

UMHB dedicates new golf venues



The Hickerson family at The Mac Golf Practice Course. Courtesy photo

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Hundreds of golf fans and University of Mary Hardin-Baylor supporters packed the Belton campus Friday for the dedication of the new Crusader golf center.

The new Jane & Mac Hickerson Golf Club was celebrated with a special ceremony attended by two-time Masters champion Ben Crenshaw, a specialist at designing courses around the world. The new

facility is located off University Drive on the UMHB campus.

“This is the new home for Cru golf,” said Dr. Randy O’Rear, UMHB president. “When you tour these facilities, you will see that they are way under par. And in golf, that’s a really, really good thing.”

“If you have championship goals like we do at UMHB, best-in-class facilities are important, and now we have them for our golf program,” O’Rear added.

O’Rear explained that the fa-

cility’s name honors former UMHB men’s golf course Mac Hickerson and his late wife, Jane. In addition, the practice course — four greens and 22 tee boxes — is called The Mac.

The new golf center also includes a lighted short-game practice area.

Hickerson attended the ceremony. He led the UMHB men’s team from 1980 to 1999, making

See **GOLF**,
Page A2

Belton holds first Polka on the Square

By Shanna Grote
The Belton Journal

The City of Belton hosted its first ever Polka On The Square festival featuring live music and Czech inspired food and beverages on Oct. 10 and 11.

From devoted polka enthusiasts to people just looking for some fun over the weekend, the festival offered something for everyone. The free two-day event was held in historic downtown with festivities running Friday, Oct. 10 and Saturday, Oct. 11. Polka on the Square provided an entertaining way to mark the season while paying tribute to musical and cultural traditions that are meaningful for many Texans.

The Say Cheese Curd Company fried up fresh cheese curds with a side of fresh-squeezed lemonade out of their

See **POLKA**,
Page A2



BELTON JOURNAL/Shanna Grote
Festival goers enjoyed two days of live music and Czech-inspired foods at the free two-day Polka on the Square event in downtown Belton last weekend.

45th Annual Rusty Awards ceremony honors locals who make an impact



BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman
The Bell County Committee for People with Disabilities celebrates the 45th Annual Rusty Awards with a ceremony last Tuesday. The evening’s theme was Carving Your Own Path.

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Bell County Committee for People with Disabilities celebrated its 45th Annual Rusty Awards Ceremony Tuesday Oct. 14. The evening’s theme was Carving Your Own Path.

Anthony (Rusty) Morales, after a motorcycle accident, became a force for people with disabilities.

The Rusty Awards are held in memory of and to continue his cause by awarding people with disabilities and those who are strong advocates

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Early voting continues through Oct. 31

By Lynette Sowell
The Belton Journal

Early voting started Monday ahead of the Tuesday, Nov. 4 election.

Altogether in Bell County, 1,187 voters made their way to the polls or mail-in ballots received by the county on the first day of early voting, Oct. 20.

The Belton Annex saw 379 voters, or roughly one-third of the ballots cast. Morgan’s Point Event Center saw 129 voters come through.

There are eight early voting locations in

- Bell County, to include:
- Belton - Bell County Belton Annex, 550 East 2nd Ave.
 - Killeen - True Deliverance Ministry, 1801 Garth Dr.
 - Killeen - Jackson Professional Learning Center, 902 Rev R A Abercrombie Dr.
 - Killeen - Senior Center at Lions Club Park, 1700 E. Stan Schlueter Loop
 - Temple - Temple ISD Admin Building, 401 Santa Fe Way
 - Salado - Salado Annex, 11057 Event Dr.
 - Harker Heights - Parks & Recreation Center,

- 307 Millers Crossing
 - Morgan’s Point Event Center - 60 Morgan’s Point Blvd.
- Belton ISD voters will cast their votes on Nov. 4 in a \$161.8 million bond referendum that includes four propositions.
- Proposition A, for \$92.9 million involves security cameras, playground fencing, exterior lighting, HVAC, roofing; substantial updates and modernization at Sparta Elementary, Lake-wood Elementary, DAEP, and Belton Middle
- See **VOTE**,
Page A2

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Council declares Nov. 3-9 as Belton Children’s Book Week

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

A proclamation recognizing Nov. 3-9 as Belton Children’s Book Week was presented to representatives of Belton ISD and Friends of the Lena Armstrong Public Library during last week’s City Council meeting.

The proclamation was presented and signed by Mayor David K Leigh and encouraged Belton residents to “celebrate reading together, affirming our commitment to literacy, connection and education in our community.”

Children’s Book Week is a national week-long event to celebrate books for young readers.

This year marks the 106th anniversary of Book Week, and this year’s event is being called “An Ocean of Stories.” It celebrates the vast collective ocean formed by stories read and shared by residents of Belton and citizens of the United States.

According to Tuesday’s proclamation, the local library has partnered with Belton ISD and the Friends group to celebrate and observe Children’s Book Week.

“Belton Children’s Book Week aims to encourage literacy and cultivate a lifelong love of reading within our community by hosting a ‘Big Red Read’ event in which residents will read a common book together,” Leigh said as he read the proclamation.

This year’s ‘Big Red Read’ is Stuart Little by EB White. Visit the Belton Public Library or any BISD school librarian to learn how to participate.

He said the weeklong celebration will culminate with a community gathering featuring fun literacy-themed activities and an outdoor movie in the park to bring together kids, families, educators and library supporters.

The Movie in the Park will also be Stuart Little at 5 p.m. on Nov. 8 at Harris Community Park.

In other action during the Council meeting, the Oct. 28 meeting was canceled and the Nov. 11 meeting was moved to Nov. 10.

According to City Clerk Amy Casey, the Oct. 28 meeting falls on the day Council members and some department heads

will be in Fort Worth that day for the 2025 Texas Municipal League annual conference. The absences would result in a lack of quorum and limited staff attendance, Casey said.

“The Nov. 11 meeting falls on Veteran’s Day,” she said. “Offices will be closed, so staff is recommending moving the meeting to Nov. 10.”

Council gave its approval to a building safety grant application for property located at 222 E Central Avenue in the Downtown Belton Commercial Historic District. The property is currently being remodeled for a coffee shop and officers.

According to Tina Moore, a city planner, Dusty Miller had proposed an interior remodel and roof-related structural repairs. Tim Novinger, a building official for the city, confirmed that the roof needs replacement because of fire damage that compromised the trusses.

In a statement to Council, Moore said the project’s estimated cost is approximately \$194,000. Miller is requesting the maximum allowable amount of \$50,000 through the matching grant.

Vote - From Page A1

School.

Proposition B is for \$43.7 million and involves expansions and upgrades for Lake Belton High School and Belton High School stadiums. This includes transitioning Lake Belton High School’s football stadium from a practice field to a varsity-level arena. According to the BISD athletic director, that field was built with the intent to expand. The new, larger facility would seat approximately 5,300, expanding the home bleachers, adding restrooms and concessions on the Home side. Present-ly, both BISD’s football teams play their home games at Tiger Field. Upgrades for Bronco Stadium would also include a new home side press box and a video board, improved locker rooms and visitor stand expansion. The bond also includes expansion of the parking lot at the stadium and for Lake Belton baseball and tennis facilities. Improvements to Tiger Field would be made, to include lighting, video board, as well as new concessions and restrooms, and ADA improvements.

The bond would allow for turf at Belton High baseball and softball fields, and

add LED lighting to the softball complex, and add a weight room at Belton Middle School.

Proposition C, for \$6 million, is related to technology and updates for student and staff devices.

Proposition D, at \$19.2 million, is upgrades for Roy & Jean Potts Swim Center for additional pool space and updates to current locker rooms.

If all four propositions are approved in November, Belton ISD taxpayers will see an approximate \$5.22 annual increase in property taxes for the average home valued at \$348,832 after applying home-stead exemptions, and no increase for homeowners 65 years of age and older.

According to the BISD.net website Transparency Debt Report, the current debt, which includes the 2017 and 2022 bonds, is \$585,094,244, at maturity in August 2052. The proposed bond, if approved, would add approximately \$347,683,820 (\$161M + interest) at maturity, according to Texaspolicy.com.

Golf - From Page A1

him the longest tenured golf coach in UMHB history, said Ashley Smith, marketing and public relations director for the school.

“Mac, we could not be more thrilled to honor your service to Mary Hardin-Baylor and the golf program, and Jane’s, by naming this the Jane & Mac Hickerson Crusader Golf Club,” said O’Rear. “We love you, and we’re so honored. Thanks for letting us put your name on the building.”

Also, the university dedicated the clubhouse and locker room facility — the Conner Golf Performance Center — in honor of Mary Kay and Jerry Conner of Sugarland.

“The Connors are humble people and it took a lot of convincing to name this facility the Conner Golf Performance Center,” O’Rear continued. “They deserve to have their names on

this facility — it’s life-changing in many ways for these players. We are grateful.”

The ceremony included two ribbon cuttings – one at the Conner Golf Performance Center and one at The Mac. After both ribbon cuttings, Crenshaw and others hit ceremonial tee shots. All visitors had the opportunity to tour the new facility at the end of the ceremony.

The men’s golf program began in the early 1970s and has won 12 conference championships. The women’s golf program was founded in 1996 and won the NAIA National Championship in 2000. The program has won the American Southwest Conference championship 14 times and was the first UMHB athletic program to win an NCAA Division III National Championship in 2013.

To learn more about this facility and Cru Athletics, visit www.cruathletics.com.



Polka - From Page A1

bright yellow food truck. The cheese curds, which are white cheddar cheese hand battered in a special family recipe and deep fried, were served with ranch and hot sauce for dipping. Free samples were given out to those new to the cheese curd world and a line quickly grew for this fun dish.

The Praha Brothers Band, based out of Temple and surrounding areas, performed live on the stage in front of the courthouse. The Praha Brothers are well known for their unique style and sound, playing popular Czech polka and waltzes amongst other genres.

According to festival goer Duane Darr, “The Praha Brothers Band drew a good-sized crowd and plenty of dancers.”

Nolan Creek Brewery and Bold Republic Brewery both offered a variety of traditional and festive beers to festival goers. White shade tents with wooden picnic tables were set up in various areas for event goers to grab a seat or enjoy a meal. An oversized Connect Four game and traditional bean bag toss were available at no charge to anyone wanting to play.

The City of Belton Parks and Recreation gave away sunglasses, yoyos, and hand spinners as they encouraged residents

to take their survey regarding future park plans. They also advertised their upcoming events.

A large red oversized lawn chair with a blue and white checkered flag was set up next to a large inflatable pretzel for patrons to take free photos. One couple laughed and held each other close as their family captured the perfect shot. Hay bales and pumpkins with small fall flowers were also set up in a variety of locations for taking a rest or photo opportunities.

The festival opened Saturday at 11:30 a.m. while the streets filled with the smell of classic Czech food and the sounds of polka.

Jason Hodknick, a festival attendee stated, “I was unaware of the festival but noticed it as I drove by and decided to check it out.”

The Fritz Hodde Fabulous Six Band kicked off the main stage Saturday morning. The Fritz Hodde Fabulous Six band has played all over Texas entertaining event-goers and dancers. The band includes the saxophone, a guitar, drums, and a piano accordion.

The shops and vendors on the square stayed busy with

customers.

