

Belton marks 175th anniversary with Legends on the Chisholm Trail



The Diamond Creek Crown Dancers perform a traditional Apache ceremony during Legends on the Chisholm Trail in Belton last Saturday.

By DANIEL MOCTEZUMA
The Belton Journal

The City of Belton hosted the first Legends on the Chisholm Trail event on March 29–30 at The Landing at Creekside Park to celebrate the city’s 175th anniversary. The event featured Apache Crown Dancers, Native American flute performances, chuck-wagon food, cowboy church, vendors, and educational displays from groups such as the Buffalo Soldier Program by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Leila Valchar, one of the event organizers, said the idea developed from two separate conversations, one about a chuckwagon cook-off and another about a Native American flute and frybread event. Valchar said the goal was to bring both elements together to reflect the city’s Native and Western history. “This is our novel event. We’re

hoping to grow it to become a very big event in the future,” Valchar said. The Diamond Creek Crown Dancers traveled from White River, Arizona, to perform a traditional Apache ceremony. Vick White Hawk Castillo, the group’s elder, said the dance is spiritual and meant to offer protection and blessings. “We’re coming out to bless Belton,” Castillo said. “Even in Native communities, people don’t see these Crown Dancers often.” Teresa Velasquez, who helped coordinate the performance, said she contacted the dancers through a connection from previous powwow events. Velasquez also ran the Indian taco and frybread booth with help from her family. “We want to bring back the powwow tradition and our culture to the Belton area,” Velasquez said. Chuckwagon meals were

served for free by volunteers. Dishes included beef tips, chili verde, cowboy beans, green beans with sausage, jalapeño cream corn, biscuits, and cobbler. Jesse Salsido, one of the cooks, said the food was based on historical trail meals but expanded for variety. Attendee Nicole Douglas said she came with her daughter to listen to music and see the vendors. “It was very unique, something I had never seen before,” she said about the Crown Dancers’ performance. Texas Parks and Wildlife interpreters represented the Buffalo Soldier Program with uniforms, artifacts, and educational materials. “We try to show a broad perspective of frontier life,” said interpreter Ricky Dolifka. “It wasn’t

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Belton Journal/Michelle Rodriguez
Members of Leadership Belton class of 2025 Leah Hodges, Realtor with H2 Realty Team, Delilah Ramirez, Senior Relationship Banker with Extraco Bank, and Lindsey Weaver, Assistant City Clerk for the City of Belton, present information about Project Miller Heights Park to the Belton Lion’s Club, and Jennah Gliha, President of Belton Lion’s Club.

Leadership Belton team presents Miller Heights Park Project

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Leadership Belton hosted by the Belton Chamber of Commerce is working on a project to improve Miller Heights Park. They presented their project at the Belton Lion’s Club Meeting at the Dead Fish Grill on Thursday, March 27. “We are excited this Leadership Belton Project will improve quality of life for Miller Heights Park and the surrounding community. It’s a great program and opportunity for leaders in our community to learn about the City of Belton and get involved. They are working hard to solicit sponsors to add amenities to the park and upgrade it,” said Randy Pittenger, President and CEO of the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce. Leadership Belton teaches leadership skills in a

See LEADERSHIP,
Page A2

Belton ISD among 10 school districts receiving technology grants



Courtesy Photo
Belton ISD receives a grant in the amount of \$14,052 to purchase DroneBlocks’ autonomous drone kits to equip elementary students with essential coding, STEM and digital literacy skills.

Special to the Journal
The Education Service Center Region 12 Technology Foundation surprised ten Region 12 educators with \$83,400 in grant funds during the weeks of March 17 and March 24. These grant funds will support education technology projects that are expected to impact 5,582 students in ten school districts. Belton ISD received \$14,052 to purchase DroneBlocks’ autonomous drone kits to equip elementary students with essential coding, STEM and digital literacy skills. “These grants are more than just funding—they’re investments in innovation, creativity, and hands-on learning for our students,” said Kenny Berry, Executive Director of the Education Service Center Region 12 Technology Foundation. See GRANTS, Page A2

Belton and Salado middle school students receive state awards

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Special to the Journal

Ujunwa Ogwudu, a 7th grade student at Belton Middle School has been awarded a first place in the state for the 7th grade for an American History essay by the Texas Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. The American History essay contest is a national essay contest for students in the 5-8th grade. The essay topic was “A Different Kind of a Tea Party” and asked the students to write about one of the several tea party protests that took place prior to the American Revolution. Ujunwa wrote on the Edenton tea party which took place in Edenton, North Carolina in October 1774. Ujunwa is an excellent academic student and athlete. She plays tennis on the BMS tennis team and volunteers for

the Touch Root Foundation which provides water wells for people in Nigeria. Tristan Kubiak, a 5th grade student at Thomas Arnold Elementary School in Salado, has been awarded a first place in the state for the 5th grade American History essay by the Texas Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. The essay topic was “A Different Kind of a Tea Party” and asked the students to write about one of the several tea party protests that took place prior to the American Revolution. Tristan wrote on the Edenton tea party which took place in Edenton, North Carolina in October 1774. Tristan is an excellent academic student and loves basketball. He enjoys writing and recently won 1st place in UIL ready writing for the third time in a row.

Both students were sponsored by the Betty Martin Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Temple, Texas. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women’s service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today’s DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the

See AWARDS,
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Troy Ashford
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Legends - From Page A1

just fighting. They built roads, made maps, and supported infrastructure.” James Duncan of the Four Winds In-

tertribal Society led a prayer and wreath ceremony in memory of Paula Taylor, a founding member of the organization.



Belton Journal/Daniel Moctezuma
ABOVE: Ricky Dolifka portrays an officer of the Ninth Cavalry as part of the Buffalo Soldier Program presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife TOP: Jesse Salsido prepares and serves traditional trail food from a chuckwagon during Legends on the Chisholm Trail in Belton on Saturday.

Grants - From Page A1

tive Director of ESC Region 12. “By equipping classrooms with cutting-edge technology, we are empowering educators to inspire the next generation of problem-solvers and critical thinkers.”

China Spring ISD’s Elementary School received \$1,838.10 to purchase a Glowforge Aura 3D Printer that will allow students to bring creative designs to life and foster problem-solving and engagement.

Cranfills Gap ISD received \$6,867.32 to purchase a camera and video equipment for 5th-grade students to enhance their weekly news show that covers local and national news.

Iredell ISD received \$7,110.00 to purchase a camera and video equipment for students to produce a weekly newscast that will enhance ELAR curriculum and foster media skills.

Lorena ISD’s Primary School received \$15,000.00 to purchase a QTRobot to integrate robotics into the classroom and provide students with hands-on learning and collaboration opportunities.

Mart ISD received \$7,289.10 to purchase NEWYES Scan Reader Pens to give students with dyslexia an accessible tool to

improve their reading independence and confidence.

Mildred ISD received \$8,830.00 to purchase video equipment to provide students with valuable multimedia skills through hands-on training in videography and video editing.

Morgan ISD received \$15,000.00 to purchase drones to enhance STEM education by giving middle and high school students hands-on robotics and coding experiences.

Waco ISD’s Waco High School received \$7,500.00 to purchase professional photography equipment to help students gain practical experience to boost their technical skills and creative confidence.

West ISD’s Elementary School received the 2025 Technology Foundation Special Grant Award. The campus received two Eyeclick Interactive Projectors (One BEAM Pro and one OBIE) to provide all students with immersive, hands-on learning experiences.

Including these grant awards, the ESC Region 12 Technology Foundation has awarded \$778,205 to Region 12 schools and served 38,285 students in Central Texas.

Awards- From Page A1

country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Over one million members have joined the organization since its found-

ing in 1890.

If you are interested in learning more about membership, contact bettymartinchapterregent@gmail.com.

TOP: Ujunwa Ogwudu, a 7th grade student at Belton Middle School, receives her first place recognition in the Texas Society, Daughters of the American Revolution American History essay contest. She is pictured with Susan Johnston, Texas State Regent (left) and Missy Roberts, Texas State Chair for American History (right).
BOTTOM: Tristan, a 5th grade student at Salado Middle School, receives his first place recognition. – Courtesy Photo



Leadership - From Page A1

10-month program focusing on community awareness training, leadership training, and team building. Each class works on a community project.

“We are in the class of 2025. It started during the summer and goes through June. I’ve learned a ton about the community: what the Belton community has to offer as far as jobs, services, health-care, and schools. Since I’m in real estate, I can share that with my clients in Belton. I’ve met a ton of community leaders,” said Realtor Leah Hodges with H2 Realty Team

Hodges, Delilah Ramirez, Senior Relationship Banker with Extraco Bank, and Lindsey Weaver, Assistant City Clerk for the City of Belton, presented the information about the project.

“We are a team of six. There are 12 in our class of 2025 divided into two groups. One of my team members, Chad Ruff, actually lives in the area and knows the park has needs, like dog stations. We reached out to the Parks and Recreation Department and mentioned Miller Heights was the park in biggest need, especially the basketball court. So, we started planning how we could get the basketball court resurfaced, add dog waste stations, a park bench, and landscaping if we raise enough funds at the end,” said Hodges.

Their goal is to raise \$20,000. As of March 12, they have received 16 percent of their goal. Their target date is May 1, 2025. They are accepting one-time contributions and sponsorship opportuni-

ties, such as a \$5,000 diamond sponsor, a branding opportunity for a company’s name or logo printed on the court with a ribbon cutting this Spring, press release recognition, videos, and photos for social media; a \$2,500 gold sponsor for a new park bench with an engraved plaque to honor the donation for years to come, ribbon cutting, press release recognition, videos, and photos for social media; a \$1,000 silver sponsor for landscaping markers with name, ribbon-cutting, press release recognition, videos, and photos for social media; a \$500 bronze sponsor for supporting the re-surfacing, new goals, and planting of trees and shrubs to beautify the park, ribbon cutting press release recognition, videos, and photos for social media.

“The park’s current amenities include: 6.2 acres of land, a basketball court, four BBQ grills, a drinking fountain, a horseshoe pit, four picnic tables, a playground, and a ½-mile walking trail,” said James Grant, CPTM, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Current donors are Pinnacle View, First Community Title, Covington Realty, Vista Real Estate, First Texas Bank, Paysee Insurance, Tejas Land and Title, and Extraco Bank.

For more information visit <https://leadershipbelton.my.canva.site> or contact Lindsay Weaver by phone at 408-613-7572 or email at lweaver@belton-texas.gov or visit the Belton Chamber of Commerce office at 412 E. Central Ave.

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OBITUARIES

Alexander

Ruthie Nell Alexander
April 26, 1950 –
March 24, 2025

Ruthie Nell Alexander, age 74, of Temple, passed from this life Monday, March 24, 2025. Services will be held at Bethel Church in Temple on Thursday, April 3, 2025, with a visitation starting at 11 a.m. and funeral service immediately following at 12 p.m. Burial will be in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Ruthie Nell was born on April 26, 1950, in Rosebud, Texas, to Morris and Dorthula (Anderson) Alexander. She was the sixth of seven children and grew up in a loving and close-knit family.

Ruthie Nell attended the Rosebud Public Schools, graduating in the Class of 1968. She continued her education at Temple Community College, where she excelled academically, graduating as the Salutatorian with a degree in nursing, becoming a Licensed Vocational Nurse.

