

Belton environmental leaders honored at partnership ceremony



BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOCTEZUMA
Belton High School Athletics and coach Oscar Bersosa pose with their awards alongside Mayor David K. Leigh and COL Lakicia R. Stokes at the Cen-Tex Sustainable Communities Partnership ceremony on March 6 at the Harris Community Center in Belton.

By Daniel Moctezuma
The Belton Journal

On March 6, 2025, representatives from Fort Cavazos and surrounding cities met at the Harris Community Center to recognize individuals and schools for their contributions to environmental efforts.

The event included the signing of a proclamation declaring April as Sustainable Environment Month and the presentation of Environmental Ambassador Awards.

Belton’s Oscar Bersosa, head girls’ soccer coach at Belton High

School and vice chair of the Belton Parks Board, was honored as the city’s Environmental Ambassador for his leadership in organizing cleanup projects through the school’s athletics program.

“I’ve been in Belton since 1996, so I’m invested in this community, not just because I work at Belton ISD, but because I went to UMHB and Baylor, and my family has lived here a long time,” Bersosa said. “Giving back is important, and I think we all have a responsibility in that.”

Through Belton High School

Athletics, students participate in at least two community service projects per year. Bersosa helped organize seasonal cleanups at Chisholm Trail Park, which has been adopted by the school.

“It’s real easy for us to just walk across the street and do some work,” Bersosa said. “We see that park being used constantly, so it made sense to invest in keeping it clean.”

Water conservation is an issue

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BELTON JOURNAL/DAVID TUMA
The Lena Armstrong Library celebrates the completion of the renovation with a ribbon cutting last Wednesday.

Lena Armstrong Library celebrates renovations with ribbon cutting

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

Over the past few years, the Lena Armstrong Public Library has been remodeled both inside and outside. The library was closed for a few days as the inside changes could be completed.

Back in 2018, a study of the library was completed by Library System Services. In this inside revamp, the bookshelves were moved to the walls to create an open and inviting space. Seating options were changed and an area for middle school-aged children within the main room was created. Additionally, shelving was installed with rollers. The children’s room was revamped with a color scheme inspired by the mural outside.

“I found a world of reading books. Reading is about discovery. We needed a library that expands discovery. Reading is so important,” said Belton Mayor David Leigh.

“I feel that the libraries are in a state of evolution. They are a hub for our community. We began this project by improving the exterior of the

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Belton cancer “thrivers” walks the runway

Crystal Pomeroy of Belton strikes a pose at Saturday night’s Runway of Hope, held by the Pink Warrior Angels at Knoxville Ranch Wedding & Event Venue in West. The event is an annual fundraiser for the nonprofit that provides financial aid grants to cancer patients.

— **BELTON JOURNAL/ LYNETTE SOWELL**



By Lynette Sowell
The Belton Journal

Crystal Pomeroy of Belton is a retired Army veteran who recently underwent her own personal battle of fighting breast cancer.

On Saturday night, the 51-year-old took to the stage to celebrate hope at the 7th annual Runway of Hope, held by Pink Warrior Angels.

The event was held at the Knoxville Ranch Wedding and Event Venue, located just north of Waco in West, TX.

Pomeroy joined a lineup of 24 other cancer survivors who hail from all over the U.S. They participated in a three-day mini-retreat to heal through the emotional trauma that comes with a cancer diagnosis.

The retreat ended with a day of pampering and

glam to walk the runway Saturday evening.

Pomeroy has undergone six months of chemotherapy and 30 rounds of radiation therapy to treat her triple-negative breast cancer. This February she celebrated her one-year of treatment and rang the bell. She is now cancer-free and undergoing immunotherapy.

For Pomeroy, the retreat was an opportunity for her to connect with and bond with others who have traveled a similar road, but in different ways. She called the retreat “overwhelming, but in a good way.”

“I got to meet, talk to other cancer survivors about their journey and just be around people who understand the journey that you’re going through. I’m not saying I didn’t have a good support group, but nobody fully understands unless they have walked that journey.”

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Fencing Fest gives Belton residents a chance to try the sport

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BELTON JOURNAL/DANIEL MOCTEZUMA
Abigail Park practices fencing with Katelynn Jongaons during the Spring Fencing Fest at the Harris Community Center on Saturday.

By Daniel Moctezuma
The Belton Journal

At the Spring Fencing Fest on Saturday, March 8, people in Belton got to try fencing for themselves at the Harris Community Center. Swordplay Recreational Fencing hosted Saturday’s free event to give people a chance to try fencing and learn how to join local classes.

Coach Jo Tye, who runs the fencing program, said the event was a way to introduce more people to the sport since it’s usually more popular on the East and West Coasts.

“It is an expensive sport to get into, so this is a way to let the community know, hey, we do have fencing here,” Tye said.

Swordplay Recreational Fencing has been operating in Belton for three years, in addition to a Harker Heights program that Tye has coached for a decade. The organization offers recreational fencing, teaching students foil, épée, and saber, with an emphasis on discipline and technique.

“We start everybody with foil so that it’s not a wild ‘let’s get out and play, hit, and slap’ situation,” Tye said. “They learn different parry

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Troy Ashford

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City council approves contract for roof replacements

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

The Belton City Council has approved a contract with FSR, LLC, to replace storm-damaged roofs at the Harris Community Center, Fire Station 2, and three police storage buildings. The \$96,912 project is covered primarily by insurance funds following hail and

wind damage from storms in May 2024. While the damage did not compromise the structural integrity of the buildings, city staff worked with the Texas Municipal League (TML) insurance provider to assess and secure funding for necessary repairs. TML has reimbursed the city \$101,398 for the work. The project includes:
Removal of existing roofing.

Replacement of fascia board, soffit, and gutters at the Harris Community Center.
Installation of new asphalt shingles, roofing underlayment, drip edge, and flashing.
A five-year workmanship warranty.
The city opened bidding for the project on January 28, receiving five proposals. FSR, LLC, submitted the lowest qualified bid at \$96,912.

Library - From Page A1

building. We expanded the hours the library is open,” said Assistant City Manager Matt Bates.
A ribbon cutting was hosted last Wednesday, March 5th by the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce.
The library had been closed since Feb. 14, when the interior renovations began.
The \$243,962 renovation includes new flooring and paint throughout the building and new furnishings for the main room, meeting room, and the children’s room.
Some of the changes patrons can expect include more shelving along the walls and shorter interior shelves to improve sightlines.
In addition, the main room will have more space dedicated to seating. In the children’s room the story time area will feature new tiered seating.
The closure was necessary as books and old shelving needed to be moved to allow new flooring to be installed. The relocation of the book return from off the building to an outdoor book return box was also completed.
The renovation is funded through the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone. It follows exterior improvements that have included new paint, landscaping, mural, signage, pergola, and a new pocket park accessible through the children’s room.

Thriver - From Page A1

ney,” she said. “And I felt at the retreat, I was able to communicate with people who understood the journey I was on.”
She said the fellow cancer “thriver” who had the biggest impact on her was 20-year-old Libby Kimbel, who was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma at the age of 14 and had a below-the-knee amputation as well as many months of chemotherapy.
“I’m about to be 52 and I couldn’t imagine going through cancer as a teenager, as a child, and for her to be so positive and so full of energy and just bringing energy to everybody was just so touching.”
Pomeroy, retired from the United States Army, fills her time with informally helping others at the gym as a fitness coach, teaching them how to use equipment properly. She said the gym is a safe space for her and it helps her anxiety and PTSD, as she helps others.
The 25 models were selected through an application process and live across the U.S. Sixteen women, three men, and three children walked in recognition of a variety of cancers including kidney, ovarian, colon, head and neck, brain, metastatic breast, and pediatric cancer.
The event included dinner, silent and live auctions, as well as 25 cancer survivors to include men, women, and children who walked the runway to showcase their individual stories. The event raised more than \$50,000 and counting that will go toward financial grants for those in cancer treatment.
A pair of Dallas Cowboys home game tickets went for \$1,000, with a two-night stay in a two-bedroom, two-bathroom suite plus five admission tickets at the Kalahari Water Park Resort in Round Rock going for \$1,100 and a Corpus Christi fishing trip going for \$1,100.
As a primary fundraising effort for PWA, The Runway of Hope provides funding for financial grants provided to cancer warriors who need help with monthly bills like their mortgage, car payment, utilities, or even groceries and gas cards.
“We’re a small organization and one of the few that do not discriminate for helping with financial grants based on income levels. We get referrals from the big cancer non-profits all the time, and this past year we’ve been averaging over \$25,000 in financial aid requests each month,” said Julie Moser, PWA Executive Director and 2-time breast cancer thriver.
“We don’t have a budget that allows that kind of assistance so we’re left to decide what we can offer that provides the most positive impact for our cancer warriors. Runway of Hope is crucial to helping us meet our mission.”
In 2024, PWA awarded \$58,000 in grants and assistance to cancer patients.
Runway coach and former professional model Lolita Frazier of Strut Talk Runway Therapy Services was part of the retreat. She worked individually with each model to show them how to strut down the runway in a way that represents their personalities and stories.
Robin and Butch Mogarvero, owners of Knoxville Ranch Wedding and Event Venue, hosted the event for the third year.
“We are excited to host PWA again this year as the property allows for big events, that can accommodate their cancer survivors to help with the cost of putting on the show. Living with cancer is just not what anyone has ever planned for. Giving back to assist this wonderful nonprofit is key to community unity,” said Robin.

Fencing - From Page A1

positions, attack styles, footwork, and blade work.”
The event welcomed attendees ages 7 and up, including adults. Many parents brought their children to explore the sport for the first time.
Susan Gibson, grandmother of Harper and Abigail Park, said she found the event while looking for spring break activities.
“I think it takes a lot of control to do it,” Gibson said. “I’m just exposing them to something new.”
Fencer Katelynn Jongaons first started fencing in Harker Heights before moving to the Belton program, where her mom later became a coach.
“It relieves a lot of stress. You get your anger out,” Jongaons said. “My advice to beginners is to try your best and always aim for the target.”
Tye said that many students, especially homeschoolers, use fencing for P.E. credit, as the program offers take-home drills and exercises. While it is not a competitive program, Swordplay Recreational Fencing hosts three tournaments a year—spring, summer, and fall.
A common misconception, Tye said, is that fencing swords are sharp.
“Like we’re going to give a seven-year-old a sharp blade and tell them to go cut each other,” Tye joked.
For those interested in continuing fencing, the Belton class meets on Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m., while the Harker Heights class meets on Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. Registration is available through local parks and recreation programs, and a QR code was provided at the event for sign-ups.
For more information about Swordplay Recreational Fencing, visit their Facebook page: Swordplay Harker Heights/Belton Recreational Fencing, or contact Coach Jo Tye at (254) 681-9009.