Belinda Manzella, owner of Lindy Lu’s on the Square stated she had been, “extremely busy both Friday and Saturday.” Lindy Lu’s sells a variety of clothing, trinkets, and beauty care products.

Jalissa Furlong with KJ Sweet Street and Jennifer Martin of High 5 Hot Dogs joined forces at their booth to provide a double hit with their bratwurst and sweet treats. Sauerkraut and mustard were amongst the most popular toppings. Homemade loaves of flavored bread, brownies, and small sweet breads were also served. Score’s Pizza and Wings had their famous raised trailer bar set up offering a cool place to sit and have a drink or watch the game on one of their mounted televisions.

Jerry Haisler & the Melody Five took the stage at 4 p.m. to close out the evening. The Melody 5 has been entertaining dancers in the Central Texas area since 1966 with Czech polkas and waltzes as well as new and classic country. They boast a variety of instruments including the fiddle.



Thank You, Veterans!



The Belton Journal (ISSN 1053-9131) is published every Thursday, 210 N. Penelope, Belton, TX 76513. Second Class periodical postage paid at Belton, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Belton Journal P.O. Box 180 Belton, TX 76513

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OBITUARIES



Mick

Malena Mick
May 28, 1974 –
October 12, 2025

Malena Mick, of Belton, passed away on October 12, 2025, at the age of 51. Services will be at a later date. She was born on May 28, 1974, in Temple, Texas, to Gary Watkins and Alice Watkins. Malena had a rare gift of loving people just as they were. She didn’t judge, just simply cared. If you needed help, she was there, no questions asked. She had a heart that was full of love and her kindness reached everyone she met. She was strong, resilient and full of light. Her laughter could change the whole energy of a room, and her presence made people feel at home. She loved to dance, take trips, go to Texas Roadhouse, or just stay in with her family and friends. More than anything, Malena loved her children and grandchildren. They were her whole world, and she made every moment with them feel special. She has left this world, but her spirit will never leave us. Malena is survived by her loving partner, Louis Lee, Sr., her children; Alicia Hooks, Dakota Mick and wife Lynn, Gunner Mick and wife Shyanee, and Louis Lee, Jr.; her mother, Alice Watkins, and her siblings; Michael Watkins and wife Bobbi, Shawn Watkins, Tina Hill, and Margaret Watkins and husband Walter, and Erin Hill and husband Jaron; and her grandchildren, Dennis Everette Ray Hooks, Azalena Rose Patino, Dakota James Mick, Jr., Evalynn Coy Mick, and Melba Elizabeth Mick. She will also be deeply missed by her many nieces and nephews, who brought her joy throughout her life. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Cleon and Jean Kull. As we remember Malena Mick, we celebrate a life filled with love, devotion, and a spirit that enriched the lives of countless others. Her memory will forever remain in the hearts of her family and friends.



McDaniel

Roderick David McDaniel
October 5, 1932 –
October 15, 2025

Captain Roderick David McDaniel USN (ret.), formerly of Temple & Belton, Texas was blessed with 93 wonderful years on this earth and was called to his heavenly home with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on October 15th, 2025, in Cedar Park, Texas. Visitation will be from 2-4pm Thursday, October 23rd, 2025, at Dossman Funeral Home. Funeral Service will be at 2pm on Friday, October 24th, 2025, at First Baptist Church of Belton. Burial will be at 11am, on Tuesday, October 28th, 2025, at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, Texas. Roderick was born to Walter O. and Thelma (Gieseke) McDaniel on October 5th, 1932, in Indianapolis, Indiana. He had one older brother, Winston. When Roderick was seven, the family moved to Jefferson, Wisconsin, where he completed his education. While at Jefferson High School, Rod excelled academically and athletically, lettering in basketball, baseball, football, and golf. Upon graduation, his family moved to Austin, Texas, where he attended the University of Texas, and played basketball. He graduated in 1954 with a degree in Business Administration and as a Naval Officer through NROTC. While serving in the US Navy in Corpus Christi, Texas, he met and married Annie Maxine McCorkle in 1956. They began their family with a daughter, Denise Ann, and a son Michael David McDaniel. In 1967, Roderick received a master’s degree in business administration from the U.S. Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California. He served in various administrative capacities, including Director of the Navy Exchange at Navy Base Subic Bay, Philippines, and Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland; Supply Officer aboard the USS Independence in the Mediterranean. As a

Captain he became Deputy Commander of Defense Electronic Supply Center in Dayton, Ohio, until his retirement from the Navy in 1980 after 26 years of service. Among the medals he received were Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service with Gold Star, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Cuba), National Defense Service Medal, and Vietnam War Commendation Pin. Following his military career, he retired in Pinehurst, North Carolina, where he managed various business ventures and enjoyed golf. In 2003, Rod relocated to Central Texas to be closer to his children and their families, and he discovered beautiful Lake Belton! He settled in Belton and enjoyed the community. He later became a member of the First Baptist Church of Belton, where he married and served alongside his loving wife, Mary. Together, they were active in Child Evangelism Fellowship working with children in “Good News Clubs” in Temple ISD and Belton ISD. He was a beloved “PawPaw on Patrol” during Vacation Bible School- he was great with kids! Rod enjoyed playing his Baby Grand Piano and took music lessons at UMHB. He enjoyed attending musical events at the Temple Symphony Orchestra, ballroom and square dancing. He was active in the Military Fellowship at First Baptist in Belton. He was a member of the Military Officers Association of America, and the International Brotherhood of Amateur Magicians. He enjoyed entertaining at nursing homes and children’s events. Roderick is survived by his loving wife Mary Ruth (Pass) McDaniel of Belton, Texas, his daughter Denise & husband John Jaynes of Grapevine, Texas, His sons; Michael D & wife Edna McDaniel of Flower Mound, Texas, Carey M. O’Rarden of Cypress, Texas, and Jeremy & wife Charity O’Rarden of Cedar Park, Texas. Grandchildren Jessica & husband Justin Taylor of Austin, Texas; Ashley & husband Dr. Matthew McCauley of Lewisville, Texas; Dr. Jennifer Jaynes & husband Dan Bianculli of Houston, Texas; Michael D. McDaniel II of Lewisville, Texas; Naomi Grace O’Rarden of Cedar Park, Texas. Great grandchildren Austin Taylor, Olivia Taylor, Georgia Taylor, Wyatt McCauley, Gunnar

McCauley, Knox McCauley, and Ruby McCauley. Roderick is preceded in death by his parents, his older brother, and his former wife. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made in his name to the Military Families Ministry at First Baptist Church of Belton. 506 N. Main St. Belton, TX 76513 <https://onrealm.org/FirstBaptistChu63845/-/form/give/now>.



Lucas

Randall M. Lucas
April 27, 1948 –
October 15, 2025

Randall M. Lucas, age 77, passed away on October 15, 2025, in St. Luke’s Hospital in Houston, TX. Randall was born April 27, 1948 to Paul and Louise (Morton) Lucas at Sewell Hospital Belton, TX. He graduated from Belton High School in 1966. He served in the Army Band as a saxophone player. He finished his education at Mary-Hardin Baylor College in 1975 with a business degree. He opened Lucas Dental Lab where he made crowns and bridges, working for local dentists. He played country music with friends

from Moffat TX called Randy and the Renegades. He enjoyed family trips out West, finding fossils, viewing scenic mountain ranges, and accompanying sons on snowboarding trips. Randy retired to Flatonia, TX where he practiced the piano. He is survived by his wife Kathryn, his two sons, Paul and Jack, his three sisters, Sharon James, Shirley VandeSande, Kai Strobl, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Friends and family are invited for a visitation at Smith Funeral Home 128 East 5th Street, Flatonia, TX 78941 on October 25, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Guidry

Audrey Manning Guidry
September 24, 1957 –
October 10, 2025

Audrey “Elaine” Manning Guidry, age 68 of Belton, passed away on October 10, 2025. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 26, at Pearl Community Center. Elaine Guidry was born on September 24, 1957, in Gatesville, to the late Glen and Antha Manning. Elaine grew up and attended school in Killeen and graduated from Killeen High School in 1976. Starting as a child,

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LIFESTYLES



THE BELTON JOURNAL



Courtesy Photo

Stuffed sourdough bread cools after coming out of the oven at Bakehouse on Branding Iron, a home bakehouse in Morgan's Point Resort. Two of the sourdough puffs are jalapeño cheddar, one is garlic parmesan, and one is chocolate chip.

MPR bakehouse features unique sourdough breads

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Marissa Clington is very popular with her neighbors. Her sourdough breads are a tasty treat she often shares in Morgan's Point Resort.

Clington owns and operates Bakehouse on Branding Iron, and the home-based business is thriving.

"I really enjoy baking and cooking for my family," she said this week. "I bake a lot of bread — more than we can eat. It grew into giving loaves to neighbors and friends, and then friends of friends. It grew into a business."

"I started making birthday cakes," she added. "Now I make cakes, cookies, oatmeal creme pies and, of course, sourdough bread. My biggest sellers are jalapeño cheddar, garlic parmesan, and chocolate-chip sourdough loaves."

Clington was a food vendor at the

Oktoberfest market held earlier this month as part of the Page Turners Block Party — a fundraiser for the MPR library — and she took 20 loaves to sell. They were a hit — all were purchased. She plans to continue on the market trail.

"I enjoy the interaction of dealing with people face to face," she said. "I'm considering doing roadside stands as well as local markets. I'm open to expanding, but not anytime soon."

Linda Bridges, director of the Morgan's Point Resort Economic Development Corporation, said Bakehouse's bread is delicious.

"I mentioned to my hubby that I needed information on Bakehouse on Branding Iron," Bridges said with a grin. "He told me he would get information when he stopped to buy bread."

To place an order, or to get additional information, call Bakehouse at (979) 324-9038.

Powerhouse Cheer and Fitness celebrates 16th anniversary

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Powerhouse Cheer and Fitness is an all-inclusive training center located at 907 E. 13th Ave. in Belton and recently celebrated their 16th anniversary with a ribbon cutting with the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce.

"It was so much fun! The people that came from the chamber were so positive and welcoming, especially Randy Pittenger. His spirit and enthusiasm is so contagious," said D'Ann Legg owner of Powerhouse. "We are truly blessed by the amazing community that surrounds Powerhouse, the ath-

letes, families, coaches and our entire staff. All glory to God for 16 amazing years and the continued growth!"

The gym includes a wide array of classes and activities for all ages, including an after-school program, tumbling/gymnastics at all ability levels, competitive cheer for children ages four and up, competitive dance for ages three and up, flexibility training, stunting levels one through six, all-inclusive cheer classes, dance classes, acro training, tot/mommy and me classes, trampolines, foam pit, bounce house, birthday parties, an open gym every Friday night from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., parents night out is every third Friday of the month from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and pizza is served after 9 p.m.

"I truly wanted a gym that felt like family and a place where athletes can grow not only in their skills but character. It's a place where kids can come in and feel seen, supported, and celebrated for who they are," said Legg. "It's not just about skills and cheerleading; it's about empowering young people to believe in themselves and know that they can accomplish anything."