With a deep passion for caring for others, Ruthie Nell had a dedicated career in vocational nursing. She worked at Scott & White Hospital for 11 years before continuing her career at Regency Manor, where she served for another 38 years until her retirement in 2023. Her kindness and compassion left a lasting impact on her patients, many of whom fondly remembered and appreciated her care.

Beyond her career, Ruthie Nell embraced life with joy. She loved reading, playing bingo, traveling, and spending cherished moments with her children and grandchildren. She held a special place in her heart for her grandson Mahki, they had a bond like no other. Ruthie Nell was a woman with a sweet spirit and wise soul.

On August 29, 2008, Ruthie Nell married Robert Louis Greene, in Temple, Texas. Together, they shared years of companionship and love.

Ruthie Nell was a devoted mother to her four children: Lenora, Johnny, Jessica, and Tiffany Alexander. She was preceded in death by her parents, Morris and Dorthula Alexander; her brothers, Samuel Rueben and Lenord Alexander; her sisters, Mattie Mae Alexander, Jessie Mae (Alexander) Allen, and Ruby Jean (Alexander) Smiley; her beloved husband, Robert Greene; and her son, Johnny Lamont Alexander.

She leaves behind to celebrate her life and cherish her memory one sister Della Lee House of Waco Texas; her daughters Lenora, Jessica, and Tiffany Alexander, all of Temple, Texas; her grandchildren, Christian, Johnny, Tierra, Brianna (Andre’) Pitts, Jaynasiah, Jaylah, Jazzyah, and Mahki; and her great-grandchildren, La’Noria, Ava, and Elianna. She is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends who will forever hold her in their hearts.

Ruthie Nell Alexander’s legacy of love, kindness, and devotion to her immediate and extended family and friends will never be forgotten.

Austin

Marily Farias Austin
September 25, 1940 –
March 23, 2025

Marilyn Farias Austin, 84, born on September 25, 1940, in Sherman, Texas, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 23, 2025, at a local hospital in Temple, Texas. She was a remarkable individual whose impact on her community and loved ones will be cherished for generations to come.

Marilyn’s educational journey began in Sherman, Texas till she moved to Irving, Texas, where she graduated from high school in 1958. Meanwhile she married her high school sweetheart, Joe Feldpausch. Through this union they produced two daughters; Carla and Jennifer. She pursued her passion for music and education, obtaining her Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education from Texas Tech University and later earning a Master’s Degree in Piano from the University of North Texas. Her commitment to education extended into her professional life as she devoted many years to teaching public school in Goliad ISD and Victoria ISD. Recognizing a deeper calling, she furthered her studies in a seminary school in Austin, ultimately becoming a Methodist Minister. Marilyn served com-

munities across North Dakota and Texas until her retirement in 2005 from San Angelo, where she dedicated her ministry to uplifting those around her.

Throughout her life, Marilyn was known for her sharp wit, generosity, and scholarly nature. An avid reader, she immersed herself in topics ranging from economics and politics to novels that reflected the richness of human experience. She cherished her Mexican heritage, which she expressed through her service to the community and her heartfelt ministry.

Marilyn was not only a devoted educator and minister but also a loving mother. She was immensely proud of her daughters, Carla Siegle and her husband Daniel, and Jennifer Butler, forging deep and meaningful bonds with them that will last forever. Her unwavering support and guidance left an indelible mark on their lives. In addition to her daughters, she is survived by her brother, Robert Farias Austin and his wife Irina Chausovsky, along with five beloved grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. Robert F. Austin and Dr. Ona Mae Austin; her husband, Bernie Kent; and her sister, Kathleen Steirs. Marilyn’s last words, a poignant excerpt from the poetry of Lewis Carroll—”The time has come to talk of many things, Of shoes, ships, and cello wax, Of cabbages and kings”—reflect her whimsical spirit and love for literature.

Marilyn’s legacy is one of love, service, and a fierce dedication to both education and community. Her fiery passion as a crusader for the poor and her servant’s heart made her a beacon of hope for many. Her presence will be sorely missed, but her spirit will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know her.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial donation to a homeless shelter of your choice

A special thank you to Baylor Scott and White for their compassionate care.

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

Wentreck

Mildred Jeannette Wentreck
July 13, 1942 –
March 23, 2025

Mildred Jeannette Wentreck, 83, affectionately known as “Gaga,” passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 23, 2025, in San Antonio, Texas. Born on July 13, 1942, in Cyclone, Texas, she leaves behind a legacy of dedication, love, and inspiration.

Mildred’s career as an educator spanned many years, where she taught in Holland Independent School District, Academy Independent School District, and culminated in her retirement from Rogers Independent School District. Her expertise in office education and typing transitioned gracefully into the realm of computers as technology evolved. She took immense pride in her work and was deeply committed to her students’ success, often celebrating their achievements as her own.

From 1948- 1951 she attended Cyclone Community School. She was a proud graduate in 1960 from Rogers High School with Honors, Mildred furthered her education at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, where she graduated in 1969 with Honors in Education as well. Her enthusiasm for learning was evident in her interactions with both colleagues and students; she was known for her friendly demeanor and her ability to connect with those around her.

Mildred had a vibrant personality and a zest for life. She was a devoted wife who married James Wentreck in August of 1964 at Ocker Brethren Church and together they adopted their son, Jeremy Edward in December of 1974. She loved her new family, meanwhile cherishing the special bond she held with her sister, Marian Smetana, as well as with her beloved nieces and nephews. Her grandchildren, Joshua and Josiah Wentreck, were the shining stars in her life, and she was always supportive of their academic endeavors and enjoyed her time feeding kolaches to her family. Her love extended not just to people, but also to animals; she doted on her cats, chickens, and her chihuahua poodle, Chewy,

Christmas held a special place in Mildred’s heart, as she adorned her home with beautiful decorations and inspired her husband to illuminate their house with festive lights. She had a knack for record keeping and bookkeeping, always ensuring that everything was organized. She was a great overseer of her

neighbors and community. Her appreciation for knick-knacks and antiques added a personal touch to her home, making it a warm and inviting space.

Mildred’s journey in life took a difficult turn in February 2025 when she suffered a stroke. Following three weeks of hospitalization and two weeks of rehabilitation, she moved in with her son, Jeremy Edward Wentreck, and daughter-in-law, Cindy, for care. As she naturally declined, she remained surrounded by love and comfort until her passing, where she was reunited with her heavenly father, her parents Joseph and Marie (Kusak) Schiller, and her beloved husband, James Wen-

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Did you Know...

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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Happy Easter

Plan ahead for an ‘eggceptional’ Easter egg hunt

Easter is steeped in both religious and secular traditions. Each year on Easter Sunday, many families feast on ham or lamb. Hot cross buns may be served as morning treats. And faithful Christians may dress up in their Sunday best to attend religious services.

Easter egg hunts are another time-honored component of this festive occasion. According to History.com, the Easter bunny and his eggs may initially have been derived from stories about an egg-laying hare introduced to Americans by German settlers during the 1700s. Children would make nests and the hare would leave behind colored eggs.

Children often relish in the idea of scouring their homes and yards in search of brightly-hued plastic or hard-boiled eggs. A little planning on the part of Easter egg hunt organizers can make this festive tradition even more fun.

- Set the date: If Easter egg hunts are more than just family affairs and involve neighborhood searches or hunts with a close knit group of friends, it may be smart to schedule in the days before Easter. This helps ensure that a good crowd will be available. Hunts on Easter itself may not get as many participants because celebrants could be at church or celebrating privately.



- Gather supplies early. Easter decorations and plastic eggs sell out rather quickly, so it's wise to stock up on items as soon as they reach store shelves. If you'll be using real eggs, consider boiling and coloring the eggs a week before the egg hunt so you won't feel a time crunch. Simply store the dyed eggs in the refrigerator until ready for use. Color around six to 12 eggs per participant.

- Designate a search area. Aim for a relatively private spot for the egg hunt. A park may

seem like a good idea, but people who were not included in the egg count could wander in. If you use a public space, rope off an area where the eggs will be hidden. In addition, have a backup plan if the weather will not cooperate. School gymnasiums, libraries or church recreational centers are some potential indoor options.

- Have pails at the ready. Some children will forget to bring a basket. Therefore, have extra, inexpensive pails or buckets on hand. Sturdy gift bags also work in a pinch.

- Keep ages in mind when hiding eggs. Avoid choosing hiding spots that can be dangerous or prove too difficult for kids to find the eggs. Prior to hiding eggs, count how many you have, which will help to ensure all eggs were actually collected later on. Next, identify hiding spots that will work for various ages. For example, toddlers will need conspicuous spots and older children more challenging nooks and crannies. A map of where every egg is hidden can help as well. Real eggs may not matter outdoors since wildlife could simply dine on any undiscovered eggs. However, plastic eggs are not good for the environment and every attempt should be made to collect them all.

- Send children out in stages. Let the youngest kids go first, and then group each search team by ascending age. This helps make sure the older kids won't simply snatch up the more easily found eggs.

- Reward with prizes. Be sure each child has some sort of takeaway prize. However, it's fine to reward the best egg hunter with a more substantial prize.

- Gather and celebrate. Encourage guests to bring a small dish to contribute. After the hunt, everyone can gather to enjoy some refreshments.

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Did you Know?

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. His-

tory.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 deco-

ration 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 precedes Easter. Eggs were decorated as Lent drew to a close and then eaten as part of Easter Sunday celebrations.



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Governor Abbott reappoints Belton man to Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Special to the Journal

Governor Greg Abbott reappointed Todd Fox of Belton, as well as Michael “Mike” Boyd, and Garry Bradford to the Texas Military Preparedness Commission for terms set to expire on February 1, 2031.

Fox is president of First Heroes National Bank. He served in the United States Army for 24 years, retiring as chief of staff, III CORPS in 2018.

He received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from the United States Naval War College, a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University, and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategy from the United States Army War College.

Michael “Mike” Boyd of Christoval is the former chairman of Housley Communications, Inc. Boyd is a 2024-2025 National Defense Alliance Defense Community Champion. He is a former trustee of the San Angelo Health Foundation, former president of the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo, and former trustee of the Shannon Medical Center Board of Trustees. Boyd received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University, a Master in Banking from Southwestern Graduate School of Banking, and a military degree from the Command and General Staff College. He is a Texas Army National Guard veteran with over 30 years of service.



TODD FOX

Garry Bradford of Corpus Christi is the owner, president, and CEO of Unique Employment Service and Bradford Holding Company. He is the former chairman of the Board for the Certification Institute. He is the former president for the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Professional Employer Organizations and the past National and Texas

Leadership chairman. Additionally, he serves on the Board of Directors for Employers Service Assurance Corporation, Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Board of Directors, and the Wells Fargo Bank Business Advisory Board for the Southwestern Region. He serves on the Texas A&M University Corpus Christi Tarpon Foundation Board of Directors, Del Mar College Business Advisory Board, Bay Area Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, and the South Texas Military Facilities Task Force. Bradford received a Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences and Business from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and a Master of Science in Military Science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He retired in 2006 as a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and earned an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army for prior service.

The Commission’s goal is to preserve, protect, expand, and attract new military missions, assets, and installations. Additionally, the Commission encourages defense-related businesses to expand or relocate in Texas.

These appointments are subject to Senate confirmation.



