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Bell County Voters Speak: Record turnout and Democratic victories reshape Bell County political landscape



Courtesy Photo

Bell County election watch party attendees watch as results are made public on Tuesday night. Many voters were surprised by the results across county, state and national elections.

By Jon Humphries
The Belton Journal

Results as of 2 a.m. Wednesday morning. Source: Texas Secretary of State and Bell County election results.

Bell County voters returned to the ballot box in extraordinary numbers Tuesday, delivering one of the largest election turnouts in county history and helping fuel a Democratic wave that swept across Texas and much of the nation.

More than 111,000 Bell County residents cast ballots in the Nov. 3 midterm election, representing 42% of registered voters. Over 84,357 voted during early voting, followed by over 27,000 on Election Day.

Only the 2024 and 2020 presidential elections produced higher voter totals in Bell County, according to county officials.

Bell County public information officer, James Stafford, said the early voting response substantially exceeded expectations.

"In early voting, we had 50% greater turnout than what we were originally expecting," Stafford said.

Strong voter participation continued through Election Day leaving many voters still waiting in line to vote more than an hour after polls offi-

See **VOTE,** *Page A3*



Courtesy Photo

Members of the Betty Martin Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a tree in Miller Park on Monday, Oct. 26. The tree serves as a living tribute to our nation's enduring spirit and the responsibility we share in preserving its legacy for further generations.

Tree dedication at Miller Park honors nation's 250th anniversary

By Jon Humphries
The Belton Journal

The Betty Martin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a tree at Miller Park on Monday, Oct. 26 in recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary and the organization's longstanding commitment to conservation, historical preservation and community service.

The dedication celebrates both the nation's history and the responsibility of future generations to preserve its heritage.

The tree serves as a living tribute to the enduring spirit of strength, growth and continuity of the United States throughout its history.

Chapter Regent Janie Reed emphasized the importance of remembering the past while looking toward the future, noting that a tree's roots symbolize our nation's history, while its branches represent the generations yet to come.

Founded April 6, 1904, the Betty Martin Chapter has spent more than 122 years promoting patriotism, education, historical preservation and conservation in

See **TREE** *Page A2*

Flag-pole dedication is Nov. 11 at Veterans Park

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

A special flag-pole dedication ceremony will be held Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Belton's Veterans Park. The dedication begins at 10 a.m.

According to the Belton Veterans Park Committee, there will be two new flagpoles installed at the park.

"One pole will fly the U.S. Space Force flag, and the other will fly the POW/MIA flag," said Jim Bright of the Veteran's Park Committee.

"The Space Force flag was added to ensure all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces are represented and honored at the park," Bright said. "IIt was the belief of the committee that to properly honor our veterans who were prisoners of war and those who never came home — the POW/MIA flag should be flown on its own pole."

The ceremony will honor Lt. Rex Rice, a World War II pilot killed in action.

In case of bad weather, the ceremony will be held at American Legion Post 51 on Campbell Street in Belton.

"A reception will follow at the American Legion," Bright said.

During the reception, a wall inside the post will be dedicated in honor of Dean Bannister, a 50-year member of the post, veteran and former police chief of Belton.

The event will also include the unveiling of the recently renovated post.

American Legion Post 55 in Belton has focused its recent efforts on building improvements, fundraising and transitioning the facility

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A tradition of music, food, vendors, and community at the Holiday Fall Belton Market



File Photo

The holiday fall market is set for Saturday, Nov. 21 where over 100 vendors will participate

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

The annual holiday fall market, part of Belton Market Days, a celebration of community, is set for Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a time for people to stroll while listening to live music and visiting around 100 vendors and food trucks.

Vendors are preparing now for the event as far away as San Antonio. For some food trucks, this will be their first time at the fall event, while other known favorites will attend. Belton Market Days attract about eight thousand people. The Belton downtown shops are an attraction for the visitors as well.

Leila Valchar, president of Downtown Belton Business Alliance (DBBA), talked about the vendors and food trucks coming in for the event.

Valchar said, "We've got some great food trucks, some of the local favorites. We'll have a full food court area. And we've got a great balance of handmade goods. Our vendors right now are so excited, and they're making all kinds of handcrafted items to sell for the holidays. We have somebody that's doing wreaths. We'll have baked goods. We'll have home crocheted, little animals."

A partial list of food vendors is, What the Truck serving American comfort food, Hill Country Kettle Corn,

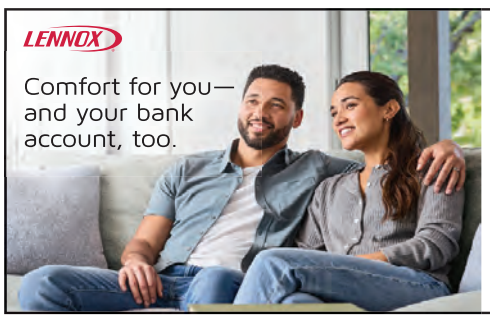
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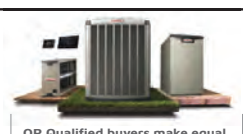












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Courtesy Photo

Foundation Church in Temple is pleased to welcome the award winning singing group, The Erwins, on Sunday, November 8 th for the 10am service. The Erwins, a four sibling group, have been singing together since they could walk. They have two Dove awards plus Grammy Nominated album and have been featured on The Gaither hour. Making over 270 appearances a year they have been called "the new generation" of gospel music today.
Everyone is invited to attend this special event which is free to the public. Following the service the Foundation Youth will hold their annual "Bake Sale Auction" to help fund their mission trip next year. Services start at 10am in the Life Center, 10751 West Adams Ave in Temple, just across from Lakewood Elementary School.

Now Serving: Real-World Experience in Belton ISD Culinary Classrooms

Special to the Journal

Culinary arts students at Belton High School and Lake Belton High School are gaining hands-on experience with the same type of point-of-sale technology used in restaurants and hospitality businesses across the industry.

Belton ISD has introduced Clover point-of-sale systems into its culinary programs, giving students experience that extends beyond preparing food to include customer service, payment processing, inventory management and other front- and back-of-house restaurant operations.

"The goal is to make sure that we're aligning the learning happening inside our classrooms and career-aligned workspaces with the experiences students are going to have in the workforce," said Denise Ayres, Belton ISD PK-12 Director. "If they're already practicing and learning by doing what they're going to have to do on a job, they're going to be more ready for that job."

Unlike educational simulations, Clover is an industry-standard system designed for businesses. Students use the technology to take orders, process payments, input menus, manage inventory and balance their tills. Individual employee codes also allow students to experience procedures similar to those they could encounter working in a restaurant.

The system connects both sides of restaurant operations. On the front end, students practice interacting with customers, taking orders and handling transactions. Behind the scenes, they learn how menus, inventory and preparation must work together to keep a food service operation running efficiently.

Those experiences also reinforce skills that reach beyond culinary arts, including math, customer service, budgeting, accounting, inventory management and entrepreneurship.

"It really is a complete, comprehensive industry experience," Ayres said. "Our goal is to train our students on industry-aligned equipment and practices so they are prepared for what comes next."

Students are also putting those skills into practice with real customers. At Belton High School, culinary students regularly provide catering services, giving them direct experience serving customers and managing transactions. At Lake Belton High School, students primarily use the system to sell items to staff members, based on the structure of the culinary space and program.



Courtesy Photo

Culinary arts students at Belton High School and Lake Belton High School learn more than preparing food.

By incorporating technology already used in the workforce, Belton ISD's culinary programs are giving students an opportunity to learn the business of food service alongside the craft of preparing it.

The experience is another way Career and Technical Education programs are connecting classroom learning to careers, allowing students to build practical skills and confidence before they ever step into their first industry job.

Tree - From Page A1

Belton and the surrounding area.

The organization continues those efforts through activities designed to encourage civic responsibility, preserve local and national history and recognize the contributions of those who helped shape the country.

The tree's dedication also reflects the chapter's appreciation for the community and its commitment to protecting natural resources for future generations.

Monday's ceremony follows the chapter's earlier dedication of a Liberty Tree at Miller Park on March 5, 2026, another observance associated with the nation's semiquincentennial celebration.

As the nation celebrates 250 years of independence, the Betty Martin Chapter hopes the newly dedicated tree will stand for generations as a symbol of remembrance, growth and the shared responsibility of protecting the nation's history and natural beauty.

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Belton home sales data for October 2026

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

Source: Central Texas MLS (CTX-MLS). Median sale price: $321,987 (12-month median) Homes sold: 634 (12-month total). Median days on market: 63 days (12-month median). Listings with a price cut: 55.2% (117 of 212 active listings, Oct. 24, 2026). Belton's median sale price was $321,987 for the 12 months ending Oct. 2, compared with $270,000 in Temple over the same period.

Belton recorded 634 closed home sales in the 12 months ending Oct. 2. Half of Belton's 634 closed sales were spent 63 days or less on the market. BELTON VS. TEMPLE Median sale price, same 12 months: Belton: $321,987; Temple: $270,000.

THREE CREEKS made up 115 of 634 Belton homes sold, nearly one in five Belton sales closed in a single neighborhood.

"When you read a Belton number, you're partly reading one neighborhood," says Taylor Dasch, real estate agent, EG Realty.

Only sales recorded in the MLS are counted.

Of the 212 active Belton listings on Oct. 24, 2026, the share price was below their original asking price for 117 listings.

Data: CTXMLS, compiled by Taylor Dasch, EG Realty —templetxhomes.net

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To be considered for inclusion in the Belton Journal, all submissions must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday of the week in question.

