

Runners turn out for Roses for Hoses 5k



ABOVE LEFT: Nayda Santana, city admin/procurement director for MPR, the overall winner Brian Knight bib #6938 with a chip time of 18:48.74 and the first-place female Nicole Chitwood bib #6874 with a chip time of 22:54.63 at the Roses for Hoses 5k. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Runners from age groups 11 and under up to ages 70 plus participated in the Annual Roses for Hoses 5k this past Saturday.

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Local competitive runners raced this past Saturday at the Roses for Hoses 5k in Morgan’s Point Resort hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary. The race, part of the Centex Race Series, was held at Oakmont Park.

“This event is a fundraiser that goes back to our fire department. It used to be cops versus robbers,” said Nayda Santana, city admin/procurement director for MPR. “Thank you to everyone that participated and sponsored – the bib raffle had a tremendous number of sponsors.”

There were 50 bib raffle prizes, such as a 4-pack matte black LED solar lights, Serenity TKD one membership, an Ozark Trail 10x25 compact binoculars, and a kitchen conversion cutting board, to name

a few.

Anthony Banda won second place overall and first place in his age group with a chip time of 19:44.38.

“I like to run. It’s very freeing especially when you run outdoors and see the community. It’s really nice that the community holds events like this for running. It’s very important for fitness, health, and overall growth in the community,” said Banda, who is a student at Shoemaker High School in Killeen. “I do cross country and track. I am doing the CenTex race series, and I just ran the Austin state capital 10k. I try to do as many 5ks as I can with my mom.”

Pro Fit Racing kept the official timing and results. All finishers received a rose, yellow or red, courtesy of H-E-B. Runners were provided

water and Gatorade, as well as a variety of fruit, fruit snacks, ice pops, and granola bars.

Aaron Flowers placed third in his age group with a chip time of 25:24.19.

“I’ve been running my whole life. So far, I’ve done 6 runs this year. I did a half marathon last week at Pepper Creek Trail in Temple and I run all around West Temple,” said Flowers, who started running again last January. “I decided to do the CenTex Race Series and I think my time was a half a minute faster.”

The vendors at the event were John Corsi State Farm, Sam’s Club, and Junction Fitness. Runners were invited to dress up and participate in a costume contest.

MPR Ladies Auxiliary presi-
See **ROSES**,
Page A3



File photo
Cancer survivors celebrate with the Survivor Lap at last year’s Bell County Relay for Life. This year’s event is set for Saturday, May 3.

40th annual Bell County Relay for Life set for May 3

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The 40th anniversary of Bell County’s Relay for Life will be Saturday, May 3, at the Cadence Bank Center’s Exposition Hall in Belton.

Set up for this year’s event will start at 8 a.m. that day, and the actual Relay will be from noon until midnight.

According to organizer Amy Jones, more than 500 participants and 33 teams are expected for this year’s local Relay.

“The theme for this year’s Bell County Relay for Life is, Make Cancer Extinct,” Jones said. “Last year we had nearly 500 people participate, and we are hoping to beat that number this year.”

Since 1985, communities across the world have come together to honor and remember loved ones and raise money for cancer research. Relay for Life Events are held globally.

Participants take turns walking a track lined with luminary bags in honor of those who have passed from cancer as well as those who have survived.

According to Jones, a vendor market will be set up from noon until 7 p.m.

The market will feature many items for sale, and booth rental fees go into the event proceeds. All money raised during Relay for Life go to the American Cancer Society for cancer research.

See **FUNDRAISER**,
Page A2

City of Belton Council election is May 3



Luke Potts

On May 3, residents can vote in the City of Belton’s first contested City Council election in five years and on a



Ty Taggart

proposed measure to amend the City Charter to allow changes to the city’s municipal court system.

General Election
Three City Council terms are expiring: Daniel Bucher (Place 5), Wayne Carpenter (Place 6), and Stephanie O’Banion (Place 7). Bucher and O’Banion seek to retain their seats, while Carpenter is not seeking re-election.

Bucher, a former member of the Belton Parks Board, seeks a third term, while O’Banion, a former member of the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z),

seeks a second term. She did not draw an opponent for Place 7.

Current P&Z Commission Members Ty Taggart (Place 5) and Luke Neale Potts (Place 6) have also filed for seats, as has Clinton Bailey (Place 6), who serves as an alternate on the Building and Standards Commission.

After the filing period closed, candidates had an opportunity to draw for ballot placement, which resulted in:

Place 5
Ty Taggart
Daniel Bucher
Place 6
Luke Neale Potts
Clinton Bailey
Place 7
Stephanie O’Banion

During this election Belton residents may vote for up to three candidates, one vote for each Place. The candidate with the majority of votes in each respective Place will be declared the winner. Places

differ from districts in that there are no geographical restrictions other than the city limits.

Special Called Election
The Special Called Election will allow residents to vote whether to amend the city’s charter regarding the Municipal Court. A vote “For” would change Belton’s Municipal Court to a Court of

See **ELECTION**,
Page A2

Downtown businesses open for Market Days on Saturday

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Obituaries-----A3

Editorial -----A4, B5

Lifestyles-----A8

Service Directory---A9

Sports-----B1

Classifieds-----B6

B-Town Bulletin-----B8

Church Directory----B9



File photo
Downtown Belton is filled with shoppers during Market Days. The first Market Days event for 2025 is set for this Saturday, April 19.

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

Market Days is a Belton tradition dating back to 2010.

This weekend in downtown Belton Market Days will be held this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There are 101 vendors signed up for this Saturday’s event.

Live music will be provided by Michael Mahler, Jay White and Martian Folk. An area

food court will be available.

Area restaurants and local merchants will be open for business.

This event brings an extra number of visitors downtown. It is a big day for tourists and shopping in Belton.

Eight volunteers work at the event. Market Days is a product of the work of the Downtown Belton Business Alliance.

See **MARKET DAYS**,
Page A2

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Election - From Page A1

Record where proceedings are recorded and cases with procedural concerns may be appealed. In addition, the amendment would create fixed terms of two or four years for City of Belton municipal judges.

A vote “Against” would maintain the current operations of the municipal court.

Early Voting & Election Day

Early voting for both elections will take place at City Hall on six different days prior to Election Day, including two days with extended hours. Early voting begins April 22nd.

On Election Day, the polling location moves to the Evans Room at the Harris Community Center.

Luke Potts

Why are you running?

I’m running for City Council because I believe God calls us to serve and give back to the places that shape us. Belton has been my home my whole life. It’s where I was raised, where I’m raising my own family, and where I’ve built a business. I love this town, and I want to be a part of protecting its values while helping it grow in a way that honors our past and invests in our future. This isn’t about politics, it’s about people, faith, and responsibility. I believe now is the time for me to step up and serve.

What are the issues you feel strongly about?

I care deeply about creating a community where families feel safe, supported, and connected. That means supporting our local businesses, investing in infrastructure that serves future generations, and maintaining our small-town charm. I

believe in stewardship—being wise with our resources, managing growth with care, and always seeking to do what’s right for our neighbors. I also value strong partnerships between the city and the churches, schools, and organizations that serve our people every day.

What is your vision for Belton?

My vision is for Belton to remain a city rooted in faith, family, and service—while also embracing opportunity. I want it to be a place where kids grow up proud of where they’re from, where small businesses thrive, and where neighbors still know each other’s names. I believe we can build a stronger economy and better infrastructure without sacrificing the values and traditions that make Belton special. I want to help create a city where everyone feels they belong.

What are you excited about in the future of Belton?

I’m excited about Belton’s future because I see so much potential in our people. We’re growing, and with that growth comes new opportunities for jobs, innovation, and stronger families. I’m especially excited to see how we can support young people, encourage entrepreneurship, and make this an even better place to raise a family. With the right leadership and a steady hand, I believe Belton’s best days are still ahead.

What is an issue/problem the city is facing?

One of the biggest challenges we face is growing in a way that keeps our community grounded. As more families move here, we need to make sure our schools, roads, and services keep up. But we also have to protect the heart of what makes Belton home—our faith, our history, and our neighborly spirit. We can’t lose that in the process. I believe with wise planning and values-based leadership, we can grow with grace and purpose.

What makes you a good fit for this role? How have your experiences prepared you?

As a husband, father, business owner, and community servant, I’ve learned how to lead with both heart and grit. I’ve faced tough times and tough decisions, managed budgets, built teams, and worked with people from all walks of life. More importantly, I’ve always tried to lead with integrity and humility. My faith and my parents taught me to put others first and seek wisdom in every decision. I’m ready to bring that mindset to City Council—putting the needs of our community before myself and leading with honesty and conviction.

What do you think voters see in you?

I hope voters see a man who genuinely loves this city and its people. Someone who’s approachable, faithful, and willing to roll up his sleeves to serve. I want them to see a neighbor who listens, a leader who stands for what’s right, and a father who’s fighting for a future his kids can be proud of. Being born and raised in Belton and knowing it’s amazing history, values, and traditions puts me in a unique position of knowing what makes Belton such a treasure. I’m not perfect,

but I’m committed. I want to help lead Belton with courage, compassion, and a servant’s heart.

Ty Taggart

Why are you running?

The reason that I am running for Belton City Council is because I am proud of my hometown and I want to help it be more successful in the future. I come from a family of servants, so it’s in my blood to help others.

What are the issues you feel strongly about?

The main issue that I am the most concerned about is how we can take on fast growth in Belton and still keep the core values that have made this city such a special place for generations.

What is your vision for Belton?

My vision for Belton is to have a city that always has something going on for the folks here and to make our downtown a destination place for good food, shopping, and entertainment.

What are you excited about in the future of Belton?

I am extremely excited about our “Imagine Belton” plan that was recently adopted by our City Council. This plan will help streamline growth and development while it helps to protect the folks that live close to the downtown area.

What is an issue/problem the city is facing?

Two main issues that we need to address are the Main Street traffic problem and also, our City Hall is overcrowded. We need to build a multi-purpose facility that could possibly house the city, County, and BISD Administration under one roof and everyone can split the costs.

What makes you a good fit for this role? How have your experiences prepared you?

I have been in several leadership roles over the past 10 years. I took over the Belton Tiger Athletic Booster Club years ago and it was basically dead when I got there. In three years as President, we turned things around and were breaking all-time records for membership and fundraising. I then ran for and won a place on the BISD School Board and served there for two terms.

What do you think voters see in you?