Courtesy Photo

The Texas Society, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution has honored Karen Colwick of Belton with a state award for water conservation. Karen is pictured with Texas State Regent Susan Johnston at an award ceremony on March 14, 2025 at the Texas State Conference. Karen, a Master Gardener, has been working as a conservationist for 55 years. She has taught many classes in water and rainwater conservation to both adults and youths. Karen, a retired teacher, was sponsored by the Betty Martin Chapter, NSDAR of Temple. She has served on the Bell County Master Gardener Association Board and Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors. She also helped reestablish estuary habitat for fish in Trinity Bay by working with the Gulf of Mexico Conservation Initiative.

Obits - From Page A3

Wentreck. She is survived by her son, Jeremy Edward Wentreck, and wife Cindy; her two grandchildren, Joshua and Josiah Wentreck; and her cherished chihuahua poodle, Chewy.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to Santa Rita Hospice and Encompass Health and Rehabilitation for their compassionate care during her final days.

Mildred Jeannette Wentreck will be remembered not just for her professional contributions, but for the love she shared, the lives she touched, and the memories created. She will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial donation to Gladney Center for Adoption, 6300 John Ryan Drive, Fort Worth Texas 76132.

Visitation services for Mildred Wentreck were held on Monday, March 31 from 12-2 p.m. with Funeral Services at 2 p.m. with Pastor Jim Crothers officiating at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed at Seaton Cemetery.

Arrangement were under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center

Ehret

Jolene Ehret
October 6, 1941 –
March 21, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved mother, Jolene Kay (Geist) Ehret, at her home on Friday, March 21, 2025, surrounded by her loving children. Jolene was a devoted mother to five children and the cornerstone of our family.

Jolene Kay Geist was born to Ida Rose Geist and Fred C. Geist on October 6, 1941, in Jamestown, North Dakota, in the same hospital where she would later give birth to her first child. She was the eldest of four sisters and is predeceased by her parents and her sisters, Konnie Geist and Linda Kelleran.

A lifelong Lutheran and member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession body of churches, Jolene married Richard Ehret of Plevna, Montana, on April 22, 1962. Richard, an army

veteran, passed away in 1999. Throughout their marriage, they lived in various locations including Minnesota, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Germany, Kansas, and Fort Hood, Texas (now Fort Cavazos), where Richard retired from the army in 1979. They settled in Killeen, Texas, in 1976, where Jolene spent the remainder of her life.

She earned an associate degree in Business Management and worked at Keep On Booking, Crafts Etc., and Hobby Lobby, leaving a legacy of dedication and hard work.

Jolene was an avid reader, particularly fond of romance novels and attended romance novel conferences. Her passion for Celtic music led her to numerous festivals across Texas and Kansas, and she traveled to Ireland following Richard’s death. Additionally, Jolene enjoyed crafting and sold her creations for several years. She volunteered her time at Families in Crisis and the Austin Celtic Music Festival.

She leaves behind a legacy of five children: Jay, Laurie, Richard Jr., John, and Kristen. Jolene instilled in them a love of reading, a foundation of faith in God, and acceptance of Jesus Christ. She supported them unconditionally, and all five siblings reside in Central Texas, regularly visiting her. In later years, John and Richard Jr (Rick) moved back home to care for her along with help from Kristen.

Jolene was known for her loving, opinionated, sometimes feisty nature, and unwavering support for her children. Her impact is felt deeply by her family’s sense of loss. She is preceded in death by her husband Richard, her parents Ida and Fred Geist, her sisters Konnie Geist and Linda Kelleran, and her grandson Eric Barber. She is survived by her son Jay Ehret and his wife Carol of Waco, Texas; daughter Laurie Nunn and her husband John of Central Texas; sons Richard Ehret Jr. and John Ehret of Killeen, Texas; daughter Kristen Barber of Killeen; granddaughters Rose Barber and Marissa Barber, sister Penny Gillespie of Avondale, Arizona, several cousins and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private memorial service is planned with family and friends.

We will forever miss Mom’s encouraging voice, her unwavering love, her spirited personality, and zest for life. Her kindness, wisdom, and dedication to our family will continue to guide us.

Williamson

James (Jim) Ward Williamson
December 30, 1949 –
March 18, 2025

James (Jim) Ward Williamson, affectionately known as “GPJ” by his grandchildren, passed away on March 18, 2025, at a local hospital in Temple, Texas. Born on December 30, 1949, in South Bend, Indiana. Jim was especially close to his mom Jackie who raised him primarily by herself while her husband was off to war or on temporary duty in troubled spots around the globe.

He is survived by his two daughters, Amy Anderson and her husband Greg, and Tammy Mciver and her husband Mike, who will forever treasure the memories they shared growing up running around dad’s cabinet shop, helping bleed the breaks on old vintage cars, camping and kayaking with the grandkids. Additionally, he leaves behind a sister, Sheree Williams, who shared lifelong connections and moments with her big brother that still put a smile on her face. Jim also lights a path for seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren who will carry forward his spirit and values.

Although Jim has lived and traveled all over the world, he enjoyed the simple pleasures of life at home with his cat in his lap and a good book to read.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Lieutenant Colonel Vernon Cole Williamson and Mrs. Jacquelyn (Thiele) Williamson, who have paved the way for the man he became. Their influence and love stayed with him throughout his life, shaping the caring father, grandfather, friend, and brother he was.

In Lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to Cure HHT.

As we reflect on Jim’s life, we celebrate the time he had with all of us and the impact he made in our hearts and minds. May his memory be a blessing and a source of comfort to all who knew him.

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

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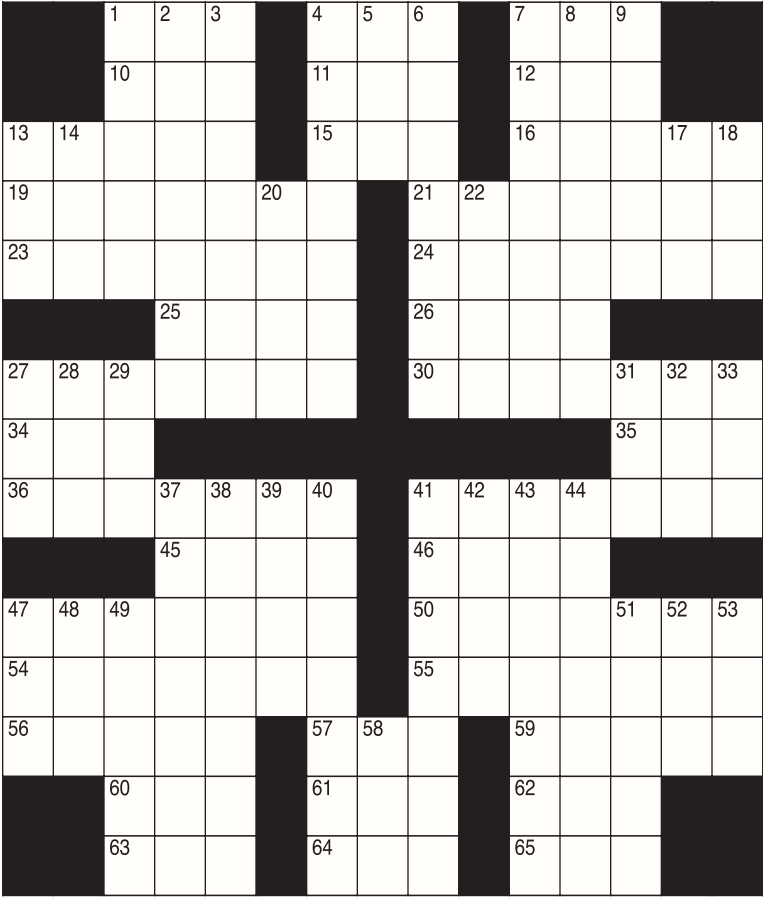
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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Midway between south and southeast
4. For each
7. Airborne (abbr.)
10. Photographs
11. They _
12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
13. Monetary unit
15. Cool!
16. A son of Jacob
19. Cut off
21. Devour
23. Agent of one's downfall
24. Best
25. Network of nerves
26. Partner to "oohs"
27. Origins
30. Sewing utensil
34. Alias
35. Swiss river
36. Greek mythological figure
41. Type of whiskey
45. Lay to rest
46. "Rule, Britannia" composer
47. Select jury
50. Feeling
54. Action regarded as morally wrong
55. Makes angry
56. Act incorrectly
57. Defensive nuclear weapon
59. Class of escort aircraft carrier
60. To what degree
61. Buzzing insect
62. The human foot
63. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
64. A place to stay
65. Sun up in New York

- CLUES DOWN
1. An involuntary muscular contraction
2. Earnest
3. Cuts out surgically
4. Can't move
5. Baseball stat
6. British soldier
7. Traditional medicine plants
8. Political party controlled by managers
9. Hebrew prophet
13. Supporter
14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
17. Liberty Mutual mascot
18. Georgia rockers
20. A place where building is done
22. Large, deep-bodied fish
27. Clothing retailer
28. Supplement with difficulty
29. Annoy constantly
31. Founder of Babism
32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia
33. Sea eagle
37. Leave behind
38. Time of day
39. Colorless crystalline compound
40. They lay out course requirements
41. A diamond has three
42. Algerian coastal city
43. Remove cover
44. Rechristened
47. Distinctive practice
48. Defunct phone company
49. Turkish officer of high rank
51. Eliminate from the body
52. Witness
53. Soviet Socialist Republic
58. Founding Father Franklin

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A8
Thursday,
April 3, 2025

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Retreat 254 RV Resort celebrates grand opening

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Retreat 254 RV Resort held a grand opening and ribbon cutting, and the facility is owned by a pair of local alumni.

“Retreat 254 RV Resort is right between Rogers and Temple. It’s one mile away from Walker Honey Farm and Winery, and on the edge of Temple,” said Caden Eary, co-owner of the facility, located at 9630 U.S. 190 in Rogers.

Eary, along with co-owner Colby Priest, built the resort themselves.

“It took us 16 months to build,” said Priest.

Priest is a 2014 alumnus of Belton High School and Eary graduated from Salado High School in 2014.

“We met in elementary school in Salado,” Priest said. “When we first started planning the RV resort, we wanted to do a five-star

resort. Our goal is to stay with commercial developments from neighborhood infrastructure, commercial buildings, custom homes, and more RV resorts,” said Priest.

Eary is a 2018 graduate of Texas A&M University and studied Ag Economics with a minor in Rural Entrepreneurship.

“We put our minds together to do an RV park, something small, and simple. It ended up being a luxurious RV resort to make a unique experience for long term tenants and transients. The whole project took about three years to complete,” said Eary.

Priest and Eary designed the resort themselves.

“We have a full game room with a shuffleboard, arcade games, air hockey, foosball, an indoor basketball game, pool table, and ping pong table. There’s a kitchenette, and a resort-style gym. We have a



Courtesy photo

Caden Eary and Colby Priest cut the ribbon for Retreat 254 RV Resort, located east of Temple in Rogers.

laundry room with washers and dryers and vending machines. We have a full shower for men and women. There’s a patio with an outdoor kitchen, fireplace, grill, and outdoor seating. We have a pickle ball and basketball court. There is a

wagon that is an Airbnb,” said Priest.

There’s more to come at the RV resort.

“We will add a resort-style pool starting this summer,” said Priest. “We have a propane station coming soon. We will get

certified, and tenants will be able to refill their propane bottles on-site instead of having to go in town,” said Eary.

Priest and Eary wanted to work together.