Leader - From Page A1

he believes will continue to be important for the region.
“We all see Lake Belton go up and down,” he said. “Sustainability is about making sure the next generation understands how to take care of the environment, and for us, that means leading by example.”
Copperas Cove’s Environmental Ambassador, Lynette Sowell, who also serves as editor of the Belton Journal, was recognized for her years of volunteer service with Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful, a committee she served on for three terms, a total of nine years.
“It was extremely gratifying to be recognized by my community like this,” Sowell said. “I’ve been a longtime volunteer, and I think this is a testament to how much our community values working together to make things better for everyone.”
During her time with Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful, Sowell participated in citywide cleanup efforts, including trash pickups, waterway cleanups, and the Don’t Mess With Texas Trash-Off. She also helped organize Eco Harvest, an annual educational event for third graders that teaches sustainability and recycling.
“Volunteering at these events in person has been incredibly rewarding,” she said.
Sowell believes that small efforts, like neighborhood litter pickups, can add up to a significant impact.
“One person can make a difference,” she said. “A lot of times, we think, ‘I’m just one person, what can I do?’ But just showing up and volunteering, over time, you can see the impact.”
Mayor David K. Leigh of Belton emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in sustainability efforts.
“We have to be more and more innovative because this region is growing at a three to five percent rate,” Leigh said. “That means there are three to five percent more people, but there’s not three to five percent more water every year. We have to continue working together.”
Belton and Copperas Cove were among nine communities that participated in the ceremony, alongside Killeen, Nolanville, Harker Heights, Gatesville, Salado, Lampasas, and Fort Cavazos. The event also recognized local schools through the Youth Environmental Ambassadors (YEA!) Program, which highlights student-led sustainability initiatives.
Belton High School Athletics was honored alongside individual ambassadors, and Copperas Cove schools, including Hettie Halstead Elementary, Martin Walker Elementary, Fairview/Miss Jewell Elementary, and Crossroads High School, were recognized for their environmental projects.
The event concluded with a formal signing of the Sustainable Environment Month proclamation, reinforcing the commitment of Fort Cavazos and its partner cities to environmental preservation.

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

Publisher: David Tuma, David@BeltonJournal.Com; Classifieds & Legals: Elsie Wiley, Legals@BeltonJournal.Com; Marketing Experts: Kimberly Cables, Ads@BeltonJournal.Com & Alexandra Arguita, Sales@BeltonJournal.Com; News Editor: Lynette Sowell, LSowell@CoveLeaderPress.com; Sports Editor: Clay Whittington, Sports@BeltonJournal.Com; Sports Reporters: Tony Adams, Aries Ramos Graphic Artists: Jason Bachie, Jordan Hernandez, Kat Burkhouse; Creative Consultant, Susan Kolodziejczyk; News Reporters: Mike Myers, David Stone, Daniel Moctezuma, Michelle Rodriguez, Annie Dockery

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OBITUARIES



Sutton
Vada Francis Sutton
June 23, 1934 –
February 28, 2025

Vada Francis Sutton, a dedicated public servant, a beloved sister and aunt, and a cherished member of the Bell County community, passed away peacefully on February 28, 2025, at the age of 90. Born on June 23, 1934 in Cedar Knob, Texas to Nallie and Cora Mae Sutton, she lived a life marked by unwavering commitment and deep connection to those around her.

For an extraordinary 52 years Vada served the residents of Bell County in many different positions of county government. She started her career in the Bell County District Attorney’s office, she was a court reporter, the administrative assistant to many County Judges until being elected by a record setting 98% of the vote to the office of Bell County Clerk. Generations of Bell County residents knew her as the constant reliable presence, source of knowledge, and beacon of helpfulness. She had a way of making you feel that you had her undivided attention to help with your problems no matter who you were. She was honest, fair, and just and believed the law was the same for everyone.

Vada was a graduate of Salado High School and an alumnus of Mary Hardin-Baylor College. While attending Salado High School she was a member of the state winning basketball team. Outside of her office, Vada had many accomplishments. She helped found the Bell County Historical Society where she served many years on the board of directors. She was a

50+ year member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She served on local state and national committees for both organizations. She served on the Bell County Bail Bond Board. She was a lifelong Democrat and the last elected Democrat official in Bell County. When interviewed and asked when she was going to switch parties like all the other Bell County officials, she replied when hell freezes over. Vada was a lifelong member of the Belton Church of Christ. Her accomplishments are too many to list. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her sister, Zelda Sutton Allen, and her niece and constant companion, Amanda Allen, both from Belton, Texas; two nephews, Beauford Lackey Jr., and Lee Lackey Sr., both from Pendleton, Texas; many great nieces and nephews; great-great nieces and nephews; and many, many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nallie and Cora Mae Sutton of Belton, Texas, and sister, Edna Arlee Sutton Lackey of Pendleton, Texas.

Vada was truly one of kind and cannot be replaced. Like the bumper sticker said, “I don’t know ask Vada.”

Visitation will be Friday, March 14, 2025, from 6 to 8 pm at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Belton, Texas. Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 15, 2025, at 10 am at Belton Church of Christ, followed by graveside services at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Nolanville, Texas..

Rowland
Diane Lynn Rowland
October 8, 1954 –
March 3, 2025

Diane Lynn Rowland, 70, of Belton, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, March 3, 2025, surrounded by her family. Born on October 8, 1954, in Erie, Pennsylvania, Diane led a life full of adventure, love, and dedication to her family and career.

Diane’s professional journey began in the grocery industry, where she ex-

celled as a sales representative, touring across Texas for a grocery company based in San Antonio. Her career took a significant turn when she moved to Kerrville, Texas, in 1994. It was there that she met Michael Rowland, the love of her life, who was a manager at Circle K. Their shared passion for their work led them to collaborate for over a decade before marrying in 2004 and relocating to Temple, Texas. Together, they made a significant impact in the convenience industry, where Diane not only served as a training officer but also took great pride in designing and enforcing training programs. Together, they owned and operated their own convenience store known as Liberty Mart, which was a testament to their hard work and combined efforts.

Diane’s heart was truly devoted to her family. Known affectionately as “Nana,” her greatest joy came from tending to her grandchildren and instilling family values in them. She loved creating treasure hunts for the children, making cherished memories that will last a lifetime. Her personality shone through as an extremely loving and bubbly individual, with a heart that was as big as her commitment to those within her circle. Diane was adventurous, always ready to embrace new experiences with her family and ensuring that her loved ones felt happiness and warmth.

Growing up in a working-class home, Diane cultivated her writing skills

See **OBITS**,
Page A4

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Raymond Hamden launches Republican Campaign for Congress

Special to the Journal

Last week, Central Texas businessman, entrepreneur, and community leader Raymond Hamden announced his campaign for the United States Congress in front of a large crowd of friends, family members, elected officials, and supporters at a launch event held on Monday at Johnny’s Outback in Salado.

Hamden told the more than 185 people gathered that he had officially filed the necessary documents with the

Federal Elections Commission making him a Republican candidate to represent the 31st District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Hamden, a real estate broker, home builder, and small business owner said he felt God had called him to make the race and he had spent the last several months testing the waters and gauging support in the district which includes Bell, Bosque, Burnet, Coryell, Hamilton, and Williamson counties. He said



Raymond Hamden

he was overwhelmed by the support and encouragement he has received from across the sprawling district from voters

who felt it was time for a change in the office.

“While the incumbent Congressman has served our district and his constituents faithfully for over two decades, so many say that it is time for a ‘fresh set of legs’ during this historic moment in American history,” said Hamden.

“President Donald Trump is running at a break-neck speed as he fights to restore our nation and put America and the American people first,” Hamden said. “President Trump

needs strong, conservative leaders who not only share his vision, but who are willing to stand alongside him and fight to enact the changes so needed to put our country back on track. I am ready and excited to do just that and to be a strong conservative voice in our nation’s capital on behalf of the hardworking families who call District 31 and Central Texas home,” he added.

“To me the word Representative is more than just a fancy title,” Hamden said. “I believe

it comes with the sacred responsibility to truly represent the people of Central Texas and to be their voice in Congress. The only way I know how to do that is by listening to their concerns, ideas, and vision for our district, state, and nation, and carry them to Washington, D.C. and help enact the changes needed to make them a reality. This campaign is not about me, it’s about all of us. It’s about listening and the listening starts now,” he concluded.

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Parking

From W. 34th Street

From W. 34th Street

Obits - From Page A3

and imagination early on. She had a remarkable talent for storytelling, captivating those around her with her creativity. Her hobbies reflected her spirit, as she enjoyed swimming, spending quality time with family, and indulging in her fondness for moose memorabilia, M&M candy items, and her favorite foods, particularly steak and potatoes. Despite her city origins, Diane embraced a more rural lifestyle, adapting lovingly to her environment.

Diane is survived by her husband of 20 years, Michael Lee Rowland; two daughters, Shannon Nalbene and Shasta Rowland; three sons, Shawn Rowland, Shane Rowland and his wife Paula, and Colt Stigent and his wife Marie; two sisters, Sandy Hull and Linda Desantis with her husband Jimmy; along with several nieces and nephews as well as seventeen grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren who adored her deeply.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Donald Wesley Moore and Mary Estelle (Glenn) Moore; and one sister, Judy Moore. Diane’s legacy is one of love, creativity, and a steadfast commitment to family. A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center in Temple, Texas, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

In memory, Diane leaves us with a heartfelt message: “Be the best you can and be yourself.” Her spirit will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center.

Kinsey

David V. Kinsey

December 14, 1952 –

March 9, 2025

David V. Kinsey of Morgan’s Point Resort passed away at Creekside Terrace Nursing Home, Belton, Texas on March 9th, 2025. He was 72 years of age.

Funeral Service will be at 2pm on Saturday, March 15th, 2025, at Dossman Funeral, Belton Texas.

The burial will be at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, March 18th, 2025, at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery with Military Honors.

David was born on December 14th, 1952, in Houston, Texas to Vernon Elisha and Lela Faye Underwood Kinsey.

After graduating high school David went to trade school to become a welder. In May of 1972 he joined the Navy and served two years on the Navy mine sweeper, USS Dash. On July 20th, 1977, David Married Clair Gail Kinsey at the Bell County Courthouse.

David knew life was a serious thing, yet he worked to find humor in the most serious things.

David is survived by his wife Gail Oglesby of Morgan’s Point Resort, brothers; Jimmy Kinsey of Marble Falls, TX, Wayne Kinsey of Smithville, TX, Garry Kinsey of Smithville, TX, Brian Kinsey of Smithville, TX, Ronnie Kinsey of Tow, TX, Kenneth Kinsey of Angleton, TX, sisters; Rebecca Kinsey of Smithville, TX, Sandy Matlock of Thicket, TX, Tina Samples-Kinsey of Granbury, TX, Pamela Wong-Kinsey of Conroe, TX, Debbie May of Greenville, TN, and April Robbins Finney of Alvin, TX.

David is preceded in death by his parents and brother Michael Kinsey.

Hernandez

Katherine Betania Leiva Hernández

May 3, 2001 –

February 18, 2025

Katherine Betania Leiva Hernández, known to us affectionately as Kathy. Born on May 3, 2001, in the humble town of Terrabona, Nicaragua, Kathy was a beacon of joy and laughter, who on the eighteenth of February 2025, was called home to glory from Salado, Texas.

A visitation and light refreshments was held at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, March 8, 2025 followed by her funeral services at 2:00 PM at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Temple. Kathy’s burial followed at Salado Cemetery in Salado.

Kathy, a cherished daughter, a beloved wife, and a dear sister, walked

through life with a heart full of love and hands ready to serve. She was the pride of her mother, Amparo Carmela Hernández, and the joy of her sister, Sandra Leiva. In Joseph Herd, she found her partner in life, her steadfast husband, who stands as a testament to the love she shared and the life they built together. In her brief sojourn here on Earth, Kathy completed her education with diligence, embodying the intelligence and wit that were her hallmark. She carried these gifts into her work as a cashier, at the Belton Food Mart, where she touched the lives of many, serving with a smile that could light up the darkest day. Her colleagues remember her not just for her friendly demeanor, but for her funny quips that often turned a mundane day into a memorable one.