I made it my mission to help the South Side of the district. With the approval of the stakeholders, we passed a bond that remodeled Southwest Elementary, did a huge renovation of Belton High School, built a new Ag Barn for our FFA, built a new facility for our Delta Program Students, and built a brand new elementary school for our kids from Miller Heights, which sets us up for future growth in that area.

Hopefully voters will see in me someone that they know will help to get things done. I am not afraid of making decisions and then working to implement them. I love this community and won’t do anything to hurt what we have here.

Fundraiser - From Page A1

cer research and related programs.

A lap for cancer survivors will be held at 5:30 p.m., and the lighting of the luminary bags begins at 8 p.m. Closing ceremonies will begin at 11:30 p.m.

“The participating

teams will each have a food item to sell,” Jones said. “Chick Fil A is donating some food, and teams will have egg rolls, snow cones and other food items.”

“All the money goes to our Relay for Life.”



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Market Days - From Page A1

There will be a variety of booths with wares for sale including a local farmer with meats and eggs, local honey, food trucks, skincare, a large variety of artists, toys, leather crafts, ice cream, children’s clothing, and saddles.

“If you would like to support the DBBA organization, visit downtownbelton.com,” said

DBBA President Leila Valchar.

“We are drawing vendors from all across Texas. We released the vendor application in mid-January and filled it up by March 1st. We had to create a waiting list. The list is over 40 vendors long. We are excited about the new vendors we have this year. The November Market Days is full. This weekend

will be great.”

The DDBA sponsors the Candy Trail and Christmas on the Chisholm trail, as well as organizes Market Days.

“Having a big sponsor of Market Days would be nice. We have asked for support in the past. More people involved in Market Days would be nice,” said Valchar.



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

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OBITUARIES



Wilson

Pat Alexander Jones Wilson
April 6, 1938 – April 13, 2025

Funeral services for Pat (Alexander) Jones Wilson, 87, of Belton, will

be held at 1:00 PM, Friday, April 18, 2025, at the Dossman Funeral Home Chapel, with Justin Childers officiating. Burial will follow at North Belton Cemetery.

The family will receive friends for visitation Thursday evening from 6-8 PM at the funeral home.

Mrs. Wilson died Sunday, April 13, 2025 in a Belton Assisted Living Home.

Mrs. Wilson was born April 6, 1938, in Temple, the daughter of Dave and Dorothy (Hunter) Alexander. She graduated from Belton High School. She married Hoye Jones in 1957. He died in 1989. She later married Rob-

ert “Punk” Wilson, he preceded her in death in 2018.

Mrs. Wilson was a hairdresser in Belton for more than 50 years at her shop, Pat’s Hair Fashions. She was a longtime member of Miller Heights Baptist Church in Belton.

Survivors include her two sons, David Jones and wife Irma of Benavides, and Bobby Jones and wife Betty of Belton; two grandsons, Dustin H. Jones and Tyrell White; three great-grandchildren, Nicole Jones Duane, Jessi White and Cooper White.

Memorials may be made to the Miller Heights Baptist Church..



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Roses - From Page A1

dent Karen Stager said this is the event’s second year as a CenTex Race Series run.

“We are growing demand for more vendors and support,” she said.

“We walked for fun and enjoyed the scenery,” said participants Donna McPherson and Kristi Mart.

The overall winner was Brian Knight with a chip time of 18:48.74. The first-place female was Nicole Chitwood with a chip time of 22:54.63.

“It was a good route. I like running on hills. We went back and forth through the neighborhood and passed by the marina. It was well

marked,” said Knight.

Awards were given to the top overall male and female finishers and the top three male/female finishers in each age group. The age groups were 11 and under, 12-15, 16-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, and 70 plus.

Jerusalem Times

Obituaries


33 AD

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture and loss of blood.

Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, his devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by his mother Mary, his faithful Apostles, numerous disciples and many other followers.

Jesus was self-educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a



Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of his death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the good news, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father’s Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper, celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the Tomb. Roman Soldiers were put on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did and believe in Him. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.





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Belton was first known as the town of Nolanville. In 1851, Nolanville was incorporated and the town name was changed to Belton.
Fact from Texas State Historical Association.

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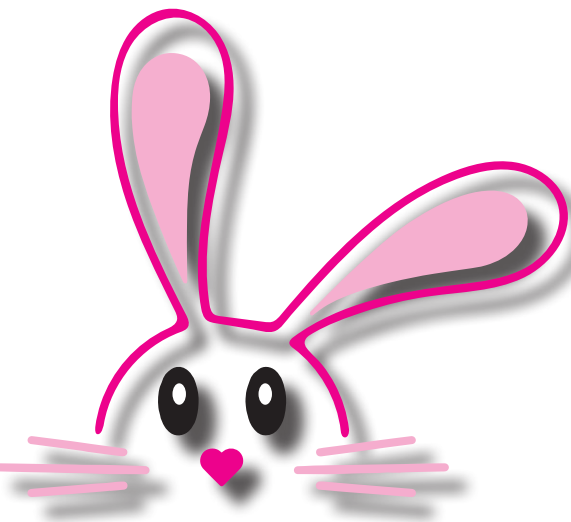
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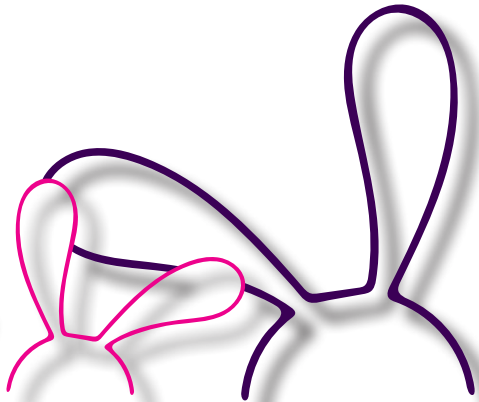
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Stories of the Resurrection as told in the Gospels

Easter is a holy day on the Christian calendar that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is described in the Gospels of the New Testament, which millions of Christians read every year, especially during the Lenten season, which is a 40-day period that directly precedes Easter Sunday.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels. Each book can help Christians understand and connect with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following are passages from each of the canonical Gospels that help to tell the story of the resurrection of Jesus.

Matthew 28: 1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you

will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Mark 16: 2-7

And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, “Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?” And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, “Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.”

Luke 24: 1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

John 20: 1-10

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Now You Know

Fun facts and conversation-starting snippets for curious minds of all ages!

Why Do We Decorate Easter Eggs?

Billions of Christians across the globe celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday, and that includes scores of children. Easter eggs figure prominently in children’s Easter celebrations, and the origins of this tradition are older than youngsters may realize. History.com notes that historians suggest Easter eggs can be traced to pagan traditions that considered eggs a symbol of new life. Decorating eggs is a wildly popular tradition among modern Easter celebrants, and this tradition also has a lengthy history. Some historians believe the decoration of eggs for Easter began in the thirteenth century, if not earlier. Some suggest eggs might have been forbidden during Lent, a 40-day period of sacrifice that preceded Easter. Eggs were decorated as Lent drew to a close and then eaten as part of Easter Sunday





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Easter Sunrise - 7 a.m. at Overlook Pavilion (next to Dead Fish Grill)
Easter Service - 10:45 a.m.



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April 13: Palm Sunday Services at Salado Middle School 10:00 am
April 18: Good Friday Services at Salado Museum at 6:00 pm
April 18: Stations of the Cross Walk at Salado Museum 6:30 pm
April 19: Holy Saturday at Pace Park in Salado 9:00 am
April 20: Easter Services at Salado Middle School at 10 am

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What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Bunnies in background 2. Missing egg in hand 3. Extra egg in grass 4. Shadow on tree trunk

He is Risen



Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6



Shay Luedeke
Tax Assessor-Collector



Did You Know?

Easter is the oldest Christian holiday. The Easter Bunny, or Osterhase, is a symbol that was first mentioned in German writings in the 1500s.



Belton’s sales tax revenue takes a dip

By Lynette Sowell
The Belton Journal

The office of Texas State Comptroller Glenn Hegar’s office released its monthly sales tax revenue report for April, and the city of Belton is seeing a lower disbursement in sales tax revenue for the month, as are a number of other neighboring cities.

The city of Belton will receive \$666,810.18 for its monthly sales tax check, down 8.14 percent from April 2024. Belton’s sales tax revenue is up 3.89 percent overall for 2025.

The revenue being distributed is from sales made by businesses during February 2025 who report monthly.

Texas cities are receiving an average of 3.9 percent less sales tax

April 2025 sales tax payments to area cities		
Belton	\$666,810.18	down 8.14%
Harker Heights	\$833,384.04	up 1.71%
Holland	\$8,663.38	down 44.98%
Killeen	\$2,543,239.26	down 7.99%
Morgan’s Point Resort	\$25,662.44	down 6.93%
Nolanville	\$117,114.71	down 2.16%
Salado	\$60,905.16	up 11.37%
Temple	\$2,663,882.69	down 3.35%
Troy	\$81,931.59	down 37.13%

Percentages reflect a monthly increase or decrease compared to April 2024

revenue compared to April 2024.

Overall for Texas cities, sales tax receipts are up by 3.9 percent for 2025.

The city of Temple is receiving \$2,663,882.69, down 3.35 percent compared to April 2024.

Morgan’s Point Resort will

receive \$25,662.44, down 6.93 percent compared to last April.

Troy will receive \$81,931.59, down 37.13 percent compared to

last April.

Over in Nolanville, sales tax revenue dipped by 2.16 percent compared to last April, with Nolanville to receive \$117,114.71. Nolanville’s sales tax revenue is down by 19.57 percent for 2025. Holland’s revenue check is \$8,663.38 this month, down 44.98 percent compared to April 2024.

Salado sees an increase of 11.37 percent this month, and will receive \$60,905.16.

The city of Killeen will receive \$2,543,239.26, down 7.99 percent compared to last April.

Harker Heights sees an increase, up 1.71 percent this month compared to last April, and will receive \$833,384.04. For 2025, Harker Heights’ sales tax revenue is up by 3.59 percent.

Rescue Magazine partners with Walmart for local animal shelter donations



MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ/BELTON JOURNAL

Ron Ducharme, president of Rescue Magazine is surrounded by Walmart volunteers and local representatives of animal shelters and rescues picking up donations from the Copperas Cove Walmart.

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Rescue Magazine is an animal welfare organization that donates animal food and supplies to local animal shelters and rescues. On April 5 and 6, they partnered

with area Walmart stores to collect monetary donations, pet food, and supplies.

Then on April 8, the animal shelters and rescues picked up items that were donated.