“Our goals are aligned, and we have the

same understanding on what it takes to start and run a business of this scale. Since my time at A&M, I’ve created a passion for wanting to build and create different businesses which turned into developing properties,” said Eary.

Holy Trinity Celtics take third overall at TAPPS State Academic Meet

Special to the Journal

Holy Trinity Catholic High School recently competed at the recent Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools State Academic Meet held in Waco last week.

The meet is the private school equivalent of the UIL State Academic Meet.

The Celtics took third overall, second in speech events, and were crowned the state champion team in Lincoln-Douglas

Debate.

“It was a much different tournament for us,” Coach Chris Mosmeyer said. “We graduated a huge part of our team last year—more than a dozen seniors who competed in speech and academics. With a much smaller team this year, I didn’t expect much, but the students really came through.”

Holy Trinity competed in the 2A classification for the first time in three years. The drop to 2A put them in competition

with a strong team from All Saints Episcopal School in Lubbock. All Saints took the overall state championship with 256 points. The Cambridge School of Dallas placed second with 114 points. Holy Trinity followed them with 78.5 points. Points are awarded by placing in individual events—10 points for first, 8 for second, and so on.

The tournament took place Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at the Waco Convention Center. The highlight for

Holy Trinity was on Monday when the Celtics dominated in the debate contest. Senior John Mottram and juniors Victoria Mosmeyer and Sarah Barkis compiled an impressive 13-1 record against debaters from other schools. In the end, Mottram and Mosmeyer were crowned co-state champions after each won their semifinal round. Barkis placed fifth, losing in the

See TAPPS,
Page A9

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Courtesy Photo

The Holy Trinity Celtics TAPPS Group, Ryder Hamden, Victoria Mosmeyer, Sarah Barkis, Wesley Kuriger, John Mottram, Hallie Bravo, Cielo Gonzalez-Fernandez, took 3rd place overall, along with a lineup of other awards, at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools academic meet last week.



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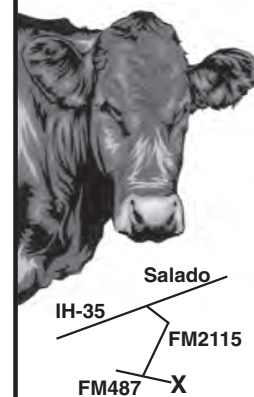
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A9
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SERVICE DIRECTORY

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Strategies to manage and tame stress

Stress is a part of life. In small doses, stress can have a positive effect. But when stress is chronic, it can take its toll on the body and mind. Stress can make people irritable and cause them to lash out at others. Stress also can contribute to high blood pressure and adversely affect sleep. When confronting chronic stress, individuals may have to take action to find relief. These stress-busting strategies can help.

- Engage in physical activity. The Mayo Clinic says any form of exercise can help relieve stress. Physical activity boosts chemicals in the brain and endorphins that help a person feel good. Exercise also can refocus attention so a person is not preoccupied with a stressful thought or situation.
- Listen to music. Music can be calming and serve as a distraction from stressful feelings. Simply listening to

music can be a quick fix for a stressful situation and a bad mood.

- Review your lifestyle. It's easy to take on too much, but doing so can lead to feelings of being overwhelmed, says the Mental Health Foundation. Prioritizing some things over others and delegating when possible can tame stress.
- Practice mindfulness. Breathing and mindfulness exercises can be practiced

anywhere. Research has shown that mindfulness can reduce the effects of stress and anxiety. Deep breathing and being in a quiet moment when stress peaks may help to reduce stress.

- Step away for a few minutes. If possible, step away from a stressful situation, whether it is a difficult project at work or a loud room with a lot of activity going on. Many people find commuting stressful. Changing the route to one that avoids busy roads, even if it takes a bit longer to get from point A to point B, might help.
- Talk it out. Sometimes connecting with others and sharing experiences can help to relieve stress. Keeping feelings in and fixating on a situation may exacerbate feelings of stress. Social situations that encourage talking and laughing can lighten a person's mental load, says the Mayo Clinic.
- Don't turn to substances. Alcohol and drugs may temporarily relieve stress, but this approach can lead to addiction and even worsen the physical and mental toll stress takes on the body.

Stress is a part of life, but finding ways to manage chronic stress is vital to long-term health.



Belton woman arrested for injury to a child

Special to the Journal

A Belton Police Department investigation into an injury to a child case resulted in an arrest on Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

Earlier in the day, a warrant was issued for Angela Celeste Moreno, 24, of Belton, and at around 7:30 p.m., she was arrested and booked into the Bell County Jail.

The incident occurred on October 10, 2024, at around 9 p.m., when Belton police officers and EMS responded to a restaurant on the 2800 block of North Loop 121 for a report of a child who was unconscious and not breathing.

When officers arrived on scene, they located restaurant staff performing life-saving measures on the boy. His mother, Moreno, reported she had left her

two sons, 3-years-old and 1-year-old, inside of her car, unsecured and unattended, while she went inside the restaurant to collect a DoorDash order before making the delivery.

When she returned to her car about 10 minutes later, it was discovered that her 3-year-old son had climbed to stick his head out of the moonroof and accidentally shut it on himself with the button on the ceiling of the car, and was unable to reopen it, constricting his neck and breathing. He was transported to McClane Children's Hospital by Belton EMS with life-threatening injuries, and he survived.

Following the investigation, detectives screened the case with the Bell County District Attorney's office, who accepted a charge of injury to a child on Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

TAPPS - From Page A8

quarterfinals on a 2-1 decision.

"That was a great start for us," Coach Mosmeyer said. "We usually do well in debate at the state meet, but that was a truly dominant performance by our debaters."

This was the third straight year in which Holy Trinity won the team title in LD Debate.

The results in debate started a strong run to a third-place finish overall at the state academic meet. Since 2004, Holy Trinity has placed no lower than third at the state meet.

"I'm glad I was able to contribute to the school's legacy," Mottram said, adding that he and his teammates had a sense of relief at keeping the school's twenty-year streak of success going. "We were glad to come out of the top three. We had a couple of missteps. If anything, I was a bit surprised we were able to finish at least third."

The school finished ahead of Fort Worth

Bethesda Christian School, which scored 65.5 points.

"That was kind of sweet," Mosmeyer said. "They beat us in 2019, which at the time broke a streak of seven overall state championships for us. It was just a little payback there."

On Wednesday, Mottram added a second state championship medal, taking first in Persuasive Speaking. He also placed seventh in Spelling.

Victoria Mosmeyer was the team's overall point leader, placing in six of the seven events she entered. In addition to the state title in debate, Victoria took third in Persuasive Speaking, third in Duet Acting with partner junior Wesley Kuriger, fourth in Prose Interpretation, sixth in Original Oratory, and seventh in Solo Acting. Kuriger also placed fourth in Poetry, sixth in Solo Acting, and eighth in Spelling.

Also placing for the Celtics were Cielo Gonzalez-Fernandez, fifth in Po-

etry Interpretation; James Huang, fifth, in Mathematics; Khanh Nguyen, fifth place in Calculator; and Hallie Bravo and Ryder Hamden, eighth in Duet Acting. The school's yearbook was awarded sixth place in the Yearbook contest.

The Celtics also took part in the TAPPS 3A State Art Meet on Tuesday in Waco at the Extraco Events Center. Jayla Cooper took a silver medal in Drawing (Color), and Arianna Murray added a second place in Communication Design.

Arya Wynne won second Computer Rendered Art and was an Honorable Mention in Communication Design. Emily McBride placed fifth in 2D Mixed Media; Honorable Mention, Painting; and Honorable Mention, Seek and Sketch (B&W).

Lilly Ebers placed sixth in Seek and Sketch (Color). Victoria Obregon was eighth in On-Site Drawing and Honorable Mention in Painting. Trang

Nguyen took fifth in Printmaking and Khanh Nguyen was eighth in 2D Mixed Media.

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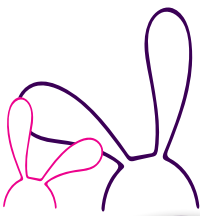
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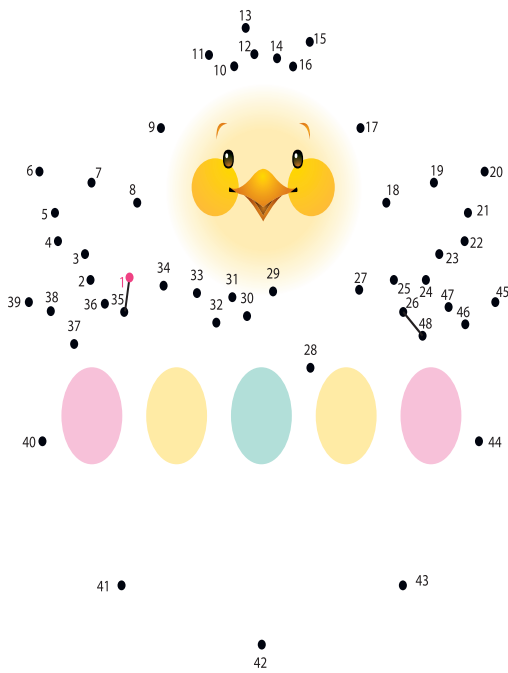


Eggcellent Word Scramble

NYBNU _____
KEBTSA _____ OHAETCLC
RETASE GEG _____
TBENON _____

ANSWERS: bunny, basket, Easter egg, bonnet, chick, hen, lamb, rabbit, turkey, vegetable, yolk, zucchini

CONNECT THE DOTS



Eggcellent Trivia

One hen can lay up to 300 eggs per year.

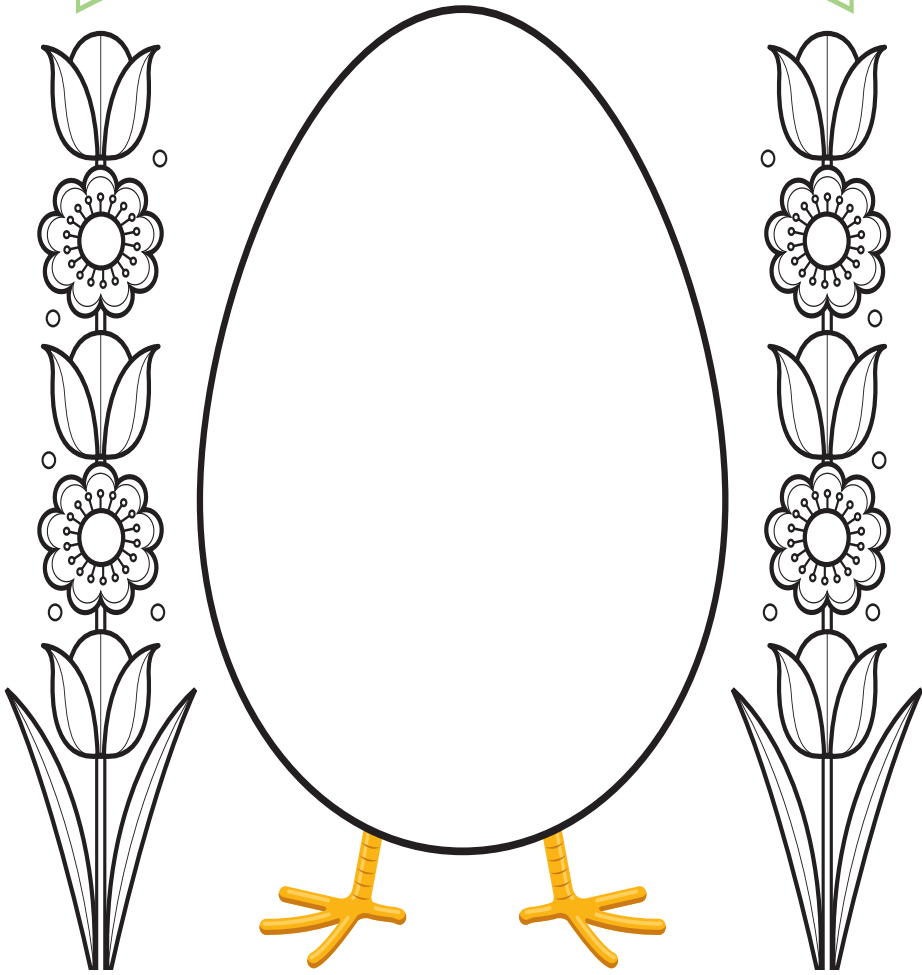
The tradition of decorating eggs for Easter originated in Ukraine.

