pershalo, the piano player, said, "The joy of the Lord empowers my life when I play for this group."

Kayla Winkler, member since 2013, said, "The faithfulness of the choir members to learn their music and commit it to memory is one of the factors that enhances what Master Singers does. There is something in the music for every singer, every instrumentalist, and every member of the audience. I am thankful I have invested in such a quality chorus, and have had the opportunity to share it with so many great individuals."

Carla Heinchon, choir member, said, "Connecting with the people who come to our concerts is something truly special. There are moments when that connection brings me to tears. It is incredibly humbling when someone approaches me after a concert and tells me they could feel the joy I had while singing."

Joshua LaRosee, choir member, said, "For the past ten years with Central Texas Master Singers, I have enjoyed being part of something larger than myself. I have been blessed to be working alongside highly motivated and skilled performers. I look forward to seeing where our organization grows from here."

Kirkpatrick began as a choir director at fourteen years old. He was a choir director for many years when he met Dr. Gary Bonner, who was at California Baptist University and his church's choir director. Kirkpatrick joined The Bonner Singers in 2008. A handful of The Bonner Singers are part of CTMS.

Choir members are as young as pre-teen and reach into their 80s. Looking to grow the orchestra to over 50 members, interested parties can inquire about auditions by calling 254-258-6844. Rehearsals and auditions are held Monday nights from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

To purchase tickets visit centraltexasmastersingers.com, or call Steven Kirkpatrick at 254-258.6844, Emily Kirkpatrick at 254-654-215, or Remax at 254-933-0500. From previous concerts, CTMS has ten studio CDs and two live-recorded CDs for purchase on their website. Master Singers, Inc. is a 501 c3 non-profit.

A sweet new twist for Candy Fest happening in Belton

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Ghosts, goblins and really spooky clowns will be wandering the streets of downtown Belton on Sunday, Oct. 25, during Candy Fest.

The early Halloween event will begin at 3 p.m. and end at 6, according to James Grant, executive director of Belton's Parks & Recreation Department.

"Candy Trails, which was ran by the Downtown Belton Business Alliance, is now under the Parks & Rec Department, and we have made a few adjustments to give it more of a festival feel," Grant said.

"We have rebranded it to Candy Fest, but it will still involve all the downtown Belton businesses passing out candy," he said. "We will no longer have everyone walk in a line in the same direction. They will be able to come and go and visit each tent as they please."

"We have also invited groups to do more than just pass out candy, so there will be photo booths set up and tents with activities and demonstrations as well," Grant added.

The free, family-oriented festival will be packed with trick-or-treating, vendors, activities, photo opportunities, and plenty of spooky fun. The event is a safe and fun alternative to traditional trick-or-treating.

Last year, 48 businesses and organizations participated and handed out more than 150,000 pieces of candy — and that's a conservative amount.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Make memories and fill your buckets with candy while celebrating Halloween Belton-style. Kids — and adults — are encouraged to dress up in their favorite costume.

Candy Fest will be held at 101 E Central Ave in downtown Belton.

The Cages - From Page A1

Baseball and softball, and sports in general, has been a part of my life. Giving back has always been part of our family heritage."

The Cages is a 4,500 square-foot indoor training facility suitable for recreational use, team practices, and private lesson. The open-turf space creates a perfect opportunity to work on fielding, agility, and skills.

"With my daughter being old enough to play, it is a great opportunity to spent time with her at the facility," Kinsey said. "As well as spend time with her, and cultivate the same relationship with her as my dad did with me."

The facility can also be space for indoor soccer practices, especially in months of inclement weather.

"While the space is not big, the nets can be moved for teams to get indoor reps and agility drills in, strength and conditioning training," Kinsey said. "Hopefully in the future, we can offer some camps, skills camps, hitting camps, and fielding camps should we find the right people to partner with for that."

For more information on The Cages, contact Jillian Kinsey at (254) 913-9009, email info@thecages.com or visit their website: www.thecagesbelton.com.

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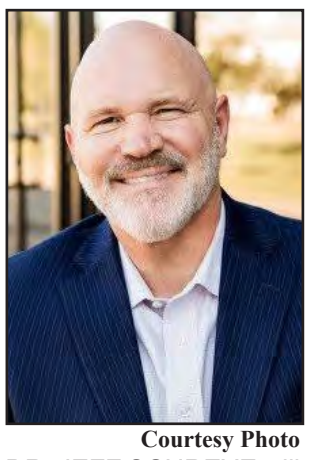
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Much awaited JAIL Ministry banquet is set for Oct. 22



Courtesy Photo
DR. JEFF SCHREVE will be the guest speaker at this year's JAIL Ministry banquet on Oct. 22 at the Huntington Bank Expo in Belton.

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

JAIL Ministry will hold its annual banquet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22, at the Huntington Bank Expo in Belton.

JAIL — Jesus Acts in Inmates Lives — Ministry brings the word of God to inmates in all 50 states, and it is very active in Bell County, according to Steve Cannon, the organization's executive director.

"This is our 38th year for the Bell County banquet," Cannon said. "We will have fajitas, and we are planning on 350 guests. We try to schedule our banquet early enough so others don't schedule events the same night."

"The banquet will bring supporters and community members together to celebrate the ministry's work, hear stories of hope and transformation, and learn how they can help JAIL Ministry continue serving Bell County," he said.

"The banquet provides an opportunity for you to learn more about our local mission, the lives being affected through its programs and the importance of continued community involvement."

Dr. Jeff Schreve will serve as guest speaker at the event. Schreve is the host of *Real Truth for Today* on American Family Radio, the senior pastor of First Baptist Texarkana and leader of *From His Heart Ministries*, a television, radio and internet broadcast outreach.

Cannon said JAIL Ministry is a Christ-centered jail ministry serving the Bell County Law Enforcement Center, Juvenile Services Center and surrounding Central Texas communities.

"Through prevention, intervention and spiritual outreach, the nonprofit ministers to incarcerated individuals, criminal justice professionals, victims and families," he said. "Its mission is to share the hope of Jesus Christ and encourage spiritual transformation, personal responsibility and a new direction in life."

"In Bell County, we do in-jail Bible studies and provide Bibles and faith-based literature to inmates in the county jail," Cannon continued. "We also do a jail radio program."

"Bell County inmates have access to Android tablets," he explained. "The tablets started during Covid, and it continued. We couldn't go into the jails during Covid, so we started doing radio. We have Apple and Android apps that feature jail ministry radio 24/7."

At the banquet, JAIL Ministry will present a special award to an individual who is unaware that they are being honored.

For additional information or to register for the Annual JAIL Ministry Banquet, visit **JAILmin.org**.

Council - From Page A1

pectations, and it will assist the City Clerk's Office in efficiently managing proclamation requests and coordinating presentations," Casey said.

Under the new policy, proclamations may be issued for:

Civic, cultural, and historical celebrations.

Nonprofit organization milestones or contributions.

Public awareness campaigns (health, safety, education).

Outstanding achievements by individuals or groups with ties to Belton.

Events that promote community spirit, heritage, or general welfare.

Also Tuesday, City Council appointed Interim Director of Development Services Tina Moore to the Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Planning Organization's policy board and technical committee during Tuesday's session.

Because of the retirement of Bob Van Til, there were vacancies on both boards.

Council approved two applications requesting Facade Improvement Grants for repairs of downtown buildings.

One grant is for repairs and restoration of the front of The Beltonian Theatre, 219 E Central in the Downtown Belton Commercial Historic District. The applicant was requesting a grant for $25,000 to restore the historic Beltonian Theater façade by removing non-historic modifications. The proposed work will cost the applicant $120,000 to complete.

The Beltonian reopened earlier this year.

The 2022 Historic Survey identified the property as a two-part commercial structure built in 1929 with Art Deco influences. The survey captured substantial alterations to the lower façade, including stone veneer, an arched entrance, aluminum storefront doors and windows, and a projecting marquee. Due to these alterations made around 1965, this building is non-contributing, according to Belton planner Kofi Adarkwah.

Earlier this year, the applicant completed life-safety and electrical improvements to bring the building into compliance with applicable building and fire codes. The city awarded this project a Building Life Safety Grant of $7,147 for these internal improvements, Adarkwah said.

The applicant proposes the following:

Install a new historically inspired marquee/canopy and blade sign;

Remove the existing stone veneer to restore decorative tiles underneath and, where possible, replace any damaged tile using materials that closely match the original material.

Repaint deteriorated stucco and plaster.

Reconstruct the storefront with aluminum-and-glass doors, fixed windows, and a central

lobby entrance that complements the historic façade.

Replace the vertical lighting with LED neon and repair the entrance ceiling with decorative metal tile, updated lighting, and exit signage.

Because the building is currently classified as a non-contributing property within the Imagine Belton Districts, the proposed project would not normally require review by the Historic Preservation Commission. However, the Historic Preservation officer determined that documentation of the proposed changes and review by the Commission are appropriate to support potential reclassification of the building as a contributing property following the removal of the incompatible alterations.

The second request for a Facade Improvement Grant was made by DesignHer Medspa, 310 E Central. The applicant requested a grant for the amount of $10,281.65 to assist with exterior improvements to the primary storefront.

DesignHer Medspa relocated to 310 E. Central Avenue in September 2026. The applicant completed an interior finish-out that included removing wall paneling, replacing doors, enlarging reception windows, enclosing walls with sheetrock, and updating flooring where needed. The applicant has already passed inspections by Fire, the Building Official, and Planning, and a Certificate of Occupancy was issued on Sept. 11, 2026.

The proposed exterior improvements are expected to be completed by Nov. 30. A Historic Preservation review is not required for this grant application as this property is outside of the Historic District Overlay. The proposed work is intended to improve the building's primary façade.

The proposed scope of work and estimated costs include:

JEC Painting & Plus LLC — $10,500. Repair and paint the existing awning, paint the exterior, and replace exterior lighting.

Killeen Glass — $7,960. Furnish and install a new storefront entrance with black anodized aluminum framing, tempered insulated glass.

Signage Crafting — $2,103.30. Install a new wall-mounted sign.

The total estimated project cost is $20,563.30, and the applicant requested

$10,281.65 through the matching grant.

Also Tuesday, Council was presented with capital improvement projects that are under way by Assistant City Manager Matt Bates, Director of Public Works Scott Hodde and Building Superintendent Mario Hinojosa.

S. Penelope & Main Street Sidewalks $953,454. This project was completed in July 2026. New sidewalks were installed along South Penelope Street, Water Street, Industrial Park Road and North Main.

BCWCID #1 Treatment Plant Expansion $27,000,000. Equipment procurement is underway, including clarifier mechanisms and variable frequency drives. The contractor is relocating overhead electrical service underground at the raw water pump. Demolition of Plant No. 3 is complete, and excavation and utility installation are underway for its replacement. Modifications to the chlorine injection location are also planned at Plant No. 4. The new plant is expected to begin operating in November 2028.