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Landry Gerhart Crowned Miss Mary Hardin-Baylor 2027



Courtesy Photo

Landry Gerhart takes the title of Miss Mary Hardin-Baylor 2027 during the annual Miss MHB Pageant.

Special to the Journal

Miss Student Foundation, Landry Gerhart, was named Miss Mary Hardin-Baylor 2027 on Saturday, Oct. 31, in the annual Miss MHB Pageant held in W.W. Walton Chapel. Gerhart is a 19-year-old sophomore history major from Rockwall, Texas. She is the daughter of Adam and Angie Gerhart.

Gerhart is a member of Student Foundation, a student worker at the alumni office, and a Bell County library intern. She enjoys playing games, watching Dancing with the Stars with her friends, and listening to podcasts in her hammock. For her talent, she performed an original monologue portraying Martha Moore Clancy, a UMHB student in the 1920s, and sang the "Doxology."

Gerhart's personal platform is "Knowing and Sharing UMHB history." She plans to educate UMHB students about the university's history and revive past traditions that have not been celebrated in recent years, such as Forgiving Day.

The reigning Miss MHB, Jessie Norvell, crowned Landry Gerhart at the end of the evening's contest. Also recognized were the fourth runner-up, Evie Bullock, Miss Worship Workshop; the third runner-up, Ella Kate Hanks, Miss Nursing Student Association; the second runner-up, Mikyla Bachert, Miss ROTC; and the first runner-up, Jadyn Wilson, Miss Lord Hall.

A few other non-finalist awards were given during Saturday's "Legacy" event. Miss Baptist Student Ministry, Erica Higgins, was recognized as the evening's Best Talent for juggling. Miss Independence Village, Aubree Castle, won Best Evening Gown. Miss Farris Hall, Chloe DeMoss, was awarded Best Interview, and Miss ROTC, Mikyla Bachert, was awarded Miss Congeniality.

This year's pageant director was Mia Davis, a senior education major with a minor in intercultural studies from Fort Worth, Texas. Assistant Directors were Emily Gorman, a sophomore nursing major from Spring Branch, Texas, and Kennedy Wells, a senior education major from Montgomery, Texas.

The Miss MHB Pageant recognizes young women who demonstrate self-confidence, personality, and inner beauty. Each of the evening's 19 contestants represented a campus organization or residence hall. All contestants participated in individual interviews, a group dance number, talent presentations, and an evening gown stroll. Additionally, the women were asked to discuss their individual platforms, highlighting issues they are passionate about.

Belton adopts Ten Texas Traits of Good Government

Special to the Journal

The Belton City Council on Tuesday adopted the Ten Texas Traits of Good Government as guiding principles for city operations and authorized City Manager Sam Listi to apply for the Balanoff Good Government Award.

The 10 traits describe characteristics shared by public organizations that excel in a representative democracy. They are respectful, responsive, effective, transparent, competent, ethical, lawful, innovative, economical and accountable. Each trait pairs a one-line core principle with a short list of standards the public can observe.

"I think it's good to have something in writing, a good roadmap, and then to be talking about it at a staff meeting level," Mayor Pro Tem John Holmes Sr. said. "I think it just reiterates what we're trying to do from the top down. I think it's good to have, good to talk about."

The traits build on Belton's Customer Service Code, the 10 standards city employees already follow when serving residents, businesses and visitors. Those standards include returning phone calls and emails within 24 hours, giving complete and accurate information, applying policies fairly and consistently, and being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Each standard corresponds to one or more of the traits.

Beginning in November, department heads will take turns presenting a trait at bimonthly staff meetings and will evaluate a recent project, program or service from their department against that trait. The city will also add the traits to Belton 101 new-employee orientation and the annual Belton U all-employee training, publish the traits on the city website and feature them in a recurring social media series.

The Balanoff Good Government Award is administered by the Texas Certified Public Manager Program and recognizes public organizations that put the traits into practice. Applicants must show public discussion and formal action by their governing body.

The application deadline is Feb. 15, 2027, with winners announced by May 1, 2027.

Adoption carries no cost. The award has no application fee, and the work will be done with existing staff time and budgets.

The effort supports the Belton Strategic Plan's goal of communicating proactively with residents and its initiative to provide exceptional customer service. Other existing city practices aligned with the traits include the monthly Customer Service Report recognizing employees, the National Citizen Survey, the Les Hallbauer Award for Excellence in Public Service and the city's Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports.

Vote - From Page A1

cially closed. Wait times as long as 45 minutes were reported at several of the 42 voting locations throughout the county.

The turnout was particularly significant for a midterm election, when participation traditionally falls below presidential election levels, Stafford said.

Bell County's numbers reflected a broader national trend, as voters across the country turned out in large numbers for an election that ultimately reshaped the political balance in Washington and Texas.



Courtesy Photo

Voters at the poll casting their votes.

Flag-pole - From Page A1

into a community-oriented club and bar.

The upgraded space — 101 W Avenue A — includes pool tables, a spacious dance floor, a functional kitchen to serve food, and event hosting capabilities such as themed nights.

"As many of you have learned, Belton American Legion Post 51 is developing a museum that will celebrate the history of our post, city, community, and membership," Bright said via Facebook.

"One of the missions of the American Legion is the sponsorship of Boys and Girls State. If you attended Boys State or Girls State, we are looking for a t-shirt from each to be framed and mounted in the museum."

Market - From Page A1

Lulu May's Cajun food truck, Amorcito Corazón tacos, from San Antonio, Lowe's Legs which are turkey legs, Say Cheese, with famous fried cheese curds, Bad Girl Barbecue, Flex and Texan with his famous burgers, and Philly cheesesteak, and sandwiches and subs by TEXSUBS.

A new food vendor to the event is originally from Africa, makes African donuts.

She said, "Eliora Treats and Fun makes African-inspired donuts. She brought me samples. It was delicious."

Valchar explained the items vendors make support, for some, their at-home businesses.

She said, "We're blessing all these vendors that work out of their homes. This is extra income, and for some, it's all their income. It blesses many people."

Attendees can expect to find, custom-made wood pens, wood plaques, hats, a caricature artist, bath and body items, sourdough bread, permanent jewelry, clothing and accessories, embroidered clothing, beef jerky, sock monkeys, sun catchers, clay earrings, 3d printed toys and collectibles, and more.

Two favorite local bands will be back to play at the Belton Market Day.

Valchar said, "We will have, of course, Jay White and the Blues Commanders with Michael Mahler, and then we will also have The Martian folk. They're a popular local band. They even have a song that includes Belton, making magic at Belton Market Days."

Valchar said, "We're excited. We're looking forward to a great event, and you know everybody loves Belton Market Days."

DBBA is a non-profit and all vendor fees go back into DBBA to pay insurance for the event, for porta potties, the bands, and advertising. With a passion to bring attention to Downtown Belton, she explained, "It makes it a better event."

Valchar said, "Those funds, it all goes back to the community. We also bless downtown Belton with planters and lights on the buildings."

Downtown Belton Business Alliance has an online map, www.downtownbelton.com, of the streets that will be closed for the foot traffic that day. Closed streets in part include E 1st Ave, Central Ave., Water St., and S East St. The event is put on with support from the City of Belton.







Happy Veterans Day
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VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

BISD to honor local veterans

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Students in the Belton Independent School District will honor U.S. veterans at special events throughout the district. Veterans Day 2026 is Wednesday, Nov. 11.

"Honoring our veterans is about more than recognizing their service — it's about helping our students understand the courage, sacrifice and commitment behind the freedoms we enjoy every day," said Dr. Malinda Golden, Belton ISD superintendent.

"Across our district, these celebrations provide meaningful opportunities for students to express their gratitude, connect with those who have served and learn what it truly means to serve something greater than themselves," Golden said.

"We are incredibly proud to honor the heroes in our community and ensure their sacrifices are never forgotten," she added.

According to BISD Communications Director Candice Griffin, many of the district's campuses will salute those who served in the military.

Here's a glance at these celebrations:

New Tech @Waskow High School will host a Veterans Day Robotics Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 7 in the school's main building. The smashing and crunching begin at 8 a.m. and the action continues until 4 p.m.

Speaking of veterans, the school is named in honor of Capt. Henry T Waskow, a Belton native who gave his life whose courage and character left a lasting mark on both his soldiers and his hometown.

At just 25, Captain Waskow led with humility and earned deep respect for the way he cared for his men. He gave his life for his country in the Battle of San Pietro in 1943.

Belton High School will host a Veterans Day breakfast from 8 to 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 10 in the BHS library. Veteran friends and family of students will be honored.

Lake Belton Middle School will also host a Veteran's breakfast, this one from 8 to 9:30 a.m. in the LBMS cafeteria on Nov. 6.

It's Muffins with the Military at 7:10 a.m. at Lakewood Elementary on Nov. 10. Veteran families are invited to enjoy breakfast with the students, and parents also are invited to come out and honor heroes.

High Point Elementary School will also honor those who served with its version of Muffins with the Military. This event starts at 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 10.

In honor of local veterans, Hubbard Branch Elementary School will hold a Veterans Day Assembly at the school at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10. The assembly will feature a fourth-grade music performance and a fifth-grade art show.

At 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 10, Charter Oak Elementary will host an Honor Walk & Breakfast for veterans and students of veterans.

Veterans Day is a United States federal holiday observed annually on November 11 to honor all military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The holiday began as Armistice Day, proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919 to mark the end of World War I. Major hostilities ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

In 1954, following World War II and the Korean War, Congress amended the 1938 act and President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation changing the name to Veterans Day to honor all American veterans — living and dead — from all wars.