Kathy’s spirit shone brightest when she was playing with children. Her laughter and joy were infectious, and she had a special way of making each child feel loved and important. It was in these moments that her true essence was most evident – Kathy was a nurturer, a light of hope and happiness in the lives of those young souls. The words that best describe Kathy are friendly, intelligent, and funny. She lived her life embodying these traits, spreading kindness and wisdom wherever she went. Her presence was a gift, and though her time with us was cut short, the impact of her spirit was immense.

As we reflect on the life of Kathy, let us recall the words of the Apostle Paul, who said, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21). Kathy lived her life for others, and now she has gained the eternal peace that surpasses all understanding. Let us not dwell on the tragedy of her departure, but rather celebrate the love and light she brought into this world. For in the smiles of the children she played with, in the hearts of her family, and in the memories of her friends and colleagues, Kathy’s legacy will forever live on. We take solace in knowing that Kathy is now in the arms of our Savior, where there is no pain, no sorrow, but everlasting joy. Though we will miss her dearly, we are comforted by the promise of a reunion in that heavenly abode where parting is no more.

As we bid farewell to Katherine Betania Leiva Hernández, our beloved Kathy, let us do so with grateful hearts, for having been blessed with the privilege of knowing her. May her soul rest in eternal peace, and may her memory continue to inspire us all to live with kindness, intelligence, and humor, just as she did. Amen.

Arrangements are entrusted to Crotty Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Belton. Darren Blair

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EDITORIAL

Random-ness

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Have you ever wondered how a restaurant serves “homemade” food? Do they cook at home and bring it to the restaurant, or are they trying to trick us? What about home style? What if their grandma wasn’t that good of a cook? Maybe just regular everyday fried chicken is the way to go.

I have seen cop shows and they have a K9 dog with a vest that says “Police”. Obviously the dog is not undercover, but why label them so vividly? I mean if you see a dog dragging a cop in uniform, he is either a police dog or an off-duty cop walking his pet. If you have just robbed a bank and are running from the cops and a dog is chasing you, you can probably be certain that is a police K9. Well unless you ran through a yard and picked up a mad dog by stepping in his water dish. At any rate unless you are a world-class sprinter you are

probably going to get bit, and unless it is a tooth-less Corkie it will hurt.

And if you watch those shows, often the dog flushes out the bad guy and just gets held back. Why not let the dog gnaw on a leg for a few seconds, I mean it only seems fair.

English is funny, why is it; meet and meat, but; greet and great?

Have you ever hit your knee or your funny bone so hard that you couldn’t even get a swear word out of your mouth?

Which reminds me. Why do we still have toes? I mean when is the last time you picked up something with your toes? I am rarely bare-foot so the toe balance thing doesn’t help me much. Actually I seem to hit my toe on something when I walk around too much with bare feet. I would think we would have evolved into solid feet by now.

And I think my socks would last much longer if

I didn’t have individual toes. Why in the world are we planning a colony on Mars but we can’t make socks with elastic that lasts more than a few months? I mean nothing puts me in a foul mood more than socks that keep slipping down into my boots. I would pay good money for boot socks that would last and stay up! Maybe if there was a way to rejuvenate the upper portion of the socks.

Have you noticed that aliens from outer space are always green? Well back in the days of old science fiction TV shows in black and white, they were mostly silver. Now it seems like they are portrayed as green. And they only have four fingers, including thumbs. So three fingers and a thumb. Which is common with most high school wood shop teachers. I would figure our current configuration of five digits is optimum.

Has anyone ever

started one of those single serve coffee makers without sticking your cup under it? Yeah, me neither.

I was recently in a restaurant and had to visit the restroom. I went in and noticed the dividers between the fixtures had cup holders. Does that seem strange to anyone else? I would probably take my drink into a failed nuclear reactor before I would take it into a public restroom, even with a cover on it.

How come people say; Give me a second, yet they mean 10 minutes? Or; I’ll be there in a minute, and it is a half an hour.

Have a good week. I will be back in seven days! See how honest I am?



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Modern Musings

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

When it comes to the history of the United States comic book industry, various observers talk in terms of “ages” or eras based on a combination of factors to include the type of product being published, who was publishing it, and what external factors were influencing what was or wasn’t being published; I actually did write up an “Entertainment 101” piece outlining this, and the various disputes regarding it, but the piece is nearly double my word count and so I have to decide what to do with it.

Yes, disputes.

Talk to five different observers and you’ll get at least six different takes on when each “age” started and ended. One thing everyone agrees on is that the “Golden Age” encompasses “Action Comics” #1 (the debut of Superman) and came to a screeching halt with the publication of the work “Seduction of the Innocent”, which generated a national moral panic against comic books and forced the industry to adopt the Comics Code Authority as an internal content regulator. It’s also agreed that the “Golden Age” was succeeded by the “Silver Age” and “Bronze Age”, even if nobody can agree on when the former ended and latter began. And of course, it’s generally agreed that the more pretentious observers who were attempting these divisions in the early 2000s declared the present-day as they were sorting matters to be the “Modern Age”.

The idea of “ages” in regards to the industry has become so standardized that the three size categories of protective sleeves & backer boards collectors use to guard their comics are referred to as “Modern Age”, “Silver Age”, and “Magazine” sizes.

Think about that a minute. The idea of the “Modern Age”. From the perspective of any given person at any

given moment, we’re presently living in the “Modern Age”, and not just with comic books. Yesterday was the Modern Age. Today is the Modern Age. Tomorrow is the Modern Age. Next Tuesday will be the Modern Age. Et cetera.

...At least, to a person who is only fixated on the here and now.

As the song lyric goes, “the only thing that stays the same is everything changes”.

You see folks, it’s utter hubris to label an era “The Modern Age” because time marches on and change is going to happen if we like it or not. This world is not frozen in place, and humans are not automatons running on fixed programming. Generations, eras, and so forth all keep coming and going. In fact, I’m one of several people who argue that a certain hideously insensitive social media post made on 11 September 2017 and the consequences thereof brought the “Modern Age” of comics to a screeching halt; in typical fashion, people are already arguing over what to call this new “age” of the industry.

Tomorrow is going to come whether we like it or not. We shouldn’t obsess over it, but we should accept its presence and prepare accordingly. And while bills should be paid and deadlines met, there’s more to it than just this. Ask yourself what you expect to happen in your life, what you want to happen, and what you have reason to be concerned about happening, then take steps accordingly.

Yes, the time is “now”. And it’s a good time to learn that second language, pad your savings account, tend to your health, take that continuing education class, get your emergency preparedness kit together, and so forth. Be careful what you put off to tomorrow, as you might not always know what tomorrow will bring.



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PROMISE DELIVERED: BELTON ISD REMOVES PORTABLE BUILDINGS FROM FIVE CAMPUSES AS RESULT OF 2022 BOND

Many fast-growing school districts like Belton ISD rely on portable buildings as a cost-effective, short-term solution for student instruction due to the high cost and time required to build permanent buildings. However, as Belton ISD prioritized projects for the 2022 Bond, a commitment was made to reduce its dependence on portable buildings.

As the bond program comes to a close, that promise has become a reality. In late 2024 and after construction projects included in the bond came online, BISD began auctioning portable buildings. To date, 12 portables have been removed from five campuses, and the district plans to auction off even more in 2025.


“Prioritizing permanent classrooms enhances the student experience by eliminating the inherent drawbacks of portables,” said Belton ISD Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mike Morgan.

“Our goal is to complete two more phases of portable auctions in 2025, removing an additional eight portable buildings. After these sales are complete, 83% of all portable buildings will have been removed, and only four portable buildings will remain at three campuses. This significant reduction would not have been possible without the community’s support of the bond.”

Construction projects included in the bond included two new elementary schools (Burrell Elementary and Hubbard Branch Elementary), a classroom and gym addition at Southwest Elementary, and significant renovation projects at Lake Belton Middle School and Belton High School. As a result of the new classrooms and spaces, portable buildings were removed from each of these campuses, as well as Tarver Elementary, the old Miller Heights Elementary, and Chisholm Trail Elementary. While four portables remain in use at Chisholm Trail, the district is

working to take them offline in the near future.

The unused portables were sold at an auction last fall, with the buyers being responsible for the expense of removing and transporting the structures. Due to the nature of portable classrooms, which depreciate rapidly, the auction generated minimal funds.






Photo of Southwest Elementary campus, following the removal of portable buildings

IN PROGRESS: BELTON ISD’S NEW DELTA FACILITY

Construction of Belton ISD’s new Delta Facility continues at 731 E. 4th Avenue in Belton. Delta is Belton ISD’s transition program for students who are over the age of 18 and who have completed all state and local credits for graduation, but need additional time and transition services to complete their Individual Education Plan goals.



Interior photo of Delta facility classrooms, March 2025

Interior photo of retail space at Delta facility, March 2025

Aerial photo of Delta facility construction progress, March 2025

2022 BOND UPDATE: Q&A WITH DR. MIKE MORGAN, BELTON ISD DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

In May 2022, Belton ISD voters approved a \$173.8 million bond program to address growth, aging facilities, and safety and security. Since then, Belton ISD has opened two new schools and is in the process of closing out final projects included in the bond. In this Q&A, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mike Morgan shares an update about wrapping up the final projects.

What is the overall status of the 2022 Bond Program?

We have achieved substantial completion on nearly all construction projects, with the Delta facility being the remaining major project that is not complete. We have successfully made two purchases of 30 new regular and special education buses to support student transportation. Additionally, we have utilized the funds allocated in Proposition 2 for student devices, ensuring our students have access to essential technology.

How is Belton ISD better positioned for the future, thanks to the community’s support of the 2022 Bond?

Belton ISD is fortunate to have a Board of Trustees and a community that supports the creation of exceptional learning experiences for our students and invests in the necessary resources. The 2022 Bond program has addressed critical needs related to growth, aging facilities, safety, and facility equity across campuses and programs. We have also utilized data to develop a new long-range facility master plan, ensuring we maintain functional facilities for decades to come. Furthermore, we recognize the need to address major maintenance items like HVAC and roof systems in the near future as current equipment approaches the end of its useful life.

As you reflect on the success of the 2022 Bond program, what would you consider the biggest highlights and celebrations?

A significant highlight is the over \$6 million investment in safety priorities across Belton ISD. I am particularly proud of the added elementary capacity at Burrell, Hubbard Branch, and Southwest Elementary, which has provided nearly 1,500 new seats and allowed us to take 12 portables offline, moving towards our goal of 83% portable reduction by 2025-2026. The improvements in the fine arts and career and technology



Belton ISD Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mike Morgan, center, with board members and bond program representatives.

additions at Belton High School have considerably improved the preparation of our students for exploration and preparation of 21st-century careers and the exceptional opportunities to pursue interests in the arts. Similarly, the new band hall and related facilities at Lake Belton Middle School have significantly supported the sizable participation numbers in athletics, band, and orchestra at that campus. Finally, the new agriculture facility has enabled us to house swine, poultry, and rabbits this year, providing valuable practical learning opportunities.

To date, two new schools have opened, and nearly all major construction projects are complete. What projects remain, and when do you anticipate completing the program?

We are behind schedule on our Delta facility. Our design team and contractor are working on recovering time and completing this project as soon as possible to support our students receiving special education services and learning skills to transition into adulthood. Seated bond funds were allocated for purchasing land and replacing aging mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and roofing systems. We are evaluating future needs and considering strategic land purchases that align with our master plan and bond budget. Additionally, we are progressing with designing and constructing HVAC system upgrades and replacements at various campuses over the next six months.