An egg's shell color usually corresponds to the earlobe color of the hen that produced it.

Ostriches lay the largest eggs of any living bird. One ostrich egg can serve about 24 people for breakfast!

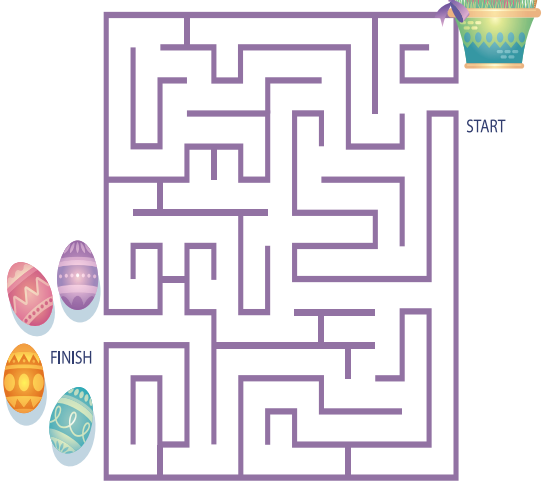
HAPPY EASTER

Decorate This Egg for Easter!



HOLIDAY MAZE

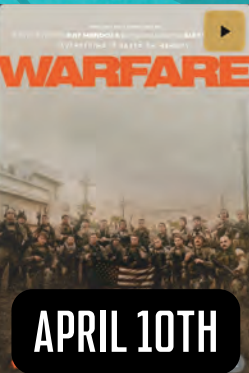
Please help me find eggs for my basket.



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Belton to wrap up distrc track meet

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The trek toward state has begun. Following months of preparation, the postseason fates of numerous Belton and Lake Belton athletes will be determined today as the District 16-5A meet concludes at Tiger Field.

The top four finishers in each event advance to the upcoming area meet, where the top four finishers qualify for the Region II meet – the final stop before the University Interscholastic League Track & Field State Championships.

Killeen Ellison, Killeen Chaparral, Waco and Waco University will also be vying for area berths.

While anything can happen at district, multiple local athletes are expected to move on.

Perhaps no postseason run is more anticipated than Broncos’ junior Kendrick Jones Jr., who has aspirations of adding to his state championship collection.

Jones is the two-time defending Class 5A gold medalist in the 200-meter run and last year’s long jump state titleist.

He is not the only Lake Belton standout with high hopes for the season’s conclusion, though.

Among others, the Broncos’ 400 relay team of Cooper Arnold, Josh Mallard, Zion Harness and Jones, sophomore high jumper Michael Lockett, senior long jumper Julian

Walker, senior thrower Travellis Harrison, senior pole vaulter Abigail Rydberg and junior sprinter Bella Garcia are favorites in their events.

Belton should find plenty of success at the meet as well.

On the track, senior distance runners Olivia Brillhart, David Shelburne and John Zachary Moehlenbrock, junior sprinter Christian Porter, sophomore sprinter Damauria Nolan-Hemphill, junior hurdler Delilah Hoffman, sophomore hurdler Graham Chambley, freshman mid-distance runner Isabella Warner and all three of the Tigers’ relay quartets will contend for medals.

Field events should see senior triple jumper Miguel Manners, senior pole vault-

er Logan Lamberte, senior discus thrower Damien Tiumalu, junior jumper Laila Page and freshman thrower Tara Stone finish toward the top of the standings.

The area meet pitting qualifiers from District 15 and District 16 against each other will be hosted by Lake Belton on April 10 with the two-day regional meet set to start April 18 at Arlington’s Maverick Stadium.

At regionals, the top two finishers in each event automatically qualify for the state meet along with the next best showing from across the four regional meets.

The UIL Class 5A state meet will be held May 2 at Austin’s Mike A. Myers Stadium located on the University of Texas campus.

Crosstown Rivalry III: Broncos exhibit plate patience in 9-0 win

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

The mood was lively and crowd was buzzing at Belton ISD baseball’s third chapter of their Crosstown Rivalry, as the Lake Belton Broncos hosted the Belton Tigers on Tuesday evening (March 25) at Bronco Park.

What started as a pitchers’ duel turned a rocky over the final three innings for the Tigers, as six hit batsmen and five batsmen over the frames set the foundation for nine runs for the Broncos. Lake emerged with a 9-0 win over Belton.

Brandon Holley got the start on the hill for the Broncos and was a sturdy presence, having scattered six hits and struck out five. He only allowed three fly-ball outs, as the Tigers kept the ball out of the air.

The Broncos’ first threat came in the second inning, when Rohde Smith walked and stole second base off Belton starting pitcher Cole Heisler. The UMHB commit induced three straight fly balls to centerfielder Rayshawn Peoples to strand Rohde Smith at third.

Cole Mikulas singled up the middle to start the third and Bryce Davis was hit by a pitch with one out. Cameron Bartz’s sacrifice bunt moved Mikulas and Davis up a base. However, Heisler got Kaden Ward to ground out to Pecos Smith at third base to strand Mikulas and Davis.

With one out in the fourth, Cooper Mees was hit by a pitch, Zavian Rodriguez singled to left, and Braxtan Cope’s infield single loaded the bases. Mikulas walked on four straight pitches to force home Mees to give Lake Belton the lead. With two outs, Davis was hit by a pitch to force home Rodriguez.

The Broncos broke open the game in the fifth. With one out, Rohde Smith was hit by a pitch. On the first pitch to Mees, Smith took off for second on a steal attempt. Mayson Chartier’s throw leaked into centerfield, and Smith advanced to third. With two outs, Rodriguez found the hole between shortstop and third and

drilled a single through it to score Smith. Walks to Cope and Mikulas loaded the bases for pinch-hitter RJ Hunt. After working Heisler to a full-count, Hunt walked to force in Rodriguez.

Belton head coach Mark Krueger changed pitchers and brought in Trey Garcia. On Garcia’s first pitch, Davis drilled a double to centerfield to score Cope and Mikulas to increase Lake’s lead to 6-0.

With one out in the bottom of the sixth, Garcia fired a 1-0 fastball belt-high to Rohde Smith. Smith drilled the ball over the scoreboard in left field for a solo homer. In an offseason that saw the loss of teammate Sean McCallum in December and Rohde Smith’s mom, Kastady, on Jan. 26, it was a cathartic moment for the entire Broncos Baseball family as they hugged Rohde and celebrated the home run.

On the next pitch, Mees was hit for the second time and Rodriguez singled to left. With two outs, Mikulas’ double to right field scored Mees and Rodriguez to up the Broncos lead to 9-0.

The Tigers tried to get on the board in the seventh. Oakley Torres reached on an error but was erased on a double play. With two outs, Jacob Quigley and Collin Sallee singled. Pinch-hitter Billy Young’s grounder to Rodriguez was flipped to Davis at second base for the force out to end the game.

Rodriguez had three hits and three runs scored, and Mikulas had two hits, two walks, and three runs batted in.

Haisler and Quigley each had two hits for the Tigers.

On Friday, the teams met at Tidwell Field.

It was a pitcher’s duel between Quigley and Lake Belton’s Maverik Maddux in the first six innings before the teams dug into the bullpens. Each team scored three times in the seventh to force extra innings. Smith’s two-run homer in the eighth proved to be the difference as the Broncos won 6-4.

Rodriguez’s sacrifice fly scored Smith in the top of the fourth to get the

Broncos on the board.

Oakley Torres’ singled home Gage Flores to tie the game at 1-1.

Quigley left the hill in the top of seventh. With 112 pitches thrown, Quigley allowed a run on two hits, struck out seven, walked six and hit two batters.

Billy Young took over in the top of the seventh. Rodriguez singled in Smith, and Braxtan Cope tripled home Samuel Matous and Rodriguez to give the Broncos a 4-1 lead heading to the bottom of the seventh.

Maddux gave way to Eli Vaughan in the bottom of the seventh after hitting Young with a pitch. Maddux pitched six innings, allowed two runs on six hits and struck out 11.

Heisler doubled home Young and Garcia to bring the Tigers to within a run. Torres singled home Landon Owens to tie the game with one out. After an intentional walk to Rayshawn Peoples to load the bases, Austin Wood stepped to the plate. Vaughan uncorked a 1-2 changeup that leaked past Cope to the backstop. Heisler bolted for the plate. Cope got to the loose ball and flipped it to Vaughan who applied to tag to Heisler for the second out, which was the potential game-winner for the Tigers. Vaughan got Wood swinging on the next pitch for the strikeout, and the game went to an extra inning.

Davis singled to start the eighth inning. Bartz sacrificed Davis to second, and Ward’s fly-out moved Davis to third.

On Young’s next pitch, Smith drilled the ball high over the left field wall for a two-run homer to put Lake on top, 6-4.

“Rohde was amazing in the series,” Lake Belton head coach Chris Peacock said. “I am so proud of him and the team.”

Vaughan retired the Tigers in order in the sixth.

Rodriguez, Smith, and Cope each had two RBI.

Torres had three of Belton nine hits in the game. Torres and Haisler each had two runs batted in.

Tiger claim district golf championship

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The trend extends.

For almost two decades, the Tigers have been amongst their district’s elite, continuously collecting championships or runner-up recognition.

This year is no different.

With a two-day total of 635, Belton won the District 16-5A team title Friday at Waco’s Cottonwood Creek Golf Course, propelling it into the regional tournament for the 18th consecutive season.

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.

The effort was complemented by teammates Miguel Matos, Owen Babcock, Haden Hoelscher and Chase Aggers, who were each placed on the all-district squad as a result of their individual standings.

Hoelscher finished four strokes behind Perkins, capturing the bronze medal with a 77-81-158, while Babcock (81-80-161) was fourth. Matos (80-82-162) finished seventh, and Aggers (86-86-172) was ninth, but neither of his rounds counted toward the team’s total.

Lake Belton will join the Tigers at the upcoming regional meet — the final competition before state — after placing second (324-322-646) 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).

At the girls district meet, the Lady Tigers cruised to the team championship, winning by 33 strokes at Killeen’s Stone-tree Golf Club.

Led by silver medalist Jacklyn Munoz, who recorded an 81-87-168, Belton finished with a score of 730 (367-363) to easily beat out Lake Belton (2nd, 374-389-763) and Killeen Ellison (3rd, 424-425-849).