“A few local Walmart stores gave a grant of \$2,500 and a little more than

3,000 pounds of food was donated, to include dog food and dry cat food. They also donated toys, and towels,” said Ron Ducharme, president of Rescue Magazine. “We’ve partnered with Walmart for 13 years.” Local stores included Walmart locations in Killeen, Harker Heights, Gatesville, and Copperas Cove.

Mandy Simmerman, Store Manager of the Copperas Cove Walmart, said they are proud to be part of the event.

“Our store lead was in charge of getting donations for pet shelters and she was very successful. The purpose is to help the community and help our fur babies as well.”

The Bell County Animal Shelter, Gatesville Animal Shelter, Copperas Cove Animal Control, Coryell Animal Care Facility, Journey Home Rescue, and Anca’s Ark picked up the items that were collected from the Walmart stores.

“This not only supports our shelter but the community. It’s super appreciated by the community. The community is making a difference,” said Animal Con-

trol Supervisor with the City of Copperas Cove, Tammy Hall.

“Food is a constant need for rescues. People call us and ask us for help. They can’t afford food, and we provide resources for them,” said Anca Neagu with Anca’s Ark.

The community can also help shelters and rescues by adopting animals.

“We host the largest pet adoption event in Central Texas. This year will be our tenth year coming up on Oct 11 and 12 held on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Cadence Bank Center in Belton. We expect to have 100 business vendors and 40 rescues and shelters,” said Ducharme.

Ducharme is also a radio show host of KTEM news radio 14’s animal hour on Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon.

For information on the next pet food drive contact Ron Ducharme at 254-231-3690 or you can also subscribe to his free digital magazine on his website at www.rescuemagazine.org. The magazine is published digitally every month.

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MPR to elect mayor, five city council members

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Residents of Morgan’s Point Resort will head to City Hall or the library on Saturday, May 3, to select a new mayor and five City Council members.

James “Jimbo” Snyder, a current City Council member, is the lone candidate seeking the mayor’s seat. Dennis Green, the current MPR mayor, is not



seeking re-election.

Voters also will select five at-large Council members from a field of seven. The five candidates with the most votes will serve.

Since Snyder isn’t

seeking re-election to his City Council seat, that leaves four incumbents: Dorothy Allyn, Roxanne Stryker, Stephen Bishop and Patrick Clune. Also seeking election are Dr. Samuel L Pallin, Bruce Leonhardt and Louis Guillaud III.

Early voting by mail begins April 21 and the last day to apply for a ballot by mail is April 22. The last day for early voting is April 29.

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EDITORIAL

Passed Away

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Recently I was in a small town on a Saturday afternoon. A time when one might think there would be something happening. Sadly, there was absolutely nothing going on, at all. It doesn't matter the name of the town, or even where it was located. This has happened to hundreds of such small cities around our state. There was a time when the square, or near the center of town, was hopping on a Saturday afternoon. There were shops and all sorts of activities, and not antique stores like we see now. I am certainly thankful that some small towns have been able to breathe a little life into their squares again. However, the real life blood of the town was right there in the middle. Those clothing stores, shoe stores, probably a hardware store, of course a bank or two, maybe a barbershop, and a pharmacy, don't forget a furniture store that might even sell televisions and electronics. (OK, that was a bit of a run-on sentence so I know my editor was starting to twitch, wondering when it would end)

Since most of these stores were locally owned, they didn't have the luxury of a national ad campaign, they had to rely on local

advertising. Of course, you would get little gadgets with the store's name and phone number, without an area code because you knew how to call them with just seven digits. There were things like oven mitts, large wall calendars, and other useful things. Probably in the back of every "catch-all" drawer is one of those free kitchen doodads. You know the type, it was a knife, pie server, bottle opener, cheese grater, paint scraper, and if you put it in the yard facing north it was a sun dial. After a while those "freebies" got cheaper. One example was the plastic spaghetti fork and handy measuring device. Now I really don't eat spaghetti that often, so the easiest way to decide on the proper serving size was to use the entire package and just toss the leftovers. If I didn't use the whole package I would just have to throw away a few half packages of stale pasta the next time I cleaned the pantry.

Many other types of these gifts have gone away as well. At one point most places had a match book with their advertising on the cover. I didn't use matches as a kid, but I did enjoy collecting some of the more interesting ones. Periodically I would need to light

a fire or something, and had some matches. It was fun to see some of the more unique matchbooks. Perhaps the free matches were for lighting the nickel cigars that were for sale at the restaurant cash register. There is nothing like a cheap cigar, seriously, nothing.

Along with the businesses went a different way of life for local residents. When you went into a store that specialized in clothes, you could usually rely on the salesperson to give you some good advice. Often this wasn't the first time they had served you, and might even remember your sizes. It was a lot different than just having to find everything you needed in bins that have been gone through. Also shoe stores, or in my case boots, offered some services as well. You had someone to find the shoes you wanted and when you got home you didn't have two different size shoes. What I am getting at here is that we no longer get the home-town attention from people we have shopped with most of our lives. We are lucky here to have a couple of shops that still have the same folks and might even remember your name. The big chain stores have new faces every time

you go there. I miss the days when things happened in town on a Saturday. I miss the personal service. I don't really have a problem paying a bit more, but I did know the quality was good and backed by the people that were there every day.

I know things change all the time, progress is what we call that, but when we lose something valuable like an entire town, how progressive is that.

Keeping a lot of teenagers in a foreign country employed at the expense of our local hometowns became so important that we lost the character of our small towns, well larger cities as well. I would go back to paying a couple extra bucks for jeans just so I didn't have to rummage through a pile of trousers that looks like the bottom of a Goodwill bin to find my size. Perhaps my neighbor would just go and get them for me and remember the size boots I wear and try to sell me a new pair as well. I doubt things will go back, so we are living in a new world. I do miss the free kitchen gadgets from the tire shop, how else are we going to serve that pie.

Bricks vs. bytes

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

I recently read with great interest the recent Baltimore Sun article "How Baltimore's independent bookstores are thriving in the age of Amazon."

Here's the link if you'd like to read the whole thing: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/entertainment/arts/bs-fe-bookstore-author-events-20180802-story.html>.

It is no secret in this digital age that more and more customers are doing business online, whether it's getting approved for home loans, banking, purchasing insurance, ordering a meal, and oh, yes, buying books. Shoppers like convenience and ease and speed – and online merchants know this.

For publishers, booksellers, and authors, we've had to learn to adapt to the Amazon monopoly on the book market. Six years ago was the height of the ebook surge. I was a little late to catch the wave as an independent author, but several of my author friends enjoyed an "easy"

six-figure income for several years. It was a limitless goldmine, or so we thought at the time.

I made my share of some nice funds on the side, but the past five to 10 years have been more and more challenging for independent authors. Because the big guy will always slant the profit odds in their favor, whether that's Amazon or any other mega-retailer.

Brick 'n mortar bookstores felt the pinch of online merchants and it was a struggle even before the ebook "gold rush." According to the above article, from 1995 to 2009 the number of independent bookstores in the nation fell by 43 percent. Yet in spite of the e-revolution, the independent bookstores have bounced back, with the number of independent brick 'n mortar bookstores up by 49.6 percent since 2009.

Why did this happen? What makes a customer go to an actual store or office instead of doing the "click or call"? Here is a nugget

from that article.

"Book purchases happen by discovery," he said. "The overwhelming majority of books are bought because you find them on the shelf of a bookstore or a library or because they were recommended by someone you trust. Interacting with the physical book is very important. You need exposure to the product to make the sale."

Indies have also bounced back with the help of customers shopping local and infusing the benefit into their economy, something we also promote here in Copperas Cove. Successful indie bookstores also give back to the community, give perks to customers, and do nontraditional things like allowing dogs into their stores.

Where it concerns the lineup of our local businesses along miles of roadway, I have told friends and have told friends and colleagues that those businesses, or any business for that matter, has more to fear from the

online giants who have bigger pocketbooks for advertising, than they do a roadway out front.

People will beat a path to your door if they know what you have to offer and they value it, if they feel the connection. Many purchases and decisions are based on feelings – purchases from loyal customers, that is. Do you have a connection with

your customer? They will do what it takes to visit you. Online might be fast 'n easy, but there's no substitute for great customer service and that connection.



HAPPY EASTER

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

JOHN 3:16



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A8
Thursday,
April 17, 2025

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Alamo Arabian Horse Association holds Fiesta Show



MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ/BELTON JOURNAL

Stephanie Hendrickson (Left) and Samantha Hilliard (Right) with their horses at the Alamo Arabian Horse Association held at the Fiesta Show at the Cadence Bank Center.

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Horse enthusiasts attended and competed in the Alamo Arabian Horse Association Fiesta Show at the Cadence Bank Center last weekend.

Participants win by

earning points in a point system, and then at the end, there are finals where the champion and reserve champion are awarded, sometimes with trophies and some with monetary prizes.

“I grew up in L.A. and didn’t have horses

until I was an adult,” said Brehm, who shows Arabian and half-Arabian horses, and is a board member and on the outreach committee.

“We want to introduce the world to Arabian horses.”

The Alamo Arabian Horse Association is based in San Antonio and is sanctioned for regional and national shows.

“This event had two

judges, Brehm said, and that some judges are “learner judges,” meaning they are learning how to judge.”

They held a Tail Tour where families got to meet the horses that were in the show and give them treats. The families got to see the horses behind the scenes.

“Shows are breed specific like Quarter horses and Gypsy Vanner horse breeds. We have different disciplines like endurance, racing, and saddle seating. It’s a family-oriented sport. Equestrian sports teach children how to win, lose, and gives

them confidence in life. Children direct thousand-plus-pound animals,” said Brehm. “We have people 90 years old showing.” Children start in the lead line class from two to three-year-olds with a side walker. They all get a blue ribbon for participating. The walk-trot is for five to ten-year olds, and they go in the arena by themselves.

Stephanie Hendrickson has been riding horses for more than 25 years and hails from Friendswood, Texas.

She won the Arabian Walking Western Alliance top ten buckle, a three-

time national, and top ten in ranch riding.

Samantha Hilliard, from Salado, showed her four-year-old half-Arabian, LCS Instant Cello – also known as “Jello” in the hunter pleasure junior class and won.

“I’ve been riding since I was four and competing since I was five years old,” she said. There is a bond between horse and owner.”

Children had the opportunity to paint a horse ceramic for free at their paint a pony event before the shows started. Brehm had the idea to do the painting event.