Legg, a Hall of Famer at Trinity Valley Community Col-



Courtesy photo

Powerhouse Cheer and Fitness celebrates their 16th anniversary with a ribbon cutting by the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce.

lege (TVCC), is passionate about coaching athletes of all ages and building champions from the ground up. As an industry specialist in stunts, tumbling, flexibility and jumps, Legg is known for her dynamic training style and technical precision. With over 30 years of experience, she has developed some of the most elite athletes in all-star cheer.

Powerhouse has won 17 D1 NCA Titles, five Summit Cham-

pionships, seven All-Star World Titles, and numerous national and regional titles.

"It was a great day to celebrate with them on their anniversary, and it is a tremendous resource for our community where children can learn and grow and experience gymnastics. The children are loved and nurtured. The Powerhouse family is a wonderful family," said Randy Pittenger, President/

CEO of Belton Area Chamber of Commerce.

On October 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., they will host a trunk or treat they've called Trunks, Treats, and Tumbling, with free candy and tumbling fun. A bonus treat: one free trial class during the event. Families can reserve a trunk spot by emailing Powerhousecheer@live.com.



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Local actor arrested on Travis County warrant

By Lynette Sowell
The Belton Journal

Actor Rudy Youngblood was arrested last Wednesday, Oct. 15 after an officer with the Belton Police Department stopped to talk to an individual in a vehicle parked near a Belton Lake boat ramp at about 12:20 a.m.

Youngblood was found to have a warrant out of the Travis County Sheriff's Office for Assault Family/Household Member — Impede Breathing/Circulation.



Rudy Youngblood

A white crystalline substance was located on Youngblood during the arrest, according to a state-

ment issued by the Belton Police Department.

Youngblood was in the Bell County Jail as of Monday morning with additional charges pending lab results.

He is presently being held on a \$20,000 bond.

Youngblood starred in the 2006 film Apocalypto and in the years since, has appeared in a lineup of other films to include the 2023 release, The Haunting of Hell Hole Mine, and 2015's Wind Walkers.

National

Pumpkin Day



OCTOBER 26



Halloween

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

It seems like we get past Labor Day and out comes the bulk candy, not that it is ever completely gone. Then all the Halloween accessories, decorations, lights and all the assorted other necessities. Then you know that the season is in full swing when a couple of cable TV channels that start the “slasher” flicks. All the Halloween movies, the teen slashers, Friday the 13th, and whatever else they made. I never spent much time on those type of movies, so I am not sure how many of which movies they made. I saw parts of a few of those, and was not really impressed with the shows and their content. I am not quite sure why someone would watch that much carnage, especially at night and then have to travel home in the dark. Another thing that it

did teach us was that teenagers on camping trips make extremely poor decisions, especially about where they go when they are being chased.

I saw a decoration that had a skull and the word; Happy Halloween. I’ll let that one sink in a moment. Most of the decorations are skeletons and assorted gore.

OK, here is the part where I become an out of touch curmudgeon (and no where in the definition does it mention the word “old”) to the younger generations. I just do not understand the obsession with blood, gore, death and all the other current Halloween effects. I do get where the dead and death part fits in, coming from the original celebration (if you care to use that word) of the holiday. However it seems that there is

nothing that is positive, or even alive, with the celebration of the holiday today.

When I was young there were the occasional ghosts and such, but rarely blood or missing limbs. I don’t think zombies had been invented yet, although there was a musical group with that name. We did have scary costumes to wear. They weren’t scary in their appearance; they were scary because they fit poorly and were often uncomfortable. We had a wide variety of superheroes to choose from and even some very harmless characters. The scariest things we had in those days were the Munsters and Addams Family, neither of which would keep you up at night. Our exposure to ghosts was actually Casper the Friendly Ghost. Our haunted houses relied

on surprise and a few other fairly tame tricks to scare you, no one had their innards hanging out or walked around without their head, although some of the folks didn’t use theirs.

Of course, our world is more violent now than it was just a few years ago. I doubt I can put all of this on Halloween; however, we start our children off with a holiday that was about getting a bag of candy from your neighbors and turned it into a gore fest. In the end we had a bag of candy that had the local dentists counting their chickens before they hatched. These days it seems about getting the stars scared out of you, as a child. So where do we go from there, scary movies all year long, an ongoing TV series about dead beings that want to eat you.

Here is the curmudgeon coming out again. It is just a small step from all of this to video games to real life and it is no wonder our society has so many issues with the acceptance of violence. I hear all the time about how violence in video games and movies has no impact on how the current generation views life. I think we can see from certain shifts in generations how we really have reacted to the change in cultures. The generations that viewed violence firsthand in war didn’t seem to have the same outlook that the younger people have today, which is a fantasy view and they don’t see the real end result.

I certainly hope that everyone does indeed have a “Happy Halloween”.

Ice cream for dinner

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

I used to like my doctor a lot. She listens to me. She offers great advice. When needed, she gives me a pill to make me feel better. But my fondness for her has recently decreased, as she’s gone to stepping on my toes.

I’ve recently lost some weight, which you’d think would be reason for celebration—or at least a pat on the back. But no. She went and took bloodwork. And according to the bloodwork, my cholesterol is high. She asked what I’ve been eating.

I’ve been eating... less. What I eat is my business. I try to eat healthy... sort of. I eat an egg for breakfast.

Salad for lunch. And for dinner... that’s where she got all up in my grocery list.

Have you tried Bluebell Zero Sugar Added Country Vanilla? It’s decently low in calories and has half the fat of regular Blue Bell. I discovered it a few months ago, and it brings me such joy. I’ve made it part of my bedtime routine.

Ice cream is my ultimate comfort food... it relaxes me, puts me in a blissful state, and gets me ready to fall asleep in the nicest way. It’s like manna from heaven.

That woman wants to take away my manna.

Apparently, despite the lowered calories and fat, it still has stuff in it that spikes my insulin. And apparently, you don’t want to spike your insulin right before bed.

Apparently, she doesn’t know how emotionally attached I’ve grown to my nightly cuppa.

I told my husband. He laughed at me. Easy for him to see the humor. That man can eat whatever he wants and never gain an ounce. He’s healthy as a grass-fed Guernsey. His people live well into their 90s on chicken fried steak and gravy. He eats ice cream with me most nights, and no one’s telling him to stop.

That’s just wrong.

Have you noticed that when someone tells you not to do something, you want to do it even more? Or if you’re supposed to do something, you avoid doing it, even if it’s for your own good?

No?

Maybe it’s just me. It’s that sin nature, deeply ingrained in my DNA. Rebellion runs through my veins. I was born to be wild. (Cue Easy Rider music.)

Satan knows that about me. He is well aware of my weaknesses, and he takes advantage of them. His goal is to harm me, because he’s a twisted jerk. So he dangles the very thing in

front of me that he knows I shouldn’t have, because it will make me sick or sad or destroy my relationships or damage my career. For some people, it looks like alcohol or drugs, money or power, or a forbidden relationship.

For me, that thing is Blue Bell No Sugar Added Country Vanilla ice cream. You see, the reason my doctor asked about my diet in the first place, the reason she ordered bloodwork, is I’ve been really tired. Even a little depressed. Turns out, my body can’t handle the amount of artificial sweeteners I was feeding it. The thing I thought was making my life better was

making it worse.

God—and good doctors—don’t restrict us to make us miserable. Any rules they create are designed to give us the best, most abundant lives possible. And an upside to this whole story is that I can still eat ice cream every now and then.

Just not for dinner every night.

“My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.” Proverbs 4:20-22

Awards - From Page A1

for the disability community.

The audience was a gathering of awardees, family, friends, co-workers and committee officers.

Catering by Bella Blue Café in Temple served iced tea, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and bread rolls.

Sign language interpreting was provided by Rosalyn Poole.

Ernest Wilkerson officially welcomed everyone by saying, “The committee and the group has really helped me and what I’ve been through with my disabilities. I’ve learned to turn my disabilities into my strengths.” Dr. Sonjanette Crossley led the invocation, saying, “God, we honor ... this occasion when we tell others ... that you’re an overcomer. We will do this, because of God’s help, all things are possible.”

Several awardees thanked God for helping them cope, thrive, and one for healing.

Carolyn Butts was awarded the Jennifer Phillips Award for Courage, and spoke to the attended through sign language interpretation.

“I volunteer at my church for Awana. I’m the secretary to help children. I’m very thankful to God for His grace and helping me live through all those seizures. I do have courage.”

Her mother interpreted, “Her motto ever since she was a child, never give up.”

The award recipients are as follows:

Jim & Daurice Bowmer Family Member of the Year: Kelli Mikulec & Family

Media Person of the Year: Mark Andrew Olsen

Laura “Pat” Taylor Advocate of the Year: Fran Swanson

Bell County Judge’s Meritorious Service Award: Keith Maxwell

Volunteer of the Year: Janet Abbe

Pat Elliott Inspirational Award : Jennifer Burgan

Special Appreciation Award: Martha Tyroch

Jennifer Phillips Award for Courage: Carolyn Butts

John C. Garth Person of the Year: Dorneth Browne Jackson

For more information about Bell County Committee for People with Disabilities, visit www.hoctic.org or call 254-933-7487.

Obits - From Page A3

Elaine was the alto in the Manning Family Singers. Growing up, Elaine was a member of Memorial Baptist Church in Killeen and then in 1982 became a member of Pidcoke Baptist Church.

Elaine attended Killeen Beauty College and became a licensed cosmetologist. She also attended Central Texas College and Steven F. Austin State University where she studied special education. Elaine worked as a beautician and then in early childhood education at Green Acres in Dallas and in Killeen I.S.D. Elaine also worked in retail and was an excellent waitress. She provided long-term care for several senior citizens and was a business owner in Gatesville.

Elaine was a loving mother and grandmother who deeply loved her entire family, including her four siblings whom she maintained a close relationship with over

the years. She enjoyed listening to rock and roll and bluegrass music and particularly enjoyed being outdoors, especially the beach. Elaine was a fabulous cook. She was entertaining, adventurous and was a loyal and supportive friend to many.

Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, Glen and Antha Manning and her ex-husband Dale Guidry.

She is survived by her daughter, Antha Lou Guidry; son, Homer James Dale Guidry and wife, Sierra; daughter, Jamie Nicole Guidry; grandchildren, Reagan and Audrey Word, Lilah Guidry DeLong, Skye Loose, Rickey, Gryffin, and Leland Reddock; siblings, Glenda Reid and husband, James, Sonja Sims, Debbie Manning, and Mark Manning; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Irwin

Odie Daniel Irwin, November 6, 1949 – October 9, 2025

Odie Daniel Irwin, a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully at home on October 9, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Born on November 6, 1949, in Marlin, Texas, Odie was a steadfastly dedicated man whose life revolved around family, community, and the love of sports.

Odie dedicated much of his life to public service, working for the City Water Works of Marlin and Temple until his retirement. He was also a proud member of the National Guard, serving his country for four years. His commitment to his work and community was a testament to his character and values. Educated at Marlin High School, Odie showcased his love for sports from

an early age, excelling in both football and baseball. His passion for these sports carried through his life, transitioning from player to teacher as he coached little league and imparted his knowledge to his grandchildren. Odie took immense pride in the fact that his family shared his love of sports, and he cherished the countless memories they created together, whether through games, gatherings, or simply enjoying each other’s company over outdoor picnic games.