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BELTON ISD HOSTS ANNUAL ELEMENTARY UIL COMPETITION

Belton ISD recently held its annual Elementary UIL competition, where 1,144 students from all eleven elementary campuses showcased their academic skills in 13 categories, including Music Memory, STEM, and Chess Puzzles. Governed by A+ Academics, the event enhances classroom learning while fostering critical thinking and problem-solving.

The district has hosted its own UIL competition since 2005, after previously competing with neighboring districts. This year’s final event took place on March 1, 2025, at Belton High School.

A special thanks goes out to the elementary principals, assistant principals, and 127 dedicated teachers who volunteered their time to coach and judge, ensuring the success of this event.



BELTON ISD STUDENTS GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN SCIENCE AND HEALTHCARE

Students at Belton ISD have had a busy semester of hands-on learning, showcasing their research and gaining valuable career insights in science and healthcare.

AP Biology students at Lake Belton High School presented their independent research at the inaugural Student Research Symposium. The student-led event explored fundamental biological processes, such as photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Through experiments, students analyzed energy transformations, developed hypotheses, and applied scientific research skills. Their findings were displayed on research posters, demonstrating their critical thinking, experimental design, and scientific communication abilities.

Meanwhile, over at Belton High School, Dr. Malinda Golden visited Stephanie Yaryan’s phlebotomy class, where students were assessed on patient care. The aspiring healthcare professionals practiced essential skills, including patient introductions, applying tourniquets, locating veins, and drawing blood from simulated patient arms.

Students from Belton High and Lake Belton High participated in Health Career Navigation Day at Baylor Scott & White in Temple. The event provided students with an inside look at the hospital, offering guidance on professionalism, the application process, and the

importance of their motivations for pursuing careers in healthcare.

From research to real-world medical training, Belton ISD students continue to gain valuable experience to prepare for future careers in science and medicine.



BELTON ISD CELEBRATES READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK WITH CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY

Belton ISD campuses celebrated Read Across America Week from March 2-6, 2025, with fun and creative activities. Members of the Belton ISD Board of Trustees visited Southwest Elementary to read with students, while Lakewood Elementary rocked out in the library with a themed music video—costumes and props included. From guest readers to interactive literacy events, students across the district embraced the joy of reading in exciting ways.



BELTON ISD’S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS PROMOTES INCLUSION THROUGH SPORTS

Belton ISD’s Night of Champions—formerly Camp Champion—offers a unique athletic experience for students receiving special education services. Coaches and athletes from Belton and Lake Belton High Schools led activities in football and cheer, basketball, and soccer this school year, with plans to introduce baseball or softball in the spring.

As Unified Champion Schools, both high schools host events like Partners PE, PreProm, and Night of Champions, highlighting the district’s commitment to inclusion and student empowerment.



Q&A WITH DR. MALINDA GOLDEN



Since stepping into her role as superintendent in February 2024, Dr. Malinda Golden has been dedicated to advancing the vision of Belton ISD. Now, with over a year of leadership, she continues to strengthen community ties and implement initiatives that support students, families, and staff across the district. Dr. Golden’s passion for creating empowering and inclusive educational opportunities remains a driving force in her leadership. As 2025 unfolds, she reflects on the district’s progress, shares her goals for the future, and offers new insights into her role and vision for Belton ISD. Here is a chance to learn more...

Q: What has been the most rewarding part of your first year as superintendent?

A: There have been so many rewarding moments, but what stands out the most is getting to know our students on a deeper level. I visit classrooms every week, and it’s inspiring to see students engaged in incredible learning experiences, thanks to our dedicated teachers. I also attend student events almost nightly—there are so many opportunities to see our students perform, compete, and showcase their talents.

Another rewarding part has been the Superintendent



Student Advisory Council. Engaging with high school students from across the district, hearing their perspectives, and giving them a voice in shaping their educational experience has been incredibly meaningful. We design so much of what we do around students, so it’s important to listen to their ideas and solutions.

Q: How is Belton ISD working to expand Career and Technical Education (CTE)?

A: Our vision is to empower every learner to pursue their dreams, and a big part of that is ensuring they are prepared for their future. We’re being very intentional about developing a pre-K through 12th-grade approach to career readiness, rather than focusing only on high school.

At the elementary level, we’re exposing students to different career fields through programs like coding and robotics. In middle school, we’re expanding CTE course offerings and growing robotics programs. At the high school level, we’re ensuring students have access to industry-based certifications, dual credit opportunities, and advanced coursework like AP and OnRamps.

Our goal is for students to graduate not only eligible but also prepared and confident to take their next step—whether that’s entering the workforce, continuing their education, or earning an industry-recognized credential. We want every student to see a pathway forward and feel ready to pursue their dreams.



NEWS AND UPDATES

BELTON ISD 2025 GRADUATION SCHEDULE

Belton ISD’s 2025 graduation ceremonies will be held on Thursday, May 22, at the Cadence Bank Center, 301 W Loop 121, in Belton. Ceremony times are Lake Belton High School at 9 a.m., Belton High School at 1 p.m., and Belton New Tech @Waskow at 6 p.m.



BELTON ISD 2025-2026 STUDENT CALENDAR

The Belton ISD 2025-2026 student calendar is now available! Families can view important dates, including the first and last day of school, holidays, and early release days. Visit www.bisd.net/calendar to access the full calendar and plan for the upcoming school year.

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LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Crow and Cactus moves downtown

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

Crow and Cactus, an exclusive southwestern gift shop, has moved to 122A Penelope Street to be closer to the heart of the downtown area.

“I am very excited. This is our second year in business. I wouldn’t want my story to be anywhere else but in Belton. Our community is such a great community. Belton is home for me and my family,” said owner Amy Morter.

The store is in the middle of the 8,200 square foot building with Grappler’s Lair in the north part of the building.

Morter added an exclusive furniture line, Rustic Expressions Texas, using reclaimed wood. The line of furniture is

handmade.

The store also carries artwork, pottery, wine glasses, leather works, and multiple unique items to fit any budget.

Shine Branch LLC is the owner of the property and received a matching grant to improve the front of the building.

“It was exciting to purchase the property from Bell County. Exterior lighting and painting were involved. We added all the new windows and created a few new windows. We have had no problem renting the building. People want to be part of downtown Belton. Amy created a rendering of what the building should look like, said Brandon Bozon, Shine Branch Chief Business Officer.



John Holmes purchases an item from Amy Morter the morning of the grand reopening of Crow and Cactus on Penelope Street in Downtown Belton.

Grace Gallery celebrates Professional Artists of Central Texas

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Art enthusiasts gathered to view art at Grace Gallery, located at 108 W. Central Ave. The grand opening of the new exhibit was on Thursday, March 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. The Impactful exhibit featured artists from the Professional Artists of Central Texas Group.

“Texas has awesome skies that are different every day. I’m excited to be here. It’s always good to show art. The longer you do it the more you get over feeling vulnerable. An artist always says they’ve ‘been painting a lifetime.’ I think art teachers are ninety percent cheerleaders especially elementary art,” said artist and art teacher Melanie Stokes. She painted three canvas paintings

that hung next to each other to create one whole piece.

“That was intentional,” said Stokes, who showed an oil on gallery wrapped canvas she called “Glory filled the skies.” She also showed oil on gallery wrapped canvas, a triptych, two panels 40 inch by 20 inch each and a third panel 36 inch by 12 inch called “Skies will clear”.

“I like to soak the art in. The piece Coy Koi is joyful. The name is a pun. It’s nice to have an upscale gallery in downtown Belton,” said spectator Jeanne Logsdon.

Kurt Ritterpusch showed a 24 inch by 48 inch oil unframed piece named “Pleasant Pheasant Patrol.”

His other piece was a piece he painted in downtown of the window at Main Street Bridal.

“I started a bridal portrait the next week. It took three weeks. I’ve also done a number of other portraits,” said Ritterpusch.

“I had paintings in the first show. They were watercolor mainly, but I like to try it all. I’m a jack of all trades. The art here is wonderful! It’s so amazing to see how everybody does something different,” said Sheron Driessner.

Artist Barbara Fontaine-White showed three pieces: a 20 inch by 20 inch framed oil and wax on arches oil paper called “Awashed”, another piece called “Breakwaters”, and a 20 inch by 28 inch oil and wax on arches oil paper called “Recovery”.

“I try to go on vacation where I can get source material. I’ve done a lot of paintings from central Texas. It’s nice to get away

from the desert,” said Fontaine-White. “There was a forest fire there. It’s called Recovery because of that.”

Jo Mapel is the owner of Grace Gallery and chairman. Grace Gallery is named after artist Grace Mapel. Jo Mapel’s mother-in-law, also an artist, but her art has been seen mainly by her family.

“I think we have a wonder exhibit! Some of these artists come from a distance like Waco, Rockwall, and College Station. The turnout is great. I don’t have any favorites; they are all wonderful! They all have different techniques and different subjects,” said Mapel.

Kurt Ritterpusch stands in front of Recovery, an oil and wax on arches oil paper by Barbara Fontaine-White and his oil painting Pleasant Pheasant Patrol.

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Michelle Rodriguez/BELTON JOURNAL
TOP: Kurt Ritterpusch stands in front of Recovery, an oil and wax on arches oil paper by Barbara Fontaine-White and his oil painting Pleasant Pheasant Patrol.
ABOVE: Water Illusion, ceramic set, by Daria DeGa

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People make St. Patrick's Day so popular

It's often suggested that everyone is Irish on March 17, which marks the celebration of St. Patrick, who is the primary patron saint of Ireland. The boisterous parades, jovial atmosphere and welcoming attitudes of pubs and partiers has undoubtedly contributed to the popularity of St. Patrick's Day. That popularity also benefits from Irish emigration. According to University College Cork, approximately 10 million people have emigrated from Ireland since 1800. Irish emigrants have relocated to countries across the globe, which perhaps explains why St. Patrick's Day is now celebrated in more than 200 countries worldwide. Though St. Patrick's Day is a religious holiday for many practicing Catholics, the day also is a largely secular celebration of Irish culture, which has remained popular thanks to the millions of people who have brought their heritage and customs with them even as they sailed away from the Emerald Isle, often in large numbers.



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Broncos Baseball battle best of Drew Medford Tournament

By **Tony Adams**
Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos baseball team traveled to Fort Worth last week to take part in the Drew Medford Memorial Tournament at a trio of high schools in the area.

On Thursday, the Broncos faced Boswell and Arlington as Pioneer Field in Saginaw.

In the opener, a rough start in the field led to four first-inning errors and five earned runs for Boswell. The Broncos could not catch the Pioneers as Boswell won 10-4.

Cooper Mees got the Broncos on the board in the top of the second with an RBI single to score Bryce Davis. Rhode Smith's double scored Mees to cut Lake's deficit to five.

Mees' single to center in the third, which scored Zavian Rodriguez to make the score 7-3.

Boswell scored three runs in the fourth to put the game out of reach.

Kaden Ward doubled home Cameron Bartz to cap the scoring.

Mees, Ward, and Bartz had two hits each, as the Broncos notched ten hits.

Brandon Holley pitched five innings, allowed five earned runs on eight hits, walked four and struck out two. Landon Willey closed the sixth with a 1-2-3 inning.

Lake hopped on the Colts in the top of the first, as Bartz singled home Davis, Braxtan Cope grounded out to score Bartz, and Ward scored on a passed ball to give the Broncos a 3-0 lead.

Davis singled in the second to score Cole

Mikulas to increase Lake's lead to 4-0.

Following an Arlington unearned run in the second, the pitching staffs held the respective offenses off the scoreboard.

Davis and Bartz had four of Lake Belton's seven hits.