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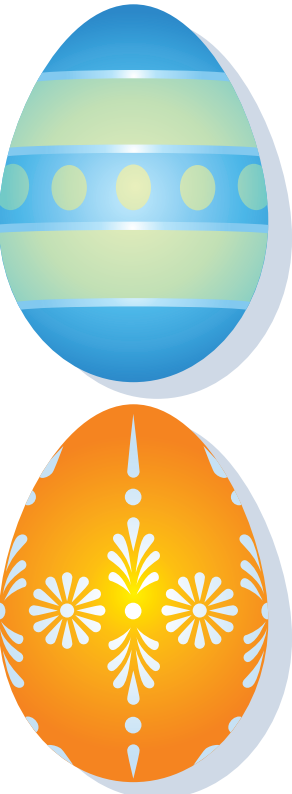
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Holiday



FACT:

This religious holiday is celebrated by billions of people across the globe each spring.

Answer: Easter



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SERVICE DIRECTORY

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Explaining the Stations of the Cross



Tradition features prominently in Holy Week celebrations. The week leading up to Easter Sunday, Holy Week is a sacred time for faithful Christians. The Stations of the Cross are one of the traditions that many Christians feel bolsters their faith and brings them closer to God.

What are the Stations of the Cross?

According to Catholic Online, the Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ’s last day on Earth as a man. Each of the 14 stations focus on a specific event of Jesus’s last day as a man.

Where can the Stations of the Cross be found?

Stations of the Cross are typically found in churches. Many times the Stations adorn the interior wall of a church, and Catholic Online notes they’re often depicted using small icons or images. Some churches with sizable exterior grounds may arrange larger Stations along foot-paths in yards or gardens on the premises.

When do people most commonly pray the Stations of the Cross?

Lent is the most common time to pray the Stations of

the Cross, and some churches hold weekly prayer sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays during this time of year.

What are the 14 Stations?

Catholic Online notes the 14 Stations of the Cross are:

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus carries the cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets with His Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls a second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls a third time
10. Jesus’s clothes are taken away
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

The Stations of the Cross are an important Easter tradition that shed light on Jesus’s resurrection. Individuals interested in praying the Stations of the Cross are urged to contact a local church so they can engage in this moving Christian tradition.

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Giant “Treat-or-Treat” with Vendors!
Bring your candy bags and your four-legged friends for a spooktacular “Treat-or-Treat” adventure! Vendors will be handing out tons of candy, pet treats, and freebies, so come in costume

and enjoy the fun!
Meet the Ultimate Jack Sparrow Look-Alike – Straight from the UK!
This year, we’re adding a touch of pirate magic! A world-renowned Jack Sparrow look-alike is sailing in all the way from the UK to entertain guests, take photos, and bring some high-seas adventure to the festival! Savvy?
Special Attractions You CAN’T Miss!
• Fun Zone for Kids – Packed with games, activities, and surprises!
• Horseback Riding & Pony Rides – Saddle up for adventure!
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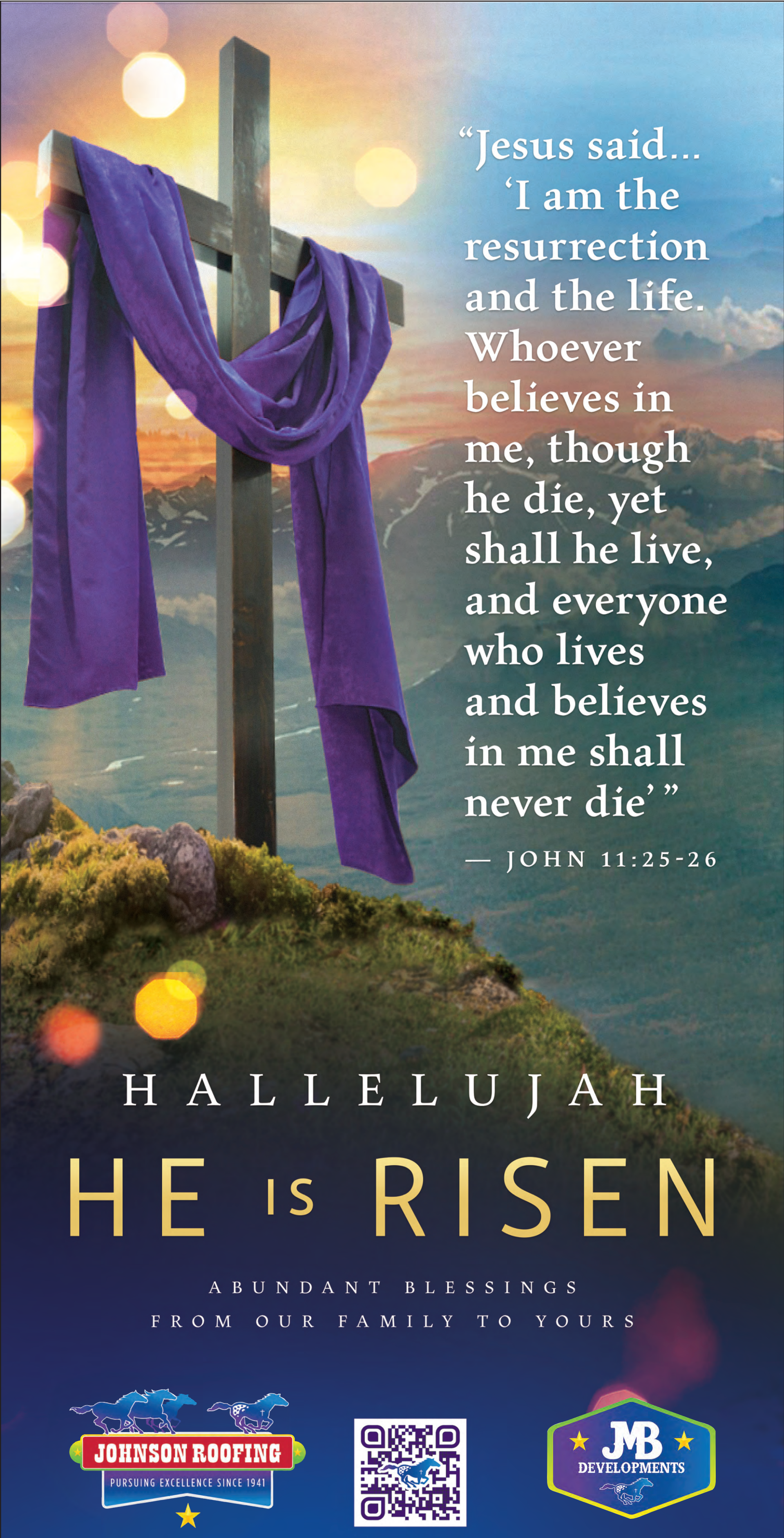
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4 Event Tickets	Ad on social media and Rescue Magazine website	Ad on social media and Rescue Magazine website	Ad on social media and Rescue Magazine website	Ad on social media and Rescue Magazine website	✓
	10 x 10 Booth	10 x 10 Booth	Up to 10 x 20 Booth	Up to 10 x 20 Booth	10x50 Booth
	6 Event Tickets	Announcements throughout event	Announcements throughout event	Announcements throughout event	✓
	One 4 ft. banner (provided by you) to be hung at event	3. banners up to 8ft (provided by you) to be hung at event	Any banners (up to 8 ft provided by you) to be hung at event	Any banners (up to 8 ft provided by you) to be hung at event	✓
		10 Event Tickets	Mention in radio advertisements as sponsor	radio advertisement as sponsor	List as sponsor on Rescue Magazines Animal Hour plus Ads.
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who lives
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in me shall
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— JOHN 11:25-26

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JB
DEVELOPMENTS

Broncos ranked in the top 10 of class 5A baseball

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

Lake Belton's 5-4 victory over Rouse last week was more than just another win, it was the one that pushed the Broncos into the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association's Top 10 in Class

5A. Offensively, the Broncos came out swinging. Cam Bartz went a perfect 2-for-2 with a home run, a double, one RBI, and scored twice. Logan Winkler added a solo homer of his own, while Cooper Mees drove in two runs with a clutch base hit.

Speed on the basepaths played a role as well, with Braxtan Cope swiping two bags while going 2-for-3 at the plate. RJ Hunt delivered the game-winning RBI to cap off the scoring. On the mound, the pitching staff kept Rouse in check late. Kellen Scarborough sealed the win with a dominant seventh in-

ning, striking out all three batters he faced to earn the save. The Broncos now sit at 17-4-2 and are carrying serious momentum into their next district series against Chaparral. Game 1 is set for Tuesday night at Bronco Ballpark, and with their bats hot, Lake Belton looks every bit the part of a top-tier 5A contender..

Belton has stong showing at Area meet

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

State is one step away for multiple Belton ISD athletes. After a season of preparation, numerous Belton and Lake Belton standouts are just one event away from their discipline's ultimate stage — the University Interscholastic League Track & Field State Championships. Beginning today, their fates will be determined. The two-day Region II-5A meet takes place at Maverick Stadium on the University of Texas at Arlington campus, where the top two finishers in each event automatically advance to state. The next best showing from across the four regional meets qualifies as a wild card en-

trant. Among the local contingency will be several area champions. Hosted by Lake Belton, the District 15/16 area meet saw Broncos senior Julian Walker win the long jump with a mark of 22 feet, 6¾ inches and junior teammate Kendrick Jones Jr. claim the gold medal in the 400-meter run, crossing the finish line in 47.25 seconds. Furthermore, in the girls division, Lake Belton senior Abigail Rydberg cleared 12 feet, 0 inches to win the pole vault, matching the performances from Lady Tigers senior Olivia Brillhart (1st, 3,200, 11:10.59) and sophomore Damauria Nolan-Hemphill (1st, long jump, 19-4). Although they will be favorites, they will not be

the only Belton ISD products in attendance. By placing among the top four in an area event, athletes qualified for regionals, and five Tigers advanced in six events. Senior pole vaulter Logan Lamberte (2nd, 14-0), junior Christian Porter (2nd, 400, 48.32; 4th, 200, 22.33), senior Joshua Roberts (3rd, pole vault, 13-0), senior distance runner John Zachary Moehlenbrock (4th, 800, 2:02.11) and sophomore Graham Chambley (4th, 110 hurdles, 15.11) extended their seasons. The boys regional meet will also include Lake Belton sophomore Zion Harness (2nd, 100, 10.85), senior Travellis Harrison (3rd, discus, 152-10), sophomore Michael Lockett (3rd, high jump, 5-10), se-



nior Michael Frazier (4th, triple jump, 43-7) and the Broncos 400 relay team of Josh Mallard, Christian Onchweri, Harness and Jones, who placed third (41.18) at area. As teams, Lake Belton was seventh with 60 points, while Belton was eighth (45).