In 2004, Odie’s life took a beautiful turn when he reconnected with the love of his life, Mary Perez Irwin, at a local restaurant. Their romance blossomed quickly, culminating in their marriage on September 1, 2004. Together, they merged their families, embarking on a new chapter filled with love and togetherness, raising their grandchildren and creating precious memories

that will last a lifetime. Odie was known for his warm-hearted personality and his love for hosting gatherings where he delighted family and friends with his exceptional barbecue skills. He was a family man through and through, relishing every opportunity to spend time with his loved ones, enjoying activities like playing washers and horseshoes that brought everyone together.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 21 years, Mary Perez Irwin; four sons, Brad Irwin, Johnny Lopez and wife Sonya, Richard Lopez and wife Gina, and Larry Lopez; one daughter, Heather Hicks; one brother, Sammy Irwin; one sister, Gloria Lewis; along with ten grandchildren and seven great grandchildren who will forever carry his spirit in their hearts.

Odie is preceded in death by his parents, Sam Irwin and Lottie Irwin, and one brother, Michael Irwin.

A Celebration of Life will be held in his honor at a later date where family and friends will gather to share stories and celebrate the remarkable life of a man who lived to love and serve his family and community. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy of love, kindness, and devotion will endure in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial donation to Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center to help pay for the costs of funeral expenses.

A special thank you to the nurses and chaplain for their compassionate care.

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

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Morgan’s Point Resort’s EDC board approves plans for future

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

A new Village Center in the four corners area in Morgan’s Point Resort tops a long list of projects being considered by the City’s Economic Development Corporation.

The EDC board of directors was scheduled to meet Thursday to officially approve the list of projects, but there wasn’t a quorum of directors present. Instead, the EDC and Morgan’s Point Resort’s City Council will have a joint meeting next month, according to Linda Bridges, director of the EDC.

“The recommended location for the Village Center is a 35-acre parcel of city-owned property at Lake Forest Drive and FM 2483,” Bridges said. “That site offers visibility, accessibility and room for phased development.”

“The Village Center would blend public services, small business opportunities and gathering spaces,” she added.

While full sewer infrastructure will be required for permanent buildout, the site can initially support the Tiny Business Village, a Maker-space Pavilion and an Outdoor Commercial Event Area.

The showpiece of the Center would likely be the Tiny Business Village. It would feature six retail chalets for artisans, micro-retail startups and youth entrepreneurs.

According to Bridges, the Maker-space Pavilion would be an open-air venue for artisan demos, youth workshops and community learning.

“Like the chalets, it functions as a pop-up component of the Tiny Business Village with the potential to evolve into a permanent create hub within the future Village Center,” she said.

An outdoor commercial event area would provide a venue for vendor markets, food trucks and civic celebrations. It, too, could be upgraded with permanent infrastructure as the new Village Center is implemented.

“An outdoor area could be used as a launch site for MPR’s most requested business — a mobile bakery that sells fresh bread, coffee and a community gathering space,” Bridges stated. Actually, the mobile baker could be two separate businesses.

“Tastees, a snowcone business, is interested in selling coffee and Bakehouse on Branding Iron would be the bakery,” she said.

“The EDC is actively seeking to partner with a Morgan’s Point Resort commercial property owner who has undeveloped land, ideally with natural tree cover to provide shade and ambiance.”

“The bakery would operate as a pop-

up location that complements the Tiny Business Village,” Bridges said. “This is not event space, but a welcoming location where friends can meet for a social moment and a bakery treat — a place to pause and enjoy the rhythm of community life.”

“We’re not just launching a bakery — we’re cultivating a space where neighbors gather, youth entrepreneurs grow, and MPR’s spirit rises with every loaf.”

Another EDC project is the revitalization of the Four Corners area.

“We are launching a targeted revitalization initiative to unify legacy parcels with the future Village Center—reinforcing Four Corners as MPR’s gateway district.”

Proposed upgrades include facade improvements, native landscaping, decorative lighting, ordinance-compliant trash enclosures, and coordinated signage.

“To support participation, the EDC is exploring matching grants and low-interest loan programs for eligible commercial property owners — helping reduce upfront costs and incentivize investment. This initiative is designed to attract new tenants, support existing businesses, and create a cohesive visual identity across the district,” she said.

“Revitalization efforts will complement traffic calming, walkability improvements, and signage coordination already underway. We’re not just refreshing buildings and undeveloped areas — we’re renewing belief in what Four Corners can be.”

Bridges said the EDC is exploring speed-reduction to 35 mph on segments of FM 2483 and Morgan’s Point Road, especially in the Four Corners area.

“This adjustment would support legal golf cart use, enhance pedestrian safety, and align with the district’s vision for walkable, community-friendly infrastructure,” Bridges continued. “Any changes would be coordinated with city staff and subject to public input and traffic analysis.”

“We’re not just refreshing buildings and undeveloped areas,” Bridges said. “We are renewing the belief in what Four Corners should be.”

A new federally funded sidewalk is scheduled to break ground this month,” she said. “It will run through the Four Corners area as part of the Safe Routes to School initiative. The pathway will improve student safety, support bicycle and pedestrian access and reinforce the commitment to non-vehicle mobility.”

Bridges said if the city is successful in securing The HOP bus service to Morgan’s Point Resort, the EDC is prepared to partner on the construction of an en-



Courtesy photo
A tiny business village in Morgan’s Point Resort could look similar to this village in Batavia, Ill.

closed bus-stop station at Four Corners.

“This would support workforce mobility, student access and event transportation that enhances the area’s connectivity and walkability,” she said.

Another EDC project involves nature-based tourism, Bridges explained. One plan is creating a stargazing program at Oakmont Park.

“This would include luxury and tent camping, youth science programs and seasonal events designed to position Morgan’s Point as a quiet-zone destination for nature-based hospitality,” she said.

The nature-based programs are designed to generate ongoing revenue through campsite rentals, season events and passholder access.

The MPR EDC hopes to develop a volunteer-led Star Stewards corps to host events and support youth programming. The EDC also would promote light pollution awareness through interpretive signage and community outreach.

Oakmont Park is a candidate for official recognition through the DarkSky Program. Certification would elevate Morgan’s Point Resort’s visibility as a stargazing destination and reinforce its commitment to preserving natural night-scapes, according to Bridges.

“The EDC’s aim is to strengthen Morgan’s Point Resort’s vibrant event culture by offering respectful, optional support to the nonprofits and civic groups who lead the way,” she said.

“The EDC is happy to help align dates, venues, and bundled promotions through voluntary planning sessions. We’re available to coordinate when invited — but always willing to work alongside other groups, supporting their vision rather than steering it.”

“This isn’t just a plan — it’s a promise,” Bridges said. “We’re building a future that honors our past, welcomes new voices, and invites every resident to take part.”

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UMHB hosts Czech Festival and Science Saturday



Courtesy Photo
UMHB is holding Science Saturday on Oct. 25, open to the entire community, from 9 a.m. until Noon.
Special to the Journal

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) is hosting two events on campus this week, including a Czech Festival hosted by UMHB Kingdom Diversity and Science Saturday sponsored by UMHB’s College of Humanities and Sciences.

The community is invited to attend the Czech Festival on Friday, October 24, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on King Street.

The festival will include traditional Czech food items available for purchase, activities, games, music, and dancing to celebrate Czech Heritage Month.

“Kingdom Diversity is honored to host UMHB’s first Czech Festival here on our campus,” explained Rebeka Retta, the assistant director of UMHB Kingdom Diversity. “This will be a celebration of the

Czech-American culture and will include a historical display provided by the Czech Heritage Museum and Genealogy Center in Temple.”

The next morning, guests are invited to the York and Wells science buildings for Science Saturday. From 9 a.m. to noon on October 25, various groups will provide hands-on STEM activities for children, grades Pre-K to 5th grade. Parents must stay with their children for the duration of the event, and each family should bring one non-perishable food item for admittance. All food collected will be donated to Helping Hands Ministry of Belton. There is no need to register ahead of time. Participating groups include Beta Beta Beta, Sigma Pi, Crunix Club, Delta Psi Theta, Women in Science and Engineering, and the Pre-Health Professions Club.

“UMHB’s School of Natural Sciences is excited to welcome children to our campus so we can share our passion for STEM with them,” said Dr. Cathleen Early, biology professor and Science Saturday coordinator. “Every year, I am amazed at the level of creativity and enthusiasm our students pour into the various activities they share with our guests. We are blessed to have this opportunity to show children the fun side of STEM, and hopefully start a lifelong appreciation for this aspect of God’s creation.”

To learn more about UMHB events, visit www.umhb.edu.



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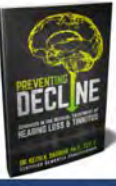
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Belton falls to University late, faces Rudder with playoff seed on the line

By **Tony Adams**
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers are getting all too used to heartbreak.

Adding Belton's loss to University in the final 90 seconds on Friday night at Waco ISD Stadium, their last two losses have both been in the waning seconds.

The Trojans' touchdown with 90 seconds to go was the deciding factor in University's 33-27 win over the Tigers.

"We shot ourselves in the foot in the second half," Belton head coach Brett Sniffin said. "Turnovers and penalties, We had penalties that cost us. We were driving to score twice and had penalties."

Savoy Nichols' 29-yard touchdown pass to Jeremiah Green put the Trojans on the board first. The point after failed, as the Trojans remained on top 6-0 with 10:51 to play in the first quarter.

Belton answered with a 71-yard drive, as Gino Zecca's seven-yard touchdown tied the game. Corin Ramesar's extra point put Belton in the lead, 7-6, with 9:12 left in the quarter.

The Tigers extended their lead later in the quarter, as Will Shepard scored on a two-yard touchdown plunge. Ramesar's extra point increased Belton's advantage to 14-6 with 5:35 left in the quarter.

Nichols' four-yard touchdown run pulled the Trojans to within two points with 2:49 left in the quarter. The two-point try was foiled by Oakley Torres, as the Tigers kept the two-point lead.

Shepard connected with Gavin Ross on an 11-yard touchdown pass with 10:46 to play in the first half. Ramesar's point after kick extended the Tigers' lead to nine, 21-12.

Darrius Thomas pulled University back to within a score with a three-yard run. Lyric McGinnis intercepted the two-point pass in the end zone and raced 78 yards before he



was tackled, as the Trojans trailed by three with 6:45 to go in the first half, 21-18.

Javid Nua Planz came up huge on the next drive for the Tigers with a 38-yard touchdown run on a great block by Gavin Ross. The point after kick failed, as the Tigers led 27-18 with 2:33 left in the first half.

University's 42-yard field goal try at the first half horn pulled up short.

The Trojans scored two times in the second half. Nichols found London Smith on a

two-yard touchdown pass with 11:56 to play in the game and kicked extra point to make the score 27-25. Smith's four-yard run with 90 seconds to go and two-point conversion run by Nichols made the score 33-27 University.

The Tigers bid to tie the game was halted by an interception by Green with 42 seconds to go.

Shepard went 9-of-17 through the air for 98 yards, in which Ross was the recipient

of seven passes for 84 yards. Belton picked up 211 yards on 38 carries, with Shepard having picked up 98 including a 53-yard carry. Planz and Zecca each had 55 yards, with each having a 19-yard run to their credit.

Alex Carpenter had nine tackles with three for losses. Camron Ellis and Oakley Torres each had eight tackles. McGinnis had a pair of interceptions, one on special teams.