Munoz’s outing was complemented by Anya Jinadatha (4th, 94-89-183), Abby Beck (5th, 96-93-189) and Isha Jinadatha (6th, 96-94-190). Hanna Wheeler was seventh (97-104-201) overall, but her score did not count toward the team total.

Individually, Lady Broncos standout sophomore Carly Marshall dominated, claiming the gold medal for a second season with a 140 (67-73) and guiding her team to second place with a 374-389-763.

Marshall’s opening round was five strokes under par thanks in part to four birdies and an eagle, and it is the lowest score in program history.

Shooting a personal best score, Lyliana Gonzalez was situated two spots back, placing third (90-92-182), while teammates

See GOLF, Page B3

Lady Tigers Soccer run ends with tough loss to defending champion Wakeland

By Tony Adams
The Belton Journal

The Belton Lady Tigers soccer team had another successful season in 2025, with a District 16-5A crown, bi-district and area playoff championships.

The area playoff game against Mesquite Poteet got off to a flying start. Two early goals by Lauren McKinney in the first half, and tallies by Michaela Dvonch and Tori Lucksinger gave the Lady Tigers a 4-0 win in Corsicana.

“Poteet was a very good opponent, district champs as well with a good record,” Belton head coach Oscar Bersozza

said. “Going up early was a huge advantage and scoring a second goal, seconds after the opening goal, really put them in a bind mentally and situationally.”

Following two playoff wins, the Lady Tigers had their season ended against the defending Class 5A Frisco Wakeland Wolverines in Waxahachie, 3-1.

“Wakeland is just a next-level type of opponent,” Bersozza said. “I thought we played well all things considered. Kiersten Rowland’s goal gave us a little belief but their goal just before halftime was a tough blow. We played and worked as hard as we could against a very good foe.”

The consistent scheduling of the Dr.

Pink Frisco Tournament and Georgetown’s Governor’s Cup on Belton’s annual docket has prepared the team for systems and scenarios that the Lady Tigers see later in their season.

“Absolutely! Going to Frisco and playing metroplex teams helps us at least keep metroplex playoff teams in our tactical conversations as reference points,” Bersozza said. “We can reference them in likeness and ability to possible playoff opponents and it is good practice to play against tough opponents - be it in Frisco or the Governor’s Cup.”

With the Tigers experiencing another successful season at 18-3-3, there were


plenty of big moments. Bersozza’s point of view told of the work ethic and mental mindset of his 2025 team.

“As a whole, we represented our seniors, our school, and our program well,” Bersozza said. “We carried forward the same vision as previous Lady Tiger Soccer teams— to work hard, compete with an open mindset, and trust that the true measure of our effort would come down to the “pillow test.” Could we comfortably sleep on the eve of our last game, knowing there was nothing more we could have done? If the answer was yes, then success! Right or wrong, we slept well that night.”



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Lady Tiger’s bats explode for 18 runs over Ellison

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers softball team wasted no time establishing their dominance against the Ellison Eagles, exploding for an impressive 13-run first inning en route to an 18-0 win. The game, which ended in the third inning via run rule, showcased Belton’s offensive firepower and disciplined approach at the plate.

After their dominant first inning, the Tigers quickly returned to the field at the bottom of the second inning. Ellison momentarily looked to shift the momentum, securing two quick outs. However, Belton remained composed, tacking on three more runs with two outs on the board, proving their ability to perform under pressure.

Belton head coach Morgan Birkel credited the team’s

culture and preparation for staying focused despite the lopsided score. “Yeah, this is a job where we really focus on what our culture is and who our team is, and how we are consistently. It comes down to the little things in practice the same way it does in a game like this,” Birkel said. “Everything is for each other, everything is for the team, and everything adds up. It all works together, so it makes it harder to break our culture.”

One of the game’s defining moments came in the second inning when the Tigers found themselves with two quick outs before responding with a poised offensive effort. When asked about her team’s approach in those situations, Birkel emphasized the importance of mindset and preparation. “It comes down to talking about how the biggest thing that we preach. When you step into the box, you believe you’re the best hitter on the team, you believe you’re the best hitter on the field,”

she said. “It doesn’t matter if you’re down in the count or have a 3-0 count; it’s the same hitter that’s in there, and you can be successful in any way for your team.”

With back-to-back run-rule victories, the Tigers are building momentum as they hit the midpoint of district play. Birkel is eager to see her team maintain their intensity. “I wanna see the fire keep going. Don’t stop the steamroll just because we have a couple of good wins under our belt,” she said. “We’re hitting that halfway point through the district, and now we’re ready to roll into the second half. We know what we’re expecting, and we wanna take it on even better than we did the first time.”

With their dominant performance against Ellison, the Tigers have made a statement, and they show no signs of slowing down as they continue their push through district competition.

Lake Belton cruises towards 13 consecutive win on diamond

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Lady Broncos emphatically punctuated the first round of their district schedule Tues-

day, traveling to Killeen Chaparral and earning a run-rule victory.

Paced by Analicia Diaz’s big night at the plate, Lake Belton opened an immediate lead before cruising to its 13th consecutive win.

The sophomore standout was 3 for 3 highlighted by a first-inning home run to left field that sparked the Lady Broncos’ offense.

Alexis Ortiz connected with the first pitch of the game for a double, and moments later, Diaz’s first swing sent the

ball out of the park.

The 2-0 advantage until the third inning, when Lake Belton added two more runs thanks in part to hits from Brysen Gott and a home run from Alaysha Williams.

Then, in the fourth inning, the Lady Broncos assumed complete control with an eight-run outburst, and they posted the contest’s final three runs in the fifth inning to secure the victory.

Diaz had two singles during the fourth inning.

In total, Lake Belton (23-2) had 13 hits while limiting the Lady Bobcats to one.

Maddison Ruiz and Natalie Hosch combined to produce the pitching performance.

With the outcome, Lake Belton inflates its first-place cushion to two games in the District 16-5A standings.

The Lady Bron-

cos are perfect through five games, while Belton, Chaparral and Waco University follow at 3-2. Waco (1-4) and Killeen Ellison (0-5) round out the field.

Now, Lake Belton turns its attention toward repeating the success experienced in the opening round, when the Lady Broncos outscored their opponents by a combined total of 66-1.

Lake Belton begins the second half of district Friday.

The Lady Broncos will play four of their final five league games at home, beginning with a visit from the Lady Trojans. Then, on Tuesday, they host the Lady Tigers with both games set to start at 6:30 p.m.

In the first encounter, Lake Belton defeated University 16-0 before leaving Belton with a 5-0 win.



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Belton ISD Tuesday recaps: Lake Belton, Belton both with wins

By **Tony Adams**
The Belton Journal

District 16-5A action resumed for both of Belton ISD’s baseball teams on Tuesday, following the exciting Crosstown Series.

Here are the Tuesday recaps:

Belton gets four-run inning to get past University, 5-4

The Belton Tigers commenced their District 16-5A series on Tuesday evening at Tidwell Field as they hosted the Uni-

versity Trojans. Belton broke a 1-1 tie with a four-run fourth inning and had to hold off a late Trojan march to escape with a 5-4 win over University.

Rayshaun Peoples tied the game in the second inning with a massive solo home run through a 30-mph wind over the left field fence.

A bases-loaded walk to Gage Flores forced home, Jacob Quigley’s two-run double, and Peoples’ RBI single gave the Tigers a 5-1 lead.

University scored three times in the top of the sixth to pull the Trojans to within a run.

Rangel pitched the final 1 1/3 for the save, having clinched the win for starting pitcher Cole Haisler.

Haisler went 5 2/3 innings, allowed four runs (none earned) on six hits, walked six and struck out five. He also had two hits.

Quigley and Peoples had two RBI, and Flores added a run batted in.

The Tigers (7-9 overall, 1-2 in 16-5A) will

travel to the Waco ISD Complex on Friday night as they will take on University.

Lake Belton thumps Ellison, 16-0

The Lake Belton Broncos began their District 16-5A series with the Ellison Eagles Tuesday night in Killeen.

Three Bronco pitchers combined to one-hit the Eagles and 10 Broncos combined for 16 hits, led by Brent Thomson’s 4-for-4 night, as Lake Belton clipped the Ea-

gles, 16-0.

Fourteen of Lake Belton’s 16 hits were singles, with Kaden Ward having doubled and Bryce Davis having tripled.

The Broncos (13-42 overall, 3-0 in 16-5A) scored once in the first, three times in the second, five times in the third, six times in the fourth, and once in the fifth.

Thomson drove home four runs, Ty Green ac-

counted for three runs, and Cameron Bartz and Jori Holland each drove in two runs.

Brandon Holley allowed one hit and struck out four in two innings. Tate Lisenbe struck out four in two innings of relief, and Kellen Scarborough struck out two and walked one in one inning of action.

Lake Belton will host the Eagles Friday evening at Bronco Park.

Golf - From Page B2

Kat Moore (104-112-216), Reese Sexton (120-112-232) and Lillie Miles (113-117-230) completed Lake Belton’s showing.

This will be the Lady Broncos’ fifth consecutive appearance at regionals.

Joining the squads at the regional meet will be Ellison’s Lynnae Bentley (7th, 99-102-201) and Reagan Snider (9th, 103-106-209).

The Lady Broncos and Lady Tigers each had a second team compete at district as well, placing fourth (459-454-913) and fifth (469-447-916), respectively.


Suellen Tillis (117-106-223), Kaylee Carubelli (106-117-223), Lexie Holler (119-113-232), Nena Tamarez (137-136-233) and Aurora Nance (117-

118-235) represented Lake Belton, while Mackenzie McGarry (107-109-216), Ella Hice (116-106-222), Annaleigh Holliday (118-113-231), Evalie Stearns (129-119-248) and Avery Rivera (128-121-249) comprised Belton’s second team.

University (498-520-1,018) and Waco (526-541-1,067) were also in attendance.

Now, both of Belton’s and Lake Belton’s teams turn their attention toward the Region II meets at Pottsboro’s Tanglewood Golf Course.

The two-day tournaments, where the top three teams and top three individuals not on a qualifying team advance to state, begin April 14 for the girls and April 16 for the boys.



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will go to debt payments. You must make at least minimum payments to avoid fees and penalties, but beyond that, you’ll need to decide whether to pay more on your debts or use the money for other goals, such as saving for retirement.

Finally, if you can make extra payments on your debts, decide how you want to do it. You could tackle the debt with the highest interest rate first or you could go after the smallest debts to get them out of the way.

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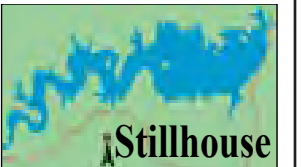
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Belton

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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LEGALS

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Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, TX 76513
By: C. Rodriguez Deputy
04.03

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Doris Nell Klinkovsky, Deceased, were issued on March 24, 2025 in Docket No. 24CPB00730 pending in the County Court at Law of No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: Karen Kay Hutchins.
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Administrator addressed as follows: Karen Kay Hutchins, Independent Administrator Estate of Doris Nell Klinkovsky, Deceased c/o Emily G. De Young Moorman Tate, LLP, P. O. Box 1808, Brenham, Texas 77834-1808
All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 25th day of March, 2025.
MOORMAN TATE, LLP, By: Emily G.