Midlothian emerged as the team champion, scoring 102 points to immediately beat out Killeen Ellison (2nd, 90) and Red Oak (3rd, 70). In the girls division, Red Oak (1st, 116), Midlothian Heritage (2nd, 96), Midlothian (3rd, 77), Lake Belton (4th, 62) and Belton (5th, 60) occupied the top five spots. Along with Rydberg, the Lady Broncos qualified sophomore Dannika Kelley (2nd, high jump, 5-0), junior Keely Camacho (3rd, 100 hurdles, 15.76) and two relay teams for the regional meet. Chelsie Miller, Aleya Russell, Moriah Rydberg and Bella Garcia were second (1:40.33) in the 800 relay, while Nylah Berrian and Kennedy Hall joined Russell and Garcia to place fourth (47.80) in the 400 relay.

Nolan-Hemphill is also on the verge of state after placing third in the 100 (11.96) and 200 (25.05) at area, where Brillhart was second (5:06.68) in the 1,600. Laila Page, a junior, completes Belton's list of regional qualifiers after claiming the silver medal in the pole vault with a height of 10-0.



Lady Tigers fall short in district contest with University

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers softball team came up short Friday night in a hard-fought 7-5 loss to the Waco University Trojans. Despite a strong effort on both sides of the ball, the Tigers couldn't string together enough momentum to pull

out the win. Junior pitcher Tara Stone took the circle for Belton, finishing the night with three strikeouts and allowing six earned runs. At the plate, the Tigers found key contributors in Hailley Schutz and Andalyn Logan, who both went a perfect 2-for-2 on the night. Reagan Stuart and Stone each chipped in with two RBIs to keep Belton in the game.


Head coach Morgan Birkel pointed out several positives from the performance, noting, "We had a lot of high-lights and bright spots in the game. But unfortunately, we were not able to put it all together at the same time to come out with a win." She praised Schutz for her work in center field, call-

See **SOFTBALL**,
Page B3



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Belton ISD golf at Region II-5A tournament

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The seasons for the Lady Broncos and Lady Tigers came to a close Tuesday, but Carly Marshall has hope of returning to state.

Lake Belton and Belton traveled to Pottsboro’s Tanglewood Golf Course on Monday to begin the two-day Region II-5A tournament, where the top three teams and top three individuals not on a qualifying team advanced to state.

After finishing 18th overall at last year’s University Interscholastic

League State Tournament, Marshall, a sophomore, placed fifth at the regional meet, making her an alternate for state. Essentially, she will serve as a standby competitor in case another cannot attend.

The two-day state tournament will be held at Georgetown’s Legacy Hills Golf Club starting April 28.

Thanks in part to Marshall’s score of 150 following two rounds, Lake Belton was ninth in the final team standings with a combined total of 785.

Marshall’s outing was complemented by senior

Katherine Moore (43rd, 194) and sophomores Lyliana Gonzalez (56th, 208) and Reese Sexton (72nd, 233). Lillie Mikes, a sophomore, posted a 243 (78th), but her score did not count toward the team total.

The Lady Tigers finished directly behind the Lady Broncos, placing 10th with 817 points.

Jacklyn Munoz, a senior, capped off her career by placing 40th, shooting a 186, while Anya Jinadatha (51, 205) and freshman Isha Jinadatha (52nd, 206) followed, finishing within one stroke of each other. The score was completed by sophomore Abby Beck (65th, 220).

Fellow sophomore Hanna Wheeler (67th, 226) also competed for Belton.

Frisco Centennial captured the team championship, shooting a combined 615, while Dallas Highland Park (2nd, 625) and Prosper Walnut Grove (3rd, 626) also qualified for state.

Individually, Frisco sophomore Addison Reilly posted a field-low 139 to take the gold medal, while Frisco Independence sophomore Megan Lee (2nd, 142) and junior Anika Singh (3rd, 146), Centennial sophomore Lisa Zhang (4th, 148) and Marshall followed.

The Lady Tigers entered the regional tournament as District 16 champions, winning the hardware at Killeen’s Stonetree Golf Club by 33 strokes.

Munoz placed second to Marshall in the final standings.

BOYS REGIONAL GOLF

The two-day boys Region II-5A tournament began Wednesday at the same site, and both the Tigers and Broncos are competing.

With a two-day total of 635, Belton won the District 16-5A team title at Waco’s Cottonwood Creek Golf Course to earn an 18th consecutive trip to the regional tournament.

All five of the Tigers were situated among the field’s top 10 as the squad emerged from the event with two medals highlighted by Daniel Perkins’ runner-up outing. The senior shot back-to-back rounds of 77.


Haden Hoelscher finished four strokes behind Perkins, capturing the bronze medal with a 77-81-

158, while Owen Babcock (81-80-161) was fourth. Miguel Matos (80-82-162) finished seventh, and Chase Aggers (86-86-172) was ninth, but neither of his rounds counted toward the team’s total.

Lake Belton placed second (324-322-646) at district behind individual champion Miles Parker.

The junior edged out Perkins for the title by a single stroke, posting a 77-76-153 to give the Broncos their fifth consecutive individual district championship.

Complementing the outing were teammates Nick Brooks (85-76-161), Jack Brown (79-82-161), Rawley Soliz (85-90-175) and Jackson Null (83-88-171).



Three stops on the road to financial stability

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

Achieving financial stability doesn’t happen overnight — it takes a journey. And, as with every journey, you should reach some milestones along the way.

For your first financial milestone, you’ll want to build a strong foundation. Start by building an emergency fund to pay for unexpected costs, such as a major car repair. And try to contribute enough to your 401(k) and health savings account (HSA) to earn your employer’s matching contribution, if one is offered. Also, try to pay down or refinance some high-interest debt.

Your next milestone should find you gaining a stronger financial

foothold. At this stage, continue building your emergency fund and try to put 10% to 15% of your gross income into your 401(k) or similar plan.

At your third milestone, when you may be in your middle or later years, you’ll want to invest as much as you can into your 401(k) and have at least six months’ worth of living expenses in your retirement fund. Also, review your retirement goals to ensure you’re on track to achieve them.

Reaching these milestones will take diligence and commitment — but it will be worth the effort in helping you on your journey toward financial security.

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

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Maddux fires no-hitter, strikes out 16 in win

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

Class 5A No. 17 Lake Belton Broncos finished its District 16-5A week against Waco on Friday at Veterans Park No. 1 at the Waco ISD Complex.

Maverik Maddux retired all 16 batters that he faced on strikes, having thrown 51 strikes on 63 pitches. Cooper Mees and Cole Mikulas each contributed two-run triples as part of a nine-run second inning as the Broncos cruised to a 12-0, five-inning win over the Lions.

After the Broncos were held off the scoreboard in the first, Maddux began his mastery of the Waco High lineup. He struck out the first two batters before facing Chance Rhynes. Maddux got Rhynes swinging but ended up wide of catcher Braxtan Cope. Rhynes was safe at first base. He would be stranded at the bag, as Zay Johnson struck out to end the inning.

Mikulas scored on a passed ball to open the Broncos’ scoring in the top of the second. RJ Hunt’s single scored Ty Green. The Broncos pulled off a double-steal, with Cameron Bartz having stolen second and Hunt stole home. Mees’ triple scored Bartz and Rohde Smith, Mikulas’ triple scored Mees and Samuel Matous, Green’s single pushed across Mikulas, and Brent Thomson reached on an error that scored Green to give the Broncos a 9-0 lead.

Logan Winkler, elevated from JV Silver before the game, singled home Smith in the third. Andrew Ramos’ ground out scored Winkler to increase the Broncos’ lead to 11-0.

Tate Lisenbe’s ground out in the top of the fifth scored Winkler to cap the scoring.

Eight different Broncos had hits,

with Mikulas having led the way with three. Mikulas, Green and Smith each scored twice.

“It was a dominant game by Maverik tonight,” Lake Belton head coach Chris Peacock said. “The kids we elevated from JV Silver got to play and contributed. A very good win.”

Broncos battle from behind, up-ends No. 20 Rouse, 5-4

Lake Belton took on the Leander Rouse Raiders in non-district action on Saturday afternoon at Bronco Park.

Logan Winkler’s home run to center field tied the game in the bottom of the sixth, and RJ Hunt’s single to score Cole Mikulas for the go-ahead run in Lake’s 5-4 win over the Raiders.

Cameron Bartz started the scoring in the bottom of the first with a solo homer over the left field fence.

Rouse scored twice in the second and once in the third to take a 3-1 lead.

Cooper Mees singled home Bartz in the bottom of the third to pull the Broncos to within one. Mees grounded out in the fifth inning to score Bryce Davis to tie the game 3-3.

Rouse took the lead with a sacrifice fly in the top of the sixth. Winkler’s leadoff homer in the bottom of the inning was followed with a one-out single from Hunt that scored Mikulas to put the Broncos up 5-4.

Kellen Scarborough came on in relief of Ely Vaughan and struck out the side for the save and clinched the Broncos its fourth win against a ranked opponent this season (Rouse, Round Rock, Austin Westlake, Lake Travis). They are 4-4-1 against ranked teams.

Bartz and Braxtan Cope each

had two hits in Lake’s seven-hit attack.

Cope, Lisenbe, Vaughan and Scarborough combined for seven innings pitched, allowed four runs on four hits, nine strikeouts, four walks, four hit batters, and struck out nine.

Lake outlasts Chaparral, 5-0

The Broncos began their District 16-5A week with the Chaparral Bobcats Tuesday at Bronco Park.

Cameron Bartz had three of Lake’s seven hits, and Cooper Mees, Rohde Smith, and RJ Hun each drove in runs in support of Brandon Holley’s five-hit shutout over the Bobcats, 5-0.

Smith reached on an error in the bottom of the first to score Bryce Davis to put the Broncos on the board. Mees grounded into a double play with Bartz having scored to give the Broncos a 2-0 lead.

Mees’ double in the bottom of the fifth inning brought in Davis.

The Broncos picked up insurance in the bottom of the sixth. Hunt’s safety squeeze single scored Braxtan Cope and Cole Mikulas scored a wild pitch to increase Lake’s lead to five runs.

Rene Pagan collected three of the Bobcats’ five runs against Holley, who struck out seven and walked none in the win.

No. 10 Lake Belton (18-4-2, 7-0 District 16-5A) have a three-game lead over the second-place traffic jam between the Bobcats, University Trojans, and Belton Tigers.

The Broncos and Bobcats will finish the series on Thursday at Chaparral High School.