See **BELTON**,
Page B3

Lady Tigers secure second place with straight-set win over Ellison

By **Clay Whittington**
The Belton Journal

No matter how the remainder of the season unfolds, Haleigh Johnson feels accomplished.

In 2023, the Lady Tigers' first-year head coach inherited a program coming off a 10-win season, but in each of the seasons since, Johnson has improved upon the prior record.

This year is no different.

With a straight-set victory at Killeen Ellison on Tuesday, Belton secured second place in the District 16-5A standings while winning its 29th match of the season.

After the outcome, Johnson admitted the feeling was special.

"I owe it all to the girls," she said. "They are the ones who are putting in the work and following my vision. They have gotten behind me and trusted me, and that is a great feeling as a coach."

"They trust me enough to get me where they need to be."

In a contest that went back and forth, the Lady Tigers were in control throughout, winning 25-18, 26-24, 25-21 to sweep the

series,

Early on, it appeared Belton would cruise as it responded to a kill from Jada Hood by posting seven unanswered points, but the Lady Eagles pulled within three points at 12-9 before being prevented from getting any closer.

The Lady Tigers extended their advantage to 17-11 and maintained at least a four-point cushion for the duration of the set, closing with a 5-1 outburst.

The second set saw the squads play to 10 ties before a hit from Landry Duggan accounted for the first of two consecutive points for Belton, giving the Lady Tigers a 2-0 lead.

It was more of the same in the third set with the teams exchanging rallies en route to an 18-18 deadlock after Aaliyah Lee's hit tied the score for Ellison, but a 6-1 surge sent Belton into a commanding position.

The Lady Eagles prevented a pair of match points before succumbing to the Lady Tigers on sophomore Brylee Renegar's kill.

See **SECOND**,
Page B2

Lake Belton wins district championship with 9-0 run of volleyball schedule

By **Aries Ramos**
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Volleyball team continued its dominant run through district play Tuesday night, defeating Chaparral 3-1 to secure its third district championship in four years. The win improved Lake Belton's record to 27-12 overall and a perfect 9-0 in district competition, solidifying their position as one of the best volleyball programs in Central Texas.

Lake Belton came out strong and never looked back in the opening two sets. The Lady Broncos set the tone early with quick transitions and clean execution, taking the first set 25-10. The second set was even more dominant, as Lake Belton controlled every phase of the game and rolled to a 25-9 win behind consistent attacking and strong net play.

Chaparral, fighting to stay alive, responded in the

third set. The Lady Bobcats capitalized on a few unforced errors from the Broncos and tightened up their defense, edging Lake Belton 25-22 to extend the match. But any momentum Chaparral hoped to build quickly evaporated in the fourth set. The Lady Broncos regrouped and closed out the match in convincing fashion with a 25-11 victory, sealing the 3-1 win and keeping their perfect district record intact.

The victory was more than just another notch in the win column it officially locked up the district championship for Lake Belton, marking the program's third title in four years. It's a testament to the team's consistency, depth, and ability to maintain a championship standard year after year. Throughout the season, the Lady Broncos have leaned on a balanced attack, disciplined defense, and strong team chemistry to outlast their opponents.

Now, with the district crown secured, the Lady Broncos will turn their focus to the regular season finale against Waco on Friday, October 24, where they'll look to close out district play undefeated. The matchup is set for 5:30 p.m. in Waco, and while the Broncos have already clinched the title, they know the importance of finishing strong with the postseason just around the corner.

Waco currently sits in fourth place in the district standings and will be eager to challenge Lake Belton on its home court. For the Lady Broncos, it's another opportunity to fine tune their play, keep their momentum rolling, and make a final statement before playoff brackets are set.

As the postseason approaches, Lake Belton appears locked in and ready as a confident team with championship aspirations and the track record to back them up.

Broncos to face Cedar Park after 45-0 rout of Leander

By **Aries Ramos**
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos are coming off one of their most complete performances of the season, a 45-0 homecoming rout of Leander, and they'll look to carry that momentum into a crucial district matchup against Cedar Park this Friday night at Gupton Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Lake Belton 3-1 in district play, put together a statement win last week that showcased dominance on both sides of the ball. The Broncos' defense set the tone early, forcing three turnovers and keeping the

Lions off the scoreboard from start to finish. Ji'yson Sherman played a major role with two interceptions and a fumble recovery, while the defensive front applied constant pressure throughout the night.

On offense, the Broncos kept the Lions on their toes by switching between the run and pass attack. Running back Zyien Dupree turned in a standout performance, scoring three touchdowns as Lake Belton built a commanding lead by halftime. Quarterbacks Reese Rosenbaum and Jessiah James both contributed big plays through the

See **BRONCOS**,
Page B3





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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 Belton ISD’s programs will soon all be preparing.

While the Lady Tigers and Lady Broncos are already practicing, boys teams are permitted to begin practicing Wednesday.

Scrimmages for girls programs are allowed starting Nov. 1, and the first day for games is Nov. 7.

Boys 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.

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.

Lady Tigers ready to hit the hardwood for basketball season

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

After spending her first few seasons taking steps, Anne Marie Stark is ready to make a leap.

For the past two years, the Lady Tigers head coach has been transforming the program she inherited into the team she desired, and the process has been a struggle at times.

In her debut, Belton finished with just two district victories, and it followed with a 3-7 league record last year, missing the playoffs each season.

With the upcoming schedule rapidly approaching, however, Stark believes this could be her team could experience a growth spurt.

“When you have to coach effort,” she said, “you don’t get to coach basketball. We are definitely in a transition time where effort is the expectation, and the girls are holding each other accountable.

“I’m starting to hand the reins over to the athletes and allowing them to lead, because that is what makes a great program. It doesn’t happen because I’m at the helm. It happens when they lead each other.”

The University Interscholastic League allowed teams across the state to begin practicing on Wednesday with scrimmages set to start Nov. 1.

The Lady Tigers’ open their regular-season schedule Nov. 8 against visiting Elgin.

Belton will take part in three tournaments before starting District 16-5A competition against Lake Belton on Jan. 9, and if all goes according to plan during league play, the Lady Tigers will return to the playoffs for the first time since 2022.

Reaching the postseason will not be easy, but Belton has the talent to complete the task.

The Lady Tigers lost key contributor Avelle Bonfoh, a shooting guard who was an all-district selection to the second team last year, to graduation, but a trio of teammates return with accolades.

Among others, sophomore guard Isabella Warner is coming off an impressive debut, being named all-district newcomer of the year, while sophomore forward Emma Harvey and senior Emma Flory, a guard, were each honorable mentions.

“The chemistry of the team is what really stands out to me this year,” Stark said. “The girls just really love to be around each other. They giggle and laugh so much, but they also know when to turn it on in practice.

“I think that is a really important balance to have, so I’m interested to see how things play out, because I think we have all the potential in the world.”

In time, the Lady Tigers’ collective concentration will be focused on excelling during district, when their playoff fate will be determined.

For not, though, Stark has other interests.

“When it comes to the younger girls,” she said, “I’m just trying to find the ones who really want to be a part of something bigger than themselves. This is their opportunity to be a real teammate.

“We focus on challenging them and helping them grow both on and off the floor.”



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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Lady Broncos looking to climb the district ladder

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Lady Broncos enter the new basketball season focused on climbing the district ladder after showing flashes of potential a year ago.

Last season, the Lady Broncos finished 13–22 overall and 5–5 in district play, securing third place and earning a playoff berth before falling in the opening round to Red Oak, 66–42. Despite the early exit, the campaign marked another step forward for a young program continuing to establish itself in one of Central Texas’s most competitive districts.

Lake Belton now looks to build on that foundation with a group eager to prove it can compete with the district’s best. The Lady Broncos will have to replace the production and leadership of standout graduate Natalie Maldonado, who was a key presence on both ends of the floor last season. However, the returning roster brings a mix of experience, and depth that could make the difference as the season unfolds.

The Lady Broncos tested themselves early this fall at the Pink October Showcase in North Crowley, where they faced strong opponents, including Mansfield Summit, Rock Hill, and Cleburne. While the team came up short in each game, the weekend served as an important evaluation period. Several players stood out during the event, including Aniah Taylor and Alexa King, who led the team in scoring in multiple contests. Gemma Pierce, Ariella Polley, Layla King, Olivia Dann, and Brylee Craddick also showed growth, contributing in rebounding, defense, and offensive flow.

The showcase provided a glimpse of a balanced lineup that’s learning to play fast, defend aggressively, and share the ball, all qualities that Lake Belton hopes to carry into district competition.

Second - From Page B1

“I thought we played really well considering how Ellison was really putting the ball back on us,” she said. “We were responding well, and that was a good thing to see as we are approaching the playoffs, because that was an intense situation.

“It is scary to play someone who is fighting to get in, but it was reassuring to see my girls were not scared to compete.”

Now, Belton (29-12, 6-2) turns its attention toward closing the regular season with a victory versus winless Waco (0-9) before embarking on another playoff appearance.

Last year, the Lady Tigers celebrated a bi-district championship, and they intend to do at least the same this season, but no matter how the remainder of the season unfolds, Johnson feels accomplished.

“This really feels great,” she said. “Every year, we are making the playoffs, and now, we’ve moved up to second place, so it feels really good. This proves we are making the right steps and moving in the right direction.

“I owe all the credit to the girls. They are following all the steps I’m laying out for them.”

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Lake Belton Freshman Dzenowski to race at state Cross Country meet

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

It appears the area’s next premier runner has arrived, and on Halloween, she receives the ultimate opportunity to prove it.

On the heels of winning the District 16-5A championship, Lady Broncos freshman Keira Dzenowski cemented herself among the sport’s elite Monday morning, when she earned a berth to the upcoming state meet.

Posting a time of 19 minutes, 52.07 seconds, Lake Belton’s standout placed 26th individually at the Region II-5A, landing her among the field’s state qualifiers.

Only the top four teams and top 10 individuals not on an advancing team moved on, and while Lake Belton was not in contention, finishing 11th with 291 points, Dzenowski dazzled in her regional debut, and now, one final race awaits.

The University Interscholastic League Class 5A State Championship will be held Oct. 31 at Round Rock’s Old Settlers Park. The five-kilometer race begins at 9:30 a.m.

While the potential to add one more medal to her collection looms for Dzenowski, the season came to a close for the remainder of Belton ISD’s harriers.

The remainder of the Lady Broncos’ points were produced by juniors Jenna Benedick (57th, 21:18.49), Madelyn Rivas (67th, 21:32.06) and Sarah Gray (97th, 22:34.28 and

sophomore Lucy Loa (83rd, 21:56.00).

Elizabeth Sandline (113th, 23:02.86) and Alayna Fulton (131st, 23:45.00), who are sophomores, also represented Lake Belton, but their times did not count toward the team total.

With four top-10 finishers, including champion Emily Armstrong (1st, 18:14.24), a freshman, Lucas Lovejoy easily captured the team title, scoring 31 points to beat out Dallas Highland Park (2nd, 78). Frisco Wakeland (3rd, 88) and Frisco Reedy (4th, 150) also qualified for state.

Belton was 21st (527) behind sophomore standout Isabella Warner (74th, 21:45.82).