LEGALS

De Young Attorneys for the independent Administrator 04.03

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PEGGY MAYFIELD WILSON, Deceased, were issued on March 19, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00143, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: Dick R. Mayfield.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Jim Thigpen Attorney at Law, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503
DATED the 25th day of March, 2025.
Jim Thigpen Attorney for Dick R. Mayfield, State Bar No.: 19837300 ,PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503, Telephone: (254) 773-1663, Facsimile: (254) 773-2574, Email: jim.thigpen@linzythigpen.com
04.03

NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:



New Life
METHODIST CHURCH
of Salado

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

4
APRIL

ROCKIN' ROTARY
OUTDOOR CONCERT

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

SCHOEPF'S BBQ
702 E CENTRAL AVE.
BELTON, TX 76513

WITH

BACK IN BLACK
AC/DC TRIBUTE

SCRATCH 3
ELLEN GUTANS ROCK & ROLL

SCHEDULE

GATES OPEN - 6:00 PM
SCRATCH 3 - 6:45 PM
LIVE AUCTION - 8:00 PM
BACK IN BLACK - 8:30 PM

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\$15 Advance / \$20 At the Door
Free Admission 12 & Under
\$400 VIP Reserved Tables
\$200 Reserved Tables

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EDITORIAL

Finding Rest

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

It’s summer vacation planning time. Normally, Rick and I have our vacation planned long before now, but this year we’ve had some distractions. Last night, we brainstormed where we could go and what we might do.

One of the biggest factors is distance. We’ve decided to drive, and we want to arrive the same day we depart. Last year, we flew to our destination. From the time we left our house early that morning until we pulled the rental car into our Airbnb, we realized we could have driven in the same amount of time, for a LOT cheaper. Plus, my Toyota RAV has roomy leather seats that recline all the way back, with plenty of room for snacks and books and leg stretches. We don’t get any of that with an economy class plane ticket.

Another concern is the weather. A major perk of exiting Texas in the summer is leaving the sweltering heat for a few days. We love the mountains. But we’ve already used up multiple vacations in Colorado and New Mexico. We want to see something new.

Or at least, we thought we did. With our narrow list of requirements, we decided Colorado might still

be an option. After all, there’s a lot of unexplored (by us) territory in those mountains. So in a couple of months, we’ll load up the RAV with hiking equipment (for Rick) and plein air painting equipment (for me), and we’ll head to the Rockies. And I can’t wait.

Vacations—as we know them—weren’t always a thing. Our idea of a vacation didn’t come about until after the Civil War. In 1869, William Murray, a Boston preacher, published a guidebook titled *Adventures in the Wilderness*. It detailed his experience in the Adirondack Mountains, praising the uplifting quality of the lakes, forests, and rivers. The next summer, those mountains were flooded with city dwellers who wanted to get away from the hustle of urban life.

By 1875, nearly 200 camps and hotels were open for business in that area, along with railroads, steamboat docks, and stagecoach taxis. The birth of the Industrial Revolution made travel even more accessible for the common man, and by the end of World War II, vacations were no longer limited to the wealthy. Middle class families made yearly trips to all kinds of places, creating memories and boosting the economy

wherever they went.

I have a vacation bucket list. I’d love to hang out in Scotland and search for the Loch Ness monster, take a picture in front of Windsor Castle, sample real Bolognese sauce made in some forgotten small town in Italy, and sip French wine in a cafe across from the Eiffel Tower. Those would certainly be fun trips, but I’ve decided it’s not that important. After all, the purpose of a vacation is to get away from daily distractions, relax, and rest. And the Colorado Rockies seem like the perfect place to do that.

I still may get to those locations someday. But I’m so very fortunate, so very blessed, that my favorite place in all the world is right here at home. And I don’t have to get away to find peace and rest... those things are mine, anytime I want them. They’re part of my inheritance as a child of the King.

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He is my refuge, my place of safety, my God, and I trust him.” Psalm 91:1-2

Dental Hygiene

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnostan

I went to the dentist recently. I do this a couple of times a year for my regular scheduled cleanings. I usually don’t mind these visits. There is not much about it that is uncomfortable. You lie back and rest while someone else does all the work and when they are done your teeth are clean and smooth. Some years ago, I had a very good hygienist. I would make my appointment well in advance. One time I showed up for my regular cleaning and found that my regular hygienist no longer worked there. The new person was just not as gentle and caring. I suffered through this visit. I was not impressed at all. I had not been treated this way since I was in the Air Force. Now having enjoyed statistics in school, I knew that this single visit was not a statistically accurate sampling and suitable for making an informed decision, however my mouth didn’t agree. So I ended my relationship with this dental practice and chased my previous hygienist to her new job. Once again my teeth were clean and happy. Sometime later this hygienist decided

to give up her career and retire. A good friend had suggested yet another stellar hygienist, so I jumped ship again and tried something new. I was pleased, my teeth were clean and shiny, and all of this came with a very gentle touch. That is like finding a phlebotomist that can stick you relatively pain free.

Getting a cleaning is good, however it is just a trick so that the dentist can come in and find anything that is wrong and schedule you for a treatment later. Obviously finding dental problems early is the best thing you can do. The adults in my early life really impressed upon me the importance of good dental health. I remember my grandmother telling me about the benefits of keeping your original teeth for as long as you can. She had her first round of teeth well into her senior years, only a few of her teeth were fabricated and ended up in a jar overnight. For some reason her words really stayed with me. We also had a little hourglass timer for brushing my teeth. You flipped up the hourglass and started the routine of cleaning your

teeth like you were taught in school. I don’t know how long it was, but after a bit the hourglass tipped and dinged a little bell, then you could rinse your mouth. We also had a mouthwash that we could use at times. It tasted like a mixture of kerosene and insecticide, well I don’t know what those taste like I am just guessing. The toothpaste came in all varieties of flavor, the worst of which was peppermint (which I openly don’t like), the best was striped and well suited for keeping in your mouth for a couple of minutes.

Well back to my hygienist, she does a very good job. I guess I didn’t realize how hard they have to work. I was paying more attention during the last visit. In case you didn’t ever watch as closely as I have done, the hygienist has to work backwards for most of the cleaning. When they aren’t working in reverse in a mirror they seem to be working upside down. Now I know that if you do something all the time you get very good at it. However working in a mirror is a real trick in itself. Switching back

and forth between reverse and normal movement is probably something that takes a long time to get used to. Making sure you move the right way can be a big deal if you are holding a pointed metal object or even a whirling device in someone’s mouth. I am glad that I have experienced dental professionals working in my mouth. I am also glad that the people that stick their hands in my mouth didn’t go through dental school on a sports scholarship and are able to palm a basketball. I have had a lot of painful dental work in my life, but nothing beyond what I could tolerate for the end result. So I usually don’t get too stressed about a regular visit to the dentist clinic. It also helps that all the folks are friendly, gentle and caring. That goes a long way in making it a pleasant experience. You always hear horror stories and certain procedures that evoke fear about tooth care. However with good preventative care and a trusted team there should be no reason to stress about a dental visit, not to mention the super clean teeth.

HOLIDAY ROUNDUP WORD SEARCH

HOLIDAY ROUNDUP

WORD SEARCH

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

CELEBRATE
CHANUKAH
CHRISTMAS
DINING
EASTER

EXCITEMENT
FEAST
FESTIVE
FIREWORKS
FOOD

FRIENDS
GAMES
GUESTS
HALLOWEEN
HOLIDAYS

INDEPENDENCE
INVITATION
KWANZAA
NEW YEAR’S DAY
PASSOVER

PRESENTS
THANKSGIVING
TOGETHER
VACATION

Belton ISD students gain hands-on experience in science and healthcare

Special to the Journal

This semester, students across Belton ISD have stepped beyond the classroom to gain immersive, hands-on experiences in science and healthcare, deepening their knowledge and preparing for future careers in high-demand fields.

At Lake Belton High School, AP Biology students showcased their independent research at the inaugural Student Research Symposium—a student-led event designed to foster leadership, critical thinking and scientific inquiry. Students transitioned from guided learning to conducting self-directed

experiments, exploring fundamental biological processes such as photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Projects ranged from analyzing the impact of environmental factors on respiration rates to investigating light intensity’s effect on photosynthetic efficiency. The event featured professional-style research posters and presentations, allowing students to communicate their findings to peers, teachers, community members and even a guest speaker—a local resident physician—who shared insights into the medical profession. Parents and volunteers also participated as judges, further enriching the

learning experience and building community connections.

“By leading their own research projects and exploring real-world applications, our students didn’t just learn biology—they lived it,” said Malintha Abeysiri, Science/CTE Teacher at Lake Belton High School. “They developed essential skills like problem-solving, decision-making, and scientific communication, all while taking ownership of their learning.”

Over at Belton High School, students in Stephanie Yaryan’s phlebotomy class participated in patient care assessments while Dr. Malinda Golden

observed the session. Students practiced key clinical skills such as patient introductions, tourniquet application, vein identification, and simulated blood draws. These exercises are part of the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) program, which offers students the opportunity to earn professional certification by the end of the year.

“Students eagerly practice skills like phlebotomy in a simulated environment to build confidence and develop critical thinking,” said Stephanie Yaryan, Health Science Teacher. “This training lays a strong foundation for careers in healthcare and many students use it

as a launchpad into the medical field.”

Students from both high schools also participated in Health Career Navigation Day at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in Temple. Organized by Belton ISD’s Career and Technical Education department, the event provided real-world exposure to medical careers through hospital tours, panel discussions, and simulated experiences. Students engaged with healthcare professionals to learn about the importance of professionalism, the application process, and the values that drive success in medical careers.

“Through this immer-

sive experience, students gained firsthand insight into the fast-paced healthcare environment and the teamwork that powers patient-centered care,” said Denise Ayres, Director of PK-12 Career Readiness. “It helped them understand workplace expectations and the personal and professional skills needed to thrive in the healthcare industry.”

From scientific research to clinical skills and real-world hospital exposure, Belton ISD students are gaining meaningful, hands-on experiences that bring classroom learning to life—and inspire the next generation of healthcare providers and scientists.

Down and Outage

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

As I type this, it’s a reasonably pleasant Saturday afternoon, the capstone to a bit of a trying week.

I’ll spare the details, but the gist of it is that by the time I got home Friday afternoon all I wanted to do was change into something a little more comfortable, get a bit of dinner, pull up a particular live-stream so I can hear a favorite weekly show, and then take part in the first leg of a weekend-long event in one of the app games I play.

Well, I have an all-in-one television, internet, and landline phone bundle from a particular national service

provider, so when there’s any sort of service outage I generally lose all three at once. When I got home yesterday I discovered that there was indeed some sort of outage going on, so all three were indeed kaput, just like my plans for the evening were looking rather kaput. I grabbed my smart phone (I have a different wireless carrier), called the customer service line for my bundle provider, and went through the process of dealing with their automated help system.

It turns out that there was indeed a problem, the provider knew about the

problem, and technicians were in the process of working on it. The ETA for the repairs to be done was 7 PM, but they couldn’t guarantee anything. I requested that the system call me back once repairs were fully completed, with the system noting that no calls would go out between 9 PM and 8 AM. With that, I sat back and began meditating in order to try and calm myself.

Service came back about 8 PM, but since I hadn’t gotten the phone call I knew that something wasn’t quite right. Sure enough, we lost service about 8:45 PM, and it was

spotty through to about 9:45 PM, when I decided to call it a night. Since this was after the period where I wouldn’t get a call, I decided to just sit back and start meditating again. I eventually nodded off, woke up around 2 AM, discovered that service had finally been restored, and received the phone call promptly at 8 AM.

