

Candy Trail to wind through Downtown Belton on Oct. 25



Families will make their way through downtown Belton at the upcoming Candy Trail, set for Saturday, Oct. 25.

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

This year’s Downtown Belton’s Candy Trails will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, and organizer Leila Valchar hopes this year’s event is the biggest since its inception in 2014.

“I founded this event to bring families to downtown Belton, and it’s grown tremendously over the years,”

said Valchar, who also is president of the DBBA and owner of My Giving Tree.

“Last year,” she said, “48 businesses and organizations participated and we handed out more than 150,000 pieces of candy, and that’s a conservative amount. We had streets blocked off, but we had so many families that the barricades were overflowing.”

Valchar said this year’s Candy Trails will include a pumpkin carving

contest.

“We won’t be carving pumpkins on the street — people will carve them at home and bring them down for judging,” she said.

“There also will be a trophy for the most spirited booth or storefront. Greenbriar Salon has won the past three years.”

In the early days of Candy Trails,

See **CANDY TRAIL**,
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Pet Extravaganza breaks attendance records

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Pet lovers and trick or treaters attended the two-day family and pet friendly tenth annual Pet Extravaganza sponsored by Rescue Magazine this past weekend.

“The show was a big success. We had many animal adoptions. It was a record attendance for us this year,” said President of Rescue Magazine, Ron Ducharme.

There were lots of vendors for people, pets, services, and their homes. There was free pet microchipping. There was a giant trick or treating with vendors passing out candies and freebies to children, pets, and all attendees. Pirate Captain Dan Sparrow from the United Kingdom was at the entrance to take pictures with VIPs and take pictures for donation.

See **PET**,
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BELTON JOURNAL/Michelle Rodriguez
Sherry Heino with Happy Hounds Dog Training and Zelda dressed up as a Bumble Bee pause for a photo a last Saturday’s Pet Extravaganza.

Belton Lions Club hosts 3rd Annual Lions on the Leon



BELTON JOURNAL/Michelle Rodriguez

Above Left: Jayden Alba first-place winner. Above Middle: Luke Cowan second place rower Above Right: Brendan Brown & Madileyne Shores were third place winner of the Wacky Boat Race during the third annual Lions on the Leon hosted by Belton Lion’s Club.

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

The Belton Lions Club hosted its 3rd annual Lions on the Leon featuring family-fun activities including Captain “D” 5k Dash for Sight, Picnic in the Park, and Wacky Boat Race at Heritage Park.

The 5k fun run opening ceremony kicked off the event at 8:15 a.m. with Mayor and Lion David Leigh officiating and praying to bless the day. Belton High School Madrigal singers led by head choir director Tonya Lovorn performed the National Anthem. The Bel-

ton High School JROTC directed by Sergeant Major Matthew Conrad, a retired US Marine Corps veteran, presented colors. Corina Graham and staff with Junction Fitness provided a runner/walker warmup.

The race started at 8:30 a.m. Each participant received a swag booty bag, bib raffle, and custom spinner medal. Award category winners were: Adult Male, Fernando Rivas, 1st place; Jerome MacDonald, 2nd place; and Oliver Zanone, 3rd place. Adult Female, Jessica Ellis, 1st place; Elly Sheppard, 2nd place;

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City to buy 8 police vehicles

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The Belton City Council approved the purchase of eight new police vehicles during Tuesday’s meeting.

Police Chief Larry Berg said the Capital Equipment Replacement Fund, created several years ago by the City Council, has been successful at creating a

level funding mechanism to sustain the city fleet of vehicles and equipment.

“The Fiscal Year 2026 budget contains funding in the amount of \$564,700 to purchase and equip the new vehicles for the Belton Police Department,” Berg said.

Tuesday’s Council action will purchase four Ford Super-crew police vehicles at a price

of \$48,500 each, three Ford Explorer Interceptors at a price of \$45,700 each and one Ford Explorer Active at a price of \$37,600.

“The installment of emergency equipment and agency-supplied equipment will be performed by Dana Safety Supply in Fort Worth for an additional cost of \$133,825.94,” Berg added. “Agency-supplied equipment

— cameras, radars, radios, stop sticks and data transfer routes will be purchased separately at a total cost of \$136,222.64.”

“The purchase of these vehicles will strengthen the Police Department fleet while avoiding higher costs associated with maintenance repairs of older model vehicles,” he said.

See **VEHICLES**,
Page A9

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Former Armed Forces YMCA afterschool program employee arrested

Special to the Journal

A former employee of a YMCA afterschool program operating in a Belton school was arrested for aggravated sexual assault of a child on Oct. 8.

Eloy Fabela, 23, of Harker Heights, was in Bell County Jail following a report of sexual assault that occurred after school hours on the campus of Chisholm Trail Elementary.

Fabela was an employee of the

Armed Services YMCA, not Belton Independent School District. The YMCA has cooperated with the investigation.

A warrant for Fabela’s arrest was issued by Justice of the Peace Cliff Coleman on Wednesday.

“We will investigate any and all reports of crimes against children in our community,” Belton Police Chief Larry Berg said. “We take it very personally when someone preys on the innocence of young victims.”

Candy Trail - From Page A1

costumed guests would stream through downtown businesses in search of sweet treasures, but changes came as the event grew. Today, businesses and organizations set up booths in front of stores and passed out candy from there.

“Candy Trails has become such a fun event,” Valchar stated. “I’m so proud to be the founder and see it grow. The City has been very supportive of the event.”

Valchar said she has seen many great costumes over the years, and she expects to see a lot more this year.

“I’ve seen a bunch,” she laughed. “I’ve seen creative and scary costumes. The scariest I’ve seen was a horrifying clown. It’s not just kids that dress up — there are many adults as well. I’m ready to see more amazing costumes and make-up.”

Pet - From Page A1

“I did the VIP. All my dogs have Native American names. Udonatah means bear in Cherokee. He is a European great dane that weighs one hundred seventy-seven pounds. I compared him to the pony here and he was the same height and length,” said VIP attendee Terri Homan. She’s from Copperas Cove and is retired, but was a certified trainer that used to train service dogs. Under the ADA, only dogs and miniature horses can be recognized as service animals.

There were pet adoption opportunities of cats, dogs, ferrets, and reptiles. Some places with animals available for adoption included Journey Home Rescue, Texas Ferret Lovers Rescue, Austin Texas Sugar Glider Rescue, Healing Heart Rehab, Brazos Valley, the Society for Creative Anachronism, and the Bell County Animal Shelter.

Brendan Brown with the Bin Spa dressed up as Oscar the Grouch on Sesame Street. Centex Automotive grilled hot dogs. Scotti’s Italian Ice truck was there. Masseur Heather Stevens gave massages. Freedom Urgent Care donated water and had a booth with free cups, band aids, and pens.

The American Legion Post 133, VFW Post 4008, Temple-Belton Ladies Lions,

volunteered and had booths, and the Temple-Belton Ladies Lions Club made braided dog toys from old t-shirts.

Bailing Out Benji and Puppy Mill Free Texas had booths. They exist to expose and end the cruelty that occurs within licensed and unlicensed dog breeding facilities across the U.S.

“We will get our dogs out and they will do different tricks like spin the barrel, ride on riding toys, and do fun tricks,” said Pat Marshall with Happy Hounds Dog Training.

There was a Halloween costume contest for adults, children, and pets. One attendee, Melodyee Becker dressed up her Morkie Poos.

“It’s fantabulous. I’m having a great time here,” said Becker.

Attendees from Salado, Autumn Walker and her daughter Amber Gildey, saw a flyer about the Pet Extravaganza at PetCo.

“It’s a good show. My daughter got a lot of candy,” said Walker. Gildey was dressed like Spider Girl.

There was a pet cemetery by I Shih-tzu Knot and a haunted house.

Volunteers received free event tickets and lunch was provided. Military, police, and first responders received free entry.

Community invited to food access needs assessment wrap up

Special to the Journal

The community is invited to the Bell & Coryell Counties “Food Access Community Needs Assessment” (CNA) Wrap Up Event, co-hosted by Central Texas Food Bank, Bell County Commissioner Louie Minor, and Bell County Hunger Coalition, in partnership with Fort Hood.

The event will review key findings from the Food Access CNA, participate in interactive activities, and explore opportunities to strengthen food access in Bell and Coryell Counties.

The event will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 29 from 1-3 p.m. at the Killeen Civic & Conference Center, located at 3601 S. WS Young Dr.



Killeen.

RSVP online at <https://bit.ly/bell-coryellcna-wrapup> or call 254-674-1188.

Lions - From Page A1

and Sherry Anderson, 3rd place. Youth Male, Jose Perez, 1st place; Anthony Garza, 2nd place; and Joshua Carter, 3rd place. Youth Female, Nataly Valdez, 1st place; Sophia Garza, 2nd place; and Gisella MacDonald, 3rd place.

Captain “D” Danny Dossman with Dossman Funeral Home, with the help of Lion volunteers, student volunteers; Whitney “Doc” Rodgers, Athletic Trainer, Lake Belton High School; and Brian Cope, Campus Athletic Coordinator and Head Football Coach at Lake Belton High School, delivered cookies and notes along the route, helped open the event, manned the route, worked the water station, created a balloon arch, counted the winners, helped set up the picnic in the park, and even crewed the wacky boats.

The picnic in the park was from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring blues band Jay White and the Blues Commanders, carnival

games, face painting, duck pond, corn-hole, pumpkin decorating, Belton Fire Department Certification scavenger hunt, and hot dog and sausage wrap concessions. People brought their own lawn chairs and sat under the pecan trees to listen to the band. There were lots of auction items.

The wacky boat race was at 1 p.m. with winners receiving prizes and trophies. There were cardboard category race winners: first, second, and third place; wacky open category race winners: first, second, and third place; President’s award; and People’s Choice. Handmade boats lined up at 11 a.m. People’s Choice judging race heats started at 1 p.m.

“We got a high school kid to row the boat,” said Fire Chief Jonathon Fontenot. He won Grand Champion two years in a row and won a paddle trophy. The Belton Lion’s Club Baby Pearl won second. The Fire Department Certification crew team

won People’s Choice.

“My son is Jayden Alba,” said Gisele Alba. “I came to support him. I’m proud of him. He and his friend Caden Harrison paddled the Baby Pearl. Caden did it before. They’re both on the football team.”

Brendan Brown with the Bin Spa won third place.

“We made our boat the SS Bin Spa. We won third place. All three of us rowed,” said Brown. His girlfriend Madilynne Shores and Brandon Nile helped him.

Sponsors included HEB, Lion Patti Powell Family concession stand, and Belton Parks and Recreation.

Funds were raised to support the many annual Belton Lions Club activities supporting the Belton community like Lions Park, high school scholarships, Lions Camp for children with disabilities and special needs, holiday food baskets for the needy, others, and the underserved Belton community.



Thank You, Veterans!



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OBITUARIES

Vazquez

Alberto Corderill Vazquez
March 29, 1988 -
September 17, 2025

Alberto Corderill Vazquez, affectionately known as Albert, departed this world on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, in Austin, Texas, leaving a profound void in the lives of those who knew and loved him. Born on March 29, 1988, in Dallas, Texas, Albert’s journey was one of heartfelt connections, spirited laughter, and a love that illuminated even the darkest days. Having graduated from Rogers High School in 2004, where he showcased his prowess on the football field, Albert embarked on a career that anchored him firmly in the community as a forklift operator at a local steel factory. Yet, it was not merely his professional endeavors that defined him; it was the rich tapestry of his familial relationships that truly exemplified the man he was. Albert met Brenda Vazquez, and together they cultivated a loving family that blossomed with two cherished daughters—Destine and Faith—and two sons—Brandon and Bryan. His pride in being their father was evident in every smile shared, every memory made, and every moment cherished. Albert was particularly known for his endearing personality, characterized by his robust sense of humor and a heart overflowing with love. His devotion to his family was matched only by his adoration for his mother, a bond so powerful that he was often lovingly referred to as a momma’s boy. Fashion-forward and ever so specific about his style, Albert embraced life with the philosophy of “Fake it till you make it,” a mantra that resonated deeply with his approach to challenges. A multifaceted individual, he was a true foodie at heart, relishing new culinary experiences that brought joy to him and those lucky enough to partake in his gastronomic adventures. A passionate fan of the Dallas Cowboys, he proudly donned their colors on game days, sharing the thrill of football with his family. Music pulsed through his veins, with a particular fondness for Rap and R&B, while nights spent at billiard halls playing 8 ball provided an outlet for both competition and camaraderie. Albert relished the simplicity of country life, where he thrived in the embrace of nature and the serenity of the lake. His adventurous spirit also drew him to the rodeo, where he practiced with a fervor that mirrored his zest for life. Growing up alongside his brothers, he shared countless joyful moments wrestling and joking, particularly with Michael, his little brother, whose bond with Albert was deep and unwavering. Johnny, Albert’s older brother, served as a mentor throughout his life, guiding him with a wisdom that left an indelible mark.

In every interaction, be it a visit or a simple phone call, Albert made it a point to check in on his loved ones, ensuring that his presence was felt even from afar. His unexpected departure has left his family in profound sorrow, but they take solace in the legacy of love, laughter, and connection he leaves behind. He is survived by his parents, Maurilio Ramirez and Christena (Cupp) Ramirez; his two daughters, Destine Vazquez and Faith Vazquez; his two sons, Brandon Martinez and Bryan Martinez; his brother and best friend, Michael Vazquez; he looked up to his two brothers, Johnny Cupp and Jackie Cupp. He left behind 4 nieces and 3 nephews that loved him very much. In the hearts of those who remain, Albert’s spirit will forever resonate—a testament to a life rich with meaning and love, a beacon guiding them through the enduring days to come. In Lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial donation to help defray the cost of funeral expenses. Please call 254.401.1302 for a payment or through the website www.YoungsDaughters.com make a payment tab. Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center in Temple, Texas.

Knight

Nancy Jane Moore Knight
March 8, 1949-
September 27, 2025

Nancy Jane Moore Knight, age 76, of Temple passed from this life with her loving husband by her side on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at her home. Nancy was born on the 8th day of March 1949 in San Antonio, Texas, to parents Robert Lee and Lucille Irene (Landrum) Moore. Nancy has been a resident of Temple for the past 32 years. After high school, Nancy would complete her bachelor’s in education from the University of Houston in Victoria, Texas. She would spend the next 22 years as a devout teacher, serving as a 3rd grade and kindergarten teacher. On December 21, 1968, Nancy married the love of her life, Darrell K. Knight in San Antonio. The two would spend many wonderful years together, blessing this world with a daughter and a son. Nancy was a faithful member of the Northside Church of Christ. Nancy will be deeply missed by her many friends and family. Nancy was preceded in death by her parents and brother Thomas Moore. Nancy leaves behind to cherish her memory her husband of 56 years Darrell Knight of Temple, daughter Michelle Tarbet and husband Mike of Temple, son Jonathan Knight and wife Andrea of Seattle, WA, and four grandchildren. In keeping with her wishes, Nancy’s cremains will be scattered on a mountain in

Colorado during a private family memorial. Hewett-Arney Funeral Home of Temple is entrusted with these arrangements.