The Lady Tigers’ remaining runners — freshman Ayla Wakershauser (126th, 23:28.05), junior Roxanna Delgado (128th, 23:33.26), freshman Natalie Mott (134th, 23:51.33), junior Nataly Valdez (139th, 24:02.74), sophomore Delilah Hoffman (145th, 24:28.69) and sophomore Lilian Baggett (148th, 24:40.63) — crossed the finish line with 75 seconds of each other.

In the boys race, which was also held at Arlington’s Harold Patterson Sports Complex, Lake Belton was 17th (439).

Wyatt Potts, a junior, paced the Broncos, landing in the top 60 with a 57th-place time of 17:38.33, and his outing was complemented by junior Jack McCullagh (100th, 18:23.58), sophomore Tyler Adkins-Beltran (106th, 18:31.96), sophomore Cooper Schels (111th, 18:38.71) and junior Josiah Briggs (123rd, 18:52.59).

Lake Belton freshman Drew Houston (130th, 19:03.70) and junior Austin Adams (149th, 19:37.70) also raced.

Dallas Wilson (1st, 88) emerged with the team championship followed by runner-up Lovejoy (2nd, 106), Wakeland (3rd, 114) and McKinney North (4th, 128).

Frisco Lebanon Trail senior Andrew Malan (1st, 15:51.72) claimed the gold medal, and he will be joined at state by individual qualifiers in North Mesquite junior Joshua Loera (4th, 16:02.83), Reedy seniors Parker Cathey (7th, 16:17.07) and Alex Roeren (11th, 16:30.24), Highland Park senior Spencer Haag (10th, 16:24.08), Walnut Grove juniors Jaxson Hart (12th, 16:38.19) and Christopher Riley-Case (13th, 16:38.67), Killeen Ellison juniors Aiden Hill (14th, 16:41.79) and Andy Harper (17th, 16:43.91) and Kaufman sophomore Ian Enderle (18th, 16:45.15).

Individual state-qualifiers from the girls race included Tyler junior Amy Vazquez (4th, 18:42.41), Midlothian Heritage senior Jenna Jacobsen (12th, 19:08.70), Melissa junior Diem Casselberry (13th, 19:13.41) and freshman Grace Vuong (15th, 19:23.61), Midlothian senior Lincoln Husbands (14th, 19:17.90), Mount Pleasant junior Alexia Hawkins (18th, 19:36.00), Wilson sophomore Charis Henderson (21st, 19:40.22), Frisco Liberty senior Caitlyn Ruback (28th, 20:01.00) and sophomore Grace Harris (29th, 20:05.11) and Dzenowski.

Belton Area Chamber of Commerce Endorses BISD Bond Proposals

Special to The Journal

Recognizing the significant impact of our public schools on the growth and strength of our local economy, the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors approved a resolution in support of the Belton ISD Bond Election proposals and encourages our community to vote in favor of them.

The Board heard a presentation on the bond proposals from BISD Superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden at its October 15 meeting, providing an opportunity for questions and clarification of the process and proposals; including how these bonds can be added with only a minimal increase in the tax rate due to the substantial property value growth in our area. The

resolution of support was approved at the Board’s meeting.

Board Treasurer and small business owner Adriane Hodges stated, “Good schools are the backbone of a successful community, and Belton ISD has proven time and again that it’s a wise and trusted steward of our tax dollars. That’s why I’m proud to support the Belton ISD bond proposal.”

Former Board Chair Jordan Samfield added, “Belton is a wonderful, thriving community and there is no better investment than that of our children and their education. The BISD Bond Proposal ensures a prosperous future for our children, our community, and our local economy and that is why I support it.”

The Belton area has ben-

efitted from past investments in its schools, enhancing the quality of life and prompting people to move here from across the state and country, making Belton ISD a destination school district. The reputation of our quality local public schools is a major factor in the addition of numerous businesses in recent years, as well as significant job creation in our area.

“We are proud to partner with Belton ISD in workforce development, economic growth and quality of life issues to make Belton a great place to live, work, shop, play, and raise a family,” said Randy Pittenger, Chamber President/CEO.

“The process used to develop these bond proposals was thorough and inclusive, and we support this contin-

ued investment in our growing community. The fact that our growing tax base will allow us to afford these new bonds focusing on safety and learning spaces without a significant tax rate increase provides us with a unique opportunity to invest in our community and local economy,” added Pittenger.

Election Day for the bond proposals is November 4, with early voting October 20-31. The Chamber encourages everyone to participate in the process by learning about the proposals and voting.

More information about voting and the Belton ISD Bond Election is available at <https://www.bisd.net/bond2025> or <https://linktr.ee/voteyesforbisd-kids>.

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. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.
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Basketball - From Page B2

District play once again promises to be challenging. Ellison dominated the standings last season with a perfect 10-0 record, claiming the district championship behind a high powered offense and stingy defense. Chaparral followed in

second at 8-2, establishing itself as another tough matchup. With those two programs setting the standard, Lake Belton’s battle for positioning will be a true test.

Still, the Lady Broncos have reason for optimism. With improved

chemistry, deeper rotations, and valuable experience gained from last year’s playoff appearance, Lake Belton appears well equipped to compete night in and night out. The goal this season is clear: continue building momentum, challenge the

district’s elite, and push further into the postseason.

As the season tips off, the Lady Broncos are embracing the challenge ahead ready to prove that their growth can turn potential into progress in 2025.

Broncos - From Page B1

air, with Rosenbaum connecting on key passes to Braxton Cope and James finding Zion Harness and Christian Onchweri for explosive gains.

Head coach Brian Cope credited his team’s preparation and focus as key factors in the win. “Our kids are practicing hard, they’re playing hard, and they’re playing for each other,” Cope said. “We’ve made some adjustments, and I think it’s really sparked us. It was great to see everyone contribute, especially on homecoming night.”

That win not only boosted the Bron-

cos’ confidence but also tightened the district standings heading into the final stretch. This week’s matchup with Cedar Park also 3-1 in district, looms large, as both teams are battling for playoff positioning.

The Broncos defeated the Timberwolves 28-21 in their last meeting, a hard-fought contest that went down to the wire. Cedar Park, known for its defense and explosive passing game, will look to even the score on its home turf. Lake Belton, meanwhile, will aim to replicate the physicality and precision that

have fueled its recent surge.

“Our district is tough every single week,” Cope said. “It doesn’t matter who you play you’ve got to bring it every single time. I’m proud of how our kids are responding. We’ve still got a lot of football left, but they’re locked in and hungry.”

With both teams sitting near the top of the standings, Friday’s clash at Gupton Stadium could have major implications in the race for a playoff spot and perhaps the district crown.

Belton - From Page B1

Belton will now face the Bryan Rudder Rangers on Friday night at Tiger Field. Although the Tigers may not see it as a must-win situation, the games against the Rangers and Waco Lions are setting up to be a pair of contests Belton will use as building blocks for the final game on district.

The Tigers coaching staff will not let the team look past Rudder. Through seven games, Belton has averaged 29.9 points a game and yielded 34.4. points. In two district games, the Tigers have averaged 40 points and gave up 37.5.

Shepard (88-of-127, 1,171 yards passing, 78 carries, 337 rushing yards, 18 total touchdowns) will get the main share of reps

behind center. Sawyer Harbin (33-of-54, 422 passing yards, 5 TDs) may get some time at quarterback should the Tigers get a big lead early.

Shepard, Zecca (301 rushing yards, three TDs), Planz (222 yards, two TDs, and Cason Morton (81 rushing yards, TD) all with punishing running styles have contributed to Belton’s 141.1 rushing yards per game average.

Ross (57 receptions, 811 receiving yards, eight TDs), Morton (260 receiving yards), and Achilles Palomares (140 receiving yards, two TDs) support the quarterbacks in the 224.6 yards per game receiving.

Through seven games, Rudder has averaged 11.6

points per game and yielded an average of 41 points per contest. In two district games, Rudder has averaged eight points per matchup and yielded 55.5 in games.

The Rangers average 110.1 yards passing and 96.3 yards rushing per contest. Syllas Sullivan (81-of-142, 674 passing yards, three TDs, four INTs, 115 rushing yards, two TDs) and AJ Morrison (646 total yards, ten TDs) are the two main offensive components for Rudder.

Torres (53 tackles, 39 solo), Azian Wilkinson (38 tackles, 27 solo), and Jacob Lewis (33 tackles, 23 solos) have had big parts in the Tigers’ defense, that has logged 18 pass defenses, nine fumble recoveries, seven sacks,

and six interceptions. Add in Graham Chambley with eight of the pass defenses and three blocked kicks, and the matchup against the Rangers sets up well for the Tigers.

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THE BELTON JOURNAL

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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 20 day of , 2025.

S/s James O. Cure, James O. Cure Attorney for THOMAS KENYON SCHILLER, State Bar No.: 05252800, 2584 Blue Meadow Dr.

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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

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of BETSEY ROLSTON were issued on September 11, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00271, pending in the County Court Number One of Bell County, Texas, to DONALD ROLSTON.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o BRETT H. PRITCHARD, 1201 S. W.S. Young Dr., Ste C, Killeen, TX 76543

Dated OCT 20 2025

BRETT H. PRITCHARD Attorney for Executor of the Estate of BETSEY ROLSTON 10.23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert R. Waring were issued on September 17, 2025, in Docket No. 25CPB00514, pending in the County Court at Law number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to Jeffrey R. Waring.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o Jeffrey R. Waring, 6327 Stone Trail Lane, Spring, Texas, 77379

Dated October 17, 2025 Brett H. Pritchard Attorney for Executor of the Estate of Robert R. Waring. 10.23

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION-PARENT AND CHILD

To: Eric Warren, any Unknown Father and All Whom It May Concern, Respondents, in the hereinafter-styled and numbered cause:

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The Original Petition of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, on May 30, 2025, against Rachel Loud and Eric Warren, Respondent(s), numbered 25DFAM354156, and entitled “In the Interest of SOPHIA WARREN, minor child.” The suit requests to terminate the parent-child relationships and/or to appoint a managing conservator of the child. The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit is:

SOPHIA WARREN, DOB: February 1, 2011, Place of birth: Unknown

The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child’s interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child’s adoption.

The name and address of the attorney for plaintiff is Jennine Cintron, Bell County Attorney’s Office, P.O. Box 1127, Belton, TX 76513

Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the 15 day of October 2025

Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, TX 76513

By: C. Rodriguez Deputy. 10.23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Randall Smith were issued on September 26, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00552, pending in the County Court at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to Elizabeth Smith.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o Neale Potts, P.O. Box 969, Belton, TX 76513

Dated October 15, 2025 Neale Potts, Attorney for Executor of the Estate of Randall Smith 10.23

Newcomers Club Activities

OCTOBER

10/22: Crochet & Knit, Fun Lunch
10/23: 42 Dominoes, Mexican Train Dominoes
10/24: Trailblazers Walking Group
10/25: Jimmy's Egg
10/27: Well Read Women, Monday Canasta
10/28: Singing Bluebonnets
10/30: 42 Dominoes

NOVEMBER

11/03: Chat 'n' Canasta
11/04: Footloose Singles
11/03: Monthly Luncheon, Popcorn Bridge
11/10: Bookworms
11/11: Singing Bluebonnets
11/13: Mexican Train Dominoes, Couples Night OUT
11/14: TGIF Lunch
11/15: Exploring Wines

**"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:

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.