For me, this whole thing was a bit disappointing, but not something to be truly upset over. I grew up in the days before the internet was commonly available, and so knew I had options. I could have

easily pulled out a book, put on a DVD, turned on the radio, or done one of a dozen other things in lieu of my planned internet-based activities. This time around, given how mentally tired I was from the preceding week, I figured I’d just rest up and clear my head, hence my meditating before falling asleep.

In the 40+ years I’ve been alive, the internet has gone from “something very few people outside of government agencies and colleges have” to “if you’re willing to pay enough you could hypothetically have every last appliance in your

HB 1080 is an affront to the public’s right to know

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

By Austin Lewter

Lynette Sowell here: this week, I am yielding my space to Austin Lewter, Owner/Publisher of the Whitesboro News-Record. He has written an editorial regarding a bill in the Texas House of Representatives that I think is worth sharing:

To anyone who says, “Newspapers are dead,” I say, “Sit at my desk the Monday after the post office sends a bundle of newspapers to Fort Worth by mistake.”

I say, “Answer my phone when someone has a neighbor whose dog ate their paper.”

I say, “Do my job when someone forgot to renew their subscription on time and, all of a sudden, realized they didn’t get their paper that week.”

The latter two incidents are far more common than the former, but they all occur from time to time. When they do, I field calls from frustrated readers looking for their paper.

Though I never want folks to miss their paper, I get encouraged by the number of people who really do miss their newspaper.

Community newspapers are more vital than ever to

ensuring the public’s right to know. They are an integral pillar of conversation and discourse and serve a role vital to the exercise of a free democracy.

Alas, though, the Texas Legislature is in session again and — again — there are more attacks on the public’s right to know by attempting to circumvent the public notice requirements in newspapers.

We’ve heard the excuses before; generally, politicians make these three arguments:

“1. Nobody reads newspapers anymore.

2. Since nobody reads newspapers, nobody reads public notices.

3. Public notices are an expensive inconvenience and an unfair subsidy for newspapers.”

Rep. Pat Curry (R-Waco) seems to agree. He has authored HB 1080.

Although this bill would still allow newspapers as an option for notice, government officials could select an alternative to newspaper including Facebook, governmental websites, school newspapers, neighborhood newsletters, free-distribution shoppers and utility bills.

On the surface, this may sound feasible— but it is an-

other flawed attempt to curtail the public’s right to know.

Authors of bills like these seem to forget the plight of lack of broadband access in rural areas.

Many communities served by local newspapers do not have access to rural broadband internet.

Those that do have high poverty levels that make connectivity unattainable for folks who can otherwise afford an annual subscription to their community newspaper.

Simply posting something to the county website does not guarantee the public will be able to see it.

Can we really trust a Facebook algorithm to reach our intended audience?

Neighborhood newsletters do not carry the same legal standard of publication as do professional newspapers.

Another such effort was derailed several years ago after the Grayson County Commissioners Court — along with others across the state — passed a proclamation in opposition to any such legislation that would repeal or amend newspaper public notice standards.

They agreed the idea of eliminating notices from newspapers is dangerous.

Such abolitions of news-

paper public notices appeal to some officials for three reasons they’d never admit:

1. Notices in newspapers absolutely DO get noticed by citizens.

2. Sometimes those public notices make voters mad.

3. When they get mad, those voters give officials an earful. Life is much easier when they can do things without anyone noticing, and newspaper notices make it impossible to be invisible. If you’re a public official, public notices can be inconvenient.

When it comes down to it, the newspaper public notice is still a bargain that works well in print.

This is both a business issue and personal issue for me. I am a proud owner and the publisher of my hometown Texas newspaper.

My family is dedicated to continuing the legacy of exceptional community journalism that dates to 1877.

I am also a fulltime journalism instructor at Tarleton State University where I serve as faculty adviser of a 105-year-old student newspaper.

If you believe newspapers are dead, stop by my classroom and argue that point with the next genera-

tion of brilliant young journalists who are chomping at the bit to do work that matters in their communities.

I am also the director of the Texas Center for Community Journalism where we work with community media companies across the state. We are embedded with the folks doing the hard work in their community’s day-in-and-day out.

So, yeah, it’s personal for me. But it’s also professional and just plain right.

I consider a vote to eliminate newspaper notices to be a vote against me personally.

It is a vote against my hometown, your hometown and the thousands of hometowns across the state being served well by vibrant community newsrooms.

It is a vote against the communities I have the privilege of serving and the students we are entrusting to take over for us soon.

Eliminating newspaper notices is an affront to a business that’s been a civic pillar for your community for longer than any of us have been on this earth. That’s a fact none of us can be cavalier about.

As of press time, we expect the Texas House Intergovernmental Affairs

Committee to decide next Wednesday whether to approve HB 1080 or kill it.

According to the house.texas.gov, the committee is chaired by Cecil Bell and Erin Zwienenr

Committee members include Sheryl Cole, Philip Cortez, Cassandra Garcia Hernandez, Terri Leo Wilson, David Lowe, Shelley Luther, Jon E. Rosenthal, David Spiller and Carl Tepper.

If you know any of these folks, please reach out and tell them how much your community newspaper means to you. Let them know how much you rely on them as your only sources for public notices and community information.

Please ask them to not assault your right to know what your elected officials are up to.

Austin Lewter is the owner & publisher of the Whitesboro News-Record; instructor of journalism and broadcast at Tarleton State University; faculty adviser of the Texan News Service and JTAC newspaper; and director of the Texas Center for Community Journalism. He can be reached at alewter@ntin.net.

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Local Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

APRIL

04/01: Footloose Singles	04/17: Nonfiction Book Club; 42 Dominoes
04/02: Luncheon (Activities Fashion Show); Popcorn Bridge	04/18: Trailblazers Walking Group
04/03: 42 Dominoes	04/19: Exploring Wines
04/07: Chat 'n' Canasta	04/21: Snack Time Mahjong
04/08: Singing Bluebonnets	04/22: Singing Bluebonnets
04/10: 42 Dominoes	04/23: Fun Lunch
04/11: TGIF Lunch	04/24: 42 Dominoes
04/12: Couples Night Out	04/26: Jimmy's Egg
04/14: Bookworms	04/28: Well -Read Women; Monday Canasta
04/15: Bunco	04/30: Crochet and Knit
04/16: Popcorn Bridge	

**"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-texastravelclub@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 11a.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.

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

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



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Finding Abundance in Gratitude

I was in the Temple High School graduating class of 1966, and yes, I know that it was a very long time ago. Thanks to social media and actively getting involved in planning our last class reunion, I have been able to rekindle many old friendships. Even some of my class members I barely knew in high school are now my friends, due to our common bond.

This year, and we are only three months into it, has not been very kind to our class as we have lost several class members. Some extremely fine people are no longer with us on this Earth, and I feel deeply for their spouses and their families. With

God's grace, I hope to see them again in a better place.

It really struck home to me when at one of my classmate's visitation, a small group of us were talking outside the funeral home and we asked, "Which one of us is next?" This caused me to pause and reflect on my own life and my lack of gratitude. Am I truly grateful for each day I wake up and see a new rising sun? No, unfortunately not always, so I have determined to set a new goal for this year, and that is to be more grateful for all the many blessings that I have received.

Jesus actually models gratitude in His prayers, such as when He gives thanks before

feeding the 5,000 (Matthew 15:36) or at the Last Supper (Luke 22:19). The Apostle Paul often expressed thanksgiving in his letters, encouraging believers to



John Perry

give thanks in all circumstances, no matter what they were (1 Thessalonians 5:18 - "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you").

In doing some reading on gratitude, I appreciate

the suggestion of shifting ones focus from what one lacks to what one has. I found a great quote which reflects that, although I could not find out who said it, "Gratitude turns what we have into enough." As we concentrate on what we have, we are so less likely to focus on what we would like to have. Another quote is this one by Maya Angelou, who by the way is the author of a number of profound quotes, "When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed."

I have also realized that I need to express my gratitude more towards others. Actively expressing gratitude through

words, gestures, or actions, such as writing a thank-you note or simply saying "thank you." After all, all kindness deserves an abundance of gratitude.

Let us all be grateful for the blessings each of us has, not just material things, but for family, friends, country, and the salvation given to us by our Lord and Savior. Join with me as I try to show more gratitude in my life. It just might change your whole outlook on life, for as Maya Angelou said, "This is a wonderful day; I have never seen this one before," and I might add, "I may not get to see another one." May God bless each of you!

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WOODS, WATERS and WILDLIFE

By John Jefferson

If It Ain't Broke ...

A tired and worn old saying discourages fixing something that "ain't broke."

Sometimes change is necessary. In others, the only complaint seems that someone doesn't like the way a person or government agency does business.

State Representative Pat Curry, from Waco, introduced a bill to abolish the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The bill would scatter TPWD's employees like a startled covey of quail among three other state agencies -- ones that already have legislatively ordained duties. Many TPWD employees are college-educated scientists who also trained for years to professionally manage fish and wildlife.

The bill doesn't claim inefficiency by TPWD or dereliction of duties. Nothing is broken. The State Legislature scrutinizes its agencies. That's what the Sunset Commission does. And its work is quite thorough. TPWD was last examined in 2021 and approved for twelve more years.

Rep. Curry is on record for saying he introduced the bill to "get the Parks and Wildlife Departments' attention." In subsequent interviews, he has said he wants to call attention to TPWD's regulations regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) among white-tailed deer.

Most Texans know by now that CWD is fatal in whitetails. It's incurable and can be carried in an animal for several years before exhibiting symptoms. It's silently

spread from one deer to others, including mule deer and elk. When mule deer were discovered with CWD along the Texas-New Mexico line, the TPWD Commission called an emergency meeting in San Antonio to consider ways to keep the disease from affecting the four million white-tailed deer in Texas at the time. Now, there are over five million whitetails, here.

Texas deer breeders attended that meeting and testified against proposed regulations to prevent importing deer into Texas from other states, some of which had already discovered CWD among their deer.

As I listened to TPWD's testimony on the proposal in San Antonio that day, ceasing importation seemed like the logical first step in keeping CWD out of native deer. Texas had plenty of deer, and out-of-state hunters coming to Texas to hunt deer was a good indication that the genes of Texas deer were sufficient. The only need for importing northern deer was in the minds of breeders seeking bigger antlered deer to sell. That struck me as a flimsy excuse for continuing to bring possibly sick deer to Texas and endangering one of our most beloved natural resources.

Since then, I have seen and heard breeders speaking at TPW commission meetings and other assemblies opposing practically every proposed regulation. This legislation was merely more of the same -- albeit a drastic one potholed with punji pits of expenses and rife with chaos, low employee morale, and probable loss of services to the public. The bill was absurdly unworkable.

Within hours following the bill's introduction, a



Photo courtesy of University of Florida.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an incurable and contagious disease affecting white-tailed deer and several other species of ungulates. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) enacted regulations prohibiting importation of northern deer possibly carrying CWD. Other regulations to protect Texas' white-tailed deer -- a valuable natural resource -- have been adopted. Legislation was introduced this session to abolish TPWD to appease Texas deer breeders.

mandate of opposition arose from all corners. Rep. Curry withdrew the bill.

A similar bill would abolish the Texas Animal Health Commission, which has supported TPWD's CWD regulations. Hopefully, it too will be dropped.

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