TBWWTP Phase II Expansion $16,800,000. Construction is progressing while the wastewater treatment plant remains operational. The expansion will increase treatment capacity to accommodate future demand. The current capacity of the plant is 10MG/30MG peak and will expand to 16MG/40MG peak.

• **S. Connell Street Reconstruction** $9,700,000. This project will construct approximately one mile of four-lane roadway with curb and gutter and sidewalks. Staff is finalizing the remaining right-of-way acquisitions. Once acquisition is complete, the project can proceed with utility relocations needed before roadway construction.

• **E. Central Avenue Bridge Replacement** $6,300,000. This project replaces the bridge over Nolan Creek east of IH-35 with a two-lane bridge and 5-foot sidewalks. The contractor has installed pier footings on both sides of the creek and is preparing reinforcing steel for the pier caps. Temporary roads are operational.

• **Rockwool Water & Sewer Improvements** $1,860,000. This project adds water and sewer infrastructure to serve the former Rockwool site. Infrastructure north of FM 93 within the site is installed, and the pressurized sewer line has been connected to the treatment plant. Remaining work includes construction of the new lift station south of FM 93 and modifications involving the existing lift station along Taylors Valley Road. Excavation for the new wastewater collection tank is complete, and the tank is on site. Construction of the concrete base and surrounding structure is scheduled to begin mid-October.

• **South Loop 121 Utility Relocations Phase II** $1,250,000. This project relocates City utilities to accommodate TxDOT's Loop 121 expansion. Utility relocations between IH-14 and Auction Barn Road are complete. Work between Auction Barn Road and IH-35 is underway, with the contractor taking old water lines out of service and beginning vegetation restoration.

W. Avenue I Drainage $817,000. Construction of the detention pond adjacent to Jaycee Park is largely complete. Remaining work includes securing stormwater junction-box lids and establishing vegetation.

• **E. 6th Avenue Sewer Rehabilitation** $1,500,000. Replacement of old clay sewer pipe and brick lined manholes. Project was awarded to McLean Construction which has done numerous projects with the city. We are currently awaiting the bond for contract execution with preliminary scheduling of a pre-con meeting the week of October 5th-9th.

• **Toll Bridge Road Reconstruction** $5,000,000. This project includes reconstructing and widening Toll Bridge Road from Shanklin Road to the northern portion of the River Farms Development. The portion of Toll Bridge along the River Farms frontage was completed by the development as Phase I. This new roadway will be constructed into a three-lane thoroughfare with a center turn lane with a hike and bike trail. The first step of this project will be right-of-way acquisition.

E. 6th Avenue Mobility Improvements $2,852,000. This project will construct 5-foot sidewalks on both sides of E. 6th Avenue from Main Street to IH-35. Work will be divided into two phases: Main Street to Old Waco Road and Old Waco Road to IH-35. This project will be done in coordination with the 6th Avenue Major Maintenance project scheduled to begin in April, 2027. A Federal Highway Administration grant administered through TxDOT will fund 80 percent of eligible construction costs. The city's required match is: $510,000 which will be funded by TIRZ.

The Capital Improvement list also includes upgrades and improvements to the old Miller Heights school, which will serve as the Public Safety Center.

Here are some projects that will take place in the Miller Heights building:

• **Restroom Improvements.** Restroom improvements were planned in three stages: demolition, reconstruction, and finish-out. Work includes replacing deteriorated plumbing and walls, adding hot water at sinks, widening door openings for accessibility, and installing new fixtures, partitions, lighting, flooring, and wall finishes. Priority 1 includes restrooms along the south hallway, entry hallway, and nurse's station. Work at the south hallway entrance also include a Firewall as recommended by the recent Master Plan completed by Pillar. All the improvements listed are substantially complete.

• **Police Department Rooms.** Two classrooms in the south hallway have been adapted for Police Department use. Classroom 1 serves as a gym, with new paint, mirrors, gym equipment, rubber flooring and a fan. Classroom 2 serves as a training room, with upgraded lighting, speakers, a projector, and a screen. This room is also used by the Fire Department – CERT Team for weekly and monthly trainings.

• **Information Technology Rooms.** Two existing IT rooms at the school were allocated for City technology storage and equipment programming. Improvements include shelving and upgraded lighting. These rooms have proven valuable during large scale hardware replacement across the city.

• **Administrative Offices.** Preparations for use of the administrative offices include removal of window and door decals, replacement of the 6-ton heating and cooling unit, and servicing of the fire alarm panel. The panel has since been inspected and continues to be monitored. Energy-conservation measures have also been implemented including turning off the large walk-in fridge and freezer in the Kitchen.

• **Library Book Storage and Circulation.** Approximately 2,500 books removed from the City Library are stored in the former school library and remain available for circulation. Staff retrieves books a couple of times each week, averaging approximately 20 books per week. This arrangement reduces interlibrary loan requests and associated staff time and costs while making books available more quickly than the approximately eight days needed to fulfill an interlibrary loan request.

• **Community Resource Donations.** Classroom furnishings and equipment have been inventoried and consolidated in the cafeteria for donation. Items include lockers, boards, projector screens and mounts, and cabinets. Staff has partnered with local organizations to distribute items and anticipates hosting a community resource day to make additional items available.







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Hope - From Page A1



THE BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman

Connection with compassion is what moms and their families will discover at Hope Mommies events.

port."

Hope Mommies fundraises so they can provide Hope Boxes to moms. The boxes are filled with pampering items, a journal, a Bible, a booklet, and more.

Partnering with local hospitals and clinics, their chapter has given out almost 300 boxes this year. Morgan explained it's important for the nurses to be able to hand a Hope Box to a mom and not be left with the "empty silence. People aren't comfortable talking about it but need to be."

Morgan said, "I lost six babies to early miscarriage, and I never talked about it with anybody. We lost our two-month-old son Cody in 2023, and some people sent me Hope Boxes. I realized how much I needed this community back then, and I didn't know it or have it. God brought me through so many layers the last few years of healing through the Bible studies, through our podcast. There're so many different resources."

Crissy Bachie, who helps bring community awareness of Hope Mommies, said, "Our goal is to be a place for moms to come and know that you aren't alone, whatever your story is. When I first got involved, I was like, this happens to a lot of people, and I'm not alone."

A husband who attended, Casy Mikes, said, "My wife has been very involved, helping with Hope Boxes and with having a community of other believers who also experience the loss. Having that fellowship has helped her healing process, and in turn also helped with my healing. It's sad to be part of it, but it's also a blessing too."

Emily Williams led the candlelight ceremony, said, "In 1988, President Ronald Reagan made this proclamation as he declared October as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. And this is his quote, 'Each year, approximately a million pregnancies in the United States ends in miscarriage, stillbirth, or the death of the newborn child.' In 2006, Congress decided to make October 15th National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day."

Williams then read the names of each child represented that night.

Two businesses, Glory to Glory Photography and Blumen Haus Waco donated services for two Hope Mommies families.

As a non-profit Christian organization, they welcome anyone who needs help after a miscarriage or infant loss, even if it occurred decades ago.

Hope Mommies has several resources; one is financial assistance after the death of a child. See their website for the application process and requirements under their resources tab. The name of their organization is inspired by Hebrews chapter 6 verse 19.

The Central Texas Chapter of Hope Mommies began in 2016. They have a social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, a podcast, and Spotify, all of which are linked from their website, hopemommies.org. Their annual retreat for moms will be in Feb. 2027.



Local grape growers are busy replacing vines

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Texas wine grape growers wrapped up an early, weather-battered 2026 harvest that AgriLife Extension experts say will produce an outstanding vintage. Despite challenges, 2026 grapes are expected to produce high-level vintage.

In Bell County, some vineyards are reporting an average year compared to the past five growing seasons, but some local grape growers are in the process of replacing vines because of age or storm damage.

"Our harvest was average; however our vines are 20 years old and production has declined when comparing the last five years to the previous decade," said June Ritterbusch, owner and winemaker at Salado Winery.

"As a result of our analysis, this past spring we initiated a vine row replacement program," she said. "We replaced 25 percent of our vines with new hybrids."

"We are replacing our vines with Walker grapevine varieties named for Andrew Walker, a geneticist and professor of viticulture and enology at UC Davis, who developed the new Pierce's disease resistant varieties."

"These grapevines are being planted throughout Central Texas because they also appear to thrive despite the hot dry summers of the last several years," Ritterbusch said. "We expect to harvest grapes from these vines in 2028 and then taste the wine in 2029, so it is quite a long term investment."

Widespread spring frost, heavy disease pressure and a long stretch of summer heat and drought made for another challenging season, but growers who kept ahead of the problems produced high-quality fruit, said Dr. Justin Scheiner, an AgriLife Extension viticulture specialist.

The seasonal challenges were not as unusual as they were widespread. In most years, Texas typically loses part of its crop to a late freeze somewhere in the state but frost in 2026 touched more ground than normal.

"We normally have some sort of late spring freeze event every year, and disease, heat and moisture challenges pop up, but they're typically regional or in localized areas," Scheiner said. "This season, those challenges tended to be a little more widespread."

Grapes also ripened quickly, and harvest wrapped up two to three weeks earlier than usual for most growers under the hot, dry conditions, he said.

While most area vineyards had early and average harvests, one of the area's largest winemakers had no harvest at all.

"We had 6,000 grapevines including Malbec, Tempranillo and Cabernet Sauvignon," said Kim Langston of 3 Texans Winery. "Durning the snow and ice storm in February 2021, the grapevines had 2 inches of ice covering them for approximately six days. Similar to trees, they could not breathe. We actually did have a harvest that summer — it produced about 50 percent of our normal 12 to 13 tons of grapes per season."

"In the summer of 2022, the production continued to decline and by the summer of 2023, we lost approximately the whole vineyard," Langston said.