Cope dealt four innings for the victory, allowed an earned run on four hits, four strikeouts, and one walk. Ely Vaughan pitched three scoreless innings and struck out four.

On Friday, the Broncos traveled to Aledo to take on Azle and Aledo at Bearcats Ballpark.

Davis registered three of Lake's six hits, and Kellen Scarborough and Willey combined for a four-hitter as the Broncos shut out the Hornets, 3-0.

Davis scored on a passed ball in the bottom of the first to give Lake the lead.

In the third inning, Davis scored on Ward's sacrifice fly and Bartz scored on a balk to increase the Broncos lead to three.

Scarborough pitched 4 2/3 innings and threw 50 pitches, allowed three hits, struck out three and walked one. Willey pitched 2 1/3 innings of scoreless relief and struck out three.

In the nightcap, Aledo took an early lead and held on for a 5-1 win.

Down 2-0 in the top of the second, Jori Holland's ground ball was mishandled by Aledo's first baseman to score Smith to cut the margin to one.

The Bearcats scored on two doubles in the third to extend their lead to four.

Bartz had the lone hit of the game for the

Broncos, as Nick Foster and Luke Gladchuk combined for 11 strikeouts for Aledo.

After the night and early morning of storms that rolled through the metroplex, the Broncos traveled to take on Fort Worth Country Day on Saturday.

The Broncos broke a scoreless tie in the top of the fourth and held on to beat the Falcons, 5-2.

Brent Thomson's single scored Mikulas in the top of the fourth, and Thomson scored on Davis' single to give Lake a 2-0 lead.

Following a balk that scored FWCD's first run, Cope and Sam Matous scored on an error from a Bartz ground ball to make the score 4-1 in the sixth.

The Broncos scored again in the seventh on Holland's ground out that scored Mees.

The Falcons scored on a single in the bottom of the seventh before the Broncos slammed the door for the win.

Thomson, Davis, and Cope collected the three hits for Lake.

Tate Lisenbe pitched three innings, walked two and struck out one. Andrew Ramos pitched two innings, allowed an unearned run, one hit and struck out two. RJ Hunt dealt two innings, allowed a run on two hits, walked one and struck out one.

Lake Belton finished the tournament with an 8-2-2 overall record.

"I'm happy with the way that we played against tough competition," Lake Belton head coach Chris Peacock said. "We do have a lot to work on before district play begins."



Dr. Jack Welch
From the Bleachers

When I hear people claim that athletics are costly to school districts, I want to shout that they do not understand the facts. In many communities, there is ongoing controversy over the cost of athletics, with some believing that all available funds should be directed solely towards academics. What these individuals fail to realize is that investing in student engagement programs, including athletics, is an academic investment.

School districts allocate funds to extracurricular programs because educators understand that engaged students achieve greater academic success. Athletics, the arts, and other extracurricular activities are essential tools for student involvement, which directly contribute to academic achievement. In my opinion, all these programs are academic in nature.

Another crucial factor is that school districts receive funding from the state based on student attendance. The state education finance system compensates districts according to their average daily attendance, meaning that higher attendance results in greater funding. Students involved in school activities, including athletics, tend to have better attendance, higher grade point averages, and lower dropout rates.

Beyond the financial benefits, the primary purpose of athletics and other programs is to help students become productive citizens while receiving a quality education. That's why I believe it is essential to offer as many extracurricular opportunities as possible. The more engagement, the better.

As a former high school athletic director, I encouraged our coaches to include as many players as possible on their teams for academic reasons. While large teams can sometimes pose challenges, I advocate for hiring additional stipend-only coaches to oversee sub-varsity teams. This approach allows more students to participate without disrupting varsity dynamics.

For such a model to succeed, alignment between the school board, administration, and coaching staff is essential. When community members question the number of teams and coaches, the response is simple: expanded participation improves academic success and financially benefits the district.

So why don't all

See **WELCH**,
Page B3



Tigers Baseball battle excellent competition at Jay Higgins Classic

By **Tony Adams**
Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers traveled to the Dallas area last week to compete at the Jay Higgins/Lake Highlands Classic.

The Tigers started the tournament on Thursday as they took on Denison and Richardson at Eagles Ballpark.

In the opener, the Tigers scored in all six innings as Belton run-ruled Denison in six innings, 13-4.

Belton scored in the first on Austin Wood's sacrifice fly plated Gage Flores.

The Tigers added two in the second on Rayshaun Peoples' double that score Mayson Chartier and Cole Heisler's bases-loaded walk that scored Peoples.

Will Shepard's two-run single that scored Mayson Chartier and Oakley Torres in the third, and Torres' single that scored Trey Garcia in the fourth lifted Belton's advantage to 6-0.

After the Yellow Jackets scored on an RBI triple in the 4th, the Tigers answered in the fifth on Jacob Quigley's two-

run single.

Denison scored a pair of runs in the fifth before the Tigers capped their scoring with five runs in the top of the sixth. Torres scored on a wild pitch, Garcia scored on an error, Quigley's single scored Peoples and Pecos Smith, and Haisler's groundout scored Shepard to give the Tigers a 10-run lead.

Flores had three of Belton's nine hits. Quigley drove in four runs, and Haisler and Shepard each drove in two runs.

Haisler pitched five innings for the victory, allowed two earned runs on five hits, struck out four and walked two. Billy Young pitched an inning, allowed a run on one hit, struck out two and walked one.

The Tigers took on Richardson next.

The Eagles erased a 1-0 lead in the fifth with four runs and held on for a 4-3 win.

Belton struck first in the top of the fifth when Torres scored on a passed ball.

After the Eagles' four runs in the fifth, Haisler

scored on a wild pitch in the sixth and drove home Smith on a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

Jose Rangel pitched five innings, allowed four runs on six hits, struck out six and walked three. Garcia pitched an inning of relief and struck out two.

On Friday, the scene shifted to Rams Ballpark, as the Tigers took on Berkner and Garland Naaman Forest.

The pitcher's duel between Wood and Berkner's went into the sixth inning, with Wood having carried a no-hitter into the frame. The Rams scored five times as Berkner defeated the Tigers, 5-1.

Peoples belted two of Belton's six hits in the contest.

Pinch runner Landon Owens scored on a throwing error by the Berkner middle infielder to break up the shutout.


Wood pitched 5 2/3 innings, allowed three earned runs on three hits, struck out six and walked five. Garcia closed out the sixth with a strikeout.





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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Broncos traveled for the Waco Midway Dameron Classic last week at Bear Ridge Golf Course and put together an impressive outing.

On the opening day, junior Miles Parker shot a 76, senior Nick Brooks posted a 77, senior Rawley Soliz shot an 81, junior Jack Brown had an 85 and Jackson Null shot an 86, while senior Hudson Nix (91),

junior Gavin Kerr (92) and junior Brayden Hoff (95) rounded out the showing.

Despite a complete change in weather for the second round at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course, the Broncos still excelled.

In windier conditions, Parker had another strong performance, shooting a 75, while Brown followed with a 79 after shaving seven strokes off his first-round score.

Soliz shot an 81 to complete his score, while Brooks had an 85,

Hoff had a 91, and Brown shot a 94.

Leading the way, Kerr and Nix had identical 78s.

Along the way, Kerr har a par-4 birdie, Parker recovered from a misfit drive to emerge with a par instead of a potential double bogey, and Brooks had an opening-day eagle.

Lake Belton returns to action on March 20, when the Broncos help host the Belton ISD Classic at Stonetree Golf Club.

LAKE BELTON SOFTBALL

The Lady Broncos conclude their nondistrict schedule Thursday, when they travel to Pflugerville Weiss for a 7 p.m. start.

Following the contest, Lake Belton begins work toward returning to the playoffs and possibly making a trek back to the state tournament, where its season ended in the semifinals last year.

District 16-5A competition

opens with a contest at Waco University on Tuesday before playing at Belton on March 20. Then, Lake Belton plays at Killeen Ellison (March 25) and closes the opening round with home games against Waco (March 28) and Killeen Chaparral (April 1).

The Lady Broncos repeat the schedule but switch the venues for the second round, causing them to play four of their final five games on the road.

BISD well represented at State powerlifting meet

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The powerlifting state championships are approaching, and Belton ISD will be well represented at the events.

At Saturday’s Region II, Division I meet, three more local lifters secured their opportunities to compete for state titles as Lake Belton’s Christian Morales and Brett Harmon and Belton’s Daniel Arana each qualified.

Morales and Harmon automatically advanced by winning their respective weight classes at Joshua.

Morales combined a 350-pound squat with a 240 bench press and 415 deadlift to total 1,005 to easily win the 114 division. His closest competition came from Pflugerville Hendrickson’s Larry Woodrum, who had 870 (330-205-335).

Harmon, however, did not have as significant a margin of victory.

Hoisting 1,590 (625-410-555), Harmon narrowly edged out Bryan’s Chester Gooden (565-400-585–1,550) by a mere 40 points.

Lifters could place among the top two of their weight class or eclipse a predetermined total to earn a berth at the Texas High School Powerlifting Association State Meet on March 22 at Abilene.

Belton 123-pounder Daniel Arana’s 405-300-425–1,130 was enough to send him back to the event as he finished third behind Seguin’s James Medrano (1st, 595-355-515–1,465) and Liberty Hill’s Jayce Gonzalez (2nd, 425-275-470–1,170).

Last year, Arana was 15th at state in the 114 weight class.

As a result of the outing, the Tigers placed 20th in the final regional team stand-

ings with three points, while Lake Belton was third overall, scoring 20 points.

Cooper Arnold also contributed to the total, placing fifth in the 132 weight class with 1,050 (385-290-375). Only three advanced from the division.

Additionally, Leonel Castillo was 11th (132, 350-220-340–910) for Lake Belton, and Corbin Wittman was 12th (123, 375-215-205–795) for Belton.

Joshua won the team title with 29 points, while Pflugerville Hendrickson (16), the Broncos and Ennis (13) rounded out the top four.

While the Belton ISD trio will be the district’s only representatives at the meet, they are not Belton’s or Lake Belton’s lone state qualifiers.

The Texas High School Women’s Powerlifting Association Class 5A State

Meet is set for Saturday at Edinburg’s Bert Ogden Arena, and seven Belton ISD products will be in attendance.

By placing among the top two at regionals, Belton’s Lauren Seidel (1st, 105, 175-90-235–500), Kennedy Weston (1st, 181, 325-170-320–815), Melissa Farmer (1st, 242, 350-185-330–865) and Byonka Donaldson (2nd, 242+, 355-185-300–840) earned berths along with Lake Belton’s Jayla Lisenbe (2nd, 198, 385-225-340–950).

Furthermore, Searlytt Cotham (3rd, 114, 245-150-280–675) and Aleyna Castro (5th, 181, 315-195-340–850) had state-qualifying totals for the Lady Broncos.

Lifting for Belton will begin Saturday at 8 a.m. for Belton’s state participants, while Lake Belton’s trio starts competing at 1:30 p.m.

Lady Tigers continue momentum following layoff, have strong showing in turf wars challenge

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Lady Tigers end a lengthy layoff Friday, but they should still have plenty of momentum.

On March 5, Belton hosted Gatesville with the hopes of building on its 2-0 victory against Leander just days earlier to cap off a 3-3 showing at the Central Texas Turf Wars Challenge.

Thanks in part to Andalyn Logan, the Lady Tigers accomplished the feat.

Playing at home, the sophomore shortstop connected on a pitch and sent it over the fence in the bottom of the fifth inning, giving Belton a 2-1 advantage it would

not relinquish for the remainder of the contest.