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Ten extra base hits leads Lake to 19-0 win over Eagles

By **Tony Adams**
The Belton Journal

The Class 5A No. 4 Lake Belton softball team continued District 16-5A play on Friday as they took on the Ellison Eagles in Killeen.

The Broncos posted nine runs in the first inning, highlighted by Trista Sheka's grand slam home run, as ten of Lake's 18 hits were extra base hits in their 19-0 win over the Eagles in three innings.

Ana Diaz started off the scoring with an RBI that scored Alexis Ortiz. Brysen Gott's single scored Maddison Ruiz, and Addison Sims' double scored Madison Naser to give Lake a 4-0 lead in the first.

The Broncos loaded the bases for Sheka. On a 1-0 delivery, Sheka turned on the pitch and drilled over the left field fence to clear the bases and double Lake's lead to 8-0.

Ortiz's triple to right field scored Madison Perkins to cap the first inning scoring.

While the Broncos' offensive was lighting up the scoreboard, Natalie Hosch held the Eagles' offense in check having allowed three hits and struck out four over three innings for the win.

The Broncos continued the barrage in the second, as Gott's single scored Naser, Perkins' triple scored Sims and Nylah Berrian, Ortiz's single plated Perkins,

and Ruiz's double scored Diaz and Ruiz to increase the lead to 15-0.

In the third, Lilli Herrera's single scored Naser, Alaysha Williams' single drove home Briley Updyke, Sheka's line drive double brough home Herrera and Avery Park's single scored Williams to cap the scoring.

Lake Belton shuts out Waco 10-0 in six, clinches District 16-5 title

The Broncos hosted Waco High to kick off the final week of District 16-5A.

Natalie Hosch allowed two hits and walked one while striking out 11 over six innings and Madison Perkins had a three-hit night as the Broncos run-ruled the Lions in six innings, 10-0.

The win clinched Lake Belton's fifth consecutive district championship and has 57 straight win in district play.

Lake began their scoring in the bottom of the second with three runs. Waco's Chloe Nava walked Perkins to force home Addison Sims. Alexis Ortiz's sacrifice fly scored Alaysha Williams, and Madison Naser was hit by a pitch to force across Trista Sheka

The Broncos scored three times in the fourth inning. Perkins scored on a passed ball, Ana Diaz's sacrifice to the pitcher scored Ortiz, and Park singled home Hosch to increase Lake's lead to 6-0.

Lake Belton added on a run in the fifth when

Ortiz singled to left to score Perkins.

The Broncos scored their final three runs of the contest in the sixth. Maddison Ruiz hit a solo home run, Briley Updyke was hit by a pitch which scored Park, and Perkins' single to right field scored Sims to end the game.

Perkins' three hits and Avery Park's two hits led Lake's nine-hit attack.

"It was a good week, but we also have a great

deal of softball ahead," Lake Belton head coach Kelsie McEachern said.

The Broncos (27-2, 9-0 District) will host Killeen Chaparral (6-3) on Thursday for an opportunity to close out their fifth consecutive district season undefeated.

Lake Belton will take on Class 6A No. 6 Round Rock Cedar Ridge on Tuesday at 5 pm at Bronco Diamond in a non-district playoff tune-up.

Belton Baseball settles into second place tie

By **Clay Whittington**
The Belton Journal

The Tigers are situated in a three-way tie for second place in the District 16-5A standings. Nevertheless, Belton is right where it wants to be.

With only three games remaining in the regular season schedule, the Tigers are almost guaranteed to miss out on the league championship with Lake Belton's record being unblemished through seven games, and they could potentially slide all the way down to fourth place.

Regardless, with one more victory, Belton will return to the playoffs.

The Tigers close their district run by hosting Killeen Ellison tonight at 7 p.m. before welcoming Waco to town Tuesday to begin their final series.

Between them, the programs are 2-12 in district, including a one-sided affair between Belton and the Eagles on Tuesday.

Playing on the road, the Tigers only needed six innings to defeat Ellison, winning 18-3 behind a series of strong performances.

Cole Haisler was 3 for 5 with a double, three RBIs and two runs scored, while Austin Wood was 2 for 3 with a double, an RBI and three runs scored.

Additionally, Jacob Quigley was 1 for 2 with a trio of RBIs and runs, and Rayshaun Peoples had a three-run home run.

On the mound, Haisler struck out four batters in two and a third innings before Leonisio Garcia completed the game by allowing only one hit and striking out three.

As a result, Belton, Killeen Chaparral and Waco University are each tied with identical 4-3 records,

while Waco (2-5) and Ellison (0-7) round out the field.

The victory comes on the heels of an up-and-down week.

After suffering a 4-3 walk off loss on the road to the Bobcats, the Tigers bounced back, defeating the same team 3-1 on Friday to split the series.

Offensively, Haisler was 2 for 3 with a double and a run scored, Billy Young was 2 for 2 with a run scored, and Quigley was 1 for 3 with a double and an RBI. Quigley also pitched seven innings, striking out 10 batters.

Then, in nondistrict competition Saturday, Belton suffered an 11-5 defeat to Georgetown East View despite Gage Flores going 2 for 4 with a pair of home runs and a trio of RBIs. Furthermore, Haisler hit a home run to go with two RBI and Austin Wood was 2 for 3 with a double.

Softball - From Page B1

ing her plays "incredible," and highlighted Logan, Stuart, and Stone as standout contributors.

Still, the Tigers struggled to limit errors and couldn't consistently string together hits, which proved to be the difference.

"Our biggest challenge during the game was reducing errors and stringing hits together at the same time," Birkel explained. "We also had to make some adjustments for injuries and bring in some pinch hitters."

With the loss, Belton misses the opportunity to split the dis-

trict series with University, but the team now shifts focus to Tuesday's matchup on the road against the Chaparral Bobcats.

Chaparral enters the game with a 10-10 record, and the Tigers are eager to bounce back.

"For our game against Chaparral, we are excited to build on our previous win," said Birkel. "This week's main focus is to win the small moments for the team."

Belton plans to focus on smart at bats, capitalizing on mistakes, and trusting in their team approach. Birkel emphasized the importance


of returning to the fundamentals and building confidence.

"We plan to bounce back by leaning back into our fundamentals and confidence in not only ourselves but also our teammates."

Leadership will be key as Belton pushes toward the playoffs. Team captains Andalyn Logan, Reagan Stuart, and Hailey Schutz continue to lead by example both on and off the field.

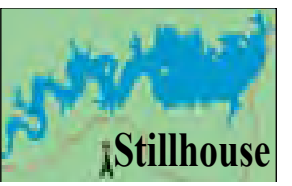
A win on Tuesday would be more than just a morale boost it would clinch a spot in the postseason for the Tigers.

FISHING REPORT



Belton

FAIR. Water stained; 59 degrees; 2.80 feet below pool. White bass fishing on Lake Belton exists in three distinct areas. There are spawning fish in the upper reaches of the Leon River and Cowhouse Creek. Immature fish which did not spawn and mature fish which have returned from spawning are in shallow water under low light conditions at sunrise and for about an hour thereafter, and at sunset and about an hour prior to it. This is typically in under 16 feet of water where the water temperature is significantly warmer than the water temperature at 25 feet and deeper. Finally, there are fish in deeper, clearer, cooler water from 250-40 feet deep. These fish are much more sluggish and still require wintertime tactics. The shallow fish can be caught throwing MAL Originals with chartreuse tails using a sawtooth method by letting the lure drop to bottom, reeling in 7 times, letting it drop again, and repeating. Deeper fish can be targeted with a 5/8-ounce white bladed Hazy Eye Slabs in conjunction with forward facing sonar. Allow the lure to settle to the bottom, reel it slowly and smoothly up five turns watching sonar for a follow. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are excellent. Anglers should search for blue catfish in river channels and around steep ledges in 20-35 feet of water. Larger cut baits have been effective for trophy size fish. Eater fish under 10 pounds are active and slow drifting with small cut shad along sand flats will produce.



Stillhouse

GOOD. Water stained; 59 degrees; 3.50 feet below pool. Your best bet on white bass on Stillhouse is to avoid the crowds and take a weekday trip up into the Lampasas River. Look for schools of white bass using sonar in sharp river bends and deeper holes. If your craft can make it past the gravel crossing and into the spawning rifles, flyfishing gear works best to present small gray streamers to imitate river minnows using a sinking tip line and a flat, 6 foot leader of 8 pound test fluorocarbon. Those looking for white bass on the main lake should focus on the middle and lower third of the reservoir, looking for adult fish returning from spawning along the flats adjacent to the river channel. The white, three-quarter ounce Bladed Hazy Eye Slab will excel for this application. Largemouth bass continue to move shallower with the spring warm-up. Medium sized soft plastics 6-8 inches in length with dark, natural hues fished with a Carolina rig are producing well. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.

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S	N	K	G	M	M	Y	S	P	Y	P	A	P	G	C	N	D	A	T	H

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

WORDS

- ACTIVITY
- ATTENTION
- COGNITIVE
- CRASH
- DANGEROUS
- DISTRACTED
- DRIVER
- DROWSY
- EATING
- HIGHWAY
- INJURY
- MANUAL
- NOISY
- PASSENGER
- RADIO
- READING
- SAFETY
- SPEED
- TALKING
- TEXTING
- VEHICLE
- VISUAL

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EDITORIAL

From Nuisance to Hero

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

Spring is in full bloom on our hilltop, and this afternoon I decided to cut some fresh flowers from our yard. I gathered pink and yellow and peach roses from the front of the house before heading to the back, Max beside me every step. You remember Max. A few months ago, I wrote about the kangaroo-sized dog I unwillingly inherited from my young adult child. He slobbers and drools. He tries to sit in my lap, uninvited. He gets hair all over my nice clothes.

Not much has changed in our situation. But today, a lot changed in my heart. Max is now my hero, and I’m not giving him back, ever.

As I rounded the corner toward the red-and-white roses, I nearly tripped over a rope. Odd, because Rick never leaves his stuff out. I stepped back to examine it closer... that rope was a six-foot-long snake, sunning in my yard like it was at a five-star resort.

At this point I scampered backward. Max followed me, wagging his tail like I was playing some kind of game. “Max! Get the snake!” Max turned to look where I pointed, and suddenly he was on full alert. He approached the reptile and barked. The snake hissed and tried to strike, but Max was too fast.

Of course, this happened when Rick was out of town, and his shovel was in the back of his truck. (I’m proud of

myself for even looking for the shovel. That would not have happened a decade ago.) At this point, the snake slithered over to our garage door and tried to find a way into our house. I’m so glad the door was shut tight! Max stayed between me and the snake, barking a warning at the creature that said, “Try me. See what happens.”