Leach

Melissa Leach
January 14, 1974 –
October 3, 2025

Melissa Leach, of Troy, Texas, passed away peacefully on October 3, 2025, in Lometa, Texas. Missy was the life of every room she entered: radiant, bold, and unforgettable. A true Harley mama with a wild heart and a contagious laugh, she lived her life with passion and a fearless spirit. Missy worked as a flight attendant, a career that perfectly matched her love for travel and adventure. Whether soaring through the skies or cruising down the highway, she embraced every moment with enthusiasm and a deep appreciation for the beauty of the world. She found joy in the simple pleasures of country life: gardening, caring for her dogs, and tending to her beloved farm animals, including chickens, goats, cows, ponies, donkeys, and even an alpaca. Her home was a place of warmth, laughter, and muddy boots, where every creature was loved and every flower had a story. She is survived by her loving partner, Shawn Chandler; her daughter, Taylor Wiesemann; her cherished grandson, Maverick; her siblings, Casey Dowell, John D. Hamrick, Janie Leach, Gaylee Hamrick, and Misti Brown - and their families, all of whom held a special place in her heart. She is also survived by her fathers, Chester Leach and John B. Hamrick. Missy was preceded in death by her mother, Reba Hamrick, and her beloved aunts, Rose Jackson and Brenda Young. Her legacy lives on in the laughter she sparked, the memories she created, and the love she gave so freely. A celebration of life will be held at her home, Saturday, November 29, 2025, at 2 p.m. Please contact her family for more information.

Malcik

Edna Christine Malcik
July 6, 1934 –
October 6, 20255

Edna Christine Malcik, a cherished member of the Temple community, passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, October 6, 2025, at the age of 91, surrounded by her loving family. Edna was born on July 6, 1934, in Red Ranger, Texas, and she later graduated from Rogers High School, where her joyful spirit began to shine brightly. Throughout her career, Edna held various positions, notably working as an inspector for a local hat company before dedicating herself to Southwestern Bell, which later acquired AT&T. She

served with distinction until her retirement in 1992. Edna’s commitment to her work was as strong as her commitment to her family, showcasing her work ethic and determination. Edna was known for her “Happy Go Lucky” personality, and she approached life with a vibrant enthusiasm that was infectious. She found extraordinary joy in the company of her friends and family, having moved in next door to the love of her life, Frank Ignac Malcik, whom she married in 1952. Together, they began their family and welcomed their son, Randall, in 1962. Her love for animals was well-known, as she and Frank raised Chinese Pugs and had many pets throughout their lifetime, each bringing unique joy and companionship. Edna also had a passion for dancing, often sharing this enjoyment with those around her, further reflecting her love for entertainment and family bonding. She is survived by her son, Randall Malcik; two brothers, Reuben Marek and wife Mary Ann, and Alvin Marek; and one grandson, Justin Malcik. Edna will be remembered for the warmth she brought to those lucky enough to know her, the laughter she shared, and the love she expressed for her family. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Frank Ignac Malcik; her parents Rudolph and Justine Jezek

Marek; and one brother, Rudolph Marek Jr. A visitation for Edna was held on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center located at 4235 E. US Hwy 190, Temple, Texas, 76501. A funeral service followed from 11 a.m. to noon at the same location. Edna was laid to rest following the service at Seaton Cemetery, near 12561 TX-53, Temple, Texas, 76501, where a burial took place at 12:30 p.m. Edna Christine Malcik’s legacy of love, joy, and devotion to her family and friends will forever remain in the hearts of those she

touched. She leaves behind cherished memories and a lasting impact on all who knew her. In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial donation to the Czech Heritage Museum and Genealogy Center 119 W. French, Temple, Texas 76501 or to Seaton Church 12561 TX- 53 In Temple. A special thank you to Donna Malcik for her support and care. Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center In Temple.

See **OBITS**,
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Water Walk funds will provide water wells in rural Nigeria

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The Belton-based Touch Root Foundation invites the community to participate in the inaugural Water Walk on Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Landing on Nolan Creek, 219 S East Street in Belton.

The family friendly event begins with registration at 7:30 a.m. and the walk at 9 a.m. “Water Walk raises awareness of the long distances millions of people around the world walk each day to fetch clean water,” said Uche Ogwudu, founder of Touch Root. “The people of Belton can make a difference.”

Ogwudu — a native of Nigeria who has lived in the US for 18 years — said the event is presented in partnership with the city of Belton Parks & Recreation Department. Participants will walk four kilometers. There is a one-mile option for children.

“Participants have the option to carry a jerry can full of water during the walk as a symbolic gesture, reflecting on the long and difficult journeys Nigerian families make each day,” said Ogwudu.

“Whether you choose to carry a jerry can or not, your presence helps raise awareness and support helps fund solar-powered borehole projects, bringing clean, accessible water closer to communities that need it most,” she said.

“I met my husband at a church in Boston, and he, too, was from Nigeria,” she said. “I wasn’t familiar with his community, so I took a trip back for a visit.”

What she saw was shocking. “Children and women were getting up at 4 a.m. to hike two hours to fetch water,” she said. “That’s two hours each way. I was going to go with them until I learned more about it.”

Ogwudu said the Belton Water Walk is much more than just a walk.

“It’s a movement of compassion — a

way for our community to come together, have fun and make a lasting impact,” she said.

In addition to the walk, the event will feature face painting, live music, food and vendors.

Prizes will be awarded to the individual or team that raises the most money.

“Water Walk continues the Touch Root Foundation’s mission to bring solar-powered water wells and educational programs to underserved communities in rural Nigeria,” Ogwudu added.

Registration includes a commemorative Water Walk t-shirt and — for children under 6— a fun Water Hero cape featuring the Foundation’s cheerful mascot, Happy Jerry.

To register, donate or form a team, visit givebutter.com/9UpRnh. For questions or sponsorship inquiries, contact Ogwudu at info@touchrootfoundation.org.

“Join us for a morning of music, movement and meaning — and help walk for water so others don’t have to,” she said.



Courtesy Photo

A child hauls water from a well in rural Nigeria that was built through money provided by Belton-based Touch Root Foundation.

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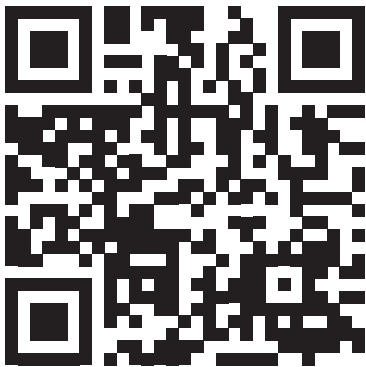
Special to the Journal

The Central Texas community is invited to take part in the DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day & Community Resource Fair on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Oak Village Shopping Center, 2180 N. Main St., Belton.

This family-friendly event, hosted in partnership with the Central Texas Council of Governments, CENTEX Regional Advisory Council, Central Texas Poison Control, Safe Kids Mid-Texas and the Bell County Sheriff’s Department, offers a safe and convenient way to dispose of unused or expired medications while also connecting with local resources and services.

In addition to safe medication disposal and car safety checks, attendees can explore the Community Resource Fair, featuring local organizations and health services. Families can also enjoy the Halloween theme, with candy and small treats for children, plus fun trick-or-treat style informational booths—making the event

both festive and educational. “This event is about keeping our community safe and connected,” said Tommie Ferguson, Community Education Specialist. “By properly disposing of medications and learning about local resources, families can help protect their loved ones while enjoying a fun fall event.”



For questions or to confirm participation, please contact Tommie.Ferguson@bswhealth.org or call 254-624-9660.



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A guide to fall lawn care for cool-season grasses

Spring is the season most often associated with lawn care, and for good reason. Grass starts growing in spring, and the season is a great time to fertilize many grasses in the hopes lawns can look their best and endure the hotter, dryer weather of summer.

Spring might mark the time when many homeowners begin tending to their lawns each year, but it’s important to recognize the significance of fall lawn care as well. Grasses vary, and homeowners are urged to identify which type of grass is in their lawn so they can ensure it gets the care it needs before winter’s first frost. Cool-season grasses like perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass are common in various regions, and the following strategies can help homeowners with these types of grasses tend to their lawns this fall.

- Stick to your recommended fertilization schedule. Homeowners who have been fertilizing since spring are urged to continue doing so in fall at the recommended interval. It’s easy to forget to fertilize in fall thanks to cooler temperatures that don’t call lawn care to mind and busier schedules after school starts again and summer vacation season ends. But many fertilizer manufacturers advise users of their products to fertilize several times over the course of the year, including in fall. Stick to the intervals recommended on the packaging of the fertilizer you’ve been using, making sure not to forget to fertilize this fall.

- Conduct a soil test. A soil test can determine if the soil is lacking any nutritive elements it needs to come

back strong in spring. Certain amendments can restore pH balance if necessary and foster stronger growth when lawns come back in spring.

- Aerate, if necessary. Soil can become compacted over time, and that can cause a range of problems for a lawn. Compacted soil can make it harder for water to reach the roots of grass, which weakens grass and makes it more vulnerable to damage during adverse weather events like drought. Compacted soil also makes it harder for nutrients in fertilizer to get into the soil. Aerating is best left to professionals, particularly in larger lawns, as the job can foster strong root development when done properly.

- Remove thatch where it’s excessive. Thin layers of thatch can benefit lawns by delivering nutrients from grass clippings and leaves to a lawn. However, when thatch is excessive, it can block air, water and even fertilizer from reaching the soil. Thatch often can be removed with a rake, but lawns with especially thick layers of thatch may need to be scarified. Homeowners can take a DIY approach to scarifying or hire a landscaping professional to dethatch the lawn and remove the thatch from their properties.

- Continue to water the lawn. A cool-season grass will continue to require water into the fall. Though the lawn won’t need to be watered as frequently in fall as in summer, various lawn care professionals note cool-season grasses still need roughly an inch of water each week in fall.

- Remove leaves as they fall. Fallen leaves can affect a

lawn in much the same way as excessive amounts of thatch, blocking water and nutrients from reaching the soil. So it’s best to remove fallen leaves, especially when they begin to fall in large quantities.

Fall is an opportune time to tend to a lawn to increase the chances grass grows back strong in spring.





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LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Woodland Cottages Hit Squad faces off against Lake Belton Broncos in chair volleyball match

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Woodland Cottages, a local retirement community volleyball team, the Hit Squad, invited Lake Belton girls' volleyball team, the Broncos, to play chair volleyball. The matchup occurred Monday evening, October 6, at the Cottages, on River Fair Boulevard.

The Hit Squad welcomed the Broncos while in disguise. Walkers, canes, and bath-tubs were used to underplay their abilities. They quickly took off the disguises to begin the games, revealing dark blue team tee-shirts.

The Broncos received chair volleyball instructions before the games began. First, the ball is a beach ball. Second, each player is to remain fully seated during the game.

Quinton Locklin, a seniors real estate agent, emceed the lively event.

Resident Cyril Unger, a line judge, held up a blue or red folder to assist the scoreboard keeper, Adele Heath.

Unger said, "I keep the ladies straight."

Charlotte Wheeler, Hit Squad team member, said, "We just laugh and laugh when we practice."

Bronco team member Morgan Kukulski said, "I just look forward to meeting new people, like talking, getting to know people. I think it'll be really fun."

Thia Allsion, a Bronco team member,



BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman

The Woodland Cottages Hit Squad of Stoney Brook and the Lake Belton Lady Broncos enjoyed a friendly round of chair volleyball on Monday, October 6.

said, "I'm also really excited to have fun. And, you know, I'm also ready to get some wisdom and skills from those who know more than I do."

Residents, team members, and guests came to watch the teams play. Some fans held homemade signs in support. Woodland

Cottages provided snacks and pizza for all in attendance.

The Broncos won three of the five rounds; however, the Hit Squad scored more points overall, with results as follows:

- Game 1: 15-13 Broncos
- Game 2: 15-14 Broncos

- Game 3: 4-15 Hit Squad
- Game 4: 12-15 Hit Squad
- Game 5: 21-19 Broncos

The Hit Squad is just getting started with volleyball matchups. Their first game was on Wednesday, October 1, against Stoneybrook in Belton.

Belton ISD strengthens longstanding partnership with Google

Special to the Journal

For more than a decade, Belton ISD has partnered with Google to bring powerful tools and innovative practices into classrooms, ensuring students and staff have access to technology that supports learning, collaboration and creativity.



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This summer, members of the district's Technology Team visited Google's campus to see firsthand how Chromebooks are designed and developed, as well as to explore upcoming innovations. Their visit reflects Belton ISD's commitment to staying at the forefront of educational technology.

"All of our students in Belton ISD learn on Google devices, and our partnership with Google continues to open doors for both students and staff," said Frank Murray, Director of Instructional Technology and Campus Support. "When we empower teachers, we empower students."

Anna Fitzsimmons, Coordinator of Digital Learning, highlighted the department's role in equipping educators for success. "The Belton ISD Technology Department offers both in-person and

self-paced professional learning to meet the unique needs of our teachers," she explained. "We don't just provide training—we also share extra Google tips and tricks to make their jobs easier and more enjoyable."

She added that the district's vision is rooted in preparing students for the future. "My vision for digital learning is to empower students to become career-ready creators, not just consumers, in this rapidly changing technological world," Fitzsimmons said. "Our partnership with Google is vital because they are constantly innovating and developing tools that help our teachers feel confident and supported, which directly leads to better learning opportunities for our students."

Since 2012, Google developers have visited Belton ISD to share classroom tools and updates. Building

on that collaboration, the district launched its Google Certification program in spring 2023. Open to all staff, the program helps educators strengthen their skills, build confidence and integrate technology in ways that enhance communication, collaboration and instruction.

Participation has grown rapidly. To date, 150 Belton ISD staff members have earned Google certifications, including Level One, Level Two and even Google Trainer status. This summer alone, more than 100 staff members completed certification during intensive technology bootcamps. Self-paced certification opportunities remain available throughout the school year.

Jessica Persilver, an engineering teacher at Lake Belton High School, said the certification has transformed her classroom.

"Becoming a Google Certified Educator has enhanced how I approach teaching and learning. This training has expanded my teaching toolbox. I've learned to use digital tools to streamline my organization, collaborate more effectively with my colleagues, and design lessons that are more interactive and responsive to student needs. This translates into a more engaging and empowering learning experience. Students are now using tools that help them develop crucial real-world skills like time management and digital organization. We are able to collaborate on projects in exciting new ways and use interactive resources that spark curiosity and make learning more visible and hands-on."