"Since then we have been pulling old vines, cleaning up and repairing the infrastructure, and we have replanted Tempranillo and Sauvignon Blanc," she said. "Unfortunately, the tornado in 2024 damaged the Sauvignon Blanc portion of the vineyard, so that delayed their production by

See **GRAPE,** *Page A5*



OBITUARIES



Fraga

Rose Marie Fraga
March 17, 1950-
October 2, 2026

Rose Marie Fraga, lovingly known as Marie, passed away on October 2, 2026, in Temple, Texas, at the age of 76 after a courageous battle with stage 4 pancreatic cancer Marie was born on March 17, 1950, in Temple, Texas, to the late Natividad Rodriguez and Felisita Rodriguez. A Lifetime resident of Belton where She was raised with strong family values that shaped the kind, generous, and selfless woman she became. Those who knew Marie will remember her as someone who gave freely of her time, her talents, and her heart. She lived a life marked by devotion to her family, her work, and her community. Marie attended Central Texas Beauty School and completed her training in 1975, beginning a lifelong career as a beautician and business owner. For more than 51 years, she continued to cut hair and serve others with care and pride. Her work was more than a profession. It was a calling that allowed her to connect with people from all walks of life and make them feel valued, beautiful, and seen. Through her skill and warm spirit, she built lasting relationships and earned the respect and affection of many. Outside of her work, Marie found joy in simple pleasures and meaningful connections. She enjoyed playing bingo and cherished the time she spent helping at the local senior center. These interests reflected the generous spirit that guided her life. She had a natural way of making others feel included, and she gave her time and attention to people in ways that left a lasting impression. Her life was a testament to the beauty of service, compassion, and everyday acts of love. She is survived by her sons, Kris Fraga and Lance Fraga and his spouse, Lile. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Andrew Fraga, Jacob Fraga, and Ryliegh Fraga. She was preceded in death by her grandson, Aiden Fraga, whose memory remained close to her heart. Her family brought her great pride and happiness, and she treasured each of them deeply. Marie is also remembered by many loving family members, including Dessie Rodriguez and spouse Louisa Rodriguez, Roy Rodriguez and spouse Mary Rodriguez, Margaret Yepez, Stella Ruiz and spouse Ricky Ruiz, Alice Landeros and spouse Pat Landeros, Vivian Alejandro and spouse Rod Alejandro, Gilbert Rodriguez and spouse the late Sally Rodriguez, Tamara Rodriguez, spouse of the late Louis Rodriguez, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins who held a special place in her heart. She was preceded in death by her parents, Natividad Rodriguez and Felisita Rodriguez, as well as her brothers, Natividad Rodriguez, Jr. and Louis Rodriguez. The bonds she shared with her family were an important part of her life, and she will be remembered with love by all who were blessed to know her. Her family and friends will forever carry with them the memories of her kindness, her laughter, and the unwavering care she showed throughout her life. Marie's life was one of dedication, compassion, and quiet strength. She met each season of life with dignity and a generous spirit, and she leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue through the many lives she touched. Her memory will remain a source of comfort and inspiration to those who knew her best. Though she will be deeply missed, the love she gave so freely will continue to live on in the hearts of her family, friends, and community. A life so thoughtfully lived deserves to be remembered with gratitude and affection. Marie's journey on this earth was marked by devotion to her family, pride in her work, and care for others in all that she did. She will be remembered always for the goodness she shared and for the lasting example she set through a life lived with love. A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, October 16, 2026, at 10:00 am at Crotty Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 5431 U.S. Hwy 190, Belton, TX 76513

Grape - From Page A4

another couple of years."

"All vines we have in the ground now will be ready for harvesting in 2028," Langston said.

"So we had no harvest this year. We have been very fortunate to assist in harvesting grapes with some neighboring vineyards in Central Texas as well as buying Texas grapes and juice and continuing to make 3 Texans wines."

Langston said 3 Texans has been in the grape-growing business since 2009 and as with any farming, Mother Nature can serve up some challenges at times.

Scheiner said Texas vineyards face challenges every year, but the trick is adapting and applying regimens according to the conditions the season presents..

"Growers who were able to control disease and other problems had great fruit," he said. "Everything we heard, quality-wise, was great."

Reduced yields in some regions could help balance a market still working through softening demand, Scheiner said. National wine consumption has trended downward for four straight years, a slide driven partly by fewer wine-drinkers in the market and broader economic pressures that appear to be cutting into winery visits and broader agritourism impacts.

Wineries with strong wine club sales — such as 3 Texans Winery — fared better than those relying on tasting-room traffic. The coming holiday season is typically the industry's biggest stretch for sales, he said.

Most Texas grape contracts are locked in during the fall and the following spring, before that year's supply is known, so prices tend to be stable year to year regardless of yield, Scheiner said. Some grape growers left certain blocks unfarmed this year, shifting to other crops or holding off on replacing older vines needed to return to full production.

Seven years after their release, Pierce's disease-resistant varieties are starting to show their individual strengths and weaknesses, Scheiner said. Planted in 2019 with first crops in 2022-2023, the varieties are nearing finished wines to taste.

Pierce's disease is a bacterial pathogen that impacts grapevines and can inflict large-scale damage to vineyards, resulting in significant economic losses to growers. Interest has centered mostly on red wine releases — camminare noir, paseante noir and errante noir. Two white varieties, ambulo blanc and caminante blanc, are also producing with wines processed and casked.

BeeMaRosa Vineyards in Belton did not respond for comments about their 2026 harvest.



Courtesy photo Sam Craft/Texas A&M AgriLife

Yields in Texas vineyards were good to poor across the state due to weather and other stresses this season, but quality has been exceptional, and expectations are 2026 wine grapes will make a standout vintage.







Children's Advocacy Center honors Nelson Hutchinson

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

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"I'm not exactly sure what I did to deserve the award, but it's an honor," he said. "I provide them tech services — just doing my job. We provide IT support to small and mid-size businesses and organizations."

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"The award is presented to a community parter who supports our commitment to reducing trama to children," Bakes added.

Belton Sales Tax Revenue Climbs 6 Percent in October

By, David Tuma
The Belton Journal

The City of Belton's sales tax returns from the state for sales made in August this year were six percent higher than the dollars received the previous year. Belton received $830,422 in October this year compared to $783,339 in 2025.

For the year, Belton received $8,303,668 compared to $8,008,674 in 2025, for a 3.68 percent increase in funds received in 2026.

For the year, Morgan's Point Resort has received $359,420 compared to $349,728 in 2025, for a 2.77 percent increase. MPR's sales tax received in October of this year increased 9.41 percent.

City of Temple's sales tax returns received in October were up 16.55 percent in August of this year. Killeen sales tax returns received in October were flat compared to August sales in 2025.

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Body of Christ clinic, LULAC to benefit from golf tournament

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Area golfers will tee-off Oct. 16 to raise money for local charities, including Body of Christ Community Clinic and LULAC Council 4971.

The event — sponsored by Charity Unite — will be held at Sammons Golf Course in Temple. Tee time is 9 a.m.

Golfers can register for the charity tournament at www.charityunite.org/events. The cost is $125 for an individual player and $500 for a team of four.

Registration includes 18 holes of golf, cart rental, breakfast, lunch, prizes, and a raffle. The theme for this year's event is Swing for a Cause.

"We are committed to raising awareness and funds for non-profit organizations," said Renee Morales Boulette, CEO and founder of Charity Unite. "Our mission is to foster a stronger, more engaged community through impactful events, connecting individuals and organizations to promote positive change and support critical causes."

"We invite golfers and community members to join us for a day of fun, camaraderie and philanthropy," Boulette added. Together we can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need."

Donna Dunn, executive director of Body of Christ Community Clinic, said she is excited that Charity Tee-Off chose the Belton clinic as one of the recipients of money raised at the golf tournament.

"Funds raised will support our mission of providing medical and dental care to uninsured, low-income residents of eastern Bell County," Dunn said.

LULAC Council 4971 focuses on providing scholarships to local students, helping them further their education and empower themselves to make a positive impact within the community.

"Net proceeds from the tournament will be distributed equally between the two organizations, ensuring that every dollar raised goes directly toward supporting their vital work," Boulette said.

The event will begin with a 9 a.m. shotgun start, followed by lunch, an awards ceremony and happy hour.

"Along the course, participants will enjoy special games and activities, including the Air Cannon sponsored by Dent Wolf and Roll the Dice sponsored by Horizon Bank — adding extra fun and excitement to the day," Boulette said.

"Join us for a great cause — together, we can drive change."

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Friends of the Belton Library meet to discuss upcoming events

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Friends of the Belton Library will hold its next board meeting on Oct. 22 at the Harris Community Center Simpson Room, 401 N Alexander Street.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m., according to Friends President Juanita Smith. All members and local residents are encouraged to attend.

"We scheduled an evening meeting so that members who are normally busy during the workday can attend," Smith said.

"This will be a regular board meeting, and after the meeting we will kickoff the sales of tickets for the Book & Author Luncheon scheduled for March 6," she said. "Tickets are $60 each or $450 for a table of eight — this will be the first opportunity to buy tickets."

"We will announce our speaker, Bob Bentley, New York Times Bestselling Author," Smith continued. "He has authored the Matt Drake thriller series, the Tom Clancy *Jack Ryan, Jr.* series, and the Vince Flynn *Mitch Rapp* series. His latest release, *Double Tap*, of the Mitch Rapp series, came out Sept. 22."

This title and a selection of his previous titles will be available for purchase at the evening meeting.

"This would be an opportunity to purchase a book for yourself, or for a gift for someone else," Smith said. "Mr. Bentley can then sign the book at the March Luncheon."

Credit cards will be accepted for purchase of books and for membership fees.

Bentley has received awards for his military service in the Army. He has also worked as an FBI special agent and has served on a SWAT team in Dallas.

"During the evening meeting, we will give tickets to members (one ticket per membership)," Smith added. "At the end of the event, we will draw a ticket for a free copy of Bentley's *Double Tap* and also draw for a ticket to the Book & Author Luncheon. Only members of the Friends of the Belton Library will get tickets. Individuals will be allowed to join the organization before the drawings are held."

Snacks and bottled water will be furnished by Valerie and Sam Underwood, members who have recently joined the Friends.

Annual membership levels and fees: Student $1; Individual Adult $10; Family $20; Supporter $50; Patron, $100; Benefactor $500; and Corporate $1000.

46th Annual Rusty Awards celebrates individuals with disabilities

Special to the Journal

Join the Bell County Committee for People with Disabilities 46th Annual Rusty Awards to celebrate individuals with disabilities and advocates of individuals with disabilities that have made an impact in our local Bell County area. The awards banquet is Tuesday, October 20, 2026, from 5:30pm – 7:30pm at the Assembly Hall of the Huntington Bank Center located at 301 W. Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513. Each year the Bell County Committee for People with Disabilities celebrates our community champions that have shown courage and strength as a person with a disability making advancements in their lives and community as well as advocates that made a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

The 46th Annual Rusty Award winners are as follows: Carma Franco – John C. Garth Person of the Year; Anne Jackson – Laura "Pat" Taylor Advocate of the Year; Donna Shriner – Bell County Judge's Meritorious Service Award; Sabrina Young – Pat Elliott Inspirational Award; Belton Lion's Club – Community Champion Award; Ticee Kobylanski – Commissioner's Award for Community Service; Danell Betbeze – Sharon Stephenson Educator of the Year; Joshua Sullivan, Sparetime – Employer of the Year, Philip Severson, Bubba's 33 – Employer of the Year, Rhonda Lewis, UMHB – Employer of the Year. Our Rusty Scholarship Recipient for 2026 is Rebekah House.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.bccpdtx.org for $25. The ticket price includes dinner and the banquet. Attire is business casual. Bell County Judge Blackburn will give the welcome. Music/Video performed by DJ Miguel Johnson, Catering provided by Honey Wheat LLC, National Anthem by Hayden Maroney, and invocation by Tim Cartwright.