Memorial Day — held every May — specifically honors service members who died while serving, whereas Veterans Day honors all who have served, both living and deceased.



Free pet adoption for veterans

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Heart to Home Animal Adoption Center is offering free pet adoptions to veterans during the month of November. The adoption special, Paws for Heroes, aims to support veterans' well-being and create intake space at the shelter.

"Paws for Heroes is a new program, and we are excited to support veterans through November," said Amy Strunk, animal services manager at the Temple shelter.

To qualify for the adoption special, residents must present proof of veteran status or active duty service. While adoptions do not include spay and neuter services, the public can go to to the shelter and donate toward a spay and neuter for a Paws for Heroes adoption.

"When adopting from Heart to Home, adoptees agree to have the pet spayed or neutered within two weeks of the adoption date or by the pet's six-month birthday, whichever occurs last," Strunk said.

Residents are invited to visit Heart to Home, located at 620 Mama Dog Circle in Temple, during regular business hours to visit with adoptable animals.

The shelter is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday. To complete the adoption process, residents need to bring a photo ID and proof of address.

For more information about Heart to Home, visit templetx.gov/adopt.

Heart to Home Animal Adoption Center is one of two animal shelters in the Temple/Belton area. The Bell County Animal Shelter is located off Loop 121 in Belton. Both shelters offer a huge selection of cats and dogs that are up for adoption.

Specialized service dogs help veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) by performing physical tasks, interrupting panic or trauma responses, and providing a constant sense of security.

Dogs are trained to recognize physical signs of distress (such as thrashing, rapid breathing, or crying) during sleep. They wake the veteran or jump on their chest to break the night terror.

Using commands like "center" or "cover," the dog positions itself between the veteran's legs or creates a physical buffer in public space to prevent strangers from approaching too closely and ease hypervigilance.



A Soldier's Thoughts

By Millard Lee Sheppard

While you sleep,
I am wide awake
While you eat,
I am wondering how
much more that I can take
While you enjoy the life of
home,
I am facing my fears
here all alone While you
scream and loudly protest,
I am over here giving it
my best
While you are working
from nine until five,
I am fighting to save
many lives
While you are complaining about how much things
cost,
I am grieving over how
much that I have lost
And if you took just one
minute to thank a soldier
somewhere,
it would be a gesture
that shows how much you
care?

Because Home Is Where The Care Is

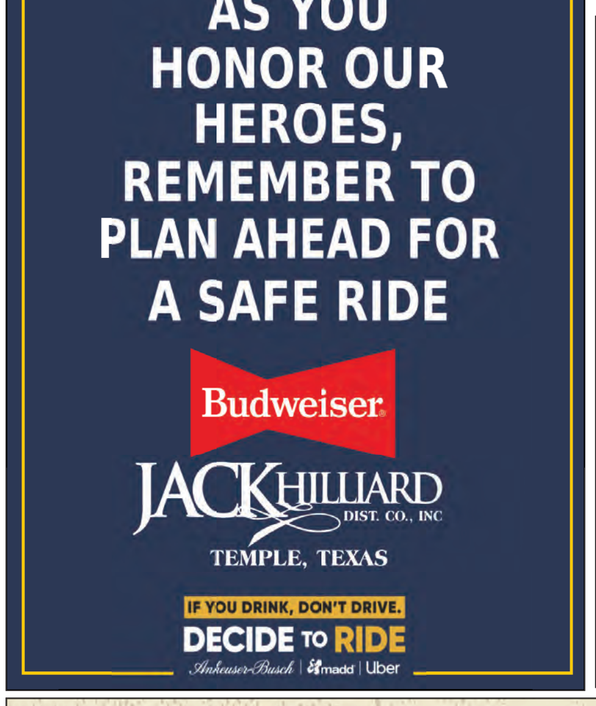


"I have depended on CareAge HomeCare for over a year for in-home assistance with my elderly parents. I give credit to CareAge for enabling them to stay in their home as long as they have. Many thanks to Vicki and her staff as they have really made a difference in my parents' lives."
-Wendell Smith

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Mental health issues that may affect combat veterans

Veterans have served their countries in various capacities. All military personnel work to preserve the freedoms of their fellow citizens, and some risk their lives in combat to do so. But the fight for combat veterans does not always end when they return home, and it's important that everyone recognize that and support efforts to ensure veterans get the help they need after serving.

A 2013 study published in the journal Psychiatric Services found that 43 percent of veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan had probable post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression or alcohol misuse. Those are just some of the issues combat veterans may confront upon returning home. Recognition of those conditions and how to spot them may increase the chances veterans get the help they deserve and need.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

The Committee to Evaluate VA Mental Health Services found that 23 percent of veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND) experienced PTSD. PTSD is different for each person, but American Addiction Centers notes that some common symptoms include flashbacks, nightmares, hypervigilance, emotional distress, or avoidance behaviors. Veterans with PTSD may experience difficulty sleeping, relationship troubles, struggles related to work, and challenges regulating their emotions.



Depression

More than 16 percent of OEF/OIF/OND veterans were found to be suffering from depression. The AAC notes persistent sadness, hopelessness, fatigue, and social withdrawal are some symptoms of depression. Some veterans experiencing depression also may experience a loss of motivation that can affect their ability to function each day and take care of themselves. Depression can affect veterans at work and adversely affect their quality of life.

Substance dependency

Committee findings found that more than 5 percent of OEF/OIF/OND veterans had alcohol dependency while nearly 3 percent had drug dependency. Veterans with substance use disorders may grow to rely on drugs or alcohol to cope with trauma resulting from their service. Others may look to drugs or alcohol to alleviate chronic pain or stress related to their service. Substance use disorders can exacerbate existing mental health issues, and veterans also may engage in risky behaviors while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Psychological distress

The committee found that 13 percent of OEF/OIF/OND veterans experienced psychological distress. Such distress can make veterans feel like they are in crisis, which can lead to feelings of hopelessness, emotional numbness or isolation. According to the AAC, when experiencing severe distress, some veterans may entertain thoughts of self-harm. In such instances, veterans may require emergency mental health support.

Veterans bravely serve their countries, and it's imperative that people support efforts to ensure these brave men and women get the help many may need after returning from combat.

How to lend veterans a helping hand

Members of the military play an important role in keeping the peace and preservering the freedoms that democracy enables. Veterans of the United States Armed Forces are celebrated each November 11 on Veterans Day. It's important that residents in communities big and small take time on Veterans Day to recognize their brave neighbors who served in the Armed Forces. But support for veterans should not begin and end in mid-November. Indeed, there's much anyone can do to lend veterans a helping hand all year long.

• Volunteer with local veteran assistance organizations and programs. Serving in the military is not easy, and many veterans who serve or served confront serious issues upon returning from combat or leaving the military. The Committee to Evaluate VA Mental Health Services found that 23 percent of veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND) experienced PTSD, while roughy 16 percent suffered from depression. Various organizations work to help veterans in numerous ways, and volunteering with such groups can be a great way to lend active and retired Armed Forces personnel a helping hand. The Wounded Warrior Project is one such organization, and people can help to raise funds for WWP-backed fundraisers like 5Ks and galas that are held across the nation each year.

• Reach out to neighbors who served. Simply reaching out to neighbors who served in the military can be a great way to lend a helping hand. According to the American Community Survey, more than 2.5 million veterans ages 18 and over reported having a military service-connected disability rating of 70 percent or more. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs assigns disability ratings based on the severity of a disability (or disabilities), and that percentage-based rating represents how much a disability (or disabilities) decreases a veteran's overall health and ability to function. That millions of veterans are rated at 70 percent or more reflects a population in need, and not all of those needs are necessarily met by the VA. Those looking to lend a helping hand to veterans can offer to help those with disabilities manage daily life. Offers to shop for a disabled veteran's groceries, drive a veteran to doctor's appointments, help a veteran with lawn care or other household chores, or even invite a veteran over for dinner once per week are great ways to show veterans their sacrifices are appreciated and not forgotten.

• Propose and gather support for community events celebrating veterans. There's no end to the ways communities can recognize the veterans who live among them. Community-based events recognizing local veterans ensure residents know who among their neighbors served and helped to secure and protect their freedoms and way of life. When communities host events to honor local veterans, volunteer to serve at such events and work to promote them through word-of-mouth and avenues like social media. Residents can even propose new events that raise awareness about local veterans and encourage them to share their stories with their neighbors.

Veterans Day can serve as a catalyst that encourages residents to make a concerted effort to lend a hand to veterans in need throughout the year.



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City weighs insurance options

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Megan Odiome, Belton's director of Human Resources, presented City Council with information about medical, dental and vision insurance quotes during this week's Council meeting, and United Healthcare was approved for all three contracts.

"The City continues to work with HUB International Benefits consultant Julian Fontana to secure the most competitive benefits package for our employees," Odiome said in a statement to Council members.

"The City received three medical insurance proposals," she said. "The proposals were submitted by Scott & White Health Plan with a 78 percent increase; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, our current provider, with a 49 percent increase; and United Healthcare with a 35 percent increase."

"HUB International was able, through a bundling discount, to negotiate an additional reduction of 2 percent from the 35 percent increase," she said. "United Healthcare returned the most competitive proposal, with an overall increase of 33 percent, a total premium cost of $2.7 million, which includes the bundling discount rate for using United Healthcare as our medical, dental, and vision provider."

Odiome continued: "Our existing plans are in line with current public sector benchmarks. Through contribution allocation we were able to reduce the total percentage increase by incentivizing the High Deductible Health Plan which came in at a 10 percent increase."