She added that the certification process also boosted her confidence. "For me, the biggest gain

has been a new level of confidence in creating a truly modern learning environment. While I was comfortable with technology before, the certification process gave me a much deeper skill set. I've learned so much more about how these tools can be used to spark curiosity and encourage teamwork. This means I feel fully prepared to not only teach the curriculum but also to help our students build essential digital skills for the future, all while making learning more engaging and fun."

Through its ongoing partnership with Google, Belton ISD continues to deliver innovative, real-world learning experiences for its 13,500+ students while equipping educators with the tools and training to make a lasting impact.

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Four Words That Can Change Everything



John C. Perry

They are just four simple words. Short enough to fit on a bumper sticker, easy enough for a child to memorize. But if you let them take root in your heart, they can change the way you live, love, and see the world.

Before I share them, let me tell you how they found me.

After the tragic assassination of Charlie Kirk, a man whose wisdom and biblical insight touched many, I have been watching some of his videos. Charlie was the kind of person who didn't just know Scripture; he lived it. In one of his messages, he shared what he called the secret to a good life. It wasn't complicated. It wasn't flashy. It was just this: "Love God, love people."

Four words. That's it. But oh, how they echo the very heartbeat of Jesus.

Charlie didn't likely invent the phrase, but he distilled it beautifully from what Jesus said, it's called the "Great Commandment," recorded in three of the four Gospels. What is the greatest commandment? This is basically the question a Pharisee asked Jesus in Matthew 22, Mark 12, and Luke 10.

Jesus answered him saying, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Do this and you will live. Not just exist. Not just survive. Live.

Now imagine for a moment what your life would look like if you truly loved God above all else, and loved people, all people, as yourself. Not just the ones who are easy to love. Not just the ones who vote like you, talk like you, or look like you. But everyone. Even the ones who test your patience. Even the ones who hurt you.

It's not easy. Jesus never said it would be, but He did say it was essential.

Loving God with all your heart means putting Him first, even when life gets noisy. And loving people means seeing them as God sees them made in His image, worthy of grace, and never beyond redemption.

If you're struggling to live out those four words, you're not alone. I do too. But here's a tip: find a Bible-based church, and worship with others who are chasing after God. The right church will do more than just entertain you, it will lift you up, teach you the truth, challenge you, and surround you with people who feel like family. And that kind of community makes it easier to love people, why, because you will be loved in return.

So here they are again: "Love God, love people." Four words. A lifetime of meaning. What do you have to lose? Give it a try and see what God does in your life!

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



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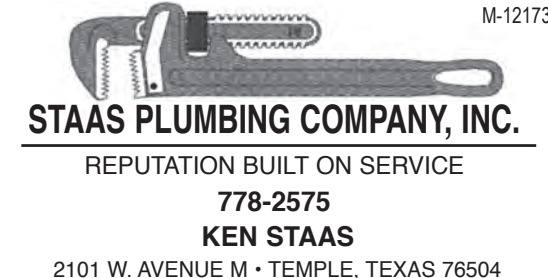
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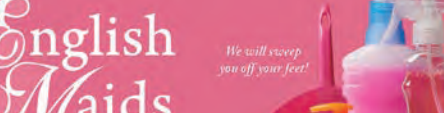
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105th annual Armstrong Halloween Carnival to be held Oct. 18

Special to the Journal

The 105th annual Halloween Carnival will be on Saturday, Oct. 18, starting at 5 p.m. at the Armstrong Community Center in Belton.

The historic Armstrong Community Center is vital to the community and is used for community meetings, family reunions, organizational events, and as a voting place.

This annual fundraiser has been used to support the Center for over 105 years, and has enabled the Historic Armstrong building to serve the community since

1915.

The Annual Halloween Carnival and Bingo is open to all community members. Parking and entrance are free with activities and games for all ages.

There will be Bingo for prizes, both Silent and Live Auctions, a Cake Walk, a kids costume contest, train rides, a bounce house, carnival games and prizes, horse rides, and more. BBQ sandwiches, sausage wraps, and desserts will be available for purchase.

The old red brick Armstrong School on Armstrong Road has stood the test of time. Built in

1915, it served as one of Bell County’s premier schools until the 1957-58 school year. It operates today as the Armstrong Community Center and hosts everything from family reunions to meetings to weddings. It’s not a school anymore, but it still serves as a focal point of the community.

Some of those who attended the school over 80 years ago still serve on the committee today. The Armstrong Improvement Association meets monthly to plan the activities, upkeep, and financing necessary to maintain this historic structure.



File photo
A youngster plays a carnival game at a prior Halloween Carnival, held by the Armstrong Improvement Association. The carnival is the nonprofit’s annual fund raiser to help upkeep the Armstrong Community Center.

Family raising funds for Pitt-Hopkins syndrome research

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Joel Perez will be celebrating his fifteenth birthday on the 23rd of October.

In honor of his birthday, his family is hosting their first community fundraiser on October 25 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. for Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome research.

They are encouraging attendees to wear a team Joel shirt or wear light blue. Perez and 1,500 other children have Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome.

“The event will be at Yettie Polk Park in Belton. Some people are donating gift cards for raffles. His mother has been working for the community for more than twenty years for Belton and Temple ISD as a teacher and does bilingual,” said Consuelo Rodriguez, Joel’s aunt.

Perez’s dad works as a truck driver and his parents also pastor a church in Belton, Iglesia Mision Cristiana. They

serve Spanish-speaking families in the community. They both work full-time and find difficulty keeping their jobs while their son has multiple surgeries and hospital stays. Perez’s grandfather is the former pastor of IMC. He passed away this year of dementia. His grandmother is battling multiple myeloma.

“I dislike asking for money. Everybody who knows me knows that. My husband and I don’t take anything from our church, we give our own tithes, but this is for funding for research for Joel’s syndrome. The organization is actively running trials. Our dreams to see him walk, talk, and eat needs to become a reality! Everyone is welcome,” said his mother, Ana Perez.

Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome is a rare genetic disorder affecting a specific gene in chromosome eighteen, called TCF4. Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome is characterized by developmental delay, hyperventilation, recurrent seizures/epilepsy, gastrointestinal issues, lack of speech, ADHD, anxiety, and distinctive facial features.

Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome is considered an autism spectrum disorder with atypical autistic characteristics, and/or Sensory Integration Dysfunction. Children with Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome typically have a happy, excitable demeanor with frequent smiling and laughter.

When Perez was one years old, he regressed, and then testing began for a diagnosis. Since then, he’s been diagnosed with many conditions, such as microcephaly, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, speech and developmental delays. His progress has been slow. His only word is mama, and he can make choices by eye gaze and slapping. He currently eats through a feeding tube and a VNS for his seizures.

Perez has a beautiful, happy personality, with the help of a team of specialists at McLane’s Children’s Hospital

and a huge support group. Also, with the help of a large extended family, a humble congregation, and powerful faith, he and his family have and will continue to fight, pray, and serve!

So far, El Sazon de mi tierra, Toda Madre Cravings, Ilia’s Scentsy, Maria Nieves, JAM’s Creative Customs, Megaly Mercado has supported the fundraiser. Clem Mikesa, Coronas de Oro, and B-town Burgers have donated raffle gift cards. T-shirts cost \$15. Donations can be sent via cashapp to \$teamjoelluis. For more information contact via email is perezana2003@gmail.com.

The Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome Research Foundation committed to research and finding treatments. They are a 501 (c) non-profit, tax exempt organization. The PHRF employer id is 46-0770142.

Vehicles- From Page A1

All eight vehicles are ready for delivery. The vehicles will be purchased from Sames Bastrop Ford.

Council approved an ordinance on first reading and set a public hearing and second reading for Nov. 10, granting a commercial solid waste collection franchise to Frontier Waste Solutions.

Frontier is seeking a commercial solid waste franchise from the City. The company anticipates commencing services shortly after a franchise is awarded.

Belton City Charter requires two readings and a public hearing.

Council also approved an ordinance

amendment relating to a prohibition to ride or propel any bicycle on any sidewalk, or propel a skateboard or coaster along any sidewalk, in any parking lot or in any street or roadway.

A public hearing was held Tuesday night, but no one spoke in favor of or against the amendment.

Obits- From Page A3

Jackson
David “Ty” Jackson
June 23, 2005 – October 9, 2025

David “Ty” Jackson, 20, of Temple, passed away on October 9, 2025, in Bartlett, Texas. Visitation services were held at Dossman Funeral Home on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, from 5 PM to 8 PM. Services will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 10:30 at Vista Community Church. Burial will follow at Rest Haven Cemetery.

Ty dedicated himself to his family and friends. Family was paramount in his life; he was a self-proclaimed “momma’s boy” who openly expressed his love and admiration for his mom. He held a special bond with his dad that none could compare. His Dad was his rock. He had a close relationship with his two sisters and adored his nieces.

Despite his young age, Ty had a big impact on his community. He became an electrician, where he joined the 520 Electrical Union. He also found love when he met his girlfriend,

Sadie Grote, with whom he shared eight precious months. Though that time was short, he envisioned a bright future together with her.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Ty had a passion for baseball. He played league ball, travel ball and eventually High school Baseball at Lake Belton HS. He earned a full ride scholarship in the sport, a testament to his skill and determination. Life took an unexpected turn when he received an injury that took him down a different path. Ty loved hunting, fishing and golfing. He also enjoyed spending time with his friends and family. He is survived by his father, David S. Jackson, Mother Latasha R. Jackson and his siblings, Tristan Jackson, Brianna Flores and husband Amardo, and Alexis McCollum; as well as his nieces Lyla Knight and Isabella Flores, and his grandfather, David G. Jackson, and his grandmothers, Debbie “Ez” Jackson, Hydi Southerland, and Joyce Roberts. His girlfriend, Sadie Grote. Ty also leaves behind many aunts, uncles and cousins, as well as many friends that became family. He is gone but never forgotten.

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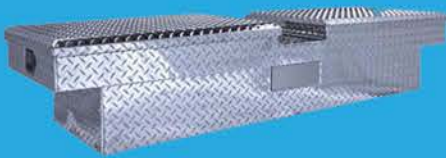
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BISD claims 8 of top 10 spots in District meet

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Belton ISD's girls dominated district. The Lady Broncos and Lady Tigers traveled to Waco's Heart of Texas Soccer Complex last week for the District 16-5A meet, where only the top three teams and top 10 individuals to complete the three-mile course extended their seasons. Although it was a difficult challenge, Lake Belton and Belton excelled and advanced. Belton ISD occupied the top two spots in girls standings and produced eight of the first 10 harriers to cross the finish line, including the field's champion. Lady Broncos freshman Keira Dzenowski cruised to the individual championship in her debut at the event, posting a first-place time of 19 minutes, 31.09 seconds to beat her closest competitor by more than 50 seconds. Belton sophomore Isabella Warner was second (20:24.77), and she proved to be the only person capable of interrupting Lake Belton's attempt to deliver a perfect score. The Lady Broncos' final four scoring runners finished consecutively to give Lake Belton a winning total of 19

points — 40 fewer than the runner-up Lady Tigers (2nd, 59). A perfect score is 15. The junior trio of Jenna Benedick (3rd, 20:43.29), Madelyn Rivas (4th, 20:44.66) and Sarah Gray (5th, 20:45.97) were within three seconds of each other, while sophomore Lucy Loa completed the performance with a sixth-place time of 20:51.98. Furthermore, sophomores Alayna Fulton (9th, 21:34.84) and Elizabeth Sandlin (10th, 21:36.97) also placed among the top 10, but their times did not count toward the team total. The Lady Tigers' remaining points were earned by freshman Ayla Wakershauser (11th, 21:46.59), junior Roxanna Delgado (12th, 21:49.32), senior Delilah Hoffman (15th, 21:56.74) and junior Nataly Valdez (19th, 22:36.16). Lilian Baggett, a sophomore, and senior Destiny Schutz also represented Belton, placing 20th (22:45.67) and 24th (23:39.45), respectively. By earning bronze medals, Killeen Chaparral (3rd, 67) will join the Lady Tigers and Belton at Arlington's Harold Patterson Sports Complex on Monday for the Region II meet. The top four teams and the top 10 individuals at the event claim berths at the state meet.

Waco University (4th, 112), Waco (5th, 150) and Killeen Ellison (6th, 153) completed the standings as Lady Trojans senior Kaelyn Oldade (8th, 21:15.19) was the lone individual to advance from the field. Lady Bobcats sophomore Yeylis Tello was seventh (21:00.25). In the boys division, Ellison did what Lake Belton fell short in attempting as the Eagles emerged with a perfect score, situating all five of their scoring runners atop the standings, including champion Aiden Hill. The junior finished in 16:13.33. Ellison ended with six top-10 performers, while second-place Chaparral (59) had two, while the Broncos rostered the final two, propelling them into the regional meet with a third-place total of 71 points. Wyatt Potts, a junior, was sixth (17:13.76) for Lake Belton, and junior teammate Jack McCullagh was 10th (17:27.25). Also scoring was freshman Drew Houston (13th, 17:38.56), sophomore Tyler Adkins-Beltran (19th, 18:10.73)

See XC,
Page B3



Tigers look to continue 10-5A-II momentum against University

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

Coming out of the bye week, the Belton Tigers are looking to make a District 10-5A-2 statement. Belton quarterback Will Shepard ensured the message was clear: the Tigers are in for the long haul. Shepard had one of the most efficient games for a quarterback in recent Tiger history, having connected on 15-of-17 passing for 274 yards and three touchdown passes to go with 123 rushing yards and four rushing scores. That's right, Tiger fans. Shepard accounted for nearly 400 yards and seven touchdowns. Tailback screens accounted for the majority of the passing yards, with Casson Morton, Gavin Ross, and Gino Zecca the benefactors. It also demonstrated excellent ball control by the Tigers. Shepard's efficiency was similar to the 2018 version of the Belton-Ellison matchup, which was the legendary 86-55 Tigers' win at Leo Buckley Stadium. If the 274-yard mark sounds familiar, it is what Connor Carothers threw

for in that 2018 battle. Carothers' line: 20-of-29, 274 yards, and three touchdowns. In that game, Carothers did not play the second half due to injury. Ruben Jimenez took over at quarterback and promptly went 9-of-10 for 250 yards in four touchdowns. The Tigers collected 726 yards on 69 plays, and the two Belton quarterbacks accounted for seven touchdowns. Shepard (79-of-110, 1,073 passing yards, 239 rushing yards, accounted for 16 touchdowns this season) was not the only standout in the game. Graham Chambley's two major plays on special teams: a smothered extra-point kick in the first quarter and blocked punt recovery in the end zone in third quarter. Ellison pushed the issue, with 518 yards and made life difficult throughout the contest for Belton. Corin Ramesar's late field goal provided breathing room in the Tigers' 53-42 win on Thursday at Tiger Field. "We're 1-0 in district, we have a lot to clean up, but I'm proud on how