Bell County Committee for People with Disabilities is a private 501c3 non-profit that is a voluntary committee. We are dedicated to the promotion of the abilities of individuals with disabilities and opportunities for their lives through education, employment, health and housing. The Committee believes in diversity and inclusion of people with disabilities in employment, business, leisure, recreation and educational opportunities. We believe people with disabilities should enjoy full and equal access to lives of independence, productivity, and self-determination. The Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 11:30am – 1:00pm. If you would like more information, please email ChairBCCPD@gmail.com

Children's Advocacy Center honors Nelson Hutchinson

By David Stone
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THIS DAY IN HISTORY

OCT

15

1815: Napoleon begins his exile on Saint Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean.

1910: The airship America is launched from New Jersey in an attempt to cross the Atlantic.

1956: FORTRAN, a modern computer language, is shared for the first time.



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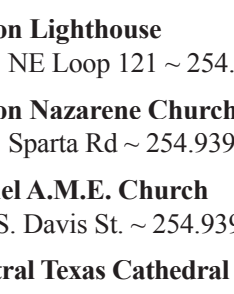
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I Should've Known Better



John C. Perry

I'm not proud to admit it, but I recently earned myself a new mantle: "Just Been Scammed." The offer that hooked me was amazing, almost *too* amazing. Limited time. Huge savings. A deal so good it practically winked at me and said, "Hurry, John, before someone smarter gets it first." And in that moment, I didn't do what I always tell others to do. I didn't slow down. I didn't check the source. I didn't ask the basic questions. I clicked. And just like that, I joined the long, distinguished line of people who discovered the hard way that if something looks too good to be true… it probably is.

But that little episode got me thinking about something bigger than a scam. It made me think about truth, how we find it, how we lose it, and how easily we mistake something *truthish* for the real thing.

We live in a world overflowing with voices that promise truth. Advertisers promise it. Influencers promise it. Politicians promise it. Social media promises it every time a headline flashes across our screen. And like that Facebook ad, so many of these voices come packaged with urgency, scarcity, and emotional appeal. They whisper, "Trust me. Don't think too hard. Act now."

And if we're honest, most of us have clicked on far more dangerous things than a toogoodtobetrue offer. We've clicked on ideas, assumptions, opinions, and narratives that felt right in the moment, but weren't.

So where do we find truth, we can trust? Some people look to experience, but experience can mislead. Some look to experts, but experts disagree. Some look to tradition, but tradition can drift. Some look to their gut, but the gut is notoriously unreliable.

These are helpful sources, but they're human. And anything human can be mistaken, manipulated, or simply incomplete. At some point, every human source of truth shows its cracks.

That's when I remembered Jesus' prayer in John 17:17: *"Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth."*

Not "contains truth." Not "points toward truth." Not "offers helpful truth." Your word *is* truth.

In a world full of scams, spin, and noise, Scripture stands alone as the one source that doesn't shift with trends, moods, or algorithms. It doesn't pressure us with limitedtime offers. It doesn't manipulate our emotions. It doesn't promise something too good to be true, it promises something so good it *must* be true.

God's truth doesn't expire. It doesn't deceive. It doesn't need fine print.

And unlike that Facebook ad, it never leaves us saying, "I should've known better."

So, if you, like me, have ever clicked too quickly, on an offer, an idea, or a voice that wasn't trustworthy, take heart. We all have. But the good news is that the ultimate source of truth is still right where it has always been: steady, clear, and waiting to guide us.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

In a world full of limited-time offers, God's truth is the one thing that never expires.

John C. Perry is the Immediate Past 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.









BELTON JOURNAL/ Jack Freedman

COURTESY PHOTO/ Christoper Winston

ABOVE LEFT: Don and Jo Parker share a dance clad in their lederhosen. TOP MIDDLE: "The Fritz Hodde Fabulous Six Band" performs early into the festival. BOTTOM MIDDLE: Attendees enjoy drinks and conversation during Belton's Polka on the Square festival around the Bell County Courthouse. ABOVE RIGHT: Stein in hand and dressed in traditional German attire, an attendee embraces the festive spirit during Belton's second annual Polka on the Square festival Oct. 9-10 around the Bell County Courthouse.

Polka - From Page A1

formed over the weekend. "The Fritz Hodde Fabulous Six Band" and "Praha Bros" performed on Friday evening, while "Los Patrones Del Centro," "La Banda," "Jerry Haisler & the Melody Five" and "Brave Combo" played on Saturday. Guests were encouraged to dance to many of the songs, creating a much more lively environment.

"I've been an accordion player for a few years," Dianne Hodde, the accordionist for "The Fritz Hodde Band," said. "My father-in-law started the band nearly 50 years ago. My husband and my son are in the band too. This is our second time in Belton. I think it's a good family environment."

The second Polka on the Square festival was a success for Belton. It is likely that there will be a third next year.

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SPORTS



Broncos prep for first ever matchup against Temple Wildcats



BELTON JOURNAL SPORTS /Tony Adams
Jessiah James (5) prepares to fire a pass while being pursued by the Harker Heights' defense.

By Tony Adams
Belton Journal Sports

It is a meeting six years in the making.

While the Lake Belton Broncos and Temple Wildcats met in other sports in Lake's first six years in existence, the gridiron has not been a scene where the two schools have battled.

Until this Friday night.

The Broncos and Wildcats meet in District 12-6A play at Tiger Field, with both teams looking for a win to put themselves back on the right track.

Kickoff from Belton is 7 pm. The game will be broadcast on Dave Campbell's Texas Sports Network and on NFHSNetwork.com. A subscription required on both platforms.

"This will be an exciting matchup coming out of the bye week," Lake Belton head coach Kirk Rogers said. "The team has worked hard after the game a couple of

See **LAKE BELTON**
Page B3

Belton, Lake Belton seasons on the line at today's cross country meets

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The moment Belton and Lake Belton have been building toward has arrived.

After countless miles alone, months of organized practices and weeks of competitions, everything is on the line today at the district meets, where only the top three teams and top 10 individuals extend the season.

All others see their campaigns come to a conclusion.

The Broncos and Lady Broncos are set to race in the District 12-6A meet at Waco's Heart of Texas Soccer Complex, while the Tigers and Lady Tigers will be at the District 16-5A meet at Heritage Park.

In its first year as a Class 6A program, Lake Belton will be battling Bryan, Copperas Cove, Killeen Chaparral, Killeen Harker Heights, Temple and Waco Midway for the coveted regional berths.

Belton will be joined at its meet by Killeen, Killeen Ellison, Killeen Shoemaker, Liberty Hill, Liberty Hill Legacy Ranch, Waco and Waco University.

New Tech saw its season come to an end at Monday's District 19-3A meet, where the program did not field a complete team in either the boys or girls divisions.

The Dragons were represented along the five-kilometer course at Cameron Junior High by senior Desmond Long, who was 50th with a time of 23 minutes, 4.43 seconds. Ellie Megoulloa, a sophomore, was the Lady Dragons' lone participant, placing 43rd (15:47.78) on the 3,200-meter route.

Should either Belton or Lake Belton be represented at regionals, the meets will be conducted at Fort Worth's Rolling Hills Soccer Complex. The Class 6A meet is Oct. 26, and the Class 5A meet is Oct. 27.

At regionals, only the top four teams and the top 10 individuals not on a qualifying team advance to state.

The last competition for Belton and Lake Belton was last week's Pro-Fit Last Chance Invitational at Heritage Park, where the Broncos and Lady Broncos each placed among the top five in the team standings.

Paced by senior Wyatt Potts, who posted an eighth-place time of 16:45.13 across the three-mile route, Lake Belton was

See **CROSS COUNTRY**
Page B2

Lady Broncos honor Daniels with 500 career assist befor contest

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Broncos honored their setter Kamryn Daniels for reaching 500 career assists before first serve, but Copperas Cove spoiled the occasion with a 3-1 win (25-17, 24-26, 25-21, 25-15) on Lake Belton's home floor. The loss snapped a two match winning streak that had opened the second half of district play for the Broncos.

Trouble started early for the Broncos. Lake Belton never settled into the opening set, as shaky passing on serve and receive and unforced errors on offense gave the Bulldawgs an easy path to a 25-17 win.

The second set looked headed in the same direction. Miscommunication on the court helped Copperas Cove build a five point cushion, and Lake Belton burned a timeout to regroup. The break worked. The Broncos clawed their way back point by point until they knotted the set at 18, then won a tense finish 26-24 to square the match.

That comeback gave Lake Belton life heading into the third, and the Broncos jumped out to an early lead. Copperas Cove answered, though, slowly closing the gap before overtaking the Broncos late and taking the set 25-21.

Facing elimination in the fourth, Lake Belton could not recapture the spark from the second set. The passing woes that haunted the Broncos in the opener resurfaced, and Copperas Cove took full advantage, pulling away for a 25-15 win to close out the match.

For Lake Belton, the night was a reminder of how thin the margin can be in district play. When the Broncos passed well and stayed connected, they showed they could go point for point with the Bulldawgs. When the first contact broke down, the offense stalled and Copperas Cove pounced.

The Broncos won't have long to dwell on it. Lake Belton returns to its home court Friday to host Temple in the last home match of the regular season, giving the team a chance to send its home crowd off with a win and get back on track in the district standings. Cleaning up serve receive and playing with more aggression in attack will be at the top of the to do list.

First serve against Temple is set for 5 p.m.

Belton Tigers to play host to Waco Lions for district play

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers have found their rhythm at the right time. Sitting at 4-2 overall and 1-0 in district play, Belton welcomes a Waco Lions squad that has struggled to find wins this fall but brings enough firepower on both sides of the ball to make Friday night interesting.

The Lions enter the matchup 1-5 overall and 0-1 in district, and they'll be looking to use this game as a turning point. Belton, meanwhile, knows that district games are where seasons are made, and a win here would keep the Tigers in the thick of the playoff conversation as the second half of the schedule heats up.

Waco's record may not jump off the page, but its offensive weapons certainly do. Senior wide receiver Zay'drian Johnson has been the Lions' most dangerous playmaker, averaging 75 receiving yards per game. Johnson can stretch the field and turn short throws into big gains, and keeping him in front of them will be a priority for the Belton secondary.

Waco pairs that passing threat with a steady ground game behind senior running back Eric Taylor Jr. Taylor has been the workhorse of the Lions' offense, averaging roughly 92 rushing yards per game. His ability to grind out tough yards keeps the chains moving and opens up play action opportunities for the passing game.

Senior quarterback Jordan Alverez pulls the strings under center, throwing for 770 yards this season with five touchdowns and five interceptions. Alvarez has shown flashes, but turnovers have been an issue. If the Tigers' defense can generate pressure and force him into hurried throws, Belton could flip the field and create short fields for its own offense.

On the other side of the ball, the Lions' defense runs through junior linebacker Lane Jones. Jones has been a tackling machine this season, racking up an impressive 90 solo tackles.

His production has caught college programs' attention, and he currently holds an offer from UTSA. A dual sport athlete who also plays basketball for Waco, Jones brings rare athleticism and range to the second level of the defense. The Tigers' offensive line will need to account for him on every snap, because he has a knack for finding the football.