Logan’s solo home run helped her finish the contest with a two-for-three showing at the plate highlighted by her go-ahead RBI.

Additionally, Iris Molina, a junior infielder, was three for four with an RBI, scoring teammate Jacklyn Munoz on a hit to left field to tie the score 1-1 in the bottom of the second inning.

Munoz reached base on an infield single before Presli Thompson’s shot to right field moved her to second. In the ensuing at bat, Hanna Wheeler, a sophomore, loaded the bases.

Then, following a fly out, Molina sent Munoz across home plate.

Along with her run, Munoz was two for three in her offensive appearances as the Lady Tigers amassed 10 hits and a .370 team batting average.

On the mound, freshman Tara Stone accounted for 11 strikeouts during seven innings.

With the victory, Belton improves to 9-9 with only one game separating it from the District 16-5A opener.

The Lady Tigers return to action Friday at Class 4A No. 7 Robinson with the opening pitch scheduled for 2 p.m.

After encountering the Lady

See SOFTBALL,
Page B3

Belton girls soccer caps off undefeated district run with 7-0 win

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers girls’ soccer team capped off an undefeated district season by dominating the Waco Lions 7-0 to secure their second consecutive district championship.

With the victory, the Tigers finished with a perfect 9-0-1 record, earning first place in

the district standings and further solidifying their status as one of the top teams in the area.

Belton controlled the game from the opening whistle, showcasing their well-balanced attack and solid defense. The team’s ability to maintain dominance throughout the season has set them up for suc-

See SOCCER,
Page B3

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Tigers earn team title at Waco track meet

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Belton is in the midst of a two-week break from competition, and it is well earned.

The Tigers and Lady Tigers combined to deliver one of the program’s best performances of the young season last week, capturing a team title and a second-place finish at the Waco Connally “Max Hibbitts” Cadet Relays.

In the boys division, Belton was not challenged, amassing 159.5 points to earn the championship, beating out its closest competition by 40.5 points as the Tigers collected 14 medals.

Christian Porter emerged with a pair of gold medals, winning the 200-yard dash in 22.38 seconds and teaming up with Miguel Manners, Azian Wilkinson and Kegan Sherwood to post a first-place time of 42.09 in the 400 relay.

Additionally, distance

runner David Shelburne won the 1,600 in 4:53.49, while Logan Lamberte cleared 13 feet, 0 inches to top the pole vault field.

David McCallum replaced Porter on the Tigers’ 800 relay squad, and the quartet was second (1:31.17), matching the finishes from teammates John Zachary Moehlenbrock (1,600, 4:56.33), Jose Perez Diaz (3,200, 10:51.09), Jay’Dn Loggins (high jump, 5-10) and Shelburne (800, 2:09.20).

Also landing on the medal stand for Belton were third-place finishers Jabari James (110 hurdles, 17.98; 300 hurdles, 44.34), Damien Tiumalu (discus, 135-7), Amani House (triple jump, 40-4) and Moehlenbrock (800, 2:10.02).

The host Cadets were second in the final standings with 119 points, while Waco La Vega (3rd, 102) and China Spring (4th, 98) followed.

West (1st, 164) topped

the girls division, but not by much as the runner-up Lady Tigers scored 138 points thanks in part to Laila Page, who won three events as part of an impressive outing.

Page was first in the 400 (1:00.17), pole vault (9-6) and triple jump (37-8) to go along with a second-place time of 26.45 in the 200 and helping Belton finish third (4:14.11) in the 1,600 relay. She was joined by Gabby Lewis, Jada Gage and Delilah Hoffman for the race.

The bulk of the remaining points for the Lady Tigers were garnered by Tara Stone (1st, discus, 106-6), Saniya Huston (1st, 300 hurdles, 50.54), Olivia Brillhart (1,600, 5:21.67; 3,200, 11:36.63), Isabella Warner (2nd, 800, 2:29.93), Hoffman (2nd, 300 hurdles, 51.15) and Jane Gauntt (3rd, pole vault, 9-0).

With 98 points, China Spring was a distant third, while Jarrell was fourth (94).

Now, Belton rests with

its next action set for March 20 at the Lake Belton Bronco Relays.

The Broncos and Lady Broncos are also idle until the event after placing seventh (35) and ninth (26), respectively at the Pflugerville Panther Relays.

Receiving medals for the Broncos were sophomore Allen Muchunu (1st, high jump, 6-4), junior Carson Yandell (2nd, pole vault, 11-6) and senior Travellis Harrison (2nd, shot put, 47-4½), while sophomore Audrey Mughelli (2nd, triple jump, 34-8) was the Lady Broncos’ top finisher.

Just missing out on medals for Lake Belton was Alexa King (4th, 800, 2:30.27).

Pflugerville Weiss scored 90 points en route to the team title, beating out Pflugerville Hendrickson (2nd, 62) and Comal Davenport (3rd, 56), while Leander Rouse topped the boys field with 83 points. Weiss was second (72), and Hutto was third (64).

Softball - From Page B2

Rockets, Belton hosts Waco on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the first of 10 league contests.

It follows with games against Lake Belton (March 21), at Waco

University (March 25), against Killeen Chaparral (March 28) and versus visiting Killeen Ellison (April 1).

Then, the Lady Tigers repeat the list of op-

ponents but alternate the venues for the second round.

Belton opened the season by winning its first four contests, but the Lady Tigers have not pro-

duced consecutive victories since.

The Lady Rockets enter Friday’s game with a 13-2 overall record and are looking for their seventh consecutive win.

Soccer - From Page B2

cess as they shift focus to the upcoming playoffs.

A standout all season long, UNT commit Ava Itz has been a key player for the Tigers. Itz has been a constant offensive threat, including a memorable three-goal performance just a week ago.

As the Tigers prepare for the postseason, Itz will be a driving force, leading her team with her experience and skill as they aim for multiple playoff victories.

This year’s undefeated district season marks

the second straight year the Tigers have gone unbeaten in district play, a testament to the team’s hard work.

The victory over Waco showed how well the Tigers have come together, with each player contributing to the team’s overall success. Their defense has been a brick wall all season, while their offense has been relentless.

Looking ahead, the Tigers are preparing for another playoff run, and this year, they are eager

to go even further than last season.

In 2024, Belton made it to the second round of the playoffs, defeating Montgomery 7-0 in the first round before falling to Hendrickson 2-0. That postseason experience has only strengthened the team, and the Tigers are confident they can make a deeper run this year.

With the playoffs on the horizon, the Tigers are determined to maintain the momentum that led them to the district title. Their ultimate goal is

to continue winning and fight for a state championship.

The road to the playoffs begins, and the Tigers are ready to make their mark.



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Welch - From Page B1

districts follow this model? The answer is leadership perspective. Some school board members and superintendents prioritize cutting participants and staff to save money. However, when participation rates and attendance decline, they often realize their mistake.

Through collaboration with our district budget administrator, we found that athletics accounted for only 3.2% of the total district budget. This covered all sports for two junior high schools and one high school, with a total of 1,884 participants. The per-student cost of athletics was only \$335.20, and the student-to-athletic-staff ratio was 23.5 to 1.

The next time someone argues that your local district overspends on athletics, explain to them how student participation boosts both academic success and financial support for the district.

Thought for the week, “Education cost money, but then so does ignorance.” Claus Moser

Dr. Jack Welch is an educator and professional football coach. His doctorate is in educational administration, and he

has been an educator, administrator, and football coach, mentoring young minds, for over 40 years.

He is also the author of Foundations of Coaching. He can be reached at jackwelch1975@gmail.com.

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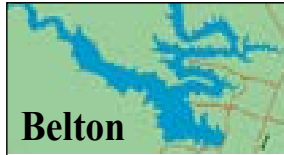
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FISHING REPORT




Belton



Stillhouse

FAIR. Water stained; 50 degrees; 2.35 feet below pool. Before the most recent blast of cold came in on February 19, water temperatures had cooled back to the levels they were at before the record-setting, 8-day warming trend that ended on February 8. After a few smaller male white bass began to appear headed toward spawning areas around Mother Neff State Park, the migration run generally halted and will likely remain low key until our next significant warmup. For those heading upriver, light leadhead jigs with white or off-white curl-tail grubs selected to fish just inches above the bottom will produce well, as will grey and/or olive streamers fished on fly gear. Anglers remaining on the upper ends of the main lake on the Leon River or Cowhouse Creek arms, flatline trolling will be improving. Troll multiple baits that dive to different depths, then change over once fish show a preference. Fish in deeper, clearer water will remain interested in the 5/8 ounce and 3/4 ounce white Bladed Hazy Eye Slab worked with a very slow, steady upward motion where fish are seen concentrated on bottom via sonar. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are fair. With cold water temperatures anglers should search for blue catfish in deeper river channels and around steep ledges in 30-45 feet of water. Larger cut baits have been effective for trophy size fish. Eater fish under 10 pounds are still active and slow drifting with small cut shad along sand flats will produce. Channel catfish are fair but can still be caught on warmer days using punch bait in 15-25 feet of water. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

GOOD. Water stained; 50 degrees; 2.92 feet below pool. Before the most recent blast of cold on February 19, water temperatures had cooled back to the levels they were at before the record-setting 8-day warming trend which ended on February 8. After a few smaller male white bass began to appear headed toward spawning areas on either side of the Gravel Crossing, the migration run generally halted and will likely remain low key until our next significant warmup. For those heading upriver, light leadhead jigs with white or off-white curl-tail grubs selected to fish just inches above the bottom will produce well, as will grey and, or olive streamers fished on fly gear. For those remaining on the upper end of the main lake, flatline trolling will be improved. Troll multiple baits that dive to different depths, then change over once fish show a preference. Fish in deeper, clearer water will remain interested in the 5/8 ounce and 3/4 ounce white Bladed Hazy Eye Slab worked with a very slow, steady upward motion where fish are seen concentrated on bottom via sonar. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.



Don't lose track of financial accounts

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

Consider this: About 1 in 7 people has unclaimed cash or property, totaling billions of dollars, according to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators. How can you avoid losing track of valuable financial assets?

For starters, keep good records of your 401(k) and IRA accounts. And report a change of address and name changes to financial services providers and former employers. Also, try not to maintain multiple accounts in scattered locations.

But what can you do if you suspect you've already left some money behind?

If you think you've lost tabs on an IRA, you can check old tax returns and

bank statements to help track your contributions and find your previous financial provider. If it's a 401(k), you can contact your old employer's plan administrator.

You can also check some websites run by governmental agencies. For one, the Department of Labor recently launched a retirement savings lost-and-found database at lostandfound.dol.gov that can help you find pension or 401(k) plans connected to your Social Security number.

But as you've heard, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" — which, in this case, means you'll help yourself greatly by tracking your accounts from beginning to end.

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

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****Belton Celebrates 175 Years of Colorful History****



This year marks the 175th anniversary of the City of Belton and Bell County. Located on Nolan Creek at the center of the county, Belton was first settled in the late 1840s as Nolan Springs. When Bell County was established in 1850, the city was renamed Nolanville.

In August 1850, the town was laid out in blocks and streets, with a courthouse square at its center, as described by longtime librarian Lena Armstrong. The name was changed from Nolanville to Belton in 1851. Initially the only town in the county, Belton served as a key stop for pioneers heading west.

Soon after lots were sold, businesses and a post office were established, and mail arrived by horseback. But, a stagecoach route that started in Tennessee and ended in Brownsville made Belton a weekly stopping point. That brought more business and people to the county seat.