See TIGERS,
Page B3

Broncos to face Leander Lions in district matchup, have decisive win over Leander Glenn Grizzlies

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

Lake Belton wasted little time showing its firepower last Friday night against Leander Glenn, using explosive plays and defensive takeaways to power to a 49-23 district win at home. The victory marked one of the Broncos' most complete performances of the season, as they outscored Glenn 21-6 in the second half and forced four turnovers after halftime. From the opening quarter, Lake Belton's balance on both sides of the ball stood out. Quarterback Reese Rosenbaum and wideout Brock Von Racjs connected for a 25 yard touchdown after a Glenn fumble set up the Broncos in prime position. Moments later, Zion Harness added an 18 yard reverse touchdown run to give Lake Belton an early 14-0 lead. The defense was equally sharp, with key takeaways by Gavin Stewart, Evan Lazott, and Braxton Cope, while Arrington Alexander anchored a steady ground attack that wore down the Grizzlies. The Broncos closed the door in the second half with relentless pressure. Rosenbaum tossed three touchdown passes including scores to Luke Phillips and Logan Winkler, while Zyien Dupree's 85 yard touchdown sprint in the final minutes put an exclamation point on the win. Head Coach Brian Cope praised his

team's energy and depth after the victory, noting the excitement of seeing the Broncos' reserves close out the game strong. "I'm proud of these kids to go compete for 48 minutes," Cope said. "The celebrations were genuine. genuine love and excitement for their teammates. If you can do that, you can build something special." Now, the Broncos 3-3 overall, 2-1 in district turn their focus to another test a home matchup with the Leander Lions. Leander enters the game at 3-3 overall and 2-1 in district play, currently sitting in fourth place. A win for Lake Belton would move the Broncos into that same spot, keeping them squarely in the play-off hunt as the second half of the district schedule heats up. The Lions have shown flashes of explosiveness this season. For Lake Belton, maintaining its aggressive mentality and winning the turnover battle again will be critical. Cope and his team know the stakes. "In this district, it's an every Friday night deal," Cope said after the Glenn game. "We'll enjoy this one, get back to work, and be ready to go again Monday." If the Broncos can carry over the same intensity and execution that fueled last week's dominant performance, they'll have a strong chance to make another statement and climb the district standings in the process.

Belton drop decision at Lake, begins new win streak at University

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers Volleyball team looked to build upon their District 16-5A first leg moment, as they traveled to Lake Belton to take on the Broncos in a late-afternoon Friday battle at Bronco Gymnasium. Though Lake won the battle, 3-1, the Tigers took the first set off the Broncos in their past five meetings and just the second set since they began playing against one another in September 2022. Scores were 25-11, 22-25, 25-20, and 25-17. The win in game two snapped Lake's 22-set win streak against the Tigers. Belton won the first set of the first match, and still seek a match victory in the rivalry. CJ Stites, Kaitlyn McCracken, Brylee Renegar, Miley Davila, and Taylor Collins faced everything that the powerful Broncos had in the first game, as Lake rolled to a 14-point win in the opener. The Tigers learned from the first game and gave the Broncos a tussle that had not been seen in the district in a couple years. Belton evened up the match a game apiece, which breathed a new fire in the rivalry.

It is just the second set that the Broncos dropped in district play this season, The battle carried on through the next two games. However, the Broncos were able to fend off the vicious Tiger attack with their patented ball movement and power on the outsides. "I am so proud of how the team battled throughout the match," Belton head coach Haleigh Johnson said. "They overcame adversity from the first set and battled against an excellent team." The momentum of Friday's match carried the Tigers into Tuesday's home battle against the University Trojans. The Tigers swept the Trojans for their fifth win in district play. Scores of the contest were 25-20, 25-21, 25-21 Belton improved their record to 27-12 overall and 5-2 in District 16-5A play, which concluded the first pass through on Tuesday night. It is the most wins by a Belton volleyball team in the past 15 seasons. For the year overall, the Tigers have won 68 of 100 sets played. In district, the Tigers won 16 of 22 sets. On Friday, the Tigers will travel to Killeen to take on the Chaparral Bobcats. On Tuesday, the Tigers will travel back to Killeen to take on the Ellison Eagles.



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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The beginning of the University Interscholastic League basketball seasons are rapidly approaching, and soon, Belton and Lake Belton will start preparing. Girls teams are permitted to begin practicing Wednesday with scrimmages allowed starting Nov. 1. The first day for games is Nov. 7.

Boys practice, scrimmage and game schedules open one week after girls teams.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

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

Boys and girls in kindergarten through eighth grade can participate.

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

Spots are limited.

Forms are available at BCYCsports.com, and information about sponsorships can be obtained by calling 254-939-5759.

For more information, visit BeltonYouth.com.

ATHLETIC PASSES

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

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



Open enrollment: What to know before you enroll

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

For many people, fall brings open enrollment, the period to choose your medical and workplace benefits for the year ahead.

While it may be easy just to renew last year's choices, that might be a costly mistake. Your employer's plans, providers or costs may have changed. And your own circumstances might be different.

Here are a few tips for navigating open enrollment.

Many employers offer more than one health, dental or vision option. Check the differences in provider networks, pre-

scription coverage and monthly premiums.

Next, take advantage of flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs). These let you use pretax dollars for eligible medical expenses.

And finally, check the insurance options. There may be a base level of life insurance, with the option to buy more. Make sure you have enough coverage to protect your loved ones.

Taking a fresh look helps ensure your benefits match your family's needs for the coming year.

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

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Lake Belton clinches playoff spot with three games left in district schedule

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

All season, the Lady Broncos have been working toward returning to the playoffs. Now, the goal has changed.

Lake Belton traveled to Killeen Ellison on Tuesday and encountered little resistance, earning a straight-set victory to remain undefeated in District 16-5A competition. Along with the win, the Lady Broncos clinched a postseason berth with three matches remaining in the regular season.

With the spot secured, Lake Belton head coach Allison Waits admits the focus can be altered.

"We are really just fine tuning things now," she said. "We really want to be able to implement the things we try in practice and make them work in games. We just want to continue pushing ourselves to be a better team going into the postseason."

The Lady Broncos had no issues imposing their will on Ellison. Having won 14 of their previous 15 matches entering the evening, Lake Belton cruised to a 15-point win in the opening set, but the Lady Eagles rebounded by jumping out to a 5-2 advantage in the second set.

The cushion quickly deflated, though, as the Lady Broncos embarked on a 22-3 outburst to take control and propel them to a 25-10, 25-10, 25-20 victory.

The Lady Broncos started strong, winning nine of the match's first 11 points, and they increased the lead to double digits at 16-6. The gap grew to 20-9 on sophomore Haylee Kasner's ace before Ellison's Charity Graham set up teammate Ja'lya Swiney for a kill.

Ellison would not get any closer.

Sparked by senior Kaitlyn Hutchins' hit, Lake Belton recorded five consecutive points to close the set, but soon after, the Lady Eagles established a 5-2 lead to begin the second set.

Hutchins' ensuing kill, however, triggered 10 unanswered points for the Lady Broncos, beginning the explosion that essentially ended the hopes of an Ellison comeback.

"That run really meant a lot to our team," Waits said, "because we were spreading the offense around really well.

That has been a goal of ours.

"If we needed someone to step up, they were going in and doing exactly what we asked, so it's great to set those goals and see the girls achieve them."

The Lady Eagles, who are responsible for one of Lake Belton's two set losses during District 16-5A play, delivered their best performance in the third set, trailing the Lady Broncos by just three points, 22-19, late, but they could not rally.

See **LAKE**, Page B3



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Lake - From Page B2

With the victory, Lake Belton improves to 7-0 in the league standings, while Ellison falls to 3-4 with three matches remaining.

The Lady Broncos will try to earn an undefeated district championship with wins against visiting

Waco and Chaparral before closing the schedule at University.

“This is the time of the year where we really want to be playing to the best of our abilities,” Waits said. “I really feel like we are getting into that groove and finding

consistency. We are starting to play our best volleyball, and I’m really happy about that.

“We don’t want to take anything for granted, and we are happy to have made the playoffs, but that is just one goal. It is our first goal.”

Tigers - From Page B1

hard they fought,” Belton head coach Brett Sniffin said in his postgame comments. “I’m extremely happy we’re 1-0.”

Getting one extra day of rest, the Tigers will face the University Trojans at Waco ISD Stadium on Friday. Game time is 7 pm.

The Trojans are coming off their own statement game with a 58-3 win over the Rudder Rangers. Savoy Nichols went 12-of-18 for 404

yards passing and six scores. London Smith had three catches for 134 yards and two scores, Jeremiah Green caught three passes for 116 yards and a score, and Jimare Thomas added a 66-yard reception. University averaged 29.9 yards per reception and 7.7 yards per carry on route to a 564-yard total.

Nichols (101-of-158, 1,490 passing yards, 15 TDs, three INT) and Smith (44 receptions, 703 yards, nine TDs) will be

the connection with the biggest focus, not unlike Belton’s Shepard-to-Gavin Ross (50 receptions, 727 yards, seven TDs) connected.

Both teams run the ball with power, with the Tigers average four per carry, 777 total rushing yards and a 129.5 yards per game average, and University having averaged 5.3 yards per rush, 787 total rushing yards and 131.2 per game average.

The Trojans’ defense has 51 tackles for loss, 12.5 sacks, six interceptions, and three fumble recoveries this season. Belton has 18 tackles for loss, seven fumble recoveries, five sacks, and four interceptions.

XC - From Page B1

and junior Josiah Briggs (23rd, 18:35.21).

Broncos sophomore Cooper Schels (24th, 18:42.10) and junior Austin Adams (32nd, 19:02.38) also raced.

University (4th, 121),

Belton (5th, 130) and Waco (6th, 154) completed the standings.

The Tigers were represented by senior Palu Maringathuparambil (14th, 17:45.72), junior Jose Perez-Diaz (20th, 18:10.80),

junior Ezra Kahler (28th, 18:49.28), freshman Ethan Trevino (30th, 18:54.86), freshman Luke Roberts (38th, 20:03.81), senior Rosalio Parra (39th, 20:04.25) and junior Hayden Brown (40th, 20:09.97).

Belton Lake: Stillhouse:

GOOD. Water normal stain; 83 degrees; 0.04 feet above pool. With any luck, this will be the last ho-hum report for quite a while. The lake is near turnover and the great autumn fishing it will bring. Hopefully the midweek cold front will spark the turnover. Lows are to be in the 60s with highs in the 80s for the foreseeable future. There is only about 4 degrees difference between the surface temperature and the air temperature at 60-65 feet, so just a few cool days and nights will do it. In the meantime, fishing is still tough as white bass and hybrid striped bass roam about in search of shad and remain suspended most of the daylight hours, oblivious to any bottom features. Extensive use of side-imaging to cover ground, in conjunction with downriggers used to put bait just above the fish with precision, is producing the best with #12 Pet Spoons on the downriggers. If an area seems to have a good density of fish and bait present, slow down and cast the MAL Heavy or MAL Mini horizontally using a countdown method for suspended fish or the sawtooth method for bottom-oriented fish. Leave one rod hanging vertically in a rod holder with the bait very near bottom, so you can race it up past them as they show beneath the boat on Garmin LiveScope or 2D sonar. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are excellent. Anglers can find blue catfish around sand flats and river channels in 10-20 feet of water. Larger fresh cut baits have been effective for trophy size fish. Eater fish under 10 pounds can be caught deadsticking with small cut shad along ledges and river channels. Channel catfish are great and can be caught on punch bait in 10-20 feet of water. Flatheads are good on live bait in shallow water around river mouths. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

FAIR. Water stained; 83 degrees; 0.03 feet above pool. With any luck, this will be the last ho-hum report for quite a while. The lake is near turnover and the great autumn fishing it will bring. Hopefully the midweek cold front will spark the turnover. Lows are to be in the 60s with highs in the 80s for the foreseeable future. There is only about 4 degrees difference between the surface temperature and the air temperature at 60-65 feet, so just a few cool days and nights will do it. In the meantime, fishing is still tough as white bass and hybrid striped bass roam about in search of shad and remain suspended most of the daylight hours, oblivious to any bottom features. Extensive use of side-imaging to cover ground, in conjunction with downriggers used to put bait just above the fish with precision, is producing the best with #12 Pet Spoons on the downriggers. If an area seems to have a good density of fish and bait present, slow down and cast the MAL Heavy or MAL Mini horizontally using a countdown method for suspended fish or the sawtooth method for bottom-oriented fish. Leave one rod hanging vertically in a rod holder with the bait very near bottom, so you can race it up past them as they show beneath the boat on Garmin LiveScope or 2D sonar. Some smaller, schoolie-sized largemouth surfacing, but the action is light and spread far and wide. A small, clear soft plastic on a jighead cast fast and accurately is about the only thing these shad-eating bass will respond to consistently. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

Fishing REPORT



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EDITORIAL

Vegetables

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

When I travel, I will often eat at a few fast food places. Of course this is typically when I am actually traveling. If I am in a place for a period of time I will search out local places or something interesting and see what I can find. I have actually found reasonable seafood well away from the coast. And a few places that I will visit on each trip, perhaps for a specialty or maybe just because it is good food and well worth my time.

As for the fast food places, I probably won't list any of them because that would bring all sorts of comments about how bad the food is for you and associated opinions. I have a select few places that I trust and usually stick to them while I am on the road. You see, I don't really

want to be sick while I am in the moving part of a trip. If I want to feel bad at home or in a hotel that is tolerable, however, the rest of the trip makes it very difficult to be sick, so I try to avoid that part.

It is very rare that my short-list of fast food restaurants has an issue with something that could cause food poisoning. With that said McDonald's, a major fast food place, did have a problem with onions recently. Of course I don't eat onions and have been telling people for years not to eat them, so that is not on me!

A recent food recall involves a home food supply service, known for being fresh, and they have a potential food poisoning concern. I would think that the people that subscribe to

this service are in a hurry and like the convenience of the food delivered to their door. I would imagine they come home from a busy day at the bank and crack open the box of food, look at the picture and mix it all together for supper. Hopefully no one gets ill from this incident.

The next major food issue really hits home! The famous "corny dog" is being recalled. Apparently a batch of sticks ended up where they shouldn't have been and have caused some issues with people biting into them. This is a major Texas food group, while we may not enjoy them everyday, you don't want to mess with our "corny dogs", much like our Texas ice cream.