For Belton, the keys are clear: limit Johnson's big plays, contain Taylor on the ground, and take advantage of Alverez's tendency to give the ball away. Offensively, the Tigers will want to establish their identity early and avoid letting Jones dictate the tempo from the middle of the field.

Waco's record suggests a mismatch, but district football rarely follows the script. The Lions have playmakers capable of keeping things close, and a team searching for its first district win often plays with something to prove. Belton will need to avoid looking past an opponent that has nothing to lose.

With momentum on their side and a district title chase in view, the Tigers have a chance to make a statement and move to 2-0 in league play.

Kickoff is set for 7:00 PM in Waco.

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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Broncos traveled to Salado's Mill Creek Country Club for the annual Bobby Peschel Memorial Golf Tournament and emerged from the 27-hole event, finishing in the middle of the 16-team field.

Heston Seideman, a sophomore, led the squad with a 110, placing him tied for fourth place.

His score was complemented by freshman Hayes Pethtel (119), junior Brooks Hull (128), senior Duncan Moore (143) and sophomore Jackson Dolotina (146).

Lake Belton hosts the Bronco Invitational at Wild Flower Country Club on Nov. 2.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Lady Broncos will be holding tryouts for the upcoming season starting Wednesday at the Lake Belton High School gymnasium. Sessions will run from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. each day.

All necessary paperwork needs to be submitted, a current physical must be on file and players must be academically eligible in order to participate.

Players need to wear appropriate and necessary clothing and equipment and bring a water bottle.

For more information, contact Lady Broncos assistant coach Stephanie Townsel at Stephanie.Townsel@BISD.net.

In their final offseason competition, the Lady Broncos traveled to the Waco Business Showcase, where they split a pair of games.

Lake Belton fell 54-42 to Killeen Shoemaker and defeated Waco University 34-28.

Following tryouts, the Lady Broncos return to action Oct. 31 in their first scrimmage.

WRESTLING

Lake Belton's preseason activities are underway, and interested participants should complete all necessary paperwork as soon as possible.

Workouts begin Monday with the first weight certification set for Wednesday.

Any athlete currently involved with another sport of band will transition to wrestling after the other season concludes.

For further information contact head coach Kevin Grimm at Kevin.Grimm@BISD.net.

ATHLETICS PASS

Family athletic passes for the current school year are on sale and can be purchased at the Belton High School athletic complex or the BISD administration offices.

The pass admits the holder and immediate family into all home games conducted by BISD. It is accepted for all sports except football.

Cost is $100.

Cash or credit card is accepted for purchases made at Belton High School, while cash is required for purchases at the administration offices.

BOOSTER CLUB

The Belton Tiger Athletic Booster Club is currently accepting memberships for the current school year.

Contributions benefit all athletes across all sports for the entire school year with options for both community and corporate memberships. Benefits vary based on memberships.

For the community, Cub ($75), White ($150), Red ($300) and Varsity ($500) options are available, while corporate options are Tiger ($1,250), Elite ($3,000) and Legacy ($5,000).

Payments for memberships can be made online at BeltonTigersABC.org, through Venmo by using the handle @BeltonTigers-ABC or by sending via mail to BTABC, PO Box 1454, Belton, TX, 76513.

For more information, visit BeltonAthletics.com or BeltonTigersABC.org.

TxDOT: Morgan's Point sidewalk should be complete by spring

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Texas Department of Transportation crews are busy constructing a $2.5 million, 1.8 mile pathway that will help students safely walk or bike from Morgan's Point Resort to several Belton ISD schools, according to TxDOT spokesman Jame Smith.

"The contractor is scheduled to complete the project this spring, weather permitting," Smith said. "The project will construct a shared-use path along FM 2483 from Lake Belton High School to Morgan's Point Road, then continue construction along Morgan's Point Road from FM 2483 to Sobrante Road."

"Additionally, a crosswalk will be added at the intersection of FM 2483 and Morgan's Point Road," Smith said.

Money for the 10-foot pathway is coming from the Transportation Set-Aside funding program, which qualifies for Transportation Development Credits. Meaning the entire project is being funded with federal dollars without a match from the city.

The pathway addresses the safety of students from Morgan's Point Resort who attend Lake Belton High School, High Point Elementary, and North Belton Middle School. It will enable these students to conveniently and safely walk or bike to school.

Additionally, this project will provide residents of Morgan's Point Resort with a secure means of accessing the Crossroads Recreational Complex on Prairie View Road.

"The project will improve pedestrian safety and mobility in the area," said Jake Smith, public information officer for TxDOT. "There will be lane closures throughout the project."

Cross Country - From Page B1

sixth in the boys Class 5A-6A division, scoring 147 points, while the Lady Broncos were fifth (135).

Shreya Muni, a senior, was first to cross the finish line for Lake Belton, finishing 21st (21:06.21), and her effort was complemented by junior Lucy Loa (28th, 21:19.87), junior Elizabeth Sandlin (29th, 21:22.15), senior Sarah Gray (34th, 21:31.80) and freshman Amara Bodeman (35th, 21:33.30).

Additionally, senior Madely Rivas was 36th (21:33.36) and sophomore Sophia Garza was 45th (22:35.48), but their times did not factor into the Lady Broncos' total.

Belton was ninth (192) thanks in part to junior Isabella Warner, who was 22nd (21:06.31).

The remaining points were produced by senior Nataly Valdez (43rd, 22:09.78), sophomore Leimya Palomares (46th, 22:37.61), sophomore Ayla Wakershauser (47th, 22:38.07) and freshman Kate Jones (48th, 22:38.65), while freshman Markayla Allen (51st, 22:44.41) and senior Roxanna Delgado (69th, 23:58.50) also represented the Lady Tigers.

Adding to Potts' production was sophomore Drew Houston (27th, 17:33.85), senior Jack McCullagh (31st, 17:40.64), senior Austin Adams (35th, 17:43.74) and senior Josiah Briggs (46th, 18:04.53).

Belton was 13th (276) as senior Jose Perez-Diaz (32nd, 17:41.81), freshman Ethan Bass (42nd, 17:49.59), sophomore Ethan Trevino (68th, 18:45.65), junior Marcus Hernandez (69th, 18:46.94) and junior Nelson Funez (78th, 19:05.00) combined for the score.

Lake Belton junior Cooper Schels (50th, 18:08.55), junior Kyan Whitmire (56th, 18:17.29), senior Adrian Rentas-Quiles (57th, 18:18.18) and junior Anthony Garza (89th, 19:27.90) and Belton junior Taj Keeler (79th, 19:05.19), senior Zander Orsag (90th, 19:31.52), senior Hayden Brown (94th, 19:40.28), sophomore Luke Roberts (100th, 19:49.98), senior Jetli Carbajal-Diaz (101st, 19:50.87) and sophomore Noah Majano (112th, 20:47.53) also competed.

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Lake Belton- From Page B1

weeks ago against Harker Heights."

Lake Belton (3-3 overall, 0-2 District 12-6A) is coming off a bye week by following 20-10 loss to Harker Heights on Oct. 1.

The Broncos gained 99 yards on 24 carries, having averaged 4.1 yards per carry. Jessiah James was 9-of-20 passing for 71 yards and an interception which was returned for a touchdown with less than two minutes to play during Lake's comeback attempt.

While the Broncos' defense held the Knights' passing game to just 102 yards, Heights' rushing game collected 347 rushing yards.

Brandon Fowlkes, Jr. rushed for 257 yards on 27 carries and scored once.

"The defense played well, but we could not get the offense going," Rogers. "It went down to the finish."

Temple (1-6 overall, 0-2 District 12-6A) are returning from a 42-35 loss to Harker Heights.

Kylan Basinger went 16-for-32 for 157 yards, two interceptions, and ran 14 times for 153 yards and scored three times. Eric shelly, Jr. carried the ball 30 times for 196 yards and scored twice.

Amann McKnight had 13 tackles, Arkeevian Thomas chipped in 11 tackles, and Omare Alexandre had 10 assisted tackles for Heights.

Hudson Humble completed 19-of-24 passes for 285 yards, four touchdowns, an interception, and added 36 rushing yards on four carries.

Fowlkes carried the ball 29 times for 185 yards and a score, and Ryan Taylor added eight catches for 191 yards and three touchdown catches.

Tylin Hamilton had 15 tackles (10 solos) and two sacks on defense. Isaiah Ellis had seven tackles and a tackle for loss. Braylin Carr added an interception.

Lake Belton has averaged 209 rushing yards and 197.8 passing yards per contest through six games. The Broncos average 33.5 points per game and yield 35.2. In district play, the Broncos have averaged 16 points per game and have allowed 39 points per tilt through two matchups.

James (53-of-102, 52% completion rate, 9 TDs, 2 INTs, 129 rushing yards, rush TD) will get the call at quarterback. The trio of Adrian Pippins (84-481, 9 TDs), James Maiwo (47-470, 5 TDs), and Talley Beard (20-113) have gotten their shares in the running game. Zion Harness (17-542, 6 TDs), Brock Von Racjs (12-250, 2 TDs) and Tanner Oliveira (6-62) have been the top three options in the passing game.

The Broncos' offensive front has been instrumental in the movement for the Lake offense.

Temple has 39 quarterback hurries, 24 tackles for loss, 17 passes defensed, 9 interceptions, and 2 sacks.

Taylin Hamilton (50 tackles, 31 solo, 5 tackles for loss), Ellis (48 tackles, 31 solo, 3 TFL) and Jaron Dailey (38 tackles, 3 TFL) are the leading tackles on the Wildcats' defensive unit.

Dailey and Axavion LaTouche each have three interceptions in the secondary.

Temple has averaged 209.9 rushing yards and 193.7 passing yards per contest for a combined 403.6 yards per game through seven tilts. The Wildcats score average 29 points per game and yield 41.3 points. In district, the Cats average 25.3 points per contest, and allow 36.7 points in three matchups.

Bassinger (122-of-195, 62.6% completion rate, 1,338 yards, 14 TDs, 5 TDs, 76-591 rushing yards) is a strong-armed, dual-threat quarterback with plenty of firepower around him. Shelly (132-744, 5.6 yards per carry, 8 rushing TDs) is the feature back. Bradyn Williams (41-476, 8 TDs), Stephen Midturi (20-279, 3 TDs), and DJ Reese (18-203) give Bassinger plenty of options in the passing game.

Coupled with an always-solid offensive line, the Wildcats will be a force to contend with.

The Broncos have 34 tackles for loss, 30 quarterback hurries, 15 passes defended, 10 sacks, 4 interceptions and 2 fumble recoveries.

Gavin Carpenter (48 tackles, 31 solo, 5 TFL), Corbin Mach (40 tackles, 29 solo, 5 TFL, Josiah Haye (27 tackles), Chris Harmon (26 tackles, 16 solo), Josh Lighthall (24 tackles, 16 solo, 4 TFL), and Khi Roberts (23 tackles, 3 TFL), and Tristan Aldridge (12 tackles, 3 sacks) are among the key contributors on the Lake Belton defense.