A two-story log jail was erected in 1853, and it was quickly followed by a school, hotel, church, saloons, stores and other businesses. Most were log buildings or pole shacks, but as more people arrived the buildings began to be permanently constructed.

A log courthouse was built in 1852, followed by a limestone courthouse in 1859. By 1860, Belton had become the largest town in the county, with a population of 300.

The city has a great deal of history, and over this year, The Belton Journal will highlight a few of its treasures with pictorial stories. In the meantime, here are a few highlights about our great city and county:

Despite some pro-Union sentiment during the secession crisis, the county ultimately voted for secession. After the Civil War, Belton faced violence and lawlessness, marked by several lynchings. The town began to recover in the late 1860s and grew as a business center, especially for agriculture, with the establishment of the first bank in 1867 and the rise of the Belton Woman’s Commonwealth.

Although a fire in 1879 destroyed much of the central business district, the town quickly rebuilt and by the mid-1880s had a population of 4,000, daily mail service, three newspapers, and several schools and banks. Belton developed into a processing and shipping center for cotton, with the first cottonseed oil mill opening in 1879.

The arrival of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad in the early 1880s brought growth, but Temple, established eight miles to the northeast, quickly surpassed Belton in size. Nonetheless, Belton retained its status as a county seat and continued to thrive, particularly after an electric interurban line connected the two towns in 1905.

Andrew Carnegie established over 2,500 free public libraries worldwide, including 300 in Texas. One such library fulfilled the dream of the Women’s Wednesday Club, a literary organization founded in Belton in 1898 with 25 members who aimed to create a public library for the community. In collaboration with the Century Club, the Wednesday Club secured a \$10,000 donation from Carnegie in 1903 to build a library, provided the city would obtain a lot and maintain it. Local residents raised an additional \$1,500 for a lot on Main Street. The completed library, a two-story building with 6,220 square feet, opened on May 15, 1905. However, it closed two months later due to funding issues, struggling for the next 25 years. By 1933, the library became a city department. After outgrowing its original location in the 1970s, a new building was constructed at 301 East First Avenue in 1974, while the original library now houses the Bell County Museum.

Significant developments included the establishment of a public water system in the mid-1880s, a fire department in 1884, and the introduction of electricity in 1889. In 1885, Baylor Female College moved to Belton, which later became the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

A cotton yarn factory opened in 1901, and the population reached 3,700 by 1904.

Belton was dependent on the cotton industry from the 1880s to the 1920s. As a result, there was a need for a yarn mill to complement the cotton trade and to provide facilities for cotton processing locally. Cotton bought on the streets of Belton was manufactured into cloth and yarn.

The Belton Yarn Mill was a two-story building built by a group of businessmen in 1900. The mill was erected at a cost of \$25,000. The fuel used by the Belton mill was lignite, shipped from Rockdale in Milam County. The mill began operation in October 1901 and originally had 3,100 spindles and 100 looms. At its peak, the mill con-



sumed from 2000 to 2200 bales of cotton annually.

The mill employed approximately 112 people and had an annual payroll of about \$30,000. Most of the employees were residents of Bell County; some from poor families and some from tenant farms. The tenant farmers worked as semi-annual hands, coming to town twice a year in between cotton planting and cotton harvesting. The mill owned 25 cottages to house employees.

After the Panic of 1907, the mill closed and stood empty for nine years. It was eventually reopened and continued to operate until the late 1920s or early 1930s when the cotton industry in the county collapsed.

The building was sold and functioned as a school and library furniture manufacturer until a fire ravaged the 300,000-square-foot complex of buildings shared by Indeco Sales and Maco Manufacturing.

In its early history, Belton experienced several disastrous fires, and as a result, local residents were determined to build a waterworks system that would provide adequate protection.

After consulting with engineers from waterworks companies, Belton designed a complete water system including water mains in the business district, a 50-foot standpipe north of town, and a double pumping plant at the Leon River, all costing \$41,500 in bonds. The first municipal water system was completed and delivered on July 1, 1884.

The original standpipe, an iron structure near 10th Avenue, was raised by 35 feet years later. Unfortunately, it deteriorated and burst in October 1909, flooding Main Street. The site was then abandoned in favor of a new standpipe south of town.

The Belton standpipe was built on Denison’s Hill, standing 75 feet high and 24 feet wide, to provide water to residents south of Nolan’s Creek.

In August 1928, the standpipe became a topic of concern when residents noticed small water bugs in their faucets. Rumors circulated about dangerous crea-

tures allegedly crawling over it. The State Department of Health analyzed the water and found it safe, but fears persisted.

To address the concerns, the City Council moved up the planned cleaning of the standpipe. A raft with a dozen men was placed inside, and as water was drained, the raft sank. The Belton Journal noted that the men’s efforts revealed only a few inches of sand, contrary to the expected debris.

By the mid-1960s, the standpipe was insufficient for the city’s needs, especially during summer, leading to higher fire insurance costs. The City Council proposed a \$600,000 bond for additional storage, and in 1975, the standpipe was retired. City Manager George Ferrell reported leaks made repairs impractical, so the structure was drained and abandoned after a new 100,000-gallon overhead tank was completed.

Ultimately, it was decided to preserve the standpipe. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, it is now undergoing renovation and will open as a community park this year.

In December 1913, downtown Belton flooded, but the town thrived until the Great Depression, which caused many businesses to close. The population peaked at 6,500 in 1928 but dropped to 3,779 in 1931. The economy began to recover in the early 1940s with the development of nearby Camp Hood later named Fort Hood and now Fort Cavazos.

Belton has experienced a lot of growth since the 1970s and now sits at 25,171 according to the 2023 estimate census and Bell County now has over 450,000 residents.

At the end of this month, on March 29-30, the City of Belton will officially celebrate this 175th birthday. Go to page B10 or seebelton.com for details.

Historical postcards and photos are courtesy of Lena Armstrong Public Library and the City of Belton.

Body of Christ Community Clinic to celebrate 15 years

Special to the Journal

The community is invited to celebrate 15 years of service with the Body of Christ Community Clinic, Inc. by attending the annual Together We Heal Banquet on March 27, 2025.

The evening will also feature a silent auction that will help the clinic continue its mission of expanding healthcare access to underserved individuals in east Bell County.

The event will take place at the McLane Great Hall at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton. Doors will open at 5:15 PM.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Dominic Lucia, the Chief Medical Officer at McLane Children’s Medical Center, in Temple.

For the past 15 years, the clinic has been dedi-



cated to providing essential medical and dental care to

the uninsured, low-income, and no-income residents of East Bell County.

In 2024 alone, they served 3,321 with medical care.

Both table sponsorships and Underwriter sponsorships are available, as well as individual and group tickets.

For ticket information, please call the Clinic at (254) 939-9500.

Since its opening, the clinic has had nearly 12,000 patient visits and has grown from three hours per week of operation to 20 per week. It now operates two clinics, one for medical care and one for dental services, and is staffed primarily by unpaid volunteers.

Contact Donna Dunn at (254) 939-9500 or at donna.dunn@bodyofchristclinic.org for additional information.

Rescuing the perishing: A personal journey

By John C. Perry

Allow me to introduce myself. I am a 77-year-old man who has called Central Texas home since my high school days. The Journal has graciously invited me to share some of my life experiences with you, and I’m truly honored to do so.

First and foremost, I am a devout Christian, and my faith has profoundly shaped my life. I hope to share some reflections on faith, along with my experiences living in this wonderful area for many decades.

Recently, at a church conference, I encountered a phrase that deeply resonated with me: “Rescue the Perishing.” These words are from an old hymn writ-

ten by Fanny Crosby in 1869, emphasizing the Christian duty to care for those who are spiritually lost. This powerful message stirred my heart and prompted me to consider how I could reach out to those who may not yet have found their way to faith.

I turned to the Bible for guidance, revisiting Matthew 28:18-20—the Great Commission—where Jesus commands us to “go and make disciples of all nations.” I also reflected on Acts 1:8, where Jesus instructs us to “be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.”

As a lifelong Christian, I began to question what I had done to fulfill Jesus’s call. Regrettably, I realized that I had not done as much as I could have. Many of us, myself included, can feel

hesitant about discussing religion with others—it’s almost as daunting as discussing politics these days! However, I picked up a few valuable insights at the conference on how to kickstart witnessing. One simple yet effective approach is to ask people you encounter, whether it’s a server at a restaurant or someone at the gym, “How can I pray for you?” Initially, it felt a bit awkward, but with practice, it has become second nature to me.

The response to this initiative has been overwhelmingly positive. I’ve had people take my hand and ask for immediate prayer, while others have expressed their profound gratitude. Only one person—a millennial—declined, saying she had no prayer requests as she

was just “living the life.” I’ve started a list, by name, of everyone who has requested prayers. I pray for them individually and share their requests with my church community so that others can join in prayer as well.

I am just one person, but I am determined to make a difference. Who knows, perhaps by simply asking for someone’s prayer request, I might lead them to Christ. It’s a small step, but I encourage you to give it a try. You never know—you might make a real difference in someone’s life and play a part in rescuing the perishing.

Until next time, may God bless you and yours!

BUSINESS SHOWCASE

“Texian Exodus: The Runaway Scrape & Its Enduring Legacy”



Join us at the museum for the first of our Spring Lecture Series. Learn more about the Runaway Scrape of 1836 in this great presentation by Dr. Stephen L Hardin.

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Bob Hope makes a stop at the museum through June 14

We offer visitors a look into the past, present, and future with interesting exhibits, collections, and interactive elements. Check out the So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope display with interactive elements for visitors of all ages. Also enjoy a 40-piece photography exhibit by the Fine Arts Photography Guild.

Visit the museum for fun activities for the kids with a new theme each day for Spring Break running through March 20.

Join us on March 20 for Texian Exodus: The Runaway Scrape & Its Enduring Legacy lecture and learn more about the Runaway Scrape of 1836 in this great presentation by Dr. Stephen L. Hardin.

We have the following permanent exhibits: Discover Bell County takes visitors on a journey through our History. Explore our Land, Agriculture and Ranching, Transportation and

Industry, and Education and Culture.

Gault Site includes large murals, discovery drawers, microscopes and the film, “The Gault Project: An Adventure in Time.” This exhibit also features an interactive dig pit, a chance to be an archaeologist, a chalkboard for cave drawings, discovery drawers, and more.

Little River Log Cabin was built in the 1850s near Little River/Academy, the area of earliest Anglo settlement in Bell County. It can be seen from the museum exterior, or by tour groups.

See our traveling exhibitions and upcoming events on Facebook or at BellCountyMuseum.Org. Teachers can schedule a field trip, reserve a travel trunk to show in your classroom, or register for a virtual class program or tour.

Visit us at 201 N. Main St. in Belton and make your time at the museum valuable and engaging. 254-933-5243, museum@bellcounty.texas.gov.

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Guardianship of ROBERT C. ARRIS, an Incapacitated Person, were issued on March 5, 2025, in Cause No. 24CPB00735, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: EULA MAE JETT.