I have had a few original "corny dogs" from the State

Fair, which is the place to get them, so you start with the best of the best. There are a few good options without having to travel all the way to Dallas in the fall, so those are acceptable.

Where I was going with my thoughts this week was a certain vegetable that I encountered recently. I was at a fast food restaurant recently when I had one of their side dishes, you know, to offset the entree. This actually was one of the best versions of this vegetable that I have, either ever, or had in a long time, it was that good. So since I like to cook and experiment I looked up to see if anyone else found them to be that good, and yes, others were as excited as I was over them. I found a few recipes and ideas, so I took the easiest

method and tried that. I worked on them at first with a canned option, then once I had most of the needed ingredients and cooking times, I moved over to fresh veggies. I have a very acceptable method with quite suitable results. I will keep refining until I find something that I really like. I think it has to do with cooking times, however the spices also seem to play into the flavor, so I am working on those as well. Recently I was at another location of this same chain restaurant and I found the same dish and it was not nearly as good as the first, but it was still a lot better than others that I have had. I will keep working on this until I have it perfected. I mean what else is there to do for now since "corny dogs" are hard to get.

Hole in the Roof

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

One afternoon, I drove home from work through sheets of rain so thick I could barely see. I did my normal get-home routine, grabbed a snack, and headed upstairs to see my beloved. When I entered the hallway, I saw a big puddle on the floor. My first thought was *Bella! That dog pottied on my clean floor.* It was a pretty big puddle, and not in her normal spot, so I took a closer look. That's when *Plop!* A fat raindrop fell on my head.

Inside my house. I looked up, and dribbles of water made tracks down my wall, all the way to the floor. I ran upstairs, calling for Rick.

He must have thought my excitement was over seeing him. He spun around in his computer chair and gave me a big smile. "Hello, Sweetheart! How was your day?"

"The house is leaking."

He wasn't smiling anymore. "You're kidding." I followed him down the

stairs where he saw that I was definitely not kidding.

The next two hours consisted of going in the attic, finding the leak, and positioning a styrofoam cooler under it. Going to the shed, finding some leftover shingles, a hammer, and some nails. Going on the roof, in the pouring rain, to patch the leak.

While Rick was on the roof, I stood in the yard and watched. At least I could call 911 if he fell or got hit by lightning.

It took a couple of re-

peats – going back to the attic, checking the leak, going back on the roof, adding another shingle – until finally, no more water came through. Talk about excitement. I prefer dull.

I guess it's a good thing, though. We had some hail damage back in the spring, but it hasn't rained much since then. Without yesterday's storm, we wouldn't have known about the leak. Who knows how many critters have gotten in, or how many extra dollars we spent on air conditioning, because of that little hole in the roof.

That's how storms work in our lives, too. When they're happening, it

feels chaotic and stressful. But those storms often reveal things about ourselves that go unnoticed... things that can cause damage if left unchecked. Maybe we have a pride problem, and some torrential circumstance knocks us on our backside and humbles us. Maybe we lack compassion, and we're put in a position where we benefit from others' compassion.

When those holes are revealed, we're forced to get out a hammer and some shingles, head out into the rain, and do hard, uncomfortable repair work. It's not fun. But if ignored, we could end up with far greater damage.

Today, the sun is shining and the temperature is ideal. I can't wait to go for a walk in this perfect weather. But I'm so, so grateful for yesterday's downpour, for revealing the weak spots. Now our roof is stronger and more secure, ready to shelter us from future storms.

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."
James 1:2-4



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THE BELTON JOURNAL

Local Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

OCTOBER

10/15: Popcorn Bridge	Dominoes
10/16: Meet & Greet, 42 Dominoes, Non-Fiction Book Club	10/24: Trailblazers Walking Group
10/18: Exploring Wine	10/25: Jimmy's Egg
10/20: Snack Time Mah Jongg	10/27: Well Read Women, Monday Canasta
10/21: Bunco	10/28: Singing Bluebonnets
10/22: Crochet & Knit, Fun Lunch	10/30: 42 Dominoes
10/23: 42 Dominoes, Mexican Train	

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

CAC announces 2025 concert lineups

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

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

AN CLIBURN FINALIST CLAYTON STEPHENSON — Oct. 18

American pianist Clayton Stephenson's love for music is immediately apparent in his joyous charisma onstage, expressive power and natural ease at the instrument.

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL — Nov. 8

Founded in 1970, Asleep at the Wheel has been part of the American roots music landscape for more than 50 years.

SHINYRIBS - Dec. 6

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

Bell County Master Gardeners - Oct 10

Friday, Oct 10 at noon, Troy Community Center, 201 East Main Street, Troy. The Bell County Master Gardeners and the Troy Chamber of Commerce invite you to an engaging Lunch and Learn seminar with Master Gardener Sherry Oermann. We will dive into the fascinating world of bee to explore their life cycle, learn where they live and how they behave and answer common questions such as why do bees sting? Why are they attracted to soda cans? What does it mean when we see a big cluster of bees on a tree limb? You'll even get to see and touch a bee suit and other beekeeping items in this interactive session! This event is free and open to the public. Bring your lunch and your curiosity! Registration online at <https://forms.gle/EVzzrg1RV36x2xPM9> or contact gabywarlick@gmail.com or call 254-400-7345.

Bell County Master Gardeners - Oct 15

The Bell County Master Gardener Association invites you to : Decorating with Herbs Workshop. Join Master Gardener Jo Ging at our next meeting to explore creative ways to decorate with fresh and dried herbs. See a live demonstration of herb decorating ideas. Enjoy a hands-on project , making your own herb wreath to take home. Please bring your own bypass shears or scissors for trimming and cutting herbs. All other supplies will be provided. Donations are encouraged to help offset the cost of materials. Come ready to create, share ideas, and leave inspired with new ways to showcase the herbs you grow! Oct 15, 2025, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Bell County Extension Office-Learning Center, 1605 N. Main Street, Belton Register at forms.gle/cj9A24U-vAVSqWiv7

Bell County Master Gardeners - Oct 16

Join Master Gardener Sylvia Maedgen for our "Native and Adapted Trees for Bell County." Learn which native and adapted trees thrive in our area. Sylvia will guide you through choosing the ideal tree, understanding different types of trees, leaves, and bark, selecting the best planting location, mastering proper planting techniques, and learning how to care for your trees to ensure healthy growth. Oct 16, 2025, 6:00 p.m.. - 6:30 p.m. at Bell County Extension Office-Learning Center, 1605 N. Main Street, Belton Register at [orms.gle/QJYgnZ1MXgw7pMds5](https://forms.gle/QJYgnZ1MXgw7pMds5)

Family Camp Out - Oct 24 - 26

Roll up your sleeping bags and hit the trail for a campout at Heritage Park. Activities include fishing, kayaking, and s'mores. This year we are offering an extended weekend of fun, Saturday-Sunday, October 24-26, 2025. Stay tuned for registration information from Belton Parks & Recreation.

250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps Ball - Nov 8

The Louis Wayne Qualls Marine Corps League Detachment 1249 is proud to be hosting the 250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps Ball on November 8th, 2025, starting at 5pm at the Lone Star Convention Center, Bldg 5764, 24th St, Fort Hood, TX. Events will include Traditional Marine Corps Birthday Ceremonies, Guest Speaker, Sit down Dinner, Music, Dancing, Cash Bar. Tickets are \$65.00 per person; corporate sponsorship is available. Open to all, Black Tie / Military Dress. Tickets must be purchased by October 31st, 2025, at www.mcl1249tx.com. No ticket sales at the door. Website will have a link to get your base pass online and will be active 2 weeks prior to the Ball.

Annual Library Art Show - Nov 15

Mary Ruth Briggs Library in Morgan's Point Resort will hold our 7th Annual Library Art Show on Saturday, November 15th from 6:00 to 8:30 PM 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 14th, 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM and Saturday, November 15th, 9:00 AM 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. Include a 3 x 5 white index card with a short description of your work. Questions? Contact Library@mprtx.us. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded for Children and Adults (16 and up) as well as a Peoples Choice Award as decided by the attendees. For online applications see the website at morganspointresorttx.com 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 by the LBHS Silver Strings, wine, appetizers and fun!

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on Tuesday, Oct. 14th and Oct. 28th at 6:30pm at the Temple VA Hospital. Use the entrance on the Valet parking side of the hospital and take the elevator to the 5th floor -Conference Room 5G31. Both care-givers, supporters and those suffering from mental illness are welcome to join us for mutual support and sharing of information. For more information, call 254-771-3638.

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

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

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on TUESDAY, Sept.

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

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

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

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

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

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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THE BELTON JOURNAL

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Mail resume: Wireless Wizards LLC.; Attn: M. Rupani, 1408 S. 31st. St., Temple, TX 76504. 10.16PD

LEGALS

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION –
PARENT AND CHILD
CAUSE NO. 25DFAM356197**
To: CRAIG DERAIL HAYES
Greetings:
You are hereby commanded to appear

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LEGALS

before the 146th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas, to be held at the courthouse of said County in the City of Belton, Texas, at or before 10 o’clock AM of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after the date of service of which this citation, then and there to answer the PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP of CHERRELL SHANTA HALDANE, Petitioner filed in said Court on September 15, 2025, against CRAIG DERAIL HAYES, respondent, and said suit being number 25DFAM356197, on the docket of said Court, and entitled In the Interest of Children ADDYSEN BRIELLE HAYES, 10/31/2011
The nature of which suit is a request to Parent/Child Relationship.
The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree in the child’s/children’s interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child’s/children’s adoption.
The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.
This was issued at the request of attorney: CHERRELL SHANTA HALDANE- PRO SE 207 FAWAZ DR KILLEEN TX 76542.
NOTICE TO Defendant: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.
Witness, Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas.
Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on October 09, 2025.
Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas 1201 Huey Road P.O. Box 909 Belton, Texas 76513
By: Misty Cortez Deputy Clerk 10.16PD

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ruby Irene Gressett, Deceased, were issued on October 10, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00441, pending in the County Court of Bell County, Texas, to Patrick S. Richter.
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: Melinda Hedrick Beard Kultgen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson, PLLC, 220 S. Fourth Street, Waco, Texas 76701
DATED the 10th day of October, 2025.
Respectfully submitted,
BEARD KULTGEN BROPHY BOSTWICK & DICKSON, PLLC, Melinda Hedrick, State Bar No. 24013395, 220 S. Fourth Street, Waco, Texas 76701, (254)776-5500, (254) 776-3591, (Facsimile)
By: /s/ Melinda Hedrick
Melinda Hedrick
10.16

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00639**
To: Unknown Heirs
JAMES R. REDDELL, Applicant, on October 09, 2025, filed an application to determine heirship in a proceeding styled: JOSE JUSTO REYES GOMEZ A.K.A. JOSE

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00632**
To: Unknown Heirs
TAMARA TAYLOR, Applicant, on October 07, 2025, filed an APPLICATION FOR

LEGALS

J. REYES-GOMEZ, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00639 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 16, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.
Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is:
MARY LINDLEY-WILEY, 100 W CENTEX EXPWY STE 302, HARKER HEIGHTS, TX 76548
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 09, 2025.
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Erika DeCasas Deputy 10.16

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Administration for the Estate of JIMMY WILLARD McDONALD, JR., Deceased, were issued on October 9, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00504, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: RONI SUE McDONALD.
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: RONI SUE McDONALD, 7816 Fieldstone Dr., Temple, Texas 76502
DATED the 9th day of October , 2025.
/s/James O. Cure ,James O. Cure Attorney for RONI SUE McDONALD, State Bar No.: 05252800, 2584 Blue Meadow Dr., Temple, TX 76502, Telephone: (254) 778-8934, Facsimile: (254) 773-2477, Email: jocure@cureandfrancis.net
10.16

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARY JANE KERR, Deceased, were issued on October 8, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00463, pending in the County Court At Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: THOMAS KENYON SCHILLER.
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: THOMAS KENYON SCHILLER, 1410 Country Club Road ,Georgetown, Texas 78628
DATED the day of , 2025.
S/sJames O. Cure, James O. Cure Attorney for THOMAS KENYON SCHILLER, State Bar No.: 05252800, 2584 Blue Meadow Dr. Temple, TX 76502, Telephone: (254) 778-8934, Facsimile: (254) 773-2477, Email: jocure@cureandfrancis.net
10.16

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00632**
To: Unknown Heirs
TAMARA TAYLOR, Applicant, on October 07, 2025, filed an APPLICATION FOR

TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION in a proceeding style: TIMOTHY PREWITT, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00632 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 07, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: ASHLEY S CLAPPER , CORBIN STAPLER & CLAPPER PC, 603 N 8TH ST, KILLEEN TX 76541

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, 2025.

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

By: Erika DeCasas Deputy
10.16

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00628

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS

MELISSA JO WILSON, Applicant, on October 07, 2025, filed an application to determine heirship and letters of independent administration in a proceeding styled: CANDY L. PATNOE, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00628 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 16, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: JOHN ERIC STOEBNER, 2106 BIRD CREEK DRIVE, TEMPLE TX 76502

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

hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on October 07, 2025.

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513 By: Erika DeCasas Deputy
10.16

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00629

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

TRAVIS COMBS, Applicant, on October 07, 2025, filed an Application for Declaration of Heirship and Issuance of Letters of Dependent Administration in a proceeding styled: VIRGINIA ELIZABETH COMBS, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00629 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 16, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: JOHN ERIC STOEBNER ,2106 BIRD CREEK DRIVE, TEMPLE TX 76502

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on October 07, 2025.

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

By: Lilian Phillips Deputy
10.16

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION – CIVIL
CAUSE NO. 24DCV349634

To :NORA E. CUADRIELLO AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS- AT- LAW OF RAYMOND MENN

Greetings:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL PETITION at or before 10 o’clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o’clock AM, before the Honorable 146th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL PETITION was filed in said court on October 23, 2024.

The file number of said suit being No.

24DCV349634. The names of the parties in said suit are:

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
VS. NORA CUADRIELLO,TAMANTHA GOODE,PATRICK BAYS,BRANDON BAYS,SAMANTHA HILL,PHILIP EASTHAM,THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF RAYMOND MENN DECEASED

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, its successors and assigns, as plaintiff against NORA E. CUADRIELLO, TAMANTHA GOODE, PATRICK BAYS, BRANDON BAYS, SAMANTHA HILL AND PHILIP CHANCE EASTHAM, and the Unknown Heirs at Law of Raymond Menn, Deceased, and any other person claiming any right, title, interest or possession in and to the property located at 1104 Lonesome Oak Drive, Temple, TX 76502, and legally described to wit: LOT EIGHTEEN (18), IN BLOCK SIX (6), OF VILLAGE OF SAGE MEADOWS PHASE III, IN THE CITY OF TEMPLE, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF RECORD IN CABINET D, SLIDE 272-B, PLAT RECORDS OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS.