Following this Friday's contest, the Broncos will travel to Bryan to continue District 12-6A action against the Vikings at Merrill Green Field. Temple will have a bye week before hosting Bryan on Oct. 30 at Wildcat Stadium.

County OKs purchase of 9 vehicles

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Bell County Commissioners Court approved the purchase of nine vehicles at a total cost of $365,522 during Tuesday's meeting.

Seven of the vehicles will be used by the county's Road & Bridge Department.

The purchased vehicles include:

One 2026 Nissan Altima from Nissan of Silsbee at a total cost of $29,322.50.

One 2027 Chevrolet ½-Ton Crew Cab 4x4 Truck from Sewell Family of Companies at a total cost of $39,962.00 for the County Engineer.

Two 2027 Ford F250 Reg Cab 4x2 Trucks from Clay Cooley Ford at a total cost of $79,362.40 for the Road and Bridge Department.

One 2027 Ford F250 Reg Cab 4x4 Truck from Clay Cooley Ford at a total cost of $42,208.20 for the Road and Bridge Department.

One 2027 Chevrolet ¾-Ton Ext Cab 4x2 Truck from Sewell Family of Companies at a total cost of $41,882.00 for the Road and Bridge Department.

One 2027 Chevrolet ¾-Ton Ext Cab 4x4 Truck from Sewell Family of Companies at a total cost of $41,382.00 for the Road and Bridge Department.

Two 2027 Chevrolet ¾-Ton Crew Cab 4x4 Trucks from Sewell Family of Companies at a total cost of $91,392 for the Road and Bridge and Facilities Services Departments.

Also Monday, Commissioners authorized County Judge David Blackburn to accept the FY 2027 Solid Waste Grant award and enter into an Interlocal Agreement between Bell County and the Central Texas Council of Governments for the 2027 Bell County Tire Recycle Event with an award amount of $15,000.00.

The court approved registration and associated expenses for four Bell County Drug Court and Bell County Juvenile Services personnel to attend the 2026 Tall Cop Emerging Drug Trends Conference in an amount not to exceed $5,900.00, funded by Opioid Abatement Settlement.

Judge Blackburn presented a proclamation at the meeting that declared October as Rett Syndrome Awareness Month in Bell County. The family of a child suffering from Rett syndrome attended Monday's meeting.

Rett syndrome is a rare disorder that is Neurodevelopmental, meaning that it affects how the brain functions and develops. Rett typically affects girls but boys can have Rett as well.

Commissioners authorized a contract renewal with Integrated Prescription Management Services for the Indigent Health Department in an estimated amount of $60,000.

The Court also approved the formation of a Bell County Subdivision Regulation Technical Advisory Committee consisting of Pete Feenstra, Russell Schneider, Greg Reynolds, Michael Smith, Teri Stermer, Chuck Lucko, Travis Quicksall, Garrett Nordyke, Monty Clark, and Anita Jackson.

The Commissioners Court approved a contract renewal with Lhoist North America of Texas, LLC, with a 6.5 percent price adjustment for Road and Bridge, in an estimated amount of $82,000.

Commissioners approved the submission of the Future is for Everyone Fund application in the amount of $73,984 with a no-match requirement for the Automated Service Delivery Project to Meta, designating the Bell County Judge as the authorized official for the grant.

A grant match award to Little River Volunteer Fire Department in an amount up to $2,783.00, which is the 5% match requirement for their Texas A&M Forest Service Grant for fire and rescue equipment was ratified by Commissioners.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
JUSTIN WHEELER, Plaintiff, V. BRITTANY MORRIS, Defendant CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 25CV08246

NOTICE OF SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
TO: BRITTANY MORRIS, Defendant Named Above:
You are hereby notified that the above-styled action for Legitimation and custody was filed against you in said court on October 23, 2025, and that by reason of an Order for service of
summons by publication entered by the Court on June 1, 2026, you are hereby commanded and
required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon Justin Wheeler, Plaintiff, by and through his counsel of record, W. Henry Clerke, IV, whose address is 630 Village Trace, Building
15, Suite E, Marietta, Georgia 30067, an Answer within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order
for Service by Publication. If you fail to do so, Judgment by Default will be taken against you for
the relief demanded in the Petition.
Witness the Honorable Ann B. Harris, Judge of said Court.
This the 8th day of June 2026.
Miya Rivers , Clerk of Cobb County Superior Court
10.08,10.15.10.22,10.29 pd

CAUSE NO. 26CPB00501
IN RE ESTATE OF WYATT H. WILLIAMSON, JR. DECEASED
IN THE COUNTY COURT BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Wyatt H. Williamson, Jr., Deceased, were issued on October 6, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00501, pending
in the County Court of Bell County, Texas, to: MARY L. P. WILLIAMSON
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by

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law.
c/o: Michael E. Bourland Attorney at Law, Witt, McGregor & Bourland, P.L.L.C., 8004 Woodway Drive, Suite 400, Waco, Texas 76712
10.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is given that original Letters of Guardianship for the person and estate of JOHNNIE L. HICKS AKA JOHNNIE LOUISE HICKS, AKA JOHNNIE HICKS were authorized on October 8, 2026, in cause number 25CPB00783, pending in the County Court At Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to JEFFREY L. HICKS.
All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o JEFFREY L. HICKS, 6137 Big Tree Drive, Salado, Texas 76571
Dated : Oct. 9, 2026
R. Talmadge Hammock w/permission, BRETT H. PRITCHARD, Attorney for JEFFREY L. HICKS
10.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ALICIA MANCHA, Deceased, were issued on August 5, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00066, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: YVETTE FLORES.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. ESTATE OF ALICIA MANCHA, c/o: YVETTE FLORES, 908 E. Barton Ave., Temple, Texas 76501
DATED the 2nd day of Sept 2026
KAREN M. VILLANUEVA, State Bar No.: 24102608, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: karen@templelawoffice.com
10.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LISA MICHELLE NEVARES A/K/A LISA MICHELLE NEVARES-YOUNG, Deceased, were issued on September 28, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00023, pending in the County Court at Law Number of Bell County, Texas, to NATHANIEL LYNN WILLARD.
All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o BRETT H. PRITCHARD, 1201 S. W.S. Young Dr., Ste C, Killeen, TX 76543
Dated OCT 09 2026
BRETT H. PRITCHARD Attorney for NATHANIEL LYNN WILLARD
10.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARCIA R. TEMPLE A/K/A MARCIA RENEE TEMPLE, Deceased, were issued on September 28, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00511, pending in the County Court at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to DAVID TEMPLE, JR.
All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o BRETT H. PRITCHARD, 1201 S. W.S. Young Dr., Ste C, Killeen, TX 76543
Dated: OCT 09 2026
BRETT PRITCHARD Attorney for DAVID TEMPLE, JR.
10.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JAMES M. CLARK, Deceased, were issued on October 8, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00539, pending in

LEGALS

the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: DIANNE KAY CLARK.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. ESTATE OF JAMES M. CLARK, c/o: DIANNE KAY CLARK ,3409 East Drive, Temple, Texas 76502
DATED October 8, 2026
. KAREN M. VILLANUEVA, State Bar No.: 24102608, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: karen@templelawoffice.com
10.15

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00397
To: Unknown Heirs
HSIU LAN WINN, Applicant, on October 07, 2026, filed the first amended application to probate will & for issuance of letters testamentary in a proceeding styled: LANMEI LEE BURDEN, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00397 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 October 15, 2026, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.
Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: YUBIN DING, 5465 LEGACY DRIVE SUITE 650 ,PLANO, TX 75024
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 October 08, 2026.
c/o Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Erika DeCasas Deputy
10.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ILSE IRMA WILLIAMS, Deceased, were issued on September 23, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00529, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: ROSITA TONI DOCKERY.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: ROSITA TONI DOCKERY, 2704 Bluebonnet, Dr. Killeen, Texas 76549
SIGNED on October 7, 2026
. /s/James O. Cure, James O. Cure Attorney for ROSITA TONI DOCKERY, State Bar No.: 05252800, 2584 Blue Meadow Dr., Temple, TX 76502 ,Telephone: (254) 778-8934, Facsimile: (254) 773-2477, Email: jocure@cureandfrancis.net
10.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of WALLACE EDWARD TOUTANT, Deceased, were issued on July 13, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00324, pending in the County Court at Law of Bell County, Texas, to PAUL MICHAEL TOUTANT.
All persons having claims against the estate,

LEGALS

which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o BRETT H. PRITCHARD, 1201 S. W.S. Young Dr., Ste C, Killeen, Texas 76543
Dated AUG 11, 2026
BRETT H. PRITCHARD Attorney for PAUL MICHAEL TOUTANT
10.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MICHAEL RAY HOELSCHER, Deceased, were issued on September 28, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00531, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: DONALD HOELSCHER.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Jeffrey Thigpen Attorney at Law, PO Box 42,8 TEMPLE, TX 76503

SIGNED on October 7, 2026.
Jeffrey Thigpen Attorney for DONALD HOELSCHER, State Bar No.: 24099990, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503, Telephone: (254) 773-1663, Facsimile: (254) 773-2574, Email: jeff@linzythigpen.com
10.15

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ANA VILLEGAS HERRERA, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary were issued on October 6, 2026, in a proceeding styled Estate of Ana Villegas Herrera, Deceased, in Cause Number 26CPB00080, pending in the County Court At Law #1 of Bell County, Texas.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executrix, addressed as follows: Noehmi Herrera Ponce Independent Executrix of the Estate of Ana Villegas Herrera, Deceased c/o Burk Roberts, Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., 2501 East Elms Rd., Ste. A, Killeen, Texas 76542-3023

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Signed on October 7, 2026.
Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., Attorneys for Noehmi Herrera Ponce
By: Burk Roberts
10.15

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00615

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
LEANNA KATHERINE LESTER, Applicant, on October 06, 2026, filed an Application for Dependent Administration and Letters of Administration and Determination of Heirship in a proceeding styled: ANITA KATHERINE JECMENEK, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00615 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 October 15, 2026 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.
Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: Christopher T Freyder, 204 S IH-35 Suite 100, Georgetown TX 78628
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 October 07, 2026.
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Andrea Marks Deputy 10.15

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF BRADFORD B. GREENAS INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THEESTATE OF NOVALENE GREEN, DECEASED.

Pending in County Court at Law No. 1, Bell County, Texas, Cause No. 26CPB00220
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE ESTATE: WHEREAS, on the 1st day of October, 2026, in County Court at Law No. 1, Bell County, Texas, the undersigned duly qualified as the Independent Executor of the Estate of Novalene Green, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary on this estate were granted and this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law.