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LEGALS

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 ROBERT C. ARRIS c/o: EULA MAE JETT, GUARDIAN, 2213 Ranch Road, Temple, Texas 76502 DATED March 6, 2025. J. ERIC STOEBCNER, State Bar No.: 24046919, 2106 Bird Creek Drive, Temple, TX 76502, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: eric@templelawoffice.com 03.13

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY
PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 24CPB00712
To: Unknown Heirs
SYNETRA TEMETRIA
GRANT, Applicant, on
November 01, 2024, filed an
application to determine heir-

ship and for letters of administration - intestate in a proceeding styled: TJ GRANT, Deceased, and bearing the number 24CPB00712 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 March 13, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas. All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it. Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513. The name and address of the

LEGALS

attorney for applicant is: Jon M Brandon, 2650 FM 407 E Suite 145/438 Bartonville TX 76226 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 March 04, 2025. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513 By: Sophia Nieto Deputy

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the

LEGALS

Estate of KARL BRUCE ROSELL, Deceased, were issued on March 5, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00081, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: NICHOLAS AUSTIN SHELBURNE. 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 KARL BRUCE ROSELL, c/o: NICHOLAS AUSTIN SHELBURNE, 912 Lambourne Court, Chesapeake, VA 23322 DATED March 5, 2025. KAREN M. VILLANUEVA, State Bar No.: 24102608, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: karen@templelawoffice.com 03.13



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AT52 \$262



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Local

Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

March

3/14: TGIF
3/15: Exploring Wines
3/17: Snack Time MahJong
3/18: Bunco
3/19 Popcorn Bridge
3/20: Nonfiction book Club; Meet
and Greet Coffee; 42, Dominoes
3/21: Trail Blazers Walking Group
3/22: Jimmy's Egg
3/24: Well -Read Women; Canasta
3/25: singing Bluebonnets
3/26: Fun Lunch; Crochet and Knit
3/27: 42, Dominoes

April

04/01: Footloose Singles
04/02: Luncheon (Activities Fashion
Show); Popcorn Bridge
04/03: 42 Dominoes

04/07: Chat 'n' Canasta
04/08: Singing Bluebonnets
04/10: 42 Dominoes
04/11: TGIF Lunch
04/12: Couples Night Out
04/14: Bookworms
04/15: Bunco
04/16: Popcorn Bridge
04/17: Nonfiction Book Club; 42
Dominoes
04/18: Trailblazers Walking Group
04/19: Exploring Wines
04/21: Snack Time Mahjong
04/22: Singing Bluebonnets
04/23: Fun Lunch
04/24: 42 Dominoes
04/26: Jimmy's Egg
04/28: Well -Read Women; Monday
Canasta
04/30: Crochet and Knit

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

Visit the website: www.bellcountynewcomers.com.

CAC announces 2025 concert lineups

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

THE TEXAS TENORS — March 30

Emmy award-winning classical crossover, the trio was formed in 2009 by country singer JC Fisher, pop singer Marcus Collins and opera singer John Hagen. They were a top four finalist in the fourth season of America's Got Talent, making them the highest-ranking vocal group in the show's history.

SHAWN COLVIN — May 16

In the 30 years since the release of her debut album, Colvin has won three Grammy Awards, released 13 albums, written a critically-acclaimed memoir, maintained a non-stop national and international touring schedule, appeared on countless TV and radio shows, had her songs featured in major movies, and created a remarkable canon of work.

RUTHIE FOSTER JAZZ BAND — July 12

With five Grammy nominations to her name, Ruthie Foster stands as a testament to the power of authenticity and resilience in music. Her soulful melodies, heartfelt lyrics and an unwavering commitment to her art inspire audiences and fellow musicians as she continues to carve a path uniquely her own.

AN CLIBURN FINALIST CLAYTON STEPHENSON — Oct. 18

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

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL — Nov. 8

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

SHINYRIBS — Dec. 6

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

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

SAVE THE DATE! BCMGA Annual Plant Sale Fundraiser, Saturday March 15th, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM or until sold out at the Cadence Bank Center (formerly the EXPO Center), 301 W. Loop 121, Belton. Whether you are a novice gardener or a seasoned one we will have vegetables, Herbs, Native-Drought Tolerant plants for your garden. Follow us on our Website and/or FaceBook page for pant highlight. Come Early!

Helping Hands Ministry presents Growing and Nourishing a Community Garden-

Join us as the Texas AgriLife extension leads this six week class on how to garden and grow fruits and vegetables to increase your access to fresh produce. It will be held at Helping Hands Ministry on Mondays from 10-11 a.m. starting on March 17. Register with Alicia or Britnee.

The Bell County Master Gardener Association is hosting a free monthly seminar "Container and Raised Bed Care and Maintenance" on Thursday, March 20th, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office, BCMGA Learning Center, 1605 N. Main St., Belton. Certified Master Gardener, Lenny West will discuss how best to grow and maintain container gardens and how they can help feed those in food deserts. Class Limit: 50. Please Register at bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com

Rare of Breed The Redemption Tour at Schoepf's BBQ Rare of Breed: The Redemption Tour Pt. 2 is coming to Belton on Saturday, March 22 from 6-10 p.m. at Schoepf's BBQ. Rare of Breed brings his message of hope, redemption, and faith to the stage. Special guests Joe Nester and Just Nate Musik will also perform, making this a night filled with powerful performances and uplifting stories.

The Bell County Master Gardeners Association's Herb Study Groups is hosting a hands-on workshop, March 22nd, 10 AM to 2 PM (weather permitting). If you want to create a productive, space-saving garden feature, join us for a hands-on workshop where we'll teach you how to build an Herb Spiral, a perfect solution for growing a variety of herbs in a small space! Whether you're a beginner or seasoned gardener, you'll learn everything you need to know to get started. What you Need: Gloves, hat, water, and an eagerness to get your hands in the soil. What we will cover: Ground Prep and Design Tips; Building the Herb Spiral Structure; Installing irrigation for easy watering; Choosing and Planting Herbs. Class Limit: 20. Please Register at bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com

Team Poss"Abilities" presents the Central Texas Poss"Abilities" Job Fair for high school & college students, including young adults with disabilities. They're inviting employers, job training programs, and vendors to participate in the 6th Annual Area Poss"Abilities" Job Fair on Friday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for high school students and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for college students and young adults. It will be held at the Bawcom Student Union Center located at University of Mary-Hardin Baylor. Lunch will be provided. For any general/registration questions, contact: Cheryl Nelson at 254-913-4193.

Ladies Auxiliary M.P.R.V.F.D. presents Roses for Hoses on Saturday, April 12 at 8:30 a.m. at the Oakmont Park in Morgans Point Resort. A 5K run and walk, part of the Centex race series formerly known as Cops Vs. Robbers. Dress in costume or come as you are. The event supports the fire department and community outreach projects.

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

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

Bell County Historical Commission holds their meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the historical Bell County Court House, 101 E. Central Ave in Belton. Join us in our vision of preserving and promoting Bell County's rich historical heritage for current and future generations. We are dedicated to initiating and conducting programs that preserve and celebrate the county's historic cultural resources in alignment with state laws governing historical preservation in Texas. Our community resources consist of a research room, book repository, cemetery information, historical markers and monument records. Our services include information on historic preservation, educational programming, history community outreach and partnerships. We welcome you to come 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 go by their office located in the historic Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave., RM 117.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community Information

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

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

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

Citizens Helping in Police Service (CHIPS)

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

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

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

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



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Belton Church of Christ
3003 N. Main ~ 254.939.1816
Belton Church of God in Christ
1122 W. 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.1697
Belton First Assembly of God
500 S. IH-35 ~ 254.933.2803
Belton Lighthouse
1001 NE Loop 121 ~ 254.654.7278
Belton Nazarene Church
1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404
Bethel A.M.E. Church
401 S. Davis St. ~ 254.939.6090
Central Texas Cathedral
Worship Center
700 S. Main Street ~ 254.831.3064
Christ Bible Baptist Church
1590 Jack Rabbit Rd ~ 254.939.9247
Christ the King Catholic Church
310 E. 24th Ave. ~ 254.939.0806
Christian Tabernacle Apostolic UPC
1010 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.3464
Cornerstone Community Church
5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250
Crossroads Church
500 South I-35 ~ 254.939.2122
Dominion Life Chapel
105 Green Briar St. ~ 254.563.0472
Elm Grove Baptist Church
6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127
Family Gospel Church
2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707
Fellowship Baptist Church
2025 Morgan's Point Rd ~
254.780.2388
First Baptist Church Belton
506 N. Main St. ~ 254.933.3391
First Christian Church of Belton
306 E. 5th Fecbelton.com
First Mexican Baptist Church
703 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.6900
First Presbyterian Church of Belton
2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115
First United Methodist Church
205 E. 3rd Ave. ~ 254.939.5703
Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus
1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201

Freedom Bible Fellowship
308 W. Ave. D ~ 254.933.3310
Holy Temple of Our Lord Jesus
Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.
519 S. Pearl St. ~ 254.613.4591
Hope Community Church
507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222
Hope Tabernacle
202 E. 1st Ave. ~ 254.933.8222
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3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910
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Lutheran Church
1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.0824
Keys Valley Baptist Church
4393 W. US Hwy. 190 ~
254.939.1650
Lakeview Baptist Church
7717 N Hwy. 317 ~ 254.780.1884
Liberty Church
302 E. Central Ave. ~ 254.933.7107
Liberty in Christ Church
2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337
Miller Heights Baptist Church
1400 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.1835
Ministerios Vida
2020 S. IH-35 ~ 254.624.8015
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
218 Alexander St. ~ 254.939.5621
New Life Fellowship
706 E. 4th. ~ 254.939.8011
Nolan Valley Baptist Church
13206 W. FM 93 ~ 254.721.5998
Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ
117 N. Birdwell St. ~ 254.939.0822
Redeemer Reformed Baptist
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Temple Vision de lo Alto
4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231
Trinity Full Gospel
810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1726 Morgan's Point Rd. ~
254.778.8034

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Christ Episcopal Church
and School
300 N. Main St. ~ 254.773.1657
Christian Life Church
4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626
Covenant Lutheran Church
4202 Hickory Rd. ~ 254.733.7718

First Baptist Church
8015 West Adams Ave. ~
254.773.6866
First Methodist Church GMC
102 N. 2nd Temple. TX
~254.773.7992
First Presbyterian Church Temple
12 West French ~ 254.773.3407
Foundation Church
10701 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673
Grace Baptist Church
740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401
Grace Comm. Primitive Baptist
3111 N. 3rd St ~ 254.774.8192
Grace Presbyterian Church
2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134
Harvest Church
2501 General Bruce Dr. ~
254.780.3566
Immanuel Lutheran Church
2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898
Leon Valley Church of Christ
4404 Twin City Blvd. ~
254.939.0682
New Hope Church of God
2005 W. Ave D., Suite D. ~
254.742.2181
St. Francis Episcopal & School
5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255
St. Luke's Catholic Church
2807 Oakdale Dr. ~ 254.773.1561
St. Mary's Catholic Church
1018 S 7th St. ~ 254.773.4541
Taylors Valley Baptist Church
2497 W. FM 93 ~ 254.939.0503
Temple Bible Church
3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233
First Church of the Nazarene
5000 S. 31st ~ 254.773.3744
The Redeemed Christian Church of
God Salvation Center
405 Van Dyke Drive, Suite 403A ~
469-348-1475
Unity Church of Temple
318 N. 2nd ~ 254.770.0070
Vineyard Christian Fellowship
7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802
Vista Community Church
7051 Stonehollow Dr. Sundays 8:30,
10, 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m.
www.thevista.tv ~ 254.774.7992
Wildwood Baptist Church
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Chuck Wagon Lunch	MAR 29 / 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (Or Until Food Runs Out)
Texas Old Time Fiddlers Contest	MAR 29 / 3 PM - 7 PM
Cowboy Breakfast No Fee, Sponsored by the City of Belton	MAR 30 / 7 AM - 9 AM (Or Until Food Runs Out)
3C Cowboy Church	MAR 30 / 9 AM - 10 AM



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