The City received dental insurance proposals from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and United Healthcare. The lowest proposal was Blue Cross Blue Shield at a 32 percent overall increase and an annual premium of $120,500. United Healthcare came in with a 33 percent overall increase with an annual premium of $121,375. United Healthcare includes a 2 percent discount to medical insurance premiums if Belton bundled medical, dental, and vision. The bundle discount is approximately $54,262.

According to Odiome, the city received vision insurance proposals, again from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and United Healthcare. The lowest proposal for our current comparable plan was Blue Cross Blue Shield with an annual premium of $22,769. United Healthcare came in with an annual premium of $26,595 but again included a 2 percent discount on medical insurance premiums if bundled medical, dental, and vision.

The Fiscal 2027 budget includes $2,122,870 for insurance premiums. The city cost allocation for all providers is $2,187,322 if coverage elections remain unchanged.

"We are likely to see some changes which may reduce this overage, currently estimated at $64,452," Odiome said.

Final costs will depend on employee elections through open enrollment.

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

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CHURRO
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CONCERT
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EXHIBIT
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Sugar Shack candy store opens in Belton

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal



BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman
Bulk candy, old fashioned lollypops, and special treats behind the counter are some of the yummy treats customers can discover.

The Sugar Shack Candy Store opened in Sep., Downtown Belton, at 219 S East Street, Suite A by The Gin at Nolan Creek. Owner Andrea Johnson owned a candy store in Salado for ten years. Her colorful shop has a chocolate wall, stuffed animals, classic candy and modern candy on display in self-serve bins.

Johnson said, "I'm really excited to have it open."

Some attractions of the store are a photo wall, and coming soon, their store mascot, Big Lick, who is a lollipop.

Johnson said, "He's going to have his own identity, with Big Lick specials or Big Lick's candy of the week. We'll have some little stuffed animals made to match him, and they'll have a little message on the tag."

The location of the candy store was important to Johnson.

She said, "I love this area being right here on the creek. It reminded me of my shop in Salado because we were on the creek in Salado. I like it being downtown by the courthouse. It helps us to be kind of in the center of everything that's going on with the chamber or the city events that are going on."

The store is larger than her Salado store and has the advantage of an old-fashioned model, adding to her hope that the store becomes a family tradition.

Johnson said, "We're closer to an old-fashioned candy store because we do carry a lot of nostalgic candy. In the fact that it's bulk, that's something that you don't see a lot of anymore. Even with some of the other candy companies that are around us, they may do a small amount of bulk candy, but truly, I think that we probably have the largest selection of bulk candy anywhere in Central Texas. It was important for me to be able to offer, like I had in Salado, a large portion of bulk candy that's self-serve. You can get as much or as little as you want."

There is a faith section in the store as well.

Johnson said, "I really wanted to add in some of my faith-based gifts this time. I'm excited that we're growing that. We just added this new energy drink called Forgiven, and it has the whole gospel message on the can. Sadie Robertson with Duck Dynasty promotes it, and so I'm excited that we just added that in."

A room in the back of the store will be available to rent for private parties.

Johnson said, "We'll offer birthday party packages. We're going to add a slimerella, which is a build your own slime."

Their grand opening, a Willy Wonka theme, is planned for Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. with the Belton Area Chamber. The public is invited. There will be a hot chocolate bar set up with free hot cocoa during the event.

The store's phone number is, 254-400-2044. The website is sugarshackcandystore.com. And their social media accounts are Facebook, Sugar Shack Candy Store, Instagram at sugarshacktx, and TikTok at sugarshacktx.

From Bell County to Nigeria: Generosity in Motion

Special to the Journal





Courtesy Photos
ABOVE LEFT: Three women carry jerry cans of water home from Touch Root Foundation's first community water well in Enugu State, Nigeria, in April 2021. The photograph shows the effort of transporting water in rural communities. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Jerry can on shoulder, Friends participate in Touch Root Foundation's inaugural Water Walk along the Belton Hike and Bike Trail in November 2025

There is something extraordinary happening in Bell County. Through the generosity of local families, businesses, volunteers, and donors, a community in Central Texas is helping bring clean water to rural villages thousands of miles away in southeastern Nigeria. On Saturday, November 7, Touch Root Foundation will host its second annual Water Walk in downtown Belton, bringing the community together once again to put generosity in motion. Participants will walk 4 kilometers (approximately 2.5 miles), representing the long distances millions of people around the world travel to collect water each day.

Founded in 2020 by Belton resident Uche Ogwudu, Touch Root Foundation has grown into a mission supported by people across Central Texas and beyond, united by the belief that access to clean water should not depend on where a person is born.

Through that collective generosity, Touch Root Foundation has built eight solar-powered community water systems in rural southeastern Nigeria, bringing clean water closer to homes and giving families more time for education, work, and everyday life. But behind every completed water project is another story: the story of people in Bell County who chose to help.

The family-friendly event will feature a 4K walk and a one-mile option for families with young children. Participants can enjoy coffee from Arusha Coffee & Tea, tea from Ruby Tearoom, water from HTeaO, and a luxury photo booth experience provided by Social Serve. Children can also enjoy face painting. Along Belton's scenic trail, walkers can try carrying a water-filled or empty jerry can on their shoulder or head, or push one in a wheelbarrow. Others may simply enjoy the walk, with drumming along the way. However they choose to participate, every step is an expression of solidarity with families who walk for water out of necessity. Together, we walk for water so that others don't have to. The foundation hopes this year's Water Walk will bring together more neighbors, families, churches, civic organizations.

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Courtesy Photo
Students at Belton Early Childhood were treated to a Halloween party and parade last week at the school. In this photo, students parade around the school in various Halloween attire, ranging from cute to funny to downright spooky!

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The Bridge Generation



John C. Perry

Recently, I heard someone refer to my generation as "the elderly." I suppose that's technically accurate, but I've never really thought of us that way.

When I think about the people, I have known all my life, I don't see "the elderly." I see a generation that has lived through changes so dramatic they are almost impossible to explain to younger people.

We grew up in a world where children spent their days outdoors. Parents weren't tracking us with smartphones because smartphones did not exist. We drank water from a garden hose, rode bicycles without helmets, played on playground equipment that would never pass inspection today, and somehow survived.

We knew our neighbors. We knew their children. Most of us could name every family within walking distance of our homes.

We walked or rode our bikes to school. We said the Pledge of Allegiance, prayed in school, and grew up in neighborhoods where faith was woven into daily life.

Then the world started changing.

Actually, it didn't just change. It transformed.

We watched black-and-white television become color television and then become streaming video delivered instantly to devices we carry in our pockets.

We went from rotary phones mounted on kitchen walls to smartphones that can access nearly all of the world's information in seconds.

We listened to music on 45 rpm records, then LPs, 8-tracks, cassettes, CDs, and now digital streaming services.

We learned to navigate with paper maps and handwritten directions. Today our vehicles tell us where to go, warn us of traffic, and in some cases practically drive themselves.

We watched John Glenn orbit the Earth. We sat in awe as America landed men on the moon. Many of us gathered around televisions in school classrooms to witness history as it happened.

I still remember when my company purchased one of its first IBM personal computers. Employees took turns walking into the conference room just to look at it. None of us could imagine how completely computers would change the workplace and daily life.

Yet through all those changes, perhaps the most remarkable thing is this:

With God's help, we adapted.

Every step of the way.

We learned new tools, new technologies, new systems, and new ways of living. When the world changed, we changed with it. Not perfectly, but successfully.

That is why I struggle with the word "elderly."

Think about it. We have lived in two centuries and two millennia. We were born in an analog world and now live in a digital one. We have stood with one foot firmly planted in each.

Maybe that makes us more than elderly.

Maybe it makes us the Bridge Generation.

And what a ride it has been.

For me, it remains one of God's greatest blessings to have lived long enough to experience two very different, yet wonderful, worlds. It's been quite a ride, and I wouldn't trade a minute of it!

John C. Perry is the Lay Leader Emeritus with New Life Methodist Church. They meet every Sunday at 9 a.m. (Bible Study) and 10 a.m. (Worship Service) at 1245 Williams Road in Salado.

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SPORTS



Thursday night drama: Playoffs in the balance as Broncos travel to Copperas Cove





BELTON JOURNAL/Tony Adams

By Tony Adams,
Belton Journal Sports

The Lake Belton Broncos' first-year in Class 6A play has been a library of lessons learned.

The final chapter of the 2026 regular-season schedule concludes for the Broncos on Thursday at Bulldawg Stadium against Copperas Cove.

Kickoff is at 7 pm.

Lake Belton (5-4 overall, 2-3 District 12-6A) needs to win against Copperas Cove (5-4 overall, 3-2 District 12-6A) to clinch the fourth and final playoff spot. A Bronco win and a Temple loss to Chaparral could bump Lake into a third-place finish.

Lake Belton is coming off a dominating 42-0 win over Chaparral at Tiger Field on Friday night. The Broncos gained 353 yards on offense.

"A great night in all facets," Lake Belton head coach Kirk Rogers said. "We need to bring it all together on Thursday."

Jessiah James had an efficient night at quarterback, having completed 12-of-15 passes for 209 yards and three touchdowns, including a 60-yard strike to Zion Harness, who had 125 receiving yards and two scores.

Talley Beard rushed for 84 yards and two touchdowns.

Jack Maybee and Khi Roberts led the Broncos with six tackles each, as Lake had nine tackles for loss. Jamari Haye added an interception and Chris Harmon and Easton Robertson scooped up fumbles.