Plaintiff’s Petition is styled LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC v. NORA E. CUADRIELLO, TAMANTHA GOODE, PATRICK BAYS, BRANDON BAYS, SAMANTHA HILL AND PHILIP CHANCE EASTHAM, and the Unknown Heirs at Law of Raymond Menn, Deceased. The Plaintiff seeks to rescind the vendor’s lien and assert superior title to the above- described property.

This was issued at the request of attorney: JAMES A FRAPPIER 4004 BELT LINE ROAD SUITE 100 ADDISON TX 75001.

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on October 07, 2025.

Joanna Staton

District Clerk Bell County, Texas 1201 Huey Road P.O. Box 909

By: Misty Cortez Deputy Clerk

10.16,10.23,10.30,11.06

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CODE THAT OPIT LLC D/B/A LONGHORN LIQUOR, BEER & WINE #21 LOCATED AT2150 N. MAIN ST, BELTON, BELL COUNTY, TX 76513 HAS FILEDAPPLICATION FOR A PACKAGE STORE PERMIT. DENNIS M. WILLIAMS, MANAGING MEMBER, MICHAEL A. WILLIAMS, MANAGING MEMBER 10.16,10.23pd

WELCOME

October

Fall is the season for cozy hugs and warm mugs & monthly specials!

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NOTICE OF BOND ELECTION ORDER CALLING ELECTION

ORDER BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BELTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT CALLING A BOND ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN SAID DISTRICT; MAKING PROVISIONS FOR THE CONDUCT AND THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF THE ELECTION; AND CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING THERETO

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Belton Independent School District (the “District”) finds and determines that it is necessary and advisable to call and hold an election for and within the District on the propositions hereinafter set forth; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds, determines and declares that the meeting at which this Order is considered is open to the public, and that the public notice of the time, place and purpose of the meeting was given, as required by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BELTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Section 1. **Findings.** The statements contained in the preamble of this Order are true and correct and are hereby adopted as findings of fact and as a part of the operative provision hereof.

Section 2. **Election Ordered; Date; Propositions.** A bond election (the “Election”) shall be held for and within the District on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 (“Election Day”), uniform election date established by Section 41.001(a), Texas Election Code, as amended (the “Code”), as required by Texas law. At the Election the following propositions (individually “Proposition” and collectively, the “Propositions”) shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the District in accordance with law:

BELTON ISD – PROPOSITION A

THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

Shall the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Belton Independent School District (the “District”) be authorized to issue and sell at any price or prices the bonds of the District in the amount of \$92,925,000 for the construction, acquisition, renovation, and equipment of school buildings in the District, which bonds may be issued in various issues or series, shall mature serially or otherwise not more than 40 years from their date, and shall bear interest at such rate or rates, not to exceed the maximum rate now or hereafter authorized by law, as shall be determined by the Board within the discretion of the Board at the time of issuance; and shall the Board be authorized to levy and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the District sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to, or in connection with the bonds; said bonds to be issued and said taxes to be levied, pledged, assessed, and collected under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas including the Texas Education Code?

BELTON ISD - PROPOSITION B

THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

Shall the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Belton Independent School District (the “District”) be authorized to issue and sell at any price or prices the bonds of the District in the amount of \$43,725,000 for the construction, renovation, acquisition, and equipment of improvements to Tiger Field and Bronco Field, which bonds may be issued in various issues or series, shall mature serially or otherwise not more than 40 years from their date, and shall bear interest at such rate or rates, not to exceed the maximum rate now or hereafter authorized by law, as shall be determined by the Board within the discretion of the Board at the time of issuance; and shall the Board be authorized to levy and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the District sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to, or in connection with the bonds; said bonds to be issued and said taxes to be levied, pledged, assessed, and collected under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas including the Texas Education Code?

BELTON ISD - PROPOSITION C

THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

Shall the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Belton Independent School District (the “District”) be authorized to issue and sell at any price or prices the bonds of the District in the amount of \$6,000,000 for the acquisition or update of District technology equipment, including student, teacher and staff devices, which bonds may be issued in various issues or series, shall mature serially or otherwise not more than 5 years from their date, and shall bear interest at such rate or rates, not to exceed the maximum rate now or hereafter authorized by law, as shall be determined by the Board within the discretion of the Board at the time of issuance; and shall the Board be authorized to levy and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the District sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to, or in connection with the bonds; said bonds to be issued and said taxes to be levied, pledged, assessed, and collected under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas including the Texas Education Code?

BELTON ISD - PROPOSITION D

THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

Shall the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Belton Independent School District (the “District”) be authorized to issue and sell at any price or prices the bonds of the District in the amount of \$19,185,000 for the construction, acquisition, and equipment of District natorium facilities, including improvements to existing District natorium facilities and construction of a practice pool, which bonds may be issued in various issues or series, shall mature serially or otherwise not more than 40 years from their date, and shall bear interest at such rate or rates, not to exceed the maximum rate now or hereafter authorized by law, as shall be determined by the Board within the discretion of the Board at the time of issuance; and shall the Board be authorized to levy and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the District sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to, or in connection with the bonds; said bonds to be issued and said taxes to be levied, pledged, assessed, and collected under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas including the Texas Education Code?

Section 3. Official Ballot.

(a) Voting at the Election, and early voting thereof, shall be by the use of the lawful approved Ballot County, Texas (“Bell County”) or the “County”) voting systems and ballots.

(b) The preparation of the necessary equipment and the official ballots for the Election shall conform to the requirements of the Code so as to permit the electors to vote “FOR” “AGAINST” each Proposition which shall be set forth on the ballots substantially in the following form:

BELTON ISD – PROPOSITION A

☐ FOR) THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

☐ AGAINST) “The issuance of \$92,925,000 of bonds for the construction, acquisition, renovation, and equipment of school buildings in the District, and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds.”

BELTON ISD – PROPOSITION B

☐ FOR) THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

☐ AGAINST) “The issuance of \$43,725,000 of bonds for the construction, renovation, acquisition, and equipment of improvements to Tiger Field and Bronco Field, and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds.”

BELTON ISD – PROPOSITION C

☐ FOR) THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

☐ AGAINST) “The issuance of \$6,000,000 of bonds for the acquisition or update of district technology equipment, including student, teacher and staff devices, and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds.”

BELTON ISD – PROPOSITION D

☐ FOR) THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

☐ AGAINST) “The issuance of \$19,185,000 of bonds for the construction, acquisition, and equipment of district natorium facilities, including improvements to existing district natorium facilities and construction of a practice pool, and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds.”

Section 4. **Multilingual Election Materials.** All notices, instructions, and ballots pertaining to the Election shall be furnished to voters in English and Spanish in compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended (the “Voting Rights Act”), and the Code, including particularly Chapter 272 of the Code pertaining to bilingual requirements.

Section 5. **Persons Qualified to Vote.** All resident, qualified electors of the District shall be eligible to vote at the Election.

Section 6. **Election Precincts, Voting Locations and Voting Hours on Election Day.** The election precincts for the Election shall consist of the territory within the boundaries of the District situated within one or more County election precincts located wholly or partially within the District. The precinct numbers for the District’s election precincts shall be the same as those assigned by the County to the County election precincts. The polling places for the Election are hereby designated to be those locations identified by the Elections Administrator (as defined herein). Such locations are listed on **Exhibit A** attached hereto, which is incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof for all purposes; provided, however, such locations may be changed if so directed by the Elections Administrator without further action of the District. The County or its Elections Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to make such changes in polling locations as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the Election, without further action by the District, and the President of the Board or his/her designee is hereby authorized to update **Exhibit A** to reflect the locations designated by the County or its Elections Administrator, which locations are hereby approved. Each polling place shall be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Election Day.

Section 7. **Elections Administrator; Early Voting Clerk; Early Voting Locations, Dates and Times.** (a) Desi Roberts, the Bell County Elections Administrator (the “Elections Administrator”) is hereby appointed as the Early Voting Clerk for purposes of this Election (the “Early Voting Clerk”) and appointed Elections Administrator for the District and agent for the custodian of voted ballots in the jurisdiction.

(b) The address for the Early Voting Clerk of Bell County is 550 E. 2nd Avenue, Belton, Texas 76513 and the Early Voting Clerk may be reached at the following: (i) Telephone: (254) 933-5774, (ii) Email: elections@beltoncounty.texas.gov, and (iii) Website: <https://www.beltoncountytexas.com/departments/elections/index.php>.

(c) Applications for early voting by mail shall be submitted to the Elections Administrator by regular mail to Bell County Elections Department, PO Box 1629, Belton, TX 76513, or by common or contract carrier to Bell County Elections Department, 550 E. 2nd Avenue, Belton, TX 76513.

(d) The main early voting polling place for Bell County is hereby designated to be the Bell County Belton Courthouse Annex, 550 E. 2nd Avenue, Belton, TX 76513.

(e) Early voting by personal appearance for all election precincts shall be held at the locations, at the times and on the days set forth in **Exhibit B**, attached hereto and incorporated herein, or at such other locations, times, and days as hereafter may be designated by the County or Elections Administrator as provided in the Election Agreement without further action by the District. The President of the Board or his/her designee is hereby authorized to update **Exhibit B** to reflect the locations designated by the County or the Elections Administrator, and such locations are hereby approved.

(f) The Elections Administrator and/or Early Voting Clerk are hereby authorized to appoint the members of the early voting ballot board and the presiding judges and alternate judges for each polling location in accordance with the requirements of the Code. Each of the presiding judges shall be authorized to approve the necessary election clerks to assist in conducting the Elections.

(g) Voting times may be changed if so directed by the Elections Administrator without further action of the District. The Elections Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to make such changes in voting hours as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the Election.

Section 8. **Joint Election.** The District has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to participate in a joint election with other governmental entities in the County holding elections on Election Day and contract with the Elections Administrator for election services (the “Election Agreement”).

Section 9. **Appointment of Election Officers.** The election judges, alternate judges, clerks, members of the early voting ballot board, the central counting station officials, and other personnel necessary for conducting the Election shall be appointed, election judges and alternate judges may be changed, and the central counting station shall be established and staffed all as provided in the Election Agreement and such actions are hereby approved. Further, the Board hereby authorizes the President of the Board to appoint any such other officials not designated herein or appointed pursuant to the Election Agreement as are necessary and appropriate to conduct the Election in accordance with the Code.

Section 10. **Notice of Election.** Notice of the Election shall be given by: (i) publishing a substantial copy of this Order, in English and Spanish one time not earlier than the thirtieth (30th) day nor later than the tenth (10th) day prior to the date set for the Election, in a newspaper published in the District (or that otherwise complies with applicable law), (ii) posting a copy of this Order and the Voter Information Documents (as hereinafter defined), in English and Spanish on the bulletin board used for posting notices of meetings of the Board and in at least three (3) other public places within the boundaries of the District, not later than the twenty-first (21st) day prior to the date set for the Election, and (iii) posting a copy of this Order and the Voter Information Documents, in English and Spanish on the District’s website, prominently and together with the notice of the Election, the contents of each Proposition and any sample ballot prepared for the Election, not later than the twenty-first (21st) day prior to the date set for the Election through Election Day. Additionally, on Election Day and during early voting by personal appearance, this Order and the Voter Information Documents shall be posted in a prominent location at each polling place. Notice of the Election shall also be provided to the County Clerk and voter registrar of the County not later than the sixtieth (60th) day before the Election Day; which notice the County is hereby authorized and directed to post to its website not later than the twenty-first (21st) day prior to Election Day. Notice of the Election shall be posted to the District’s internet website not later than the twenty-first (21st) day before the election, in compliance with Section 4.009, Texas Election Code, as amended. The website for the District can be found at <https://www.bisd.net/Page/1940>.

Section 11. **Conduct of Election.** The Election shall be held in accordance with the Code, except as modified by the Texas Education Code, the Texas Government Code, and the Voting Rights Act, including particularly Chapter 272 of the Code pertaining to bilingual requirements.

Section 12. **Information Required by Section 3.009 of the Election Code.**

(a) **District’s Outstanding Debt.** As of the date of this order, the District’s aggregate principal amount of outstanding of tax-supported debt was \$359,990,000 and the aggregate amount of outstanding interest on such tax-supported debt was \$207,563,700. As of the date of this Order, the District’s total ad valorem tax rate is \$1.1494 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is made up of a maintenance and operations tax rate \$0.7552 per \$100 of assessed valuation and a debt service tax rate of \$0.3942 per \$100 of assessed valuation of taxable property in the District.

(b) **Issuance of New Debt.** The District intends to issue the bonds authorized by the Propositions over a period of years in a manner and in accordance with a schedule to be determined by the Board based upon a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the then current needs of the District, demographic changes, prevailing market conditions, assessed valuations of property in the District, the use of variable rate debt and management of the District’s short-term and long-term interest rate exposure. Market conditions, demographics and assessed valuations of property vary based upon a number of factors beyond the District’s control, and the use of variable rate debt involves periodic adjustments in interest rates that vary based on market conditions and contractual obligations. Therefore, the District cannot and does not guarantee a particular interest rate or tax rate associated with the bonds authorized by the Propositions. As such, the information contained in this paragraph is provided solely for illustrative purposes and does not establish any limitations or restrictions or create a contract with the voters. The District estimates that, based on the District’s current taxable assessed valuation, current market conditions as of the date of this Order, and estimated future growth in the District’s taxable assessed valuation, if all of the Propositions are approved and all of the bonds authorized by the Propositions are issued in accordance with the District’s current projected plan of finance, the maximum interest rate on the bonds is not expected to exceed 5.25%.

(c) **Additional Information Required by Section 3.009 of the Code.** The additional information required by Section 3.009 of the Code is located in Sections 2 and 3 of this Order.

Section 13. **Voter Information Documents.** The Board hereby approves the voter information documents (collectively, the “Voter Information Documents”), in substantially the form presented to the Board, with such changes as may be approved by the President of the Board, the Superintendent of the District, or their designee, acting on behalf of the Board, in consultation with the District’s general counsel, bond counsel, and financial advisor, as prescribed by Section 1251.052(b), Texas Government Code.

The President of the Board, the Superintendent of the District, or their designee, acting on behalf of the Board, is further authorized and directed to post or provide for the posting of the Voter Information Documents in the manner provided under Section 10 of this Order, and additionally on the District’s website in an easily accessible manner beginning not later than the twenty-first (21st) day before the date set for the Election and ending on the day after Election Day.

Section 14. **Findings and Determinations.** The Board finds and determines that the facilities and equipment to be acquired, constructed, renovated or equipped pursuant to Proposition A are predominantly for required classroom instruction and essential administrative operations for faculty and staff, stadiums with seating capacity for 1,000 or fewer spectators, gymnasiums, playgrounds or play areas, school buses, equipment used for school security purposes, and/or technology infrastructure integral to the construction of a facility.