Any person indebted to said estate is hereby notified to pay same to the undersigned: Bradford B. Green, Independent Executor of the Estate of Novalene Green, Deceased. Address: c/o Granstaff, Gaedke & Edgmon, P.C., Attorneys at Law, Attn: Bryan P. Myers, 5535 Fredericksburg Road, Suite 110, San Antonio, Texas 78229 Dated at San Antonio, Texas, October 6, 2026.
10.15

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Cowen, Deceased,
were issued on September 28, 2026, in Cause No. 25CPB00521, pending in the County Court at Law
No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to Daniel Cowen.
All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the administrator, addressed
as follows: Independent Executor ,Estate of John Cowen , c/o Marcus Beaudin, Attorney for Daniel Cowen, The Law Offices of Gregory K. Simmons, 2109 S. Clear Creek Rd., Killeen, TX 76549
10.15

PUBLIC NOTICE

DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT RECORDS

In accordance with Federal and State regulations,
Notice is given by the Belton Independent School
District of its intent to destroy special education records
of students who graduated from or left the school district
in 2018-2019 school year.
Parents, guardians, or adult students, 18 years of age or older, whose records are scheduled for destruction may
request their files between the hours of 8:00 am and
4:00 pm Monday through Friday from the Belton ISD Special Education Office located at 400 North Wall, Belton, TX 76513.
These Records may be needed for social security benefits or other purposes.
Records not requested by Friday, November 20, 2026, by 3:00 pm will be de stroyed.
If you have any questions concerning this process, please call the office of Special Education at (254) 215-2112 or fax us at (254) 215-2111.

Child Find Announcement

The Belton Independent School District is required by federal and state law to make a dedicated effort to locate, identify, and evaluate every child from age 3 to age 21 residing or attending private school in our district who is suspected of having a disability. Eligible students are entitled to a free and appropriate education, including an individualized plan for instruction.

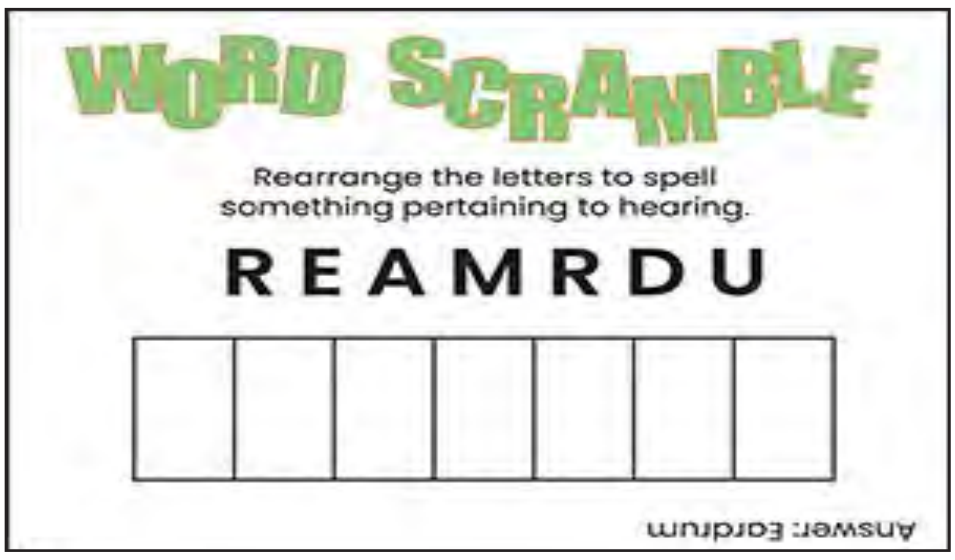
If you suspect your child has a disability, and your child does not yet receive special education services, please contact:

Anuncio para localizar Niños

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Belton es requerido por ley federal y estatal para hacer un esfuerzo dedicado a localizar,
identificar y evaluar a todos los niños desde los 3 hasta los 21 años de edad que residen o asisten a una escuela privada en nuestro distrito de quien se sospeche tener una discapacidad. Los estudiantes elegibles tienen derecho a una educación gratuita y apropiada, incluyendo un plan individualizado de instrucción.
Si usted sospecha que su hijo tiene una discapacidad y todavía no recibe servicios de educación especial, póngase en contacto con:

Sara Windham
Executive Director of Special Education
Belton Independent School District
400 North Wall St.
Belton, Texas 76513
254-215-2112
254-215-2111 (fax)





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The Belton Journal

READERS' CHOICE 2026

Deadline: noon Friday, November 20, 2026

The Belton Journal is conducting a straw ballot of our readers to recognize the best of 2026. One winner per category will be announced in an upcoming special edition.

3 READERS • $50 CASH EACH

Three readers' entries will be selected at random.

VOTING RULES

1. All nominees must be in the Belton area.
2. Drop off ballots in the ballot box at The Belton Journal office, or mail to **210 N. Penelope, Belton, TX 76513.** Call **254-939-5754** for more information.
3. Ballots must be legible and received by **noon Friday, November 20, 2026.**
4. Complete at least **50% of the 2026 ballot** to be eligible for cash prize drawings.
5. For a category not listed, write the category and your selection at the bottom of the ballot.

BEST IN THE COUNTY

College _____
Elementary School _____
Middle School _____
High School _____
Community Event _____
County's Attraction _____
Church _____
Place to Meet People _____
Entertainment _____
Service Organization _____

SHOPPING

Flooring _____
Movie Theater _____
Wine Shop _____
Swimming Pool _____
Firearms _____
New Car Dealership _____
Used Car Dealership _____
Truck Dealership _____
Supermarket _____
Sporting Goods _____
Appliances _____
Pharmacy _____
Women's Wear _____
Children's Wear _____
Men's Wear _____
Shoes _____
Furniture _____
Tires _____
Chevy Dealership _____
Ford Dealership _____
Dodge Dealership _____
Nissan Dealership _____
Toyota Dealership _____
Florist _____
Bank _____
Office Supply _____
Convenience Store _____
Feed Store _____
Western Wear _____
Auto Parts _____
Farm Equipment _____
Wedding Cake _____
Print Shop _____
Building Supplies _____
Gift Shop _____
Lawn & Garden _____
Mattress Store _____
Antiques & Collectibles _____
Eyeglasses _____
Consignment Shop _____
Jewelry _____
Barber _____
Beauty Shop _____
Home Décor _____
Book Store _____

DINING

Meat Market _____
Chicken _____
Pizza _____
Salad Bar _____
Steaks _____
Hamburger _____
French Fries _____
Ice Cream/Yogurt _____
Seafood _____
Hot Dogs _____
BBQ _____
Desserts _____
Catfish _____
First Date Dining _____
Mexican _____
Hot Sauce _____
Chicken-Fried Steak _____
Fajitas _____
Enchiladas _____
Margaritas _____
Italian _____
Business Lunch _____
Oriental _____
Dining Atmosphere _____
Breakfast Taco _____
Buffet _____
Meet for Coffee _____
Catering _____

DINING continued from left

Liquor Store _____
Sushi _____
Take Guests To _____
Deli _____
Donuts _____
Sandwiches _____
Grill _____
Appetizers _____
Special Occasion _____
Take Out _____
Bakery _____

SERVICES

Clinic _____
Shipping Center _____
Chiropractor _____
Veterinarian _____
Oil Change _____
Air Conditioning _____
Insurance Agency _____
Gym _____
Spa _____
Limo _____
Car Rental _____
Real Estate Agency _____
Pest Control _____
Plumbing _____
Dry Cleaning _____
Nursing Home _____
Assisted Living _____
Health Food Store _____
Internet Provider _____
Nail Salon _____
Title Company _____
Pawn Shop _____
Auto Repair _____
Day Care _____
Shoe Repair _____
Landscaping _____
Mortgage _____
Tax Service _____
Window Cleaning _____
Employment Agency _____
Counseling _____
Funeral Home _____
Property Management _____
Pet Grooming _____
Signs/Banners _____
Financial Advisor _____
Carpet Cleaning _____
Dental Office _____
Window Treatment _____
Alarm/Security _____
Credit Union _____
Orthodontist _____
Dermatology _____
Law Firm _____
Hearing Aids _____
House Leveling _____

PEOPLE

Please include where each individual works.

Waiter/Waitress _____
School Teacher _____
Nurse/Dental Assistant _____
Dentist _____
Bank Teller _____
Accountant _____
Local Band _____
Chiropractor _____
Barber _____
Beautician _____
Veterinarian _____
City Employee _____
Secretary _____
County Employee _____
Insurance Agent _____
Attorney _____
Mechanic _____
Electrician _____
Salesperson _____
Grocery Store Clerk _____
Boss _____
Radio News Anchor _____
Travel Agent _____
Unsung Hero _____

ONE ENTRY PER PERSON, PLEASE

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

MY VOTE FOR A CATEGORY NOT LISTED

Category: _____

My vote: _____

EDITORIAL

Making do

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

There's an older phrase that people sometimes use to describe what we do when we can't run out and buy the latest thing that comes off an assembly line somewhere. It's called "making do."

We sometimes laugh at the older generation, born and raised during lean times. No, I'm not talking the time of the lines to buy gasoline in the '70s, or the recession in the '80s, or even times like now when some families can't go out to eat except maybe once a month. That's not really making do.

I'm talking even farther back, when my own parents were born in 1941, and times even earlier than that. When mothers would go to the grocery store with their ration books so they could buy their allotted amount of meat and other foods. I remember seeing my grandparents' ration books, and listening to my mother explain what shopping was like during World War II—even though she didn't remember it herself.

I keep those ration books as a reminder that our country didn't have the abundance it has now.

Going shopping didn't offer many options, and when these women went to the stores, they purchased what they could. They made do. Their children thrived, went to school, and then went on to do remarkable things.

We have so many options, so many choices now that children are starting to take things for granted, and maybe some of us grown-up children too. Dare I call it, spoiled?

We want a new computer? We get it. A new car? We make it happen. The latest media player? It's ours. The television? We get one that communicates with the Internet and has touch-screen capabilities. See it? Want it? Get it. Now. We don't feel like cooking? We let someone else do it for us and spend much more than it would cost to do it ourselves.

Yes, like spoiled children, we assume that we must have the latest, the newest, even though what we have works perfectly fine as it is.

"Oh, that's so 20th century," we hear when talking about things we've had for a while. But in the 20th century, without the gadgets and gizmos we have now, mankind accomplished some truly remarkable things.

The children learned, and they grew up smart, and found cures for diseases like polio. They grew penicillin, which has saved millions of lives. They engineered marvels like planes that can go hundreds of miles per hour—and broke the sound barrier. They helped shrink our world so we can now sit and talk face-to-face via live video with family members on the other side of the globe.

Many of these children grew up in an era, and before the time of "making do."

In "times like these", those of us who are familiar with making do can share with others on how to cut corners, cut the family budget, and hold off on things until circumstances change.

Sometimes, making do isn't such a bad thing. It's often the smart thing to do.

Malfunction

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

I'm pretty sure my brain has gone on vacation, and I'm operating in robot mode. I'm like one of those fancy new cars that drive themselves. I may look fully functioning, but if you peek behind the sunblock windows, you'll see I'm really taking a nap, coasting through life, hoping I don't malfunction, crash and burn.

I don't want to be a robot. I just can't seem to get switched back into human mode. I feel like something in me broke, or ran out of juice, or just plain quit without sending in its two-week notice. And the place where this glitch is most obvious is right here, right now, trying to write something significant to share with you.