Copperas Cove is coming off a 28-10 loss to Harker Heights at Leo Buckley Stadium.

The Dawgs led 10-7 at the half before the Knights scored 21 unanswered in the second half. Cove allowed 242 yards passing and 215 yards rushing.

The Broncos average 37.3 points per game (33.4 in district), 220.4 yards passing and 185.2 yards rush-

See **BRONCOS**
Page B3

Final Whistle for Tigers, Broncos

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The volleyball season is over for both of Belton ISD's high school programs. Belton fell to Lancaster in the first round of the playoffs, while Lake Belton's bid for the postseason ended one match short in a tie-breaker against Copperas Cove.

Belton made the trip to Midway High School to open the playoffs against Lancaster, and for much of the first set, the Tigers looked like the team in charge. Belton dictated the early rallies, but a handful of serve receive errors at the wrong time opened the door for Lancaster, which took the set 25-22.

That late swing carried into the second set. Belton fell behind early and never found a way to close the gap as Lancaster pulled away for a 25-12 win.

Facing elimination, the Tigers responded with their best volleyball of the night in the third set. Down 22-17, Belton chipped away at the deficit and pulled to within a point at 22-21. But Lancaster came up with the final few points it needed, as Belton couldn't keep a couple of key defensive plays alive, and the set ended 25-22 to close out the match.

The Tigers finish the year 22-21 overall and 9-5 in district play, good for third place in the standings.

Lake Belton's playoff hopes were decided Monday night at Belton High School. The Broncos and Copperas Cove ended the regular season tied for fourth place, setting up a winner take all match on a neutral court for the district's final postseason spot.

Lake Belton found itself in an early hole in the first set when the Bulldawgs built a six point lead. After calling its second timeout, the Broncos turned things around, surging ahead 20-18 and forcing Copperas Cove to burn a timeout of its own. The set went beyond 25, and Lake Belton held on to take it 27-25.

The Bulldawgs answered in a big way. Lake Belton had trouble handling serves, left points on the table

See **LADY TIGERS**
Page B3

Basketball seasons set to start for Belton, Lake Belton

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The season has arrived.

Following months of anticipation and weeks of preparation, the time for competition has arrived for girls programs across the state, and the boys teams are not far behind.

The University Interscholastic League permits girls teams to begin playing games Friday, the Lady Tigers and Lady Broncos are both taking immediate advantage of the opportunity.

Both squads will be in action on opening day with Lake Belton hosting Leander Glenn at 7 p.m., while Belton travels to Lorena for a 6:15 p.m. tipoff.

The Lady Tigers will follow with a home game against Pflugerville Connally on Tuesday at 7 p.m., while the Lady Broncos play at Killeen Ellison at 6:30 p.m.

Then, next weekend, the season will hit full throttle as the tournament schedules open.

Beginning Nov. 12, Lake Belton and Belton will each take part in the three-day Leander Rouse Tournament, where both will play multiple games during the span.

Ultimately, the hope is to excel during the district schedule and qualify for the playoffs, and for the Lady Broncos, league play will be conducted at a new level.

The UIL's biennial reclassification and realignment process landed Lake Belton in the state's largest conference as it joined District 12-6A for at least the next two school years.

The Lady Broncos, who are ranked 20th in the preseason rankings, will now compete against Bryan, Copperas Cove, Killeen Chaparral, Killeen Harker Heights, Temple and Waco Midway for a postseason berth.

District play begins Dec. 15 versus visiting Midway.

The Lady Tigers travel to Liberty Hill Legacy Ranch for the District 16-5A opener Dec. 11. Along with the Lady Wranglers, Belton shares the league with Killeen, Killeen Ellison, Killeen Shoemaker, Liberty Hill, Waco and Waco University.

After starting the process a week after the girls teams, the Tigers and Broncos are allowed to participate in scrimmages beginning Saturday with games permitted Nov. 13.

Belton's first action occurs Nov. 14, when it takes part in the Central Texas Showcase at Austin's Concordia University. The Tigers will play Austin Vandegrift.

See **BISD**
Page B3

Belton battles unbeaten Brenham with district supremacy on the line

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The biggest game of the district season is here. Belton and Brenham, the only two teams still unbeaten in district play, meet this week with first place on the line.

Belton enters at 7-1 overall and 4-0 in district, holding down the No. 2 spot in the standings. Brenham sits at No. 1 and carries a perfect 9-0 record, 4-0 in district, into the matchup. Something has to give, and the winner will be in the driver's seat for the district crown.

For the Tigers, the challenge starts with a Brenham offense that can beat opponents in a variety of ways. The Cubs are led by junior quarterback Ronald Branch Jr., who has been one of the most productive passers in the area this fall. Branch Jr. has thrown for more than 1,300 yards and 20 touchdowns, consistently finding the end zone and keeping defenses on their heels.

He gets plenty of help in the backfield from junior running back CJ Glover, one of the more highly recruited players Belton will see this season. Glover holds offers from Texas Tech, UTSA and Sam Houston, and his production backs up the attention. He has rushed for just over 1,000 yards and 13 touchdowns on the year, giving Brenham a dependable ground game to pair with Branch Jr.'s arm.

That balance is what makes the Cubs so difficult to defend. If a defense loads up to slow Glover, Branch Jr. has shown he can make it pay through the air. If it drops back to take away the pass, Glover is capable of grinding out yards and breaking off big runs.

Brenham's passing game spreads the ball around, but junior wide receiver Nate Rau has emerged as the top scoring threat. Rau earned a nomination for Sports Illustrated's offensive player of the week earlier this season after a dominant performance against Waco, when he caught six passes for 170 yards and three touchdowns. Keeping Rau from getting loose downfield will be a priority for the Belton secondary.

The Cubs are just as dangerous on the other side of the ball. J'Rius Booker anchors the Brenham defense with 73 tackles on the season, including 13 tackles for loss. Booker has a knack for getting into the backfield and disrupting plays before they can develop, and the Tigers' offensive line will need to account for him on every snap.

On the back end, senior cornerback Treylyn Kelly has been a ballhawk all season. Kelly has five interceptions and holds multiple college offers, including from Southeastern and Missouri Southern. Belton will have to be careful about testing his side of the field, as Kelly has made a habit of turning opponents' mistakes into Brenham possessions.

With an unbeaten opponent, a talented roster on both sides of the ball and the top spot in district at stake, the Tigers face their toughest test of the season. A win would put Belton in control of the district race. A loss would leave the Cubs with a district title.





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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Tigers took part in the Lake Belton Fall Invitational at Wildflower Country club, placing fourth out of 16 teams.

Zane Trusky led the squad with an 83, while teammate Bennett Boland finished a single stroke behind with an 84. The pair was joined on the course by juniors Jack Mavis and Cooper McDonald and sophomore Brady Mavis.

Composed of seniors Kai Scarlett, Caleb Barrett and Reid Erskine, junior Kypton Barrett and sophomore Zach Avery, the Tigers' second team was eighth.

BASKETBALL

The Broncos will hold tryouts for the upcoming season beginning Monday.

The two-day process will run from 7:45 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. each day for freshmen and from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. each day for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

All participants must be academically eligible, have a current physical on file with the school and submit all necessary paperwork in advance.

Varsity football players will be permitted to tryout after the football season concludes.

A preseason parent meeting for potential players at Lake Belton will be held Nov. 12 at 6:15 p.m. inside the school's gymnasium.

All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend.

Among the topics being discussed will be program expectations and guidelines, schedules and tournaments along with being introduced to the coaching staff.

For more information, contact Broncos head coach Jason Fossett at Jason.Fossett@BISD.net.

ATHLETICS PASS

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

The pass admits the holder and immediate family into all home games conducted by BISD. It is accepted for all sports except football. Cost is $100.

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

BOOSTER CLUB

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

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

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

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

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

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Broncos - From Page B1

ing per contest. The defense has allowed 31.2 points per game. (29.6 points in district)

James (98-of-163, 1,931 passing yards, 19 TDs, 3 INTs) is 69 passing yards short of joining Connor Crews (2022) and Eli Mascarenas (2023) in the 2,000-yard club for passing in a season, is 87 yards from moving into second place on the Broncos' all-time passing list and is 171 passing yards shy of 3,500 for his career.

Lake's running back by committee has been extremely effective, with Adrian Pippins (109-585, 5.4 yards per carry, 11 TDs), James Maiwo (72-582, 8.1 yards per carry, 5 TDs), Beard (45-277, 6.2 yards per carry, 4 TDs), and James (34-157, 4.6 yards per carry, 3 TDs).

Harness (29-854 receiving yards, 29-4 yards per catch, 11 TDs), Brock Von Racjs (24-449, 4 TDs), Justyce Hendricks (11-137, 3 TDs), Alan Muchunu (8-113), and Tanner Oliveira (9-77) provides James plenty of options in the passing game.

The Broncos' offensive line has played big roles in helping move the sticks.

Lake's defense has amassed 59 quarterback hurries, 51 tackles for loss, 18 pass defenses, 14 sacks, seven blocked kicks, six fumble recoveries, and five interceptions.

Gavin Carpenter (62 tackles, 38 solo, 7 TFL, sack, forced fumble), Carter Mach (56 tackles, 34 solo, 5 TFL), Roberts (38 tackles, 6.5 TFL), Jamari Haye (35 tackles, 7 pass defenses, 2 INT), Tristan Aldridge (35 tackles, 11 hurries, 4 sacks), and Chris Harmon (33 tackles, 2 INTs, 2 fumble recoveries) have been productive for the Broncos. Add in Jiyson Sherman's four kick blocks, three passes defended, and two interceptions which created problems for opposing squads.