Section 15. **Necessary Actions.** The President of the Board or the Superintendent or such person’s designee, acting on behalf of the Board, in consultation with the District’s attorney and bond counsel is hereby authorized and directed to take any and all actions necessary to comply with the provisions of the Code and the Voting Rights Act in carrying out and conducting the Election, whether or not expressly authorized herein, including making changes or additions to polling places or procedures to the extent required or desirable as determined by the Elections Administrator or as may become necessary due to circumstances arising after the date of this Order and modifying the provisions of this Order to facilitate compliance with changes in law made during the 89th Texas Legislative Session and any special sessions thereof or administrative interpretations of such laws.

Section 16. **Severability.** If any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Order, or the application of same to any person or set of circumstances is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, void, invalid, or unenforceable, neither the remaining portions of this Order nor their application to other persons or sets of circumstances shall be affected thereby, it being the intent of the Board in adopting this Order that no portion hereof or provision or regulation contained herein shall become inoperative or fail by reason of any unconstitutionality, voidness, invalidity or unenforceability of any other portion hereof, and all provisions of this Order are declared to be severable for that purpose.

Section 17. **Effective Date.** This Order shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS August 14, 2025.

EXHIBIT A/ANEXO A

ELECTION DAY SCHEDULE/CRONOGRAMA DEL DÍA DE LA ELECCIÓN

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 – Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Markes, 4 de noviembre de 2025 - Los lugares de votación estarán abiertos de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m.

**ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATIONS*
LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN PARA EL DÍA DE LA ELECCIÓN***

Bell County utilizes countywide vote centers. District voters may vote at any of the following locations on Election Day.

El Condado de Bell usa centros de votación de todo el condado. Los votantes del Distrito pueden votar en cualquiera de los siguientes lugares el Día de la Elección:

Site#/ N.º de sitio	Polling Site/ Sitio de votación	Address/ Dirección	City/ Ciudad	State/ Estado	Zip Code/ Código postal
1	Belton Nazarene Church	1701 Sparta Road	Belton	TX	76513
2	North Belton Annex	1605 N. Main Street	Belton	TX	76513
3	Belton Senior Center	842 S. Mitchell Street	Belton	TX	76513
4	Morgan's Point Event Center (EV)	60 Morgan's Point Blvd	Morgan's Point Resort	TX	76513
5	Little River's Freedom Road Fellowship	1406 W. Church Street	Little River Academy	TX	76554
6	Liberty Christian Center	4107 Westchiff Road	Killeen	TX	76543
7	Bartlett City Hall	140 W. Clark Street	Bartlett	TX	76511
8	First Baptist Church Holland	506 Dixie Drive	Holland	TX	76534
9	Christian House of Prayer	3300 S. 31st Street	Killeen	TX	76542
10	Nolanville City Hall	101 N. 5th Street	Nolanville	TX	76559
11	Belton Annex (EV)	550 E. 2nd Avenue	Belton	TX	76513
12	VFW Post 392	201 VFW Drive	Harker Heights	TX	76548
13	Harker Heights Parks & Recreation Center (EV)	307 Millers Crossing	Harker Heights	TX	76548
14	Salado Annex (EV) (New Site)	11057 Event Drive	Salado	TX	76571
15	Lakeview Baptist Church	7717 HWY 317	Belton	TX	76513
16	Jackson Professional Learning Center (EV)	902 Rev R A Abercrombie Drive	Killeen	TX	76543
17	Killeen Senior Center @ Lions Club Park (EV)	1700E. L. Stan Schleuter Loop	Killeen	TX	76542
18	Chavis Church	1401 E. Elm Road	Killeen	TX	76542
19	St. Paul Chong Hsang Catholic Church	1000 E. FM 2410	Harker Heights	TX	76548
20	First Baptist Church of Trimmer	6405 Chaparral Road	Killeen	TX	76542
21	Tru Community Center	201 E. Main Street	Troy	TX	76579
22	VFW Post 1820	3302 Airport Road	Temple	TX	76504
23	Northside Church of Christ	3401 N. 3rd Street	Temple	TX	76501
24	House of Hope Outreach	5625 E. US Hwy 190	Temple	TX	76501
25	Cross Church on Breckner	2202 Breckner Drive	Temple	TX	76502
26	Immanuel Baptist Church	1401 W. Central Avenue	Temple	TX	76504
27	Temple ISD Admin Building (EV)	401 Santa Fe Way	Temple	TX	76501
28	Temple College	130 E. Marvin F. Felder Drive	Temple	TX	76501
29	Meredith-Dunbar Early Childhood Academy (New Site)	1717 E. Avenue J	Temple	TX	76504
30	St. Joseph Catholic Church Fellowship Hall	20220 FM 485	Burlington	TX	76519

Site#/ N.º de sitio	Polling Site/ Sitio de votación	Address/ Dirección	City/ Ciudad	State/ Estado	Zip Code/ Código postal
31	First Baptist Church of Moffat	13929 Moffat Road	Temple	TX	76502
32	St. Matthews Catholic Church (New Site)	14051 E US Highway 190	Rogers	TX	76569
33	First Church of the Nazarene	2400 S. 31st Street	Temple	TX	76502
34	Boys Ranch	3275 Boys Ranch Road	Kempner	TX	76539
35	Triple 7 Fire Station	258 Triple 7 Trail	Killeen	TX	76542
36	True Deliverance Ministries (EV) (New Site)	709 W. Dean Ave	Killeen	TX	76541
37	Robert M. Shoemaker High School	3302 Clear Creek Road	Killeen	TX	76540
38	Skyline Baptist Church	906 Trimmer Road	Killeen	TX	76541
39	Westside Baptist Church	711 Stagecoach Road	Killeen	TX	76542
40	Killeen Utilities Department	210 W. Avenue C	Killeen	TX	76541
41	The Journey Church	4300 Bunney Trail	Killeen	TX	76549
42	Sugar Loaf Elementary School	1517 Barbara Lane	Killeen	TX	76549

EV Indicates Early Voting Locations. Voters can vote at any location county-wide.

* Subject to change. To verify, please go to the Bell County Elections Administrator website.
* Sujeto a cambios. Para confirmar, vaya al sitio web del Administrador de Elecciones del Condado de Bell.
<https://www.beltoncountytexas.com/departments/elections/index.php>

EXHIBIT B/ANEXO B

BELL COUNTY EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE – NOVEMBER 4, 2025 GENERAL ELECTION*

CRONOGRAMA DE VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA DEL CONDADO DE BELL – 4 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2025, ELECCIÓN GENERAL*

Early voting will be conducted Monday, October 20, 2025 through Friday, October 31, 2025 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

La votación anticipada será del lunes, 20 de octubre de 2025 al viernes, 31 de octubre de 2025, de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS/ LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA

- Belton – Bell County Courthouse Annex, 550 East 2nd Ave, Belton, TX 76513**
- Harker Heights – Parks & Recreation Center, 307 Millers Crossing, Harker Heights, TX 76548
- Killeen – Jackson Professional Learning Center, 902 Rev. R. A. Abercrombie Dr., Killeen, TX 76543
- Killeen – Killeen Senior Center @ Lions Club Park, 1700 E. Stan Schleuter Loop, Killeen, TX 76542
- Killeen – True Deliverance Ministries, 709 W. Dean Ave, Killeen, TX 76541
- Morgan’s Point Event Center – 60 Morgan’s Point Blvd, Morgan’s Point Resort, TX 76513
- Salado – Salado Annex, 11057 Event Drive, Salado, TX 76571
- Temple – Temple ISD Administration Building, 401 Santa Fe Way, Temple TX 76501

* Subject to change. To verify, please go to the Bell County Elections Administrator website, <https://www.beltoncountytexas.com/departments/elections/index.php>.

** Main Polling Location.

* Sujeto a cambios. Para confirmar, vaya al sitio web del Administrador de Elecciones del Condado de Bell, <https://www.beltoncountytexas.com/departments/elections/index.php>.

** Lugar de votación principal.

AVISO DE ELECCIÓN PARA LA EMISIÓN DE BONOS

ORDEN DE CONVOCATORIA A UNA ELECCIÓN

ORDEN EMITIDA POR EL CONSEJO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DEL DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE BELTON QUE CONVOCA A UNA ELECCIÓN PARA LA EMISIÓN DE BONOS QUE SE CELEBRARÁ EN DICHO DISTRITO, DISPONE LA REALIZACIÓN Y EL AVISO DE LA ELECCIÓN, Y CONTIENE OTRAS DISPOSICIONES AL RESPECTO

POR CUANTO, el Consejo de Administración (el “Consejo”) del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Belton (el “Distrito”) considera necesario y aconsejable convocar y celebrar una elección para y en el Distrito para someter a decisión las propuestas aquí expuestas, y

POR CUANTO, el Consejo declara que la asamblea en la que se decide esta Orden está abierta al público y que se dio aviso público de la hora, el lugar y el objetivo de la asamblea, conforme lo exige el Capítulo 551 del Código de Gobierno de Texas, en su versión modificada.

AHOR, POR LO TANTO, EL CONSEJO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DEL DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE BELTON ORDENA LO SIGUIENTE:

Sección 1. **Determinaciones.** Las declaraciones contenidas en el preámbulo de esta Orden son fieles y exactas, y se incorporan al presente documento como determinaciones de hechos y como parte de las disposiciones operativas del mismo.

Sección 2. **Elección ordenada.** Fecha de la elección. **Propuestas.** Se celebrará una elección para la emisión de bonos (la “Elección”) para y en el Distrito el día martes 4 de noviembre de 2025 (“Día de la Elección”), fecha de elección uniforme establecida según lo dispuesto en la Sección 41.001(a) del Código Electoral de Texas, en su versión modificada (el “Código”), según lo exigen las leyes de Texas. En la Elección, se someterán las siguientes propuestas (individualmente, la “Propuesta”, y, en conjunto, las “Propuestas”) a los votantes habilitados del Distrito de conformidad con la ley:

DEI DE BELTON: PROPUESTA A

SE TRATA DE UN AUMENTO DEL IMPUESTO SOBRE LOS INMUEBLES.

¿Se deberá autorizar al Consejo de Administración (“el Consejo”) del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Belton (el “Distrito”) a emitir y vender a cualquier precio o precios los bonos del Distrito por el importe de \$92,925,000 para la construcción, la adquisición, la renovación y el equipamiento de edificios escolares en el Distrito, cuyos bonos podrán emitirse en diversas emisiones o series, con vencimiento en serie o de otra manera en un plazo que no exceda los 40 años a partir de su fecha, y devengar intereses a una tasa o tasas, que no exceda o excedan la tasa máxima vigente establecida por la ley actual o futura, según lo determine el Consejo al momento de la emisión; y se deberá autorizar al Consejo a aplicar y gravar, y a ordenar la evaluación y el cobro de impuestos anuales *ad valorem* sobre todo inmueble imponible en el distrito, suficientes, sin límites en cuanto a tasa o cantidad, para pagar el capital y los intereses de dichos bonos y los costos de cualquier acuerdo de crédito formalizado o autorizado en anticipación de dichos bonos, o en relación o en conexión con ellos; dichos bonos que serán emitidos y dichos impuestos que serán gravados, comprometidos, calculados y cobrados conforme a la Constitución y las leyes del Estado de Texas, incluido el Código de Educación de Texas?

DEI DE BELTON: PROPUESTA B

SE TRATA DE UN AUMENTO DEL IMPUESTO SOBRE LOS INMUEBLES.

¿Se deberá autorizar al Consejo de Administración (“el Consejo”) del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Belton (el “Distrito”) a emitir y vender a cualquier precio o precios los bonos del Distrito por el importe de \$43,725,000 para la construcción, la renovación, la adquisición y

Administrador de Elecciones del Condado de Bell (el “Administrador de Elecciones”), Secretario de la Votación Anticipada para los propósitos de esta Elección (el “Secretario de la votación anticipada”), y Administrador de Elecciones para el Distrito y agente del custodio de las boletas de votación votadas en la jurisdicción.

(b) La dirección del Secretario de la votación anticipada del Condado de Bell es 550 E. 2nd Avenue, Belton, Texas 76513, y se puede contactar con el Secretario de la votación anticipada a través de los siguientes medios: i) teléfono: (254) 933-5774, ii) correo electrónico: elections@bellcounty.texas.gov y <https://www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/elections/index.php>, iii) sitio web: <https://www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/elections/index.php>.

(c) Las solicitudes de votación anticipada por correo postal deben enviarse al Administrador de Elecciones por correo regular al Departamento de Elecciones del Condado de Bell (Bell County Elections Department, PO Box 1629, Belton, TX 76513), o por transportista común o contratado al Departamento de Elecciones del Condado de Bell (Bell County Elections Department, 550 E. 2nd Avenue, Belton, TX 76513).

(d) Por medio del presente documento, se designa a Bell County Belton Courthouse Annex, 550 E. 2nd Avenue, Belton, TX 76513 el lugar principal de votación anticipada para el Condado de Bell.

(e) La votación anticipada en persona para todas las circunscripciones electorales se llevará a cabo en los lugares, horarios y días establecidos en el **Anexo B**, que se adjunta y se incorpora al presente documento, o en otros lugares, horarios y días que el Condado o el Administrador de Elecciones designe más adelante, según lo dispuesto en el Contrato de Servicios Electorales, sin más acciones por parte del Distrito. Se autoriza al Presidente del Consejo, o a la persona que él designe, a actualizar el **Anexo B** para que indique los lugares designados por el Condado o por el Administrador de Elecciones, y dichos lugares se aprueban por medio del presente documento.

(f) Se autoriza al Administrador de Elecciones y/o al Secretario de la votación anticipada a nombrar a los miembros del consejo de boletas de votación anticipada, a los jueces presidentes y a los jueces suplentes para cada lugar de votación de acuerdo con los requisitos del Código. Los jueces presidentes estarán autorizados a aprobar a los secretarios electorales necesarios para ayudar a llevar a cabo las Elecciones.

(g) Se podrán cambiar los horarios de votación si así lo ordenare el Administrador de Elecciones sin más acciones por parte del Distrito. Por medio del presente documento, se autoriza y se ordena al Administrador de Elecciones a efectuar los cambios en los horarios de votación que sean necesarios para la llevar a cabo la Elección de manera adecuada.

Sección 8. Elección conjunta. El Distrito ha determinado que lo más conveniente para el Distrito es participar en una elección conjunta con otras entidades gubernamentales del Condado que estén celebrando elecciones en el Día de la Elección, y celebrar un contrato de servicios electorales con el Administrador de Elecciones (el “Contrato de Servicios Electorales”).