There was no rattle. I knew it was a chicken snake, but it certainly wasn’t friendly. It gave up on the garage and slinked around the side of the house, up a support pole, and tried to slide through a vent. Praise God, the snake was too big. (I can’t believe I just praised God for a big snake.)

This whole time, I had Rick on the phone, giving him the play-by-play. And this whole time, Max strategically positioned himself to protect me. I love that dog so much.

Rick called his Uncle Dwain for backup. I won’t go into details... but within half an hour, that snake had gone wherever snakes go at the end of their journeys. I’m pretty sure it’s not heaven. Especially after it tried to break into my house.

Max has been officially elevated from nuisance to hero. And I’m reminded of how quickly the tide can turn when we step fully into

the roles God designed for us. How often do we seek approval from others, only to feel rejected and alone? How often do we tell ourselves we’ll never fit in, never be successful? We all experience that at times. But the best remedy is to do exactly what Max did. Stop looking for others’ approval and simply be who God intended us to be.

Yesterday, Max did what he was created to do... protect. Keep your eyes open for chances to be the person God created you to be. Maybe you’re an encourager, and someone needs your kind words. Maybe you have the gift of service, and someone needs your help. Soon, you’ll find opportunities to show your stuff. And when that happens, you’ll feel your shoulders pull back and your head lift. You’ll feel the satisfaction of being God’s masterpiece, standing in the full acceptance of His love.

“But you, Oh Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.” Psalm 3:3

Entertainment 101: Lost Media

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

Given how prominent a topic this is among various entertainment discussion groups, perhaps I should have gotten to it a little sooner.

In short, “lost media” is any media – paintings, books, music, TV shows, movies, and so forth – that we have credible evidence to indicate once existed, but which is no longer available. Note that I said “once existed”. Yes, that’s the past tense.

In some instances, the material was never preserved in the first place. Many early television broadcasts, for example, were live broadcasts and so there was never a recording to begin with, let alone a recording for anyone to lose. Think about how many speeches, and so forth took place before modern recording equipment could preserve them, leaving only descriptions or even simply notes that such-and-such happened to tantalize future generations.

In other instances, the material was lost due to neglect, a defect in the material, a disaster, or some other issue. For example, many early film reels were made using nitrate, which was highly flammable. By the time the film industry moved away from it in the 1950s, quite a few reels were lost to fire or deterioration.

There are also situations where the material was legitimately lost or stolen. For example, less than half of the known episodes of early color cartoon “Colonel Bleep” are accounted for. From what I understand, the production company was physically relocating its archives when the truck they were using was stolen; the missing masters were on board at the time.

Then we have instances where the material still exists, but there are legal issues or other behind-the-scenes matters preventing it from being recirculated. For example, popular comedy series “Mystery Science Theater 3000” involved hosts mocking real movies, many of which were licensed from the IP owner. As those licenses expire, the respective episodes are pulled from availability until they can be renewed.

Sometimes, the material is pulled because the content creator or IP owner no longer wishes for it to circulate. For example, the Rush album “Vapor Trails” was poorly received upon first launch due to terrible audio mixing. The band members themselves would later remix the album, leading to the original release being taken out of circulation in favor of the remix.

Perhaps most tragic, however, is where the mate-

rial in question was deliberately destroyed. In some instances the destruction was because the IP owner or content creator wanted it buried, like how Marvel Comics ordered the 1994 “Fantastic Four” movie destroyed; all known copies in circulation are descended from a single master that was smuggled out of the studio. But often, the destruction was for something more unfeeling, like a desire to salvage materials from the film, a desire to reuse the film, or even a desire to clear the archives.

Yes, clear the archives. One of the most infamous examples of this took place around the 1970s when the BBC and ITV both began purging their archives of black and white episodes of TV shows. By the time the public learned about the matter and raised alarm, entire seasons and even entire TV shows were gone.

...Hence why lost media is such a hot topic of discussion: the desire to locate these missing pieces, evaluate their condition, and if possible put it back into circulation. This sometimes leads to moral grey areas, like how unauthorized sharing of media has kept many pieces from being lost. But at the same time, this all speaks to how fragile our media content is and the need to preserve what we have.



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LEGALS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Guardianship of CAROLYN MARIE WILDE, an Incapacitated Person, were issued on March 27, 2025, in Cause No. 24CPB00743, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: ERIC STOEBNER.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: ESTATE OF CAROLYN MARIE

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LYDIA A. MARTINEZ were issued on February 25, 2025, in Cause No. 24CPB00789, pending in the County Court at Law Number ONE (1) of BELL County, Texas, to ADRIAN RAMIREZ.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and

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UMHB students present research at annual Scholars’ Day

Special to the Journal

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) students unveiled their undergraduate and graduate research projects on Tuesday, April 8 during the 2025 Watson Scholars’ Day.

Sponsored by the UMHB Office of Research, Watson Scholars’ Day requires students to complete all the steps necessary to present at a conference, including identifying a topic, conducting research, and ultimately explaining their findings publicly.

“We really want to highlight the exciting research our students have been working on with the help of their faculty sponsors. This is always a highlight of my semester as I get to interact with future leaders in their respective fields. Providing opportunities like this is another way we support our students at UMHB,” said the university’s director of undergraduate research Dr. Joni Ylostalo.

Participants included 104 students and 15 faculty sponsors. AP Seminar students from Belton High School also attended the event to observe and take notes for their own upcoming presentations. Award recipients are as follows:

Podium Presentations	
1st place	Natural Sciences
Scholar:	Conner Rohrer
Sponsor:	Dr. Seena Mathew
Title:	What Are the Neurological Effects of Psilocybin on Patients Experiencing Mental Distress from Cancer and PTSD?
1st place	Public Health
Scholar:	Felicity Roberts
Sponsor:	Dr. Ariane Secrest
Title:	Phone Usage and Its Effects on Posture and Pain.
1st place	Education
Scholar:	Katelynn Anderson
Sponsor:	Dr. Jodi Pilgrim
Title:	Magic School AI: Evaluating Pedagogical Soundness and Developmental Appropriateness
1st place	Nursing
Scholar:	Lan Salazar
Sponsor:	Dr. Michele Hackney
Title:	A Spectrum of Expectations: How Prepared Are We to Care for the Neurodiverse Population?
1st place	Humanities
Scholar:	Brighton Konig

Sponsor:	Dr. Laura Bedwell
Title:	Life in a Nutshell
Creative Works	
1st place	Education
Scholars:	Shelby Weaver & Sarah Dolliff
Sponsor:	Dr. Caroline Pollard
Title:	Journey to Freedom: Exploring the Underground Railroad
2nd place	Education
Scholars:	Jason Blattner, Peyton Sedlacek & Claire Hodge
Sponsor:	Dr. Caroline Pollard
Title:	Legacy of Liberty: America’s Journey
3rd place	Education
Scholars:	Mollee Golden & Sarah Heslip
Sponsor:	Dr. Caroline Pollard
Title:	Interactive Holocaust
Poster Presentations	
1st place	Education
Scholar:	Norma Wheeler
Sponsor:	Dr. Jodi Pilgrim
Title:	A Study of the Readability of the STAAR
1st place	Exercise Physiology
Scholar:	Cole Strickland, Mathis Rollin, Nikolas Keratsopoulos, Jaci Kelly & Dimitrije Cabarkapa
Sponsor:	Dr. Mandy Parra
Title:	Interrater Agreement of Novel Inertial Measurement Unit Devices Placed Bilaterally in Assessing Jump Performance
1st place	EXSS - Sport Management
Scholar:	Tyler Woods
Sponsor:	Dr. Lester Sombito
Title:	Clickbait vs. Credibility: Analyzing Media Narratives in the Deflategate Scandal
1st place	Humanities
Scholar:	Raquel Baker
Sponsor:	Dr. Rubi Ugofsky-Mendez
Title:	Seduction & Survival: The Temptress Women in Cervantes Literary Works
1st place	Natural Sciences
Scholar:	Amber Dickey
Sponsor:	Dr. Ruth Ann Murphy
Title:	A Comparative Analysis

of Chlorophyll Concentration in Spinach Samples Using Visible Spectroscopy	
1st place	Natural Sciences
Scholars:	Amy Perez & Ava Reid
Sponsor:	Dr. Seena Mathew
Title:	Impact of Caffeine Intake on Drosophila melanogaster
1st place	Natural Sciences
Scholar:	Thant Sin
Sponsor:	Dr. Seena Mathew
Title:	Cocaine Addiction: Neurochemical Effects, Demographic Influences, and Strategies for Treatment and Societal Impact
1st place	Social Sciences
Scholars:	Macy Rodgers
Sponsor:	Dr. Jennifer Costello
Title:	Exploring the Impact of Workshops and Simulations on Teacher Empathy and Knowledge for Students with ADHD
2nd place	Social Sciences
Scholars:	Aracelia Comeaux
Sponsor:	Dr. Jennifer Costello
Title:	Understanding the Impact a Trauma-Informed Workshop Has on Nursing Home Staff’s Skills and Knowledge

3rd place	Social Sciences
Scholars:	Johnathan Ogir
Sponsor:	Dr. Jennifer Costello
Title:	Impact of Foster Care Maltreatment on Attachment Styles in Adulthood
1st place	Graduate Student
Scholars:	Amanda Gillespie, Savannah Garza, Cody Hays & Grant Richardson
Sponsor:	Dr. Wendi Stewart
Title:	The Sugar Showdown: A1c vs OGTT in Diagnosing Type 2 Diabetes
2nd place	Graduate Student
Scholars:	Caroline Zinnecker, Hannah-Rose Hix, Mckelle Winsor & Chloe Williams
Sponsor:	Dr. Wendi Stewart
Title:	Effects of Alcohol Cessation on Patients with Gastrointestinal Cancer
3rd place	Graduate Student
Scholars:	Lueella Shelton
Sponsor:	Dr. George Willey
Title:	Addressing Rural Education Challenges to Bridge Literacy and Achievement Gaps



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Courtesy photo
Norma Wheeler discusses her poster presentation, A Study of the Readability of the STAAR, at last week’s UMHB Scholars’ Day.

Make your own chocolate Easter bunnies

The Easter bunny is a tradition that has been passed down for centuries. Symbolizing fertility and wealth, the Easter bunny became a holiday standard in Germany during the 16th century.