The Dawgs average 34.6 points per game (31.4 per game in district) and yield 33.4 opponents' points (30.6 per game in district).

A look at District 11-6A

District 12-6A's bi-district opponents are some of the most well-known in 6A circles: District 11-6A.

All four playoff spots are locked up in the district except for the order.

No. 1 North Crowley is 9-0 overall and 6-0 in the district, followed by No. 11 Waxahachie (8-1/5-1), Duncanville (5-4/4-2) and Red Oak (6-3/4-2).

On Thursday, Waxahachie hosts Mansfield and Red Oak travels to North Crowley. On Friday, Duncanville hits the road to play Dallas Skyline and Crowley travels to Lake Ridge.

Lady Tigers - From Page B1

offensively and had some breakdowns on defense as Copperas Cove evened the match with a 25-12 win in the second.

The third set was a seesaw affair, with the lead changing hands several times before Copperas Cove pulled ahead late. The Broncos made one more push, cutting into the lead but came up short in a 25-22 loss.

Needing a win to force a deciding fifth set, Lake Belton never put together the kind of scoring run it needed in the fourth. Unforced errors and points that slipped away proved costly, and Copperas Cove finished the set 25-20 to win the match 3-1 and claim the playoff berth.

While neither season ended the way the Tigers or Broncos had hoped, both teams gave their communities plenty to be proud of this fall. Both programs showed the kind of effort that gives both the coaches and returning players something amazing to look forward to.

BISD - From Page B1

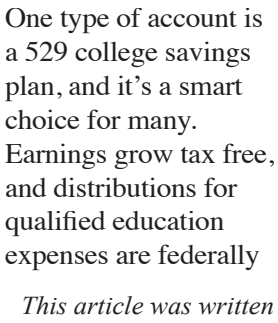
Belton follows with games at Gatesville (Nov. 17) and at Copperas Cove (Nov. 20) before its home opener against Pflugerville on Nov. 23.

The district schedule starts Dec. 18 against Shoemaker at home.

Lake Belton's regular-season debut comes Nov. 16 in a home encounter with the Austin Royals. The Broncos face Temple on Jan. 2 to begin their league slate.

Should any of the four programs advance to the postseason, the first round of the playoffs is set to begin Feb. 11 for the girls and Feb. 18 for the boys.

Last season, when both Belton and Lake Belton were both in the same district, the Tigers, the Lady Tigers and the Lady Broncos each qualified for the playoffs.



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Scot Hrbacek, CFP® *Financial Advisor*

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This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Salado Marines to celebrate 251st Marine Corps birthday

Special to the Journal

The Salado Marines will host the 251st Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast on Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Huntington Bank Expo Center in Belton.

Marines and Navy Corpsmen from all eras, along with family and friends, are invited to celebrate the Corps' proud history and enduring traditions.

Keynote speaker German Aldana, GySgt (Ret.), served as a Marine Recon team leader and was a plank holder with Marine Forces Special Operations Command

(MARSOC). He completed seven deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, West Africa, and Central America. His presentation is titled "Never Quit!"

The program will include the reading of Major General John A. Lejeune's historic 1921 birthday message and the traditional birthday cake cutting, honoring the oldest and youngest Marines present.

Admission: $15 for adults; $10 for children 12 and under; infants admitted free.

Reservations are required. Contact Rhonda Rinehart at (512) 507-6265 to RSVP or for information.

Semper Fidelis!

George W. Tyler approved for membership in Sons of the Republic of Texas

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

George W. Tyler, who lived in Texas from 1851 until 1927, was honored last week. Tyler was approved for membership in the Sons of the Republic of Texas on October 20 th at a ceremony at North Belton Cemetery.

Tyler was a lawyer, historian, Texas State Senator, and a judge in Bell County. His book, *History of Bell County* was published in 1936 after his passing.

"This started about a year ago when we began discussing our namesake," said Sons of the Republic of Texas George W. Tyler Chapter 3 President Rob Holt.

"Our chapter started in the 1930s, and he should be honored. The placement of the medallion on his gravesite today honors him. George W. Tyler is a direct descendant of someone who lived in Texas from 1836 until 1846," said Holt.



George W. Tyler

"It gives special meaning to our chapter, which bears his name. George W. Tyler's connection to Texas was not just historical; it was in his blood. Born in Coryell County in 1851, he was the son of Orville T. Tyler, a pioneer of the Robertson Colony and a founding figure in Central Texas. In every public office he held, he carried the integrity and strength of character forged by the early pioneers who fought for Texan independence," said Holt.

Six family descendants were present at the ceremony. Bell County Judge David Blackburn read a proclamation at the ceremony honoring Tyler. "Preservation of Texas history is the responsibility of all generations. It is important to know our history and pass it down. This history of the Republic of Texas and the sacrifice made to create Texas is important," said Blackburn.

"Tyler painstakingly gathered stories, documents, and pioneer collections, culminating in his masterwork, the History of Bell County. He documented the sacrifices of early settlers so that our generation and generations yet unborn might know the cost of the freedom we enjoy today," said Holt.

At the event, there was a woman who spoke about how her father told her a story of walking down Main Street with George W. Tyler as the lamp lights were turning on in Belton.



Did you know?

The nation's veterans are worthy of recognition and gratitude for their dedication to preserving the freedoms of their fellow citizens. Each November, veterans are honored on Veterans Day. According to Statistics Canada Census Data, Canada, which celebrates Remembrance Day each November, has an estimated 461,240 living veterans. Recent U.S. Census Bureau data indicates there are roughly 15.7 million living military veterans in the United States. Texas has the highest number of living veterans in the U.S., with a population of approximately 1.4 million individuals who have served in the military.















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THE BELTON JOURNAL

GRAGE SALE

INDOOR GARAGE SALE/ESTATES SALE
5210 Sparta Rd., Belton, Tx. 76543, November 6,7,8, From 7 am till?
Great prices, good merchandise. Antiques, clothing, shoes, dishes, safety vest with lights and gloves. Christmas items plus miscellaneous items
11.05pd

EMPLOYMENT

MCGUIRE TIRE
is looking to hire automotive tire/lube tech. Apply in person 103 Lake Road in Belton, or 603 South First in Temple. Pay based on experience
TFN

LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Temple Star Storage, located at 1733 Airport Trail, Temple, TX 76504, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien.
The sale will begin at 1:00 PM on Nov 13, 2026 and will conclude on Nov 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM. This auction will be held online at www.storagetreasures.com.
Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. A deposit for removal and cleanup may be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any property from the sale at any time before the sale is final. Property includes the contents of spaces of the following tenants:

- Justin Charette: [Household goods, clothes]
- Brian Odom: [tools, clothes]

Purchases must be paid for at the time of sale. All goods are sold "as is" and must be removed within 72 hours of the close of the auction. Contact (254) 230-3363 for further details.
11.05,11.12pd

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF BELL
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, default judgment may be taken against you."

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF DAVID VANHORN A/K/A DAVID VAN HORN, DECEASED

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the 169"" Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas in the Courthouse in the City of Belton, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday, the 21st day of DECEMBER 2026, being the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby required then and there to appear and file written answer to the First Amended Petition, filed in said Court on September 15, 2026, in suit numbered 25DCV357042 on the docket of said court, wherein Mill City Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-GS1, Plaintiff, v. David Vanhorn a/k/a David Van Horn and Rosa Vanhorn a/ k/a Rosa Van Horn and The Heirs at Law of Rosa Vanhorn a/k/a Rosa Van Horn, Deceased, Defendants.

The Petition seeks an order to foreclose the lien on the property and assert claim to the property located at 4457 West Drive, Belton, TX 76513 and legally described as: Being All That Certain Tract Of Land Containing 0.435 Acre, Being The East One-Half (E 1/2) Of Lots And 4, Block 3, Lakewood Terrace, Subdivision In Bell County, Texas, According To The Map Or Plat Of Record In Cabinet A, Slide 135-C, Plat Records Of Bell County, Texas, And Being The Same Tract Of Land Conveyed To David And Rosa Van Horn In Deed Recorded In Volume 3202, Page 350, Official Public Records Of Real Property, Bell County, Texas, And Being More Particularly Described As Follows:

Beginning At 3/4 Inch Iron Pipe Found At The Northeast Corner Of Said Lot 4, Being On The South Right-Of-Way Line Of West Drive And On The West Right-Of-Way Line Of Lakewood Lane, Gravel Road, For The Northeast Corner Of The Herein Described Tract;

Thence South 19 Degrees 12 Minutes West 160.06 Feet (Bearing Base) Along The West Right-Of-Way Line Of Said Lakewood Lane, To 1/2 Inch Iron Rod Found At The Northeast Corner Of Lot 2;

Thence North 70 Degrees 57 Minutes 15 Seconds West -118.45 Feet Along The North Line Of Said Lot 2, To 1/2 Inch Iron Rod Set At The Southeast Corner Of Tract Of Land Conveyed As The Fourth Tract To li Properties In Deed Recorded In Volume 3049, Page 196, Official Public Records of Real Property, Bell County, Texas;

Thence North 19 Degrees 13 Minutes East 160.19 Feet (Record 159.95 Feet) Along The East Line Of Said Properties Tract, To 1/2 Inch Iron Rod Set On The South Right-Of-Way Line Of Said West Drive, Being The North Line Of Said Lot 4, For The Northwest Corner Of The Herein Described Tract;

Thence South 70 Degrees 53 Minutes 24 Seconds East 118.40 Feet (Record South 71 Degrees East) Along The South Line Of Said Right-Of-Way, To The Point Of Beginning And Containing 0.435 Acre Of Land

Note: The Company Does Not Represent That The Above Acreage Or Square Footage Calculations Are Correct.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Belton, Texas this 20th day of OCTOBER 2026.