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 Pars & Recreation.

Best of the Wurst - Oct 26

Covenant Lutheran Church, 4202 Hickory, Temple, will hold its annual "The Best of the Wurst" meal and country store on Sunday, October 26. Sausage, German potato salad, braised red cabbage, and green beans will be served from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. inside and in a drive-through lane. Large plates are \$15.00 and small plates are \$10.00. Desserts are sold by freewill offering. Coupons for the country store are available inside. Proceeds will be given to Turtle Creek Volunteer Fire Department (Kerrville area) and to Transformation Station (Temple).

Bell County Historical Commission Meeting - Oct 27

The Bell County Historical Commission will meet on Monday October 27, 2025. The meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. in room 117 of the old courthouse at 101 East Central Ave, Belton, Texas. This will be a business meeting, and various committees and chairs will give reports. The meeting is open to the public and all who are interested in history are encouraged to attend.

Central Texas Travel Club- Oct 30

The next meeting of the Central Texas Travel Club will be October 30 at Johnnys steaks and Barbeque in Salado. The meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. and is open to anyone interested in travel, and meeting other travelers. For more information contact us at centraltexastravel@outlook.com or on Facebook. We will be discussing upcoming trips including San Diego and Llano.

250th Birthday Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast in Slado - Nov 8

Enjoy boot cam chow and fellowship with Marines, Navy Corpsmen, and those who have served with the Marines! Family and friends, also invited. Attire is casual dress, but squared away! Keynote speaker is LtCol Spencer Smith(Ret), former Marine One piolet. Saturday, November 8, 2025, 07:30, at Johnny's Steaks & Bar-B-Que Cantina, 301 Thomas Arnold Road, Salado, Tx. Pay at the door (cash) \$15.00 for adults, \$10.00 for kids 12 and under, NC for infants. Please RSVP by Wednesday, November5. Call or text Rhonda Rhinehart at 512-507-6265 for more information.

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 month at VFW 3859. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. 201 VFW Dr, Harker heights, Tx 76548. Email commandant@mcl1249tx.com for more information.

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 aspenhealthcare.net or call 512-856-5668 for more

information.

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

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

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

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

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

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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Agape Christian Center 321 N. Penelope ~ 254.939.WORD	Holy Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith 519 S. Pearl St. ~ 254.613.4591	Eighth Street Baptist Church 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. ~ 254.773.2598
Anchor of Hope Fellowship 5700 F.M. 439 ~ 254.721.6514	Hope Community Church 507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222	First Baptist Church Temple 8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866
Belton Christian Church 9425 W FM ~ 436 254.939.1172	Hope Tabernacle 202 E. 1st Ave. ~ 254.933.8222	First Methodist Church Temple, GMC 102 N. 2nd Temple. TX ~ 254.773.7992
Belton Church of Christ 3003 N. Main ~ 254.939.1816	Iglesia de Cristo 3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910	First Presbyterian Church Temple 12 West French ~ 254.773.3407
Belton Church of God in Christ 1122 W. 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.1697	Keys Valley Baptist Church 4393 W. US Hwy. 190 ~ 254.939.1650	Foundation Church 10751 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673
Belton First Assembly of God 500 S. IH-35 ~ 254.933.2803	Lakeview Baptist Church 7717 N Hwy. 317 ~ 254.780.1884	Grace Baptist Church 740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401
Belton Lighthouse 1001 NE Loop 121 ~ 254.654.7278	Liberty Church 302 E. Central Ave. ~ 254.933.7107	Grace Comm. Primitive Baptist Church 3111 N. 3rd St ~ 254.774.8192
Belton Nazarene Church 1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404	Liberty in Christ Church 2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337	Grace Presbyterian Church 2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134
Bethel A.M.E. Church 401 S. Davis St. ~ 254.939.6090	Miller Heights Baptist Church 1400 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.1835	Harvest Church 2501 General Bruce Dr. ~ 254.780.3566
Central Texas Cathedral Worship Center 700 S. Main Street ~ 254.831.3064	Ministerios Vida 2020 S. IH-35 ~ 254.624.8015	Immanuel Lutheran Church 2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898
Christ Bible Baptist Church 1590 Jack Rabbit Rd ~ 254.939.9247	Mt. Zion United Methodist Church 218 Alexander St. ~ 254.939.5621	Leon Valley Church of Christ 4404 Twin City Blvd. ~ 254.939.0682
Christ the King Catholic Church 310 E. 24th Ave. ~ 254.939.0806	New Life Fellowship 706 E. 4th. ~ 254.939.8011	New Hope Church of God 2005 W. Ave D., Suite D. ~ 254.742.2181
Christian Tabernacle Church Apostolic UPC 1010 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.3464	Nolan Valley Baptist Church 13206 W. FM 93~ 254.721.5998	Oak Park United Methodist Church 5505 South 31st St. ~ 254.773.3021
Cornerstone Community Church 5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250	Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ 117 N. Birdwell St. ~ 254.939.0822	St. Francis Episcopal Church & School 5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255
Crossroads Church 500 South I-35 ~ 254.939.2122	Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church 2378 FM 1670 ~ 818.519.9855	St. Luke's Catholic Church 2807 Oakdale Dr. ~ 254.773.1561
Dominion Life Chapel 105 Green Briar St. ~ 254.563.0472	Tapestry Community Church of Belton 1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.218.4008	St. Mary's Catholic Church 1018 S 7th St. ~254.773.4541
Elm Grove Baptist Church 6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127	Temple Vision de lo Alto 4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231	Taylor's Valley Baptist Church 2497 W. FM 93 ~ 254.939.0503
Family Gospel Church 2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707	Trinity Full Gospel 810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673	Temple Bible Church 3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233
Fellowship Baptist Church 2025 Morgan's Point Rd ~ 254.780.2388	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bell County 1726 Morgan's Point Rd. ~ 254.778.8034	Temple First Church of the Nazarene 5000 S. 31st ~ 254.773.3744
First Baptist Church Belton 506 N. Main St. ~ 254.933.3391	~ TEMPLE ~	
First Mexican Baptist Church 703 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.6900	Chalice Church - Disciples of Christ 300 N 5th St ~ (254) 773-9061	Unity Church of Temple 318 N. 2nd ~ 254.770.0070
First Presbyterian Church of Belton 2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115	Christ Episcopal Church and School 300 N. Main St. ~ 254.773.1657	Vineyard Christian Fellowship 7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802
First United Methodist Church 205 E. 3rd Ave. ~ 254.939.5703	Christian Life Church 4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626	Vista Community Church 7051 Stonehollow Dr. ~ 254.774.7992
Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus 1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201		Wildwood Baptist Church 5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

Adversity or Adventure: You Choose



John C. Perry

Recently, I crossed paths with someone whose attitude was so persistently negative, it made me pause and wonder: why do people react so differently to the same situation? What makes one person see disaster, while another sees opportunity?

It reminded me of a childhood memory that still glows brightly in my mind. I was about eight years old, and my dad, a federal employee, had a work trip to Washington, D.C. I'd always dreamed of visiting the nation's capital, and this was my chance. My parents arranged for me to fly solo from our home to meet my dad, who was already up there. My mom stayed behind to care for my younger brothers, and the plan was simple: My mom would put me on the plane, and my dad

would pick me up at the airport, and we'd spend a long weekend exploring the city.

What could possibly go wrong?

Well, for starters, it was February. As our plane approached D.C., a blizzard swept in, shutting down the D.C. airport. We were rerouted to New York City. For most adults, this would be a logistical nightmare. For me? It was the beginning of an epic adventure.

The stewardesses, yes, that's what they were called back then, took excellent care of me. They phoned my mother to explain the situation, and soon I was whisked from the airport by bus to Grand Central Station, then onto a train bound for Washington.

On the train, I was seated next to a kind man who helped me navigate the journey. He smoked a pipe and had a gentle, thoughtful demeanor. I later learned he was Edward Albee, the famous playwright. At the time, I had no idea who he was, I just knew how kind he was.

When I finally arrived in D.C., my dad was waiting at the train station, and we had a magical weekend together. We toured monuments, played in snow deeper than I'd ever seen, and made memories that still warm my heart. To me, it was a grand adventure. To my mother? A near-catastrophe. Her lit-

tle boy alone in New York City, what could be more terrifying?

But here's the thing: I was never scared. Not once. I was a wide-eyed little boy, too busy marveling at the world unfolding around me.

So, what makes someone see adversity while another sees adventure? I believe it starts with mindset. A sense of curiosity, a willingness to embrace the unknown, and a refusal to dwell on what's gone wrong. It's about looking for solutions instead of problems, being open to the unexpected, and practicing gratitude. I was grateful then, and I still am, for the chance to see D.C., for the kindness of strangers, and for the many blessings God has given me.

And maybe that's the secret: gratitude transforms fear into wonder.

Let me leave you with a verse that continues to guide me, from Philippians 4:8: "... whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure... if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things."

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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All Are Welcome in Person or on Zoom!

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, Pastor



Show me the money

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

It’s always fun to go shopping when someone else is footing the bill. Like the time I had the chance to go shopping, as a committee member, for door prizes for a group’s annual Christmas banquet. Fellow committee members and I discussed the kinds of prizes we wanted to offer, and off I went.

I purchased gift cards to local restaurants and other stores. We as a committee went round and round discussing those—trying to stay as local as possible, yet also offer prizes people would enjoy. Some of the older crowd liked going to McDonald’s for breakfast, so I purchased a few gift cards there. We also bought H-E-B gift cards and a few other cards with higher dollar amounts.

The following year, another committee member got to go on the “shopping spree” with the banquet funds. All kinds of fun gadgets and gizmos, from kitchen sets to a shop vac to, well, you name it.

Like I said, it’s fun to go shopping with someone else’s money—keeping in mind the overall purpose for the shopping spree is not a new purse for myself, of course. To do something like that would be wrong and not the purpose of the group’s funds. Not to mention, illegal.

Sometimes people wonder why news articles focus on the money that different groups, like the city, school district, or county, spend. “Why does it always come

down to the money?” people ask. People sometimes don’t like to talk about money.

Well, why not? For those of us who pay property taxes, some of that city money and school district money comes from us. When I bought my house years and years ago, I knew I’d have to pay property taxes. That money goes to provide services like public safety, take care of the roads and drainage systems, keep our parks and library healthy, pay our teachers and more.

We need to know how that money is being spent, and that it’s being spent in the best way possible. It is an agreement of trust, in addition to being the law, to have transparency. There are laws in place that require all these bodies “show us the money” before they prepare to spend it.

Just as we committee members submitted our receipts for the gift cards and prizes for our group, the public tax-levying groups show us their paper trail. Before they go “shopping” with our tax dollars to provide services, they show us the paper trail for how they plan to spend the money.

We have the right to ask questions, too, about why this or that is being purchased, and why this or that isn’t being purchased. It’s our money. We can ask.

Unfortunately, many people don’t take the time to educate themselves about how the whole process works.

I’m sure some people might take issue with the fact that money has been spent on certain areas for sidewalks and roadways, but not other areas, for example.

Many projects that are on state-owned roads pass through our communities, and that’s why those roads might appear to receive more “love” than those roadways that aren’t state maintained roads.