Sección 9. Nombramiento de Oficiales de Elecciones. Se nombrarán los jueces electorales, jueces suplentes, secretarios, miembros del consejo de boletas de votación anticipada, los funcionarios de la estación central de conteo y demás personal necesario para llevar a cabo la Elección; se podrán cambiar los jueces electorales y los jueces suplentes, y se establecerá la estación central de conteo y se dotará de personal, según lo dispuesto en el Contrato de Servicios Electorales, y dichas acciones quedan aprobadas por medio del presente documento. Además, el Consejo autoriza al Presidente del Consejo a designar a otros funcionarios no designados en el presente documento o nombrados de conformidad con el Contrato de Servicios Electorales, según sea necesario y adecuado para llevar a cabo la Elección de conformidad con el Código.

Sección 10. Aviso de la Elección. El Aviso de la Elección se hará por medio de las siguientes modalidades: i) publicación de una copia sustancial de esta Orden, en inglés y español, una sola vez dentro de un plazo no anterior al trigésimo (30.) día ni posterior al décimo (10.) día antes de la fecha estipulada para la Elección, en un periódico publicado en el Distrito (o que, de lo contrario, cumpla con la ley aplicable); ii) publicación de una copia de esta Orden y de los Documentos de Información para el Votante (según se definen más adelante), en inglés y español, en el tablero de anuncios utilizado para publicar avisos de asambleas del Consejo, y publicación en al menos tres (3) lugares públicos adicionales dentro de los límites del Distrito, a más tardar el vigésimo primer (21.) día previo a la fecha estipulada para la Elección; y iii) publicación de una copia de esta Orden y de los Documentos de Información para el Votante, en inglés y español, en el sitio web del Distrito, de forma destacada y junto con el Aviso de la Elección, el contenido de cada Propuesta y cualquier ejemplo de boleta de votación preparada para la elección, a más tardar el vigésimo primer (21.) día antes de la fecha estipulada para la Elección y hasta el final del Día de la Elección. Además, en el Día de la Elección y durante la votación anticipada en persona, esta Orden y los Documentos de Información para el Votante deberán estar publicados en una ubicación destacada en cada lugar de votación. También se proporcionará un Aviso de la Elección al Secretario del Condado y al registrador de votantes del Condado a más tardar el sexagésimo (60.) día antes del Día de la Elección; por medio del presente documento, se autoriza y se ordena al Condado a publicar el aviso en su sitio web a más tardar el vigésimo primer (21.) día antes de la fecha estipulada para la Elección. El Aviso de Elección deberá publicarse en el sitio web del Distrito a más tardar el vigésimo primer (21.) día antes de la Elección, de conformidad con la Sección 4.009 del Código Electoral de Texas, en su versión modificada. Puede encontrar el sitio web del Distrito en <https://www.bisd.net/Page/1940>.

Sección 11. Celebración de la Elección. La Elección deberá llevarse a cabo de conformidad con el Código, salvo según las modificaciones estipuladas por el Código de Educación de Texas, el Código de Gobierno de Texas y la Ley de Derecho al Voto, incluido, en particular, el Capítulo 272 del Código relacionado con los requisitos bilingües.

Sección 12. Información requerida por la Sección 3.009 del Código Electoral.

(a) **Deuda pendiente del Distrito.** A la fecha de la presente orden, el importe total del capital pendiente de pago de la deuda respaldada por impuestos del Distrito era de \$359,990,000, y el importe total de intereses pendientes sobre dicha deuda respaldada por impuestos era de \$207,563,700. A la fecha de la presente Orden, la tasa de impuestos *ad valorem* del distrito es de \$1.1494 por cada \$100 de tasación oficial, que se compone de una tasa de impuesto de mantenimiento y operaciones de \$0.7552 por cada \$100 de tasación oficial y una tasa de impuesto al servicio de la deuda de \$0.3942 por cada \$100 de tasación oficial de inmuebles imponibles en el Distrito.

(b) **Emisión de deuda nueva.** El Distrito tiene la intención de emitir los bonos autorizados por las Propuestas a lo largo de un periodo de varios años de cierta forma y de conformidad con un cronograma que será determinado por el Consejo en función de varios factores, incluidos, entre otros, las necesidades actuales del Distrito, los cambios demográficos, las condiciones predominantes del mercado, las tasaciones oficiales de inmuebles en el Distrito, el uso de la deuda a tipo de interés variable y la gestión de la exposición del Distrito a las tasas de interés a corto y largo plazo. Las condiciones del mercado, la demografía y las tasaciones oficiales de los inmuebles varían según una serie de factores más allá del control del Distrito, y el uso de la deuda a tipo de interés variable conlleva ajustes periódicos en las tasas de interés que varían según las condiciones del mercado y las obligaciones contractuales. Por lo tanto, el Distrito no puede garantizar y no garantiza una tasa de interés o tasa impositiva particular asociada a los bonos autorizados por las Propuestas. Conforme a lo precedente, la información contenida en este párrafo se proporciona únicamente para fines informativos y no constituye ni garantiza ni respalda ni crea ningún contrato con los votantes. El Distrito estima que, con base en la actual tasación oficial imponible del Distrito, las condiciones actuales del mercado, a partir de la fecha de esta Orden, y el crecimiento futuro estimado de la tasación oficial imponible del Distrito, si todas las Propuestas se aprueban y todos los bonos autorizados por las Propuestas se emiten de acuerdo con el actual plan de financiamiento del proyecto del Distrito, se espera que la máxima tasa de interés de los bonos no exceda el 5.25 %.

(c) **Información adicional requerida por la Sección 3.009 del Código.** La información adicional requerida por la Sección 3.009 del Código se encuentra en las Secciones 2 y 3 de esta Orden.

Sección 13. Documentos de Información para el Votante. Por medio del presente documento, el Consejo aprueba los documentos de información para el votante (en conjunto, los “Documentos de Información para el Votante”), sustancialmente en la forma presentada ante el Consejo con los cambios que sean aprobados por el Presidente del Consejo, el Superintendente del Distrito, o las personas que ellos designen, quienes actúan en nombre del Consejo, en consulta con el abogado del Distrito, el asesor en materia de bonos y el asesor financiero, según lo establecido en la Sección 1251.052(b) del Código de Gobierno de Texas.

Se autoriza y se ordena al Presidente del Consejo, al Superintendente del Distrito, o a las personas que ellos designen, quienes actúan en nombre del Consejo, a publicar los Documentos de Información para el Votante, o a encargarse de su publicación, de la manera dispuesta en la Sección 10 de esta Orden, y, además, en el sitio web del Distrito de una manera fácilmente accesible, comenzando a más tardar el vigésimo primer (21.) día antes de la fecha estipulada para la Elección, y finalizando el día después del Día de la Elección.

Sección 14. Conclusiones y determinaciones. El Consejo concluye y determina que las instalaciones y los equipos que serán adquiridos, construidos, renovados o equipados de conformidad con la Propuesta A son principalmente para la instrucción en el aula requerida y las operaciones administrativas esenciales para el profesorado y el personal, los estadios con aforo para 1,000 espectadores o menos, las canchas y los gimnasios, los patios o las zonas de juego, los autobuses escolares, los equipos utilizados para fines de seguridad escolar y/o la infraestructura tecnológica integral para la construcción de una instalación.

Sección 15. Acciones necesarias. Por medio del presente documento, se autoriza y se ordena al Presidente del Consejo o al Superintendente o a la persona designada por dicha persona, que actúe en nombre del Consejo, en consulta con el Fiscal del Distrito y el asesor en materia de bonos, a realizar todas las acciones que sean necesarias para cumplir con las disposiciones del Código y de la Ley de Derecho al Voto para llevar a cabo la Elección, se encuentren o no autorizadas expresamente en el presente documento, lo que incluye realizar cambios o adiciones a los lugares o procedimientos de votación con el alcance requerido o deseable, según lo determine el Administrador de Elecciones o según pueda ser necesario debido a las circunstancias que surjan después de la fecha de esta Orden, y modificar las disposiciones de esta Orden para facilitar el cumplimiento de los cambios a la ley efectuados durante la 89.ª Sesión Legislativa de Texas y cualesquiera sesiones especiales de la misma o interpretaciones administrativas de dichas leyes.

Sección 16. Divisibilidad. Si alguna disposición, sección, subsección, oración, cláusula o frase de esta Orden, o su aplicación a cualquier persona o conjunto de circunstancias, por cualquier motivo, fuera declarada inconstitucional, nula, inválida o inaplicable, ni las partes restantes de esta Orden ni su aplicación a otras personas o conjunto de circunstancias deberán verse afectadas por tal medida, ya que es la intención del Consejo, al adoptar esta Orden, que ninguna de sus partes, disposiciones o reglamentaciones se vuelvan inoperantes o pierdan vigor con motivo de cualquier inconstitucionalidad, nulidad, invalidez o inaplicabilidad de cualquiera de sus partes, y se declara que todas las disposiciones de esta Orden son divisibles para dicho propósito.

Sección 17. Fecha de entrada en vigencia. Esta Orden entrará en vigencia inmediatamente después de su aprobación.

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EDITORIAL

New tires and good eats

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

I am “today old” as they say. I didn’t know that the Michelin restaurant ratings had anything to do with tires. As a foodie and one who religiously follows chef competitions such as the “Top Chef” shows, the term “Michelin star” was not unfamiliar to me. I’ve watched Top Chef every single season. The Michelin awards are given annually to restaurants judged for their food and overall dining experience. It is a badge of honor for chefs to proclaim they work at a Michelin star restaurant. To be named in the Michelin Guide is to have achieved the top of the heap. What I did not know until very recently was that the Michelin awards were begun by the Michelin brothers – of the tire company that still bears their name. Andre and Edouard Michelin, back around 1900, compiled the first guide to encourage people to experience adventures in the motor car. The first guide was released in France, and included maps as well as the names of restaurants that travelers should stop at on their journeys. The guide also included instructions on how to change tires – something that a traveler would appreciate. The entire goal was to help the Michelins sell more tires by creating a demand for them. Yes, I am today old. One of the things the Michelins began that is still used today is using “mystery diners” to judge and rate restaurants. The star ratings, ranging from one to three stars, had their start in 1926. One star meant they were deemed a “fine dining establishment.” Two stars: “excellent cooking, worth a detour.” Three stars: “exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey.” In my reading, I also learned that in 1955, Michelin came up with another rating, for restaurants with “high quality fare at moderate prices.” This rating is called the “Bib Gourmand.” The Michelin Guide in the United States didn’t really become a thing here until 2005, but it didn’t take long for fine dining restaurants to want that honor. The mystery diners – called inspectors – visit restaurants, not just once, but several times, for different times of day and different days. Then all the inspectors gather to assess the restaurant

reports that have been compiled, and decisions are made. Recently, Michelin released the first ever Texas Guide to the “best” restaurants to eat in Texas. They’re mostly in the big metro areas of the state – DFW, Austin, Houston, San Antonio. The Bib Gourmand restaurants are included. I would venture to say that we have a few Bib Gourmand restaurants in our area. But for me, a restaurant that is Bib Gourmand worthy is a place that gives me not only good food, but something that makes me ready to go back and eat it again. Don’t make another chicken fried steak that is good...what makes your CFS better than anyone else’s. Sometimes I think it would be fun to be a mystery diner. However, there’s a fine line between constructive criticism or critique, and “trashing” someone’s efforts. Maybe we don’t have Michelin inspectors coming to visit our area. But if every restaurant puts forth a good effort with some heart behind the dining experience is a win for them and for their customers.

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 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 patterns 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. \

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6 & up Starts @ \$25
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PROP A



PROP B



PROP C



PROP D

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PD POL AD VOTE YES FOR BELTON ISD KIDS

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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16					17	18				19				
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	47						48							
49					50				51		52	53	54	55
56					57				58					
59					60					61				
62					63					64				

CLUES ACROSS

- Remark
- Upper body part
- Expression of dismissiveness
- Alternate name
- Popular beverage
- Swiss river
- Step-shaped recess
- Rocker Stewart
- Bright shade of color
- Popular “street”
- Wrath
- Heat units
- Nocturnal omnivorous mammals
- Fall back into
- Remove from the record
- Sound a splash made
- Popular Dodge pickup model
- Jamaican river
- Notable event in Texas history
- Cool!
- Subset of Judaism
- Newly entered cadet
- Duct in urinary system
- Exterminator
- Snatch quickly
- Have already done
- Less healthy
- Therefore
- What couples say on the altar
- Mysteriously
- Look angry or sullen
- Bird’s beak
- Taco ingredient
- Square measures
- Google certification (abbr.)
- Singer Hansard

CLUES DOWN

- Pubs
- Wings
- Popular BBQ dish
- Small sponge cake
- Open-roofed entrance halls
- Organize anew
- Type of wine
- Forums
- North Atlantic islands (alt. sp.)
- Pond dwellers
- Large integers
- Signaled
- Brief
- Type of student
- Tibetan monasteries
- Revolutions per minute
- NY Giants great Manning
- Local area network
- Residue from burning
- Illuminated
- Vasopressin
- Notable space station
- Wood sorrel
- Adhering to laws
- Chose
- Hovel
- Stood up
- European city
- Works ceaselessly
- Mistake
- Sun-dried brick
- Sicilian city
- A steep rugged rock or cliff
- Murder
- Other

FALL DAYS

WORD SEARCH

H D F S C I O W F L E A V E S H V B N K
M R E W C B R G E F M N P A E P S I R C
R E D I C E M F A L L U I C R W V G C V
G F E I W G F O K F M G M O Y T G O D V
V N M L B V K W E P C A I R I S R K R Y
Y L I D N B W H K H G W O N S N N M H U
T S E V R A B I A T O O I K U K L E E D
Y L D R I G N R D R B S E C O D H A A K
L F G L O G V K C F F A O C L C D G R E
I L F G E E S E A U R P N H I R K N T K
P P O N S E R K F A I O N G A P F W H R
G C L T R A K M N A M S O K C Y S L P T
L I I U C Y C H N A T A P V K N R P E G
G V A S H S G V N G H B M K K B I I T H
E I G D N B W N B F V T V R M P D C D G
R D E M A M I E M E G K S A S V A L W E
F R E H P C U I A U S V P E R I F N O B
N U C M P B H T V T L L N S P S O O R B
N O B H L L D M U U E F W M H A M U G U
R G F P E T I V W A S R I R U N C D S N

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ACORN
APPLE
AUTUMN
BONFIRE
CIDER
CINNAMON
CORNUCOPIA
CRISP
FALL
FOLIAGE
GOURD
HARVEST
HAYRIDE
HEARTH
LEAVES
MAPLE
PUMPKIN
SCARECROW
SPICE
SWEATER
THANKSGIVING