The custom of chocolate eggs came along centuries after the Easter bunny, originating in the 19th century in France and Germany. As Easter celebrations evolved, chocolate eggs were not the only delicacy; chocolate Easter bunnies also were shared and enjoyed.

While there are scores of mass-produced chocolate bunnies available for purchase, and many local chocolatiers also make Easter bunnies and other sweet treats, families may want to try making their own chocolate Easter bunnies this year. This can be a family-friendly activity that favors togetherness with the promise of a sweet reward.

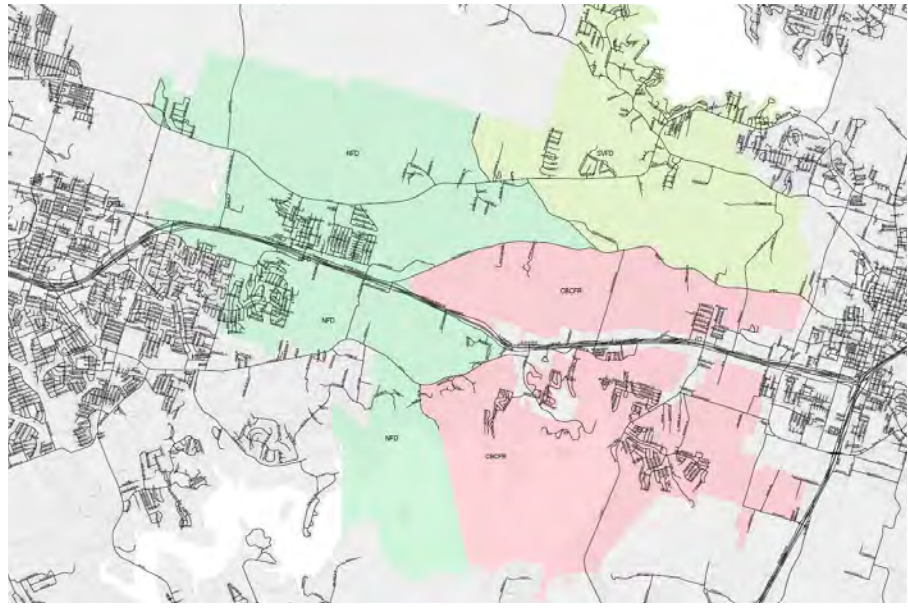
1. The first step to creating chocolate Easter bunnies is to select the type of chocolate you prefer. Bunnies can be made from white chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, or even a combination for a marbleized effect. Chocolate melts, chips or chocolate couverture are widely available at specialty chocolate and food shops or craft supply stores, according to DoItYourself.com. This simplifies the bunny-making process. Some retailers also may sell bunny-making kits that pair the chocolate melts with the mold in one box for ultimate convenience.

2. Craft stores also have aisles devoted to culinary crafts. Browse to find an Easter bunny mold. Some may sell solid chocolate bunnies or hollow varieties. Choose molds in the desired size, as bunny molds may be large or small.
3. Follow directions to melt chocolate successfully. Some chocolates can be slowly melted in the microwave. A double-boiler method, in which the chocolate is melted in a bowl placed above a pan with boiling water, can help the chocolate melt consistently and prevent it from burning.
4. Pour the chocolate into the mold and gently tap the mold so that it displaces air bubbles and helps the chocolate settle evenly into the design. Allow the chocolate to set up in the refrigerator. If your mold is hollow, you can seal the two halves of the bunny with a little melted chocolate on the seam.
- Creativity can be unleashed when making homemade chocolate bunnies. Experiment with adding a few drops of peppermint oil or orange liqueur to customize the flavor. Before sealing hollow bunnies, place peanut butter or raspberry jam inside for a tasty surprise. Use colored candy melts to add colorful eyes or cheeks or to tint the inside of the bunny ears.
- For an even more festive effect, seal a lollipop stick in a chocolate bunny and use it to secure the Easter bunny to the top of a cake.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code 775.015, the County Clerk of Bell County, Texas hereby provides notice of a public hearing to be held on the creation of the proposed Bell County Emergency Services District No 3. **This public hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 5th, 2025, at the Bell County Historic Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom, at 191 E. Central Avenue in Belton, Texas.** Each person who has an interest in the creation of the district may attend the hearing and present grounds for or against the creation of the district. A petition for the creation of an emergency services district has been filed with the County Clerk of Bell County, Texas and the creation of an emergency services district is proposed. The district is to be created and is to operate under Article III, Section 48-e of the Texas Constitution, as proposed by S.J.R. No. 27, Acts of the 70th Legislature, Regular Session, 1987 and adopted by the voters at an election held November 3, 1987. The name of the proposed district is **Bell County Emergency Services District No. 3.** It is to be created and is to operate under Article III, Section 48-e, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 775, Texas Health and Safety Code, for the provision of fire suppression and medical response in response to an emergency situation in accordance with the authority granted to emergency service districts under Chapter 775 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

The district’s boundary map is attached hereto, and incorporated herein for all purposes as Exhibit A. Upon request, the metes and bounds are available for public viewing in the County Clerk’s office during regular business hours and on the public notices page of our website at https://www.bellcountytexas.com/publicnotice_list.php.



Local Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

APRIL

04/17: Nonfiction Book Club; 42 Dominoes	04/23: Fun Lunch
04/18: Trailblazers Walking Group	04/24: 42 Dominoes
04/19: Exploring Wines	04/26: Jimmy's Egg
04/21: Snack Time Mahjong	04/28: Well -Read Women; Monday Canasta
04/22: Singing Bluebonnets	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:

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.

The March meeting of the Central Texas Travel Club will be March 27 at Johnnys Steaks and Barbeque in Salado. The gathering will begin at 11:00 with the meeting at 11:30. We will be discussing upcoming trips including Enchanted Rock and Luckenbach, Kentucky to see the Ark, San Antonio to see Moulin Rouge, and Florida in December. For more information contact us on Facebook or central-texasravelclub@outlook.com. The meeting is open to everyone with no dues or membership requirements.

Salem Lutheran Church BBQ & Silent Auction Fundraiser Nestled in the heart of farmland in Rosebud, Texas, Salem Lutheran Church is getting ready for its 23rd Annual BBQ Fundraiser and Silent Auction benefiting Bell County's Relay for Life. The event will take place on Sunday, March 30, starting at 11 a.m. at SPJST Lodge 47 Seaton Star Hall, 10842 TX-53 in Temple, bringing the surrounding communities together for a day of delicious barbeque and charitable giving. Since its founding in 1901, Salem Lutheran has been a pillar of faith and service not only to its own members but to neighboring communities as well. Over the past 23 years, the congregation has worked tirelessly to raise funds for Relay for Life, an organization dedicated to supporting cancer research and assisting those affected by the disease. "We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of our parishioners, volunteers and the community," said Co-Captain Gaile Elsik of Salem Lutheran Church. "Every plate of barbecue served, and every dollar raised brings us one step closer to making a difference in the fight against cancer." The 23rd Annual BBQ Fundraiser promises to be another success, with all proceeds going directly to Relay for Life. Plates will be available for dine-in and takeout, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy a meal while supporting a meaningful cause. For more information about the event or to find out how to get involved in Relay for Life in your area, please visit www.cancer.org

We Are Music Salado proudly presents the Third Annual Porch & Planet Festival a three-day event along Salado's scenic music mile celebrating local musicians, artists, merchants and planet earth, kicking off on Friday, April 11-13. Activities and events begin on Friday afternoon, April 11 at 5 p.m. and run through Sunday, April 13 at 5 p.m. Attendees will experience a great weekend with the friendly and charming community of Salado. This year's Porch & Planet offers attendees a wide variety of experiences – all promising three full days of music, entertainment, and family fun. This event is sponsored by We Are Music Salado and Salado's Music Friendly Community.

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 historical-commission@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 5th 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.

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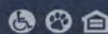
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Belton Church of Christ
3003 N. Main ~ 254.939.1816

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 Church 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
06 N. Main St. ~ 254.933.3391

First Christian Church of Belton
306 E. 5th in Belton fcebelton.com

1st Christian Church of Temple
300 N 5th St ~ (254) 773-9061

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

Iglesia de Cristo
3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910

**Immanuel Prince of Peace
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
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Ministerios Vida
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Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
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New Life Fellowship
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Nolan Valley Baptist Church
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Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ
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and School**
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Christian Life Church
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Covenant Lutheran Church
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First Baptist Church Temple
8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866

**First Methodist Church
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Taylor's Valley Baptist Church
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Temple Bible Church
3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233

**Temple 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
5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

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John Perry

Holy Week: A Celebration of Resurrection

As we approach Easter Sunday, consider it a time for deep reflection and celebration. For me, and many other Christians, Easter is the most significant celebration of faith, marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after His crucifixion. This event symbolizes victory, redemption, and the fulfillment of God's promise, offering hope of eternal life to all who believe in Him.

On Maundy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper that Jesus had with His disciples. This day is a poignant reminder of Jesus' ultimate love and willingness to bear the burden of humanity's sins. Good Friday is a solemn day where we observe Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. It's a powerful testament to His love and sacrifice for humanity. Holy Saturday is a day of reflection and waiting, as we anticipate Jesus' resurrection. It's a time to ponder the significance of His sacrifice and the hope it brings.

Easter Sunday is a day of joy and celebration, as we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Many churches hold special services and activities to honor this miraculous event. For example, my church takes a wooden cross to the streets of Salado on Good Friday, performs baptisms and renewal of baptisms at Salado Creek on Holy Saturday, and holds a worship and praise service on

Easter Sunday.

Easter is more than just a date on the calendar; it represents a profound spiritual journey, but have you ever wondered why Easter Sunday falls on different dates each year? The Council of Nicaea in 325 AD standardized the date of Easter among Christians, creating a formula based on both Christian tradition and the Jewish calendar. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox. This calculation ensures that Easter will be celebrated as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.

Why such a complicated formula? The primary reason was that different Christian groups celebrated Easter on different Sundays. To reach a common date, some compromises had to be made, resulting in a rather complicated formula.

The timing of Easter is deeply symbolic. Since Jesus was crucified shortly after Jewish Passover, which is based on the lunar calendar, so Easter follows lunar phases. Additionally, the vernal equinox marks the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, symbolizing rebirth and renewal, both concepts central to the Easter celebration.

For me, Easter is so much more than the Easter Bunny and Easter eggs. It is at the very heart of a Christian's core beliefs. Jesus of Nazareth died for all of us to take away our sins, and believing in Him offers the promise of eternal life (John 3:16). Thank you, Lord, for the gift of your Son and our Savior, and for the promise of life everlasting with You!

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