I’m sure there are other examples of expenses which people wonder about and question. Is it a good idea to take out a loan with 30-year terms to pay for something that has a 20-year lifespan, or less? In the same way, we sometimes use credit cards to pay for “temporary” things for which we pay after they end up in a landfill. We should question and wonder and also educate ourselves.

This winter, cities and other taxing entities will be in the process of starting their budget planning process for the fiscal year of 2026-2027. Although right now it certainly feels like “we just got done with this one”, budgets take many months of planning. The time to ask questions is BEFORE it comes down to a vote. Our local cities are seeing sales tax revenue that is rising compared to last year. However, that is a small portion of budgets. Property taxes are a large funder for many entities, such as school districts and cities. We may pay “lower” tax rates yet have higher tax bills. In the end, it’s not quite “other people’s money....” It’s ours!

Night Walkers

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

Well folks, another Halloween is upon us. By now, you no doubt have heard numerous times over all of the various bits of safety advice people give out talking about how to be safe while going out Trick-or-Treating. Well, I have something to add to this.

A lot of it is, indeed, good advice. For example, let’s consider some of the advice concerning how to go out-and-about at night. “Always wear bright colors, especially something reflective.” “Always use the sidewalk whenever possible and stay out of the road.” “If you must walk near the road, walk so that you’re facing oncoming traffic and thus can see any vehicles.”

Is this actually important? Yes.

As I’ve mentioned before, I got my start in the newspaper industry by delivering the newspapers themselves at night. Because of this, I’ve seen – and almost didn’t see - quite a few situations that very nearly ended badly due to people not following these rules. For example, one night I was going about my regular route when I turned off of a main highway and on to a residential road. As soon as I completed the turn, I hit the brakes and came to a dead stop.

In the road in front of me were two young men walking side-by-side. Both young men were in the middle of the lane, and both were facing away from the direction of oncoming traffic. One of the two was dressed completely in dark clothing. Fortunately for everyone, the other young man was wearing shorts made out of a bright red reflective material. My headlights caught the material and reflected the light back at me, letting me know that someone or something was in the lane. I had not seen these young men when I checked for traffic before turning off the highway, and apparently they had not heard my car (despite the engine being noisy). I was only aware of their presence due to the one young man wearing reflective clothing, and they were not aware of me until they suddenly realized that there was light flooding the area around them.

Or we have the bits of advice about one’s treats, such as “Never eat unwrapped candy” and “Always have your parents check your candy before you eat it.” Do I seriously think that there is a cabal of people out there who make it their goal to hurt people as some anti-Halloween tracts have argued?

No.

I agree with the advice from personal experience.

I’ve lost count of the number of times I’ve opened up a brand-new bag of candy, only to find individual pieces that were not wrapped properly, if they were wrapped at all. This wrapping guarantees that the candy was protected from the time it was produced until the time the bag was opened. No wrapper means no assurance that it wasn’t somehow contaminated even at the factory.

And checking candy? I remember one of my brothers buying a brand-new bag of gummi bears from a store one day. When he opened the bag up, he found wood splinters inside some of the bears. The only explanation we could think of was that something broke apart at the factory, leading to wood splinters making it into the product and quality control failing to notice this before allowing the product to ship. Again – what happened had to have happened at the factory, as the bag was untouched and brand new.

It might seem overwhelming to have to constantly keep hearing such admonitions repeatedly, but folks, we’re being told this for a reason. A little bit of care aforethought can save a lot of grief later on.

Amelia Rabroker announces campaign for Texas House District 55

Special to the Journal

Amelia Rabroker, owner of The Art Space, a beloved local art studio and school that has provided a creative sanctuary for thousands since its founding, announced today that she is running for Texas House District 55. A small-business owner and community advocate for more than two decades, Rabroker said running to deliver practical solutions for working families.

“It’s time to put Texas back in the hands of Tex-

ans,” Rabroker said. “I built my business from the ground up right here in Bell County. I’ve seen what strong public schools, fair wages, and access to health care mean for real people. We’re painting a brighter future for Texas by fighting for classrooms, communities, and the dignity of work.”

Rabroker’s campaign will focus on rebuilding the foundations that make Bell County strong. Key points she will focus on include quality energy initiatives, public education, affordable health care, and an economy that values hard work and local businesses. She

said her priorities reflect what families tell her every day: they want leaders who listen and fight for solutions that strengthen and support their communities.

HD-55 voters, Rabroker said, deserve a representative who is part of their community and listen to the people, not to party bosses or big donors.

“This campaign is powered by neighbors,” she said. “Our volunteers, not special interests, will decide this race.”

See DISTRICT 55,
Page B8

250th Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast in Salado

Enjoy boot camp chow and fellowship with Marines, Navy Corpsmen, and those who have served with Marines! Family and friends also invited. Attire is casual dress, but squared away!

Keynote speaker:
LtCol Spencer Smith (Ret), former Marine One pilot

Saturday, 8 November, 0730

Johnny’s Steaks & Bar-Be-Cue Cantina
301 Thomas Arnold Road, Salado, TX

Pay at door (cash) - \$15 adults, \$10 for kids 12 and under, NC for infants

Please RSVP by Wednesday, 5 November. Call or text Rhonda Rinehart at (512) 507-6265 or scan QR code.

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Patrick “Pat” Patterson announces candidacy for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1

Special to the Journal

Patrick “Pat” Patterson has officially announced his candidacy for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, bringing a platform built on integrity, fairness, and community trust to the race. A lifelong member of the community, Patterson says his campaign is focused on ensuring local justice remains fair, accessible, and rooted in common sense.

“I was raised right here in this community, I went to school here, worked here, and built relationships that have shaped who I am today,” Patterson said. “I’m not running as a politician, but as your neighbor and fellow citizen who believes deeply in fairness, compassion, and accountability.”

Patterson’s campaign centers on three key priorities:

Fair and Consistent Application of the Law – Patterson is committed to ensuring that every individual who appears before the court is treated with dignity and respect. “Every decision should be guided by integrity, fairness, and common sense—not politics or personal bias,” Patterson said.

Accessibility and Transparency – Patterson believes justice should be easy to understand and accessible to everyone. He

pledges to make court processes clear and communication open, so that citizens feel informed and respected throughout every step.

Community Trust and Engagement – Patterson emphasizes that a Justice of the Peace should serve with the community, not above it. He plans to continue building relationships with residents, schools, and local organizations to strengthen public confidence in the justice system.

“I believe true public service isn’t about talking the loudest, it’s about listening the most,” Patterson said. “If you have the ability to lead, then you have the responsibility to lead.”

Patterson’s vision for the Justice of the Peace office is rooted in his lifelong connection to the area and his dedication to fairness, accessibility, and transparency in local government. “Justice should be approachable, understandable, and grounded in respect for every person who walks through the courtroom doors,” he said.

Community members can learn more about Pat Patterson’s campaign, his priorities, and opportunities to get involved at www.patterson4jp1.com.

For more information about Pat Patterson and his campaign, please contact: Patterson Campaign, patterson4jp1@gmail.com.

Bell County’s newest non-profit launches Nov. 1 with goal of providing beds for children

Special to the Journal

Bell County’s newest non-profit launches Nov. 1 with the goal of providing beds for local children.

“No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town” is the mission statement of Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Bell County.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to building and delivering hand-made, fully furnished beds to children in need.

SHP’s mission is to tackle the issue of children without beds, which is estimated to affect nearly 3 percent of the population, or more than 1,000 kids locally.

The kick-off friend-raising event is 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Cultural Activities Center in Temple in conjunction with the opening of the Holly Dunn exhibit.

Tables are already sold out but some individual tickets may still be available. Proceeds will be used to buy materials to build beds for children in Bell County.

While the first official bed assembly events in Temple won’t start until

February 2026, the Waco branch has its next scheduled bed construction event 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, November 8.

“This is a hands-on opportunity for volunteers and teams to work side by side, learn the process, and bless kids in our community who don’t have a bed of their own,” said Dr. Jeff Bates, MD. “Our local leadership team includes acting President Kyle Huitt, Norman Northen, Matt Wilson, Jerry Jones, Dr. Steve Norris, M.D. and Mitch McCluhan.”

Sleep in Heavenly Peace was started in 2012 in Idaho by Luke Mickelson.

By the end of 2024, SHP has grown into a charity with more than 300 chapters spanning 47 states and operating in 4 different countries with nearby chapters in Waco, Georgetown and Round Rock.

With this new mission project in Bell County, sponsors and volunteers are needed to make sure “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town.”

For more information on Sleep in Heavenly Peace see SHPbeds.org or email local contact Kyle Huitt at kylewilliamhuitt@gmail.com.



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

District 55 - From Page B7

Community members have praised Rabroker’s leadership and service.

“I want a representative who gets me, my struggles and will listen,” said community leader Jennifer Lee. “Amelia has always stood up for what’s right, even when she’s alone, even when others don’t notice.”

Rabroker is also garnering support for local elected officials.

“Amelia is a builder. She creates space for others to thrive, to be seen, and to belong. Said Nolanville City Councilwoman Karishma Devi. “Her commitment to women’s rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, education, and democracy is her core value. She leads with courage, compassion, and a deep understanding of what service really means.”

Rabroker has been hosting listening sessions with local educators to determine their needs. Her official kick-off campaign is scheduled for Nov. 15; more details to come. She intends to host additional listening sessions with local residents in Harker Heights, Temple, Killeen, Belton, and surrounding communities to gather direct feedback from residents about school funding, property tax pressures, and infrastructure needs.

“Voters from all walks of life deserve to be seen and heard,” Rabroker said. “They want well-run schools, safe streets, reliable utilities, and a fair shot to get ahead. That’s exactly what this campaign is about.”

Business Showcase

English Maids

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“Let us sweep you off your feet.”

English Maids has been a long-standing dependable and trustworthy business offering residential cleaning services to Belton and the Central Texas communities for over a decade. The business was started by Kay English out of her home in Waco in 2006, and her daughter, Lauren English-Thurman joined the business in 2009. The company then expanded from Waco to serve surrounding communities, including Belton, Salado and Temple. The mother-daughter team focuses on providing the best service for residential and commercial cleaning, offering weekly, bi-weekly and monthly cleaning. “During COVID, it was really important because a lot of people were trying to keep their house clean and sanitized,” said Lauren English-Thurman. “Our motto is a clean home is a healthy home.” Every home is cleaned and disinfected during every visit, she added. English-Thurman said that some of their customers utilize their services because they physically cannot clean or do it themselves. “I get the most joy when we can go in and help them, and then they’re so appreciative because it helps their overall quality of life to have a clean home,” Thurman-English added. “And it definitely helps the busy moms working and things like that, but I find the most satisfaction when I can help somebody that would not otherwise be able to do it.” The company employs around 10 to 12 employees at each of its offices, in both Waco and Belton. Each employee is well-trained, screened and has passed a background check. They are also insured, bonded and carry workers’ compensation. “I think what sets us apart is we’re family owned and operated,” English-Thurman said. “We pay special attention to detail. I talk to our customers on a regular basis, build a relationship with them, so that we can customize their

Bell County Museum

Night at the Museum

Wear your Halloween costume and visit the museum for this special night of magic! For one night only, important people of Bell County history will come to life at the museum to meet you. There will also be fun activities, a trunk or treat, and balloon twisters!

Oct 23, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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