Misty Cortez District clerk signature & Seal

Issued at the request of: LOGS Legal Group LLP Counsel for Plaintiff Address: 14150 Huffmeister Road, Suite 106, Cypress, TX 77429, Mailing Address: 8520 Cliff Cameron Drive, Suite 330 Charlotte, NC 28269 (Clerk info)

This document not prepared by the Bell County District Clerk.
10.29, 11.05,11.12,11.19

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00545
To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
DOROTHY SUE ADOUE-SANTONE, Applicant, on September 14, 2026, filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Independent Administration in a proceeding styled: CLIFTON KEITH ADOUE, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00545 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.
The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be November 05,2026 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.
Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: KAREN M. VILLANUEVA , 2106 BIRD CREEK DR. TEMPLE TX 76502
The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on September 14, 2026.
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas ,PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Andrea Marks Deputy
11.05

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On the 26th day of October, 2026, Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of NANCY JOAN EMERY, Deceased, were issued to MARION EMERY MARTORELLI, Independent
Executor, by the County Civil Court at Law No. One (1), Bell County, Texas, in Cause No. 26CPB00578 pending upon the docket of said Court.
All persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present them within the time prescribed by law. Claims may be sent to Kenneth H. Pearce, at 7834 Charter Hill Dr., Magnolia, TX 77354. Telephone: (713) 303-8351 , Texas Bar Number: 15682500, Signature: /s/ Kenneth H. Pearce
11.05

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00653
To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
RAYMOND FRANCIS SCHWERTNER, II, Applicant, on October 27, 2026, filed an Application to Determine Heirship in a proceed-

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LEGALS

ing styled: KAREN JEAN BELL, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00653 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.
The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be November 05, 2026 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.
Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: Angelica L. Farinacci, 600 Bailey Ave Suite 200 Fort Worth TX 76107
The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on October 27, 2026.
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480 ,1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Andrea Marks Deputy
11.05

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of DARIUS CONGER a/k/a DARIUS CONGER, JR., Deceased, were issued on October 22, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00557, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: KRIS MUNRO.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. ESTATE OF DARIUS CONGER, JR., c/o: KRIS MUNRO, 6 Johnston Way, Scotts Valley, CA 95066
DATED October 28 , 2026.
KAREN M. VILLANUEVA ,State Bar No.: 24102608, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: karen@templelawoffice.com
11.05

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CONSTANCE MAY ROBINSON, Deceased, were issued on October 26, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00547, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: SAMUEL STEWART ROBINSON.
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: SAMUEL STEWART ROBINSON, 2765 CR 314, Jarrell, Texas 76538
SIGNED on October 28, 2026.
/s/James O. Cure, James O. Cure Attorney for SAMUEL STEWART ROBINSON, State Bar No.: 05252800, 2584 Blue Meadow Dr,. Temple, TX 76502, Telephone: (254) 778-8934, Facsimile: (254) 773-2477, Email: jocure@cureandfrancis.net
11.05

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of CHANDA JANEL BELL, Deceased, were issued on October 28, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00310, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: SANDRA BELL.
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: JIM THIGPEN Attorney at Law, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503
SIGNED on October 29, 2026.
JIM/THIGPEN Attorney for SANDRA BELL, State Bar No.: 19837300, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503, Telephone: (254) 773-1663, Facsimile: (254) 773-2574, Email: jim.thigpen@linzythigpen.com
11.05

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BARBARA DENNING JENNINGS IN THE COUNTY COURT OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BARBARA DENNING JENNINGS
Administration of the Estate of BARBARA DENNING JENNINGS, Decedent, has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary to the undersigned on the 27th day of October 2026 by the County Court of Bell County, Texas, in Cause No. 26CPB00477, styled IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BARBARA DENNING JENNINGS.
Administration of the estate is now pending in that court.
All persons having claims against the estate are notified to present those claims in writing to the undersigned at the address shown below within the time and manner prescribed by law.
Dated the 14th day of September, 2026
LEROY FRANKLIN JENNINGS, 308 Stirrup Drive, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF BARBARA DENNING JENNINGS, DECEASED
11.05

NOTICE TO CCREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of CHARLES EDWARD FISHER were issued on November 2, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00363, pending in the County Court at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to SHREE RENEE SLAY.
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 SHREE RENEE SLAY, 2802 Margie Drive, Temple, Texas 76502
Dated November 2nd, 2026
BRETT H. PRITCHARD. Attorney for Administrator of the Estate of CHARLES EDWARD FISHER
11.05

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

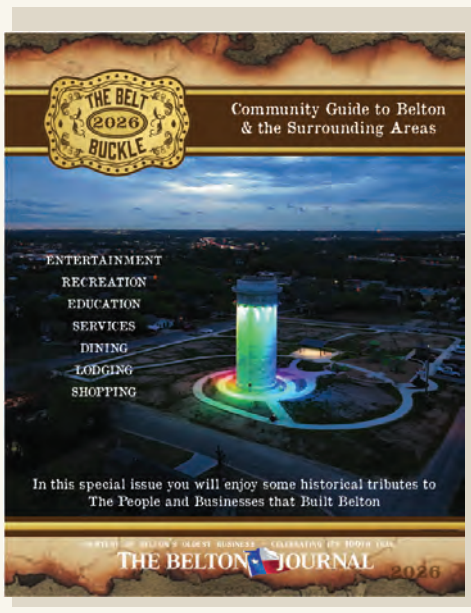
Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 25CPB00695, Estate of Bruce Oliver Davidson, Deceased, pending in County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, Kathi Marie Davidson, qualified for and received original Letters of Independent Administration on November 2, 2026.
Claims may be presented to the representative at the following address: The Nelson Law Firm, PLLC, Attn: Eric W. Nelson, 1100 West Ave., Austin, Texas 78701.
All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the period prescribed by law.
11.05

THE BELTON JOURNAL
2027 SPECIAL EDITION

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THE BELTON JOURNAL — Connecting our community since 1866



EDITORIAL

Soldiering on

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

I see you sitting over there in the corner, drinking your morning coffee and waiting for your breakfast to arrive at the table.

You're old, old as my dad, or maybe a little older. Since when do soldiers get old? But, they do.

You often wear a baseball cap, a black one, with gold embroidered lettering that states your service. There might be bars or pins on your hat. Or not. You served in a different Army. You've told me this before, how the military "now" isn't like the military "then."

No email. No Skype. No easy access to phones. No commissary or PX where you served. No hopping planes to get where you went. You went by boat, long trips across the sea. Not high tech, but low tech. Shoot, you were there when they *invented* analog.

Do you ever laugh at the younger guys, complaining about their cell phones not working right, or if their laptop crashed?

You're the one who knows what it's like to go weeks, months, with no word from home. You're the one who left someone behind, who didn't know if or when she would hear from you again. You've seen the "guts" of war, and can empathize with the younger ones who come home to nightmares and anger that won't stop.

And when one of your buddies died, you knew it right away. Not like the family back home, not until they saw a Western Union courier show up on their doorstep. Maybe it had been weeks and weeks since that last contact, or maybe they'd just gotten a few letters, late, and then this life-altering visit.

But you saw that loved one die firsthand, and you lived with it for longer until they knew.

You teach us something that we the younger ones don't know yet, the value of soldiering on. You were the ones who came home without that welcome, the welcome that seems like a "given" now, something that's commonplace. You soldiered on, persevered, with fewer benefits than today.

You probably wondered over the years, why it wasn't you, and it ended up being them. The ones that didn't come home.

You're the first one (or maybe last) to admit you're not a saint, you're not a hero. You were just doing what you had to do. You followed your orders, completed your mission.

I salute you, the one who has soldiered on in life, after your time of service. Most likely you had another career, another life after the military. But it follows you, doesn't it?

Well, thank you. Thank you for showing me what it means to "soldier on," which is more than making sure you get your "military discount." Thank you for serving our country. Thank you for being the one there, when your brother fell. We don't just "celebrate" Veterans Day. We remember. And don't worry. We always should, and I hope we always will.

The Thankful List

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

I'm not ready for Thanksgiving. I haven't planned a menu or thought about who will bring what to our family dinner. I have bought a turkey, so that's something.

I haven't made a "thankful" list, either. Shame on me, especially considering how much I have to be thankful for. So in an effort to get myself in the holiday spirit, here is my top ten list of things I'm thankful for this year:

1. I'm thankful for watercolor paints, and for YouTube channel art teachers.
2. I'm thankful for a job I love, teaching students I adore about my favorite subject (writing, not coffee).
3. I'm thankful for coffee. And homemade peppermint mocha creamer.
4. I'm thankful for the towel bar in my bathroom that hangs right above my scales. If I hold onto that bar, I can shave a good ten pounds off my weight.
5. I'm thankful for sappy Christmas movies.
6. I'm thankful for cinnamon-apple-scented candles. They make the house smell like pie, but without the calories.
7. I'm thankful that all my children are good, kind, hardworking people. And that they're all really funny. Seriously. We could start our own comedy channel.
8. I'm thankful for a daughter who keeps me from making too many fashion mistakes.
9. I'm thankful for my denim jacket. It makes almost any outfit look hip and cool.
10. I'm thankful for longtime friends who I don't have to impress.
11. I'm thankful for my husband who is also my best friend.
12. I'm thankful for that same hard-working husband who makes me feel like I'm the catch of the century, even though I know that title belongs to him.
13. I'm thankful for a car that has heated seats, even though I don't get to use them much in Texas.
14. I'm thankful for a warm, soft bed to sleep in, and big, thick fluffy blankets.
15. I'm thankful for central heat and air. This time of year in Texas, you never know which one you'll need on any given day.
16. I'm thankful for electricity. It makes life a whole lot simpler.
17. I'm thankful for cute puppies. (I'm not thankful for the barking at every. Stinking. Thing.)
18. I'm thankful for good health.
19. I'm thankful for people to love, and people who love me.
20. I'm thankful for a gracious, compassionate God who sees me, who knows my heart, and who cares about exactly what I'm going through at any given moment. I'm thankful that He goes through it all with me.