I've got nothin'.

I don't like it, and I don't know what to do about it. Writing was once my passion, my therapy, my creative outlet. But I've been doing it for so long, I just don't have anything else to say. I *want* to write. I *want* to create. I just can't.

One part of my brain tells me it's okay. After 20 years, I've earned a break. But it's not the needing-a-break part that concerns me. It's the thought that I don't have anything left. I'm not funny anymore. I'm not creative anymore. I'm done.

I've talked to God about this, and He's led me to a conclusion:

I'm *not* done.

That's a lie.

The truth is, we were each formed in the image of an endlessly creative Father, and we inherited His traits. He wants nothing more than to sit in the sand and build castles with us, or make mud pies, or do whatever other creative endeavor we choose. He made us for a relationship with Him, and He loves to build that connection through *play*.

The problem isn't a lack of creativity. It's a lack of *relationship*.

Now, don't get me wrong. My relationship with God is good. We hang out every day. But lately, that relationship has grown rather formulaic on my end.

There's nothing wrong with consistency and routine. But sometimes, we need to *play*. We need to jump in the car and drive six hours to spend an hour at the beach, only to drive six hours back… all for the experience of putting our feet in the ocean and marveling at His majesty.

We need to sing in the back yard.

Make something we've never made before.

Do something new, and invite Him to participate.

I haven't felt very creative lately… at least not as a writer. So I've asked the Author of my life to help me out some, give me some writing prompts, and spark my interest.

In the meantime, I'll keep setting up play dates, tea parties, and sandbox adventures. I'll keep writing, even when I have nothing important to say. And I'll lean on my Father for strength and inspiration, just as I should do for everything else.

"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak... but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:29-31

Entertainment 101: Pepper's Ghost

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

Scenario. You're watching a play. It's one you've seen before, and so you know that at a particular point a ghost is supposed to appear on the set and frighten one of the leads. The lead is supposed to try and strike the ghost with a candlestick, but to no avail. Previous performances have consisted of either actors in white clothing & makeup, or actors with sheets over them. But this time, the company producing the play has promised something far different.

The scene arrives. The ghost is on stage. The actor… Is that an actor? They appear to be more mirage than man for how faint they are at times. Here comes the candlestick… and there it goes, right on through! But how?

What you've just witnessed is a technique popularly known as "Pepper's Ghost". The name is derived from English scientist John Henry Pepper, who demonstrated the technique in 1862. Although the technique may have been discovered as early as the 1580s, it was arguably Pepper who made it famous.

So how does it work, exactly?

The effect is, to put it simply, the result of a bit of trickery. A separate room or chamber is set up off to the side of the stage where the "ghost" is to appear; this room may be painted matte black, or it might be an exact replica of the set in question. A pane of glass (or a comparable substitute) is set up inside the room at an angle so that what's in the room is reflected onto the stage once the lights in the room are turned up enough. When those lights are turned down again, what's in the room becomes invisible.

Care must be taken to ensure that the pane of glass is "hidden" in that the edges aren't immediately visible and nothing is causing a glare to shine off of it. Likewise, the performers on stage and the performers in the room must have careful training and cues in order to ensure that they are actually operating in sync with each other (Pepper himself is known to have placed hidden markings on the floors). But it can be done, and in fact by the time the 1800s were out theater troupes and sideshows alike in several countries were using Pepper's Ghost while others were using older patents and concepts (yes, there were lawsuits and other legal shenanigans regarding who was using what patents and whether or not anyone was infringing on Pepper's patent).

But that's where we are, correct? This was once a popular technique, but it has surely since been supplanted, right? To the contrary, one can still find Pepper's Ghost or similar techniques in use by museums, amusement parks, television & film studios, and even live concerts (although with some controversy around the latter due to it being used to project images and video of deceased musicians). In fact, an episode of the original 1960s "Scooby Doo" cartoon actually had the criminal of the week demonstrating this as one of the techniques he used to spook the gang into thinking they'd found a real ghost for once. By the 1980s, it was so commonplace that an episode of "Mr. Wizard's World" did a kid-friendly demonstration.

Remember folks – a lot of technology, gadgets, and concepts we take for granted nowadays are actually much older than what we think. There was a lot of ingenuity going on in the past, such that today's entertainment industry is metaphorically standing on the shoulders of giants in many ways.

A Real Circus Atmosphere

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

I saw a series of photos recently of a circus, this was not in America, the location doesn't matter because a circus is a great event.

Now it has been years, actually decades since I have been to a circus. I am not sure if I would actually go now, as a spectator, perhaps if I could get close with my camera I would be more interested.

I can't remember the last time I went to a circus, but I do remember when I was a kid and one of the big-name circus events came to town. There were a few small circuses that were in Dallas on a regular basis, perhaps almost a semi-permanent attraction. Those were entertaining and I was often lucky enough to go for an evening. However no event was bigger than the major circuses, of which there were very few. This was a huge event and everything surrounding the visit was amazing. At least once I was able to witness the crew putting up the giant tent, it was so well organized and went up rather quickly. I am sure after a few dozen times of doing this, and some grumpy old man that had run away as a teenager to join the circus and spent his life supervising the "putting up" of the tents being in charge, of course it went smoothly. Another part of the "set up" was organizing the animals, it was much like a parade. All of this was repeated at each town, so very routine, but to someone, especially a young boy, that didn't see it that often it was better than anything on television at the time.

The night of the actual event was even more special. My father typically picked a night based on something that he wanted to see, often the high-wire act or similar. I do remember seeing his favorite aerial act at least once, although one year they canceled the day of the show due to another tragedy in their family. I remember a few vague details, but it was one of those things a kid doesn't really understand well. We always had good seats where we could see all three "rings". When one or two acts were changing something was happening elsewhere on the floor, there was a lot going on and it was almost hard to keep up, what with holding a soda and another special treat. At the time clowns were still funny and were out there to keep us amused, not scare us. So when the clowns came out I was paying close attention to see what would happen next. The clown cars and other props made the show, even though I had probably seen most of this before. The clowns themselves were also fairly athletic, they bounced around and did things that I didn't really expect. Soon the next act was in place, the clowns went out and we watched the show continue. When the performance was done for the evening some parents would take the kids down to meet some of the entertainers, mostly the clowns. That was like meeting a movie star to a child, it was a wonderful end to the night.

Looking back, the circus itself was a very unique experience. The days leading up to the circus, once I knew we were going, were filled with excitement. The time spent with my father watching the tent go up, navigating the crowds was anxious, but fun. At a time when we rarely ate fast food or even had soft drinks in the house, getting something as wild as circus food was quite the event itself. I don't remember all of the offerings, but I do remember cotton candy, that weird snack that tasted great but was almost difficult to eat. I don't recall too many souvenirs, however I am sure I got at least one pennant, which actually might be worth something today. My outlook today is probably about what my father was thinking back then, all of the people, the smell, the unhealthy foods, getting home late after all of that. So that makes it seem more special to me now, knowing that my entertainment was enough to overlook it all. I appreciate the chance to see those historic shows. Times change and those experiences are just not enough to compete with something digital now. I would rather have had the physical part of the circus, including the animal smells than anything on a screen today. And the time that my father took to ensure I had a good time.



OCTOBER B-TOWN BULLETIN

Local Activities & Events

Belton ISD Fine Arts – Oct 15-18, 23-24
The Belton ISD Fine Arts Department and our talented high schools are thrilled to present three theatrical performances this season. I'm excited to offer you a special invitation to be my guest at any of these shows! 30 exclusive tickets are available for each production. Lake Belton presents Little Women, Belton New Tech present MacBeth, and Belton High School presents Failure: A Love Story. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dora Martinez at dora.martinez@bisd.net or 254.215.2004. Let's celebrate fine arts in schools together. I hope you will join us!

Master Gardeners - Oct 17
Ready to create a beautiful, thriving garden that can withstand our Texas summers and unpredictable weather? Join Bell County Master Gardeners Betty Nejtek, Charlotte Nunnery, and Cynthia Beck for an informative lecture and walking tour. Discover native and well-adapted plants that flourish in our local climate, add beauty to your landscape and attract and support pollinators. Saturday, Oct 17, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Bell County Extension Office- Learning Center and the BCMG Waterwise Landscape, 1605 N. Main Street, Belton.

8th Annual Library Art Show - Nov 14
Mary Ruth Briggs Library will hold our 8th Annual Library Art Show on Saturday, November 14th, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Garrett and Mic Hill Event Center located at 60 Morgan's Point Blvd in MPR. Drop off times for art pieces are as follows: Friday November 13th 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 14th, 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Art entries are limited to 3 per artist and should not include previous entries. Artwork that can be hung must have a hanger on the back that can be suspended on wires to be hung on a wall and all should be matted. Include a 3 x 5 white index card with a short description of your work. Questions? Contact at library@mprtx.gov. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded for Children and Adults(16 and up) For online applications see the website at morganspointresorttx.gov or paper applications are available at MPR City Hall at 8 Morgan's Point Blvd, Morgan's Point Resort Texas 76513. We look forward to seeing you for a night of music, drinks, food and fun while overlooking Lake Belton! Free to all artists and patrons!

Irreverent Warriors Silkies Hike - Nov 14
On November 14 at Miller Park, 1919 N. 1 st St, Temple, veterans and military service members will take to the streets of Temple for the annual Irreverent Warriors Silkies Hike. During the 2026 season, IW events will bring thousands of veterans together across the United States. For more inforamtion visit irreverentwarriors.com.

Amputee Support Group
ASG meetings will be held the first Tuesday of every month from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Unity Church of Temple, 318 N. 2nd Street, Temple.

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

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

The Newcomers Club, Inc. would like to welcome ladies who have moved into Bell County and surrounding areas within the last three years. The club meets for a luncheon and program once a month and may participate in other various activities such as book clubs, a choral group, several dining out groups, walking, and games groups. The club also welcomes ladies who have just retired, or have experienced a life-changing event and are looking to connect with other ladies. For information about joining, contact Sheri Clifton at (602)-432-7510, or sherbear@bearhouse.us

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

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.

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. We are dedicated to initiating and conducting programs that preserve and celebrate the county's historic cultural resources in alignment with state laws governing historical preservation in Texas. Our community resources consist of a research room, book repository, cemetery information, historical markers and monument records. Our services include information on historic preservation, educational programming, history community outreach and partnerships. We welcome you to join other history minded folks and get involved by serving on one of our committees that consist of preservation, cemetery, markers and education. To volunteer or for more information please visit historicalcommission@bellcounty.texas.gov, call 254-933-5917 or visit the office located in the historic Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave., RM 117.

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

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

Bell Fine Arts Visitors welcome Wednesday's from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 306 E 5th Ave in Belton. If you have a desire to meet, learn, and work together with those of similiar interests or just curious, come visit with us and see what we are about. Mah Jong games are available every Monday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come join the fun and meet new folks. For more information text Jeanne at 409-313-0611 or just come by.

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

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

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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