I know I listed more than ten, and I could have listed a whole lot more. Once I got started, the thankfulness just kept coming and coming, increasing with each new item. I don't know why we wait until November to focus on thankfulness—His care for us is constant, every day of the year, every second of the day, from now until eternity.

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever," Psalm 136:1.

Blowing Carbon

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

If you drive a vehicle that has an internal combustion engine, and that engine runs on traditional gasoline, then you're almost inevitably going to get carbon buildup in your engine. As your mechanic can explain, carbon buildup in an engine (et al) can cause a number of problems. After a while, this buildup needs to be taken care of to keep your engine running properly.

The main car I drive was recently down for about a month or so. What initially appeared to be a minor problem with the brakes turned out to be a major problem in that the master cylinder, a key component for the braking system, was leaking and in the process of failing completely. Problem is, I drive a 2004 sedan whose entire family was discontinued so long ago that new master cylinders are no longer being produced. This meant attempting to adapt a "near enough" master cylinder, a process that took a bit of trial and error. As a consequence, aside from the occasional test drive, my car basically sat for a few weeks while the cylinder was being mounted and adjusted.

Since I got it back, I've mostly been doing around-the-town errands and deliveries. It's gotten the engine working again, but that's about it. Sure enough, while doing one set of errands, I noticed that the engine was running a touch rough, like it used to do the last time I had a carbon buildup.

For those of you who aren't native to Texas, we have a little something here called the Farm-To-Market Road, or FM. These are numbered roads that serve as connectors, linking rural areas with larger towns that can serve as markets. They're 2 – 3 lanes, often winding, and as they're legally considered to be main roads they typically have speed limits more in keeping with regular highways.

My dad is an ASE-certified mechanic. Whenever he finds himself dealing with an engine that's got a lot of carbon, he recommends that the vehicle be taken out to one of these FMs and driven at the full speed limit, a process that can blow the carbon out of the system. After some text messages back and forth, he agreed that I was indeed most likely dealing with carbon buildup, so I picked him up and together we did a run down one such FM. It was a short run, just a few miles each way, but the distinctive scent we started smelling along the way coupled with the smoother operation of the car confirmed that the trip was enough to blow a significant chunk of the carbon out. This should keep the car running right, at least until the next time I need to blow the carbon out.

Well folks, our minds sometimes need a good hard run as well, however short it may be, to get rid of whatever we might have gumming them up. Whenever we get bogged down mentally, it's often a good idea to get up, break out of our routine a little, do something different, and push through. We don't have to push the pedal to the floor so to speak, but we do need to get ourselves revved up and going. That's another part of why I keep encouraging everyone to go out, try new things, meet new people, and so forth. I've even had to tell people that as a writer I just sometimes need to leave the house, even if I have no destination in mind; it's the moving that counts.

Randomness

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Have you ever glanced at the clock on your microwave oven and thought the time was way off, before realizing that the number reflected the time left until your meal was ready?

Is there a point in a rainstorm that birds stop flying? I mean at some point they are ready to get back to their tree.

Does the rain bother a flying duck? Or is it just getting a different half of their body wet while they move through life?

The saying "like water off of a duck's back", is that just for water or is it other liquids as well? Perhaps Mountain Dew? Lemon-Lime Gatorade? Flavored cooking oil... asking for a friend...

I like the sound of a ticking clock. Of course with digital clocks and advancement in clock technology most clocks really don't make much noise anymore. Of course the exception to that is the $3 clock from the familiar department store, it makes the TICK-TICK-TICK sound you can hear from another room. What it lacks in silence is made up in durability, it will chew through a battery a year and keep fairly accurate time. I don't actually recall one wearing out, usually you just change decor and toss the old one in favor of a newer style.

Have you ever accidentally turned something on (or whatever you didn't intend) and then couldn't turn it off easily?

This wasn't accidental, it was quite intentional, some years ago when vehicles came with a panic button on the remote, I came out of a store and hit the alarm button to help me find my truck. Well apparently you could set off the alarm about a mile away but you have to be within five feet to disarm it! That was back during a time when people actually paid attention to an alarm going off. Now an alarm is just noise that interferes with the "Tip-Top" video they are recording for their followers. Needless to say, I no longer use that function. Actually I rarely have to touch my remote. And if I park somewhere that I feel like I will need a guide to find again, I can just tell my phone to "drop" a pin so I can locate the exact spot when I return.

Every so often something helpful happens when you aren't looking for it. I have been visiting with someone and they start to explain a situation and a solution. Well I had an issue with very similar circumstances and their story actually solved the problem for me. A few times it was very simple so I was glad that I didn't have to ask someone for help for such a basic concern. Those times make me feel a lot less like a lost molecule in the vast universe! We are all just lost molecules but at that point in time I didn't feel like it.

At times I will search for a very specific tool or item only to be surprised that this device actually exists and I can buy one. I mean if you think about it, somewhere in China (or in the world elsewhere) there is a part of a factory dedicated to making a very obscure device, perhaps like a sardine dorsal fin remover. How many people are using the same tool that you are needing that it was designed, approved, manufactured and sold?

Along a similar train of thought, the same thing happens with a Google search. You start typing what you believe is a very unique question, and before you get to the specific part, your question appears below. I know, that is quite strange. Sometimes I like to start typing a question without a real thought; What is the color of... or; How can you keep a... Perhaps I am easily amused.

Every once in a while I will open a bottle of something, I peel off the little clear plastic safety seal, you know the one that you can't find the perforation for easy removal, then the plastic sticks to my fingers and I can't shake it off into the trash. Has anyone else had that happen to them... no... just me... okay...

I hope everyone has a very thought-filled week.

NOVEMBER B-TOWN BULLETIN

Local Activities & Events

BEEA's Fall Sale - Nov 6 & 7
BEEA's Fall Sale Friday November 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday November 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Seaton Community Center, 12287 Hwy 53 (eight miles East of Temple). The multi-family sale offers a wide variety of useful household goods, handmade crafts, baked goods, and miscellaneous items. The sale proceeds will benefit Bell County 4-H Scholarships and BEEA activities.

Marine Corp Birthday breakfast - Nov 7
The Salado Marines will host the 251st Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast on Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at theHuntington Bank Expo Center in Belton. Reservations are required. Contact Rhonda Rinehart at 512- 507-6265 to RSVP or for information.

Foster Love Fall Classic Pickleball tournament - Nov 7
We're so excited to have you at the Foster Love Fall Classic Pickleball Tournament! This is a fun day to bring our community together at the UMHB Pickleball Courts while making a meaningful impact. All proceeds from this event will directly benefit foster children and caregivers in Bell and Coryell counties. Your registration helps us purchase essential items and ensuring more children have safe, loving homes. This exciting event will be Saturday, Nov, 7, at the YMHB Pickleball courts. For more information visit fosterlovebellcounty.org

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

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

Belton Market Days - Nov 21
Join us for Belton Market Days, the Holiday Fall Market brings together local crafters, artisans, food vendors, live music, and seasonal shopping in the heart of downtown Belton. With streets closed to traffic, it's a perfect, family-friendly day to stroll, shop, and enjoy the festive fall atmosphere. Spend the day exploring Beautiful Downtown Belton. Shop unique local stores and street vendors. Find early holiday gifts and fall favorites. Enjoy delicious food, live music, and community fun. Interested in becoming a vendor?
Learn more at www.downtownbelton.com. Saturday Nov. 21, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Downtown Belton.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet on Tuesday, Nov, 10th 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STAY CONNECTED: STAY INFORMED

GOT A LOCAL EVENT, CHURCH GATHERING, OR MEETING?
TELL US AND KEEP EVERYONE IN THE LOOP.

EMAIL DETAILS TO:
NEWS@BELTONJOURNAL.COM
OR CALL (254) 939-5754

IF WANT TO SPONSOR THIS PAGE
EMAIL: DAVID@BELTONJOURNAL.COM





CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

JOIN CTC'S SALUTE TO VETERANS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 7, 2026
Copperas Cove VFW
Veterans Parade, 10 a.m.

Monday, November 9, 2026
CTC Hoof Beats for Heroes Horse Therapy
Experience, CTC Agriculture Complex, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Killeen Veterans Parade, 11 a.m.

Thursday, November 12, 2026
CTC Veterans Fellowship Breakfast
Anderson Campus Center, 8 a.m.

Thursday, November 12, 2026
Salute to Veterans Ceremony & Movie,
Apache Blues Mayborn Science Theater, 1 p.m.

Friday, November 13, 2026
Mounted Warfare Museum Clay Shoot
CTC Main Campus, 8 a.m.

Friday, November 13, 2026
CTC Fine Arts Guitar and Jazz Ensemble
Performance, Mayborn Science Theater 11 a.m.



Contact CTC Veteran Services for more information.
Phone: 254-526-1160 or 254-526-1684
Email: veteran.services@ctcd.edu