

New leadership announced for Burrell and Lake Belton Middle School



Cheyenne Babb



Rachel Ramirez

Special to the Journal

Belton ISD has announced new leadership for two campuses for the 2025-2026 school year.

Cheyenne Babb has been named principal of James L. Burrell Elementary. With more than a decade of experience in public education, Babb has served as both a teacher and campus administrator across multiple grade levels. Most recently, she served as principal at Rockdale Junior High which was recognized as a Student Voice Campus through the Texas Association of School Administrators.

A graduate of Lubbock Christian University, Babb holds both a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education and a master’s degree in school administration. She is certified as a PK-12 principal and EC-6 classroom teacher.

“Cheyenne leads with a focus on student success—fostering strong relationships, empowering teachers and building a campus culture where each and every learner can thrive,” said Denise Sharp, Executive Director of Campus Leadership for Elementary Campuses. “Her passion for student and teacher voice as well as academic growth will serve Burrell Elementary and the Belton ISD community well.”

Babb succeeds Julee Manley, who has transitioned to a new role within the district as the Early Literacy and Learning Academy Administrator.

Belton ISD is also excited to announce that Rachel Ramirez has been named principal of Lake Belton Middle School. Ramirez brings 18 years of public education experience from Hereford and Lockhart ISDs, including the past nine years as an assistant principal and interim principal. She is known for her ability to build strong, lasting partnerships with students, staff and families.

See **LEADERSHIP,**
Page A2



Courtesy photo

Left to Right, Back row: Randy Carder, Jessica Ingold, Kenitra Lumpkin, Brian Lentz. Front row: Veronica Brown, Sachin Scaria, Rosalie Stafford-Langan, Shai Johnson, LaTanya Minor, Tina McConnell, Kimberly Vance, Sabrina McCray. All were sworn in as CASA advocates by Judge Chris Cornish (rear).

CASA swears in new advocates after launching weekday training program

Special to the Journal

CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties celebrated a milestone on Thursday, July 31 as 12 new volunteer advocates were sworn in by Judge Chris Cornish, marking the successful completion of the agency’s first-ever weekday training pilot program.

Friends and family members filled the room in support of these dedicated individuals who will soon begin their work as voices for children navigating the foster care system.

The pilot program was launched in July after Director of Volunteer Engagement, Maddy Ramos, recognized a need for more flexible training options. Many interested volunteers expressed difficulty committing to evening or weekend training due to work or family schedules.

The weekday training allowed participants to complete CASA’s 33-hour training in just one week through longer, immersive sessions designed to keep participants engaged and informed.

See **CASA,**
Page A2

City selects firm to develop a 10-year Parks & Recreation plan

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Belton will hire Dallas-based MHS Planning & Design to develop a new Parks & Recreation Strategic Master Plan for 2026 through 2036.

MHS Planning & Design has more than 30 years of expertise, specializing in landscape architecture, civic engineering, planning and grant writing. The company has helped more than 75 Texas counties, cities, utility districts, camps and churches with their Parks, recreation and public space needs.

“Our current Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan was adopted in 2016, and the 5-year update was

adopted in 2021,” said James Grant, director of Belton’s Parks & Recreation department. “It is now time to begin the process of developing a new 10-year Master Plan.”

“With Council’s approval with MHS, the company will begin putting a new plan together,” Grant said. “There will be stakeholder meetings, surveys, public engagement meetings and pop-up events where they will set up in our parks and ask the community what they like about our parks as well as what they would like to see in our parks in the future.”

“We will be able to take advantage of some identified

See **PARK,**
Page A2



Courtesy Photo

Garland, Texas, used MHS Planning & Design for the construction of 24 new playgrounds in their north Texas city. MHS has been selected by the Belton City Council to create a new Parks & Recreation Master Plan that will guide park projects through 2036.

Bell County Commissioners approve new election polling locations

Special to the Journal

On Monday, July 28, the Bell County Commissioners Court unanimously approved a measure to designate new polling places ahead of the fall election.

Sites will serve as both Early Voting and Election Day polling places. The following outlines the existing and newly designated sites:

Site #14—Salado Church of Christ (EV) – relocated to Salado Annex (EV), 11057 Event Drive, Salado.

Site #29—Grace Temple Ministries – relocated to Meridith-Dunbar Early Childhood

Academy, 1717 E Avenue J, Temple.

Site #32—First Baptist Church of Rogers – relocated to St. Matthew Catholic Church, 14051 E US Highway 190, Rogers.

Site #36—Killeen Annex (EV) – relocated to True Deliverance Ministries (EV), 709 W Dean Avenue, Killeen.

All previously utilized polling sites were ADA compliant.

However, changes to locations were made for varied, site-specific reasons. In Killeen, the building housing the Killeen Annex is currently being sold, prompting a relocation to True Deliverance Ministries. The Salado Church

of Christ will no longer serve as a polling site following an internal decision made by church leaders.

Polling locations at Grace Temple Ministries and the First Baptist Church of Rogers will shift to Meridith-Dunbar Early Childhood Center and St. Matthew Catholic Church, respectively. Both new sites have been selected for their improved accessibility and greater capacity to meet voter needs.

For more information about voting in Bell County, visit Office of Elections Administration online at <https://www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/elections/index.php>.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Obituaries.....A3

Lifestyles.....A4

BTOWN.....A5

Church Directory.... A6

Editorial.....A7, B4

Sports.....B1

Classifieds.....B5 - B6

Service Directory B8

Troy Ashford
Local Agents Supporting
Local Athletes and Their
Families For 20 Years!

FARMERS
INSURANCE

201. E. 2nd Ave.
Belton, Texas 76513
(254) 933-2007

Do you need representation for new construction?
YES! CALL TODAY!

Kimberlee Helka REALTOR®

RE/MAX
TEMPLE-BELTON PROPERTIES

512-804-6842
4016 S.31st Ste. #200 Temple, Tx 76502

Each office is
independently owned
& operated.

TEMPLE TOWING

(254) 771-1303

Templewrecker.com

New Temple Office!
1618 Canyon Creek Dr. #120

Real Skin
DERMATOLOGY
Serving Patients Closer To Home!
RealSkinDerm.com

Common Skin, Nail, and Hair issues.
Procedural Dermatology & Mohs
Skin Cancer Screening & Surveillance
Aesthetic Services

Call Now!
254-265-7100

WHAT CAN WE
HELP YOU PROTECT?



Steve Giniewicz
Agent
1341 Marlandwood Rd.
Temple, TX 76502
254.760.5141
sginiewicz@txfb-ins.com



**TEXAS
FARM
BUREAU
INSURANCE**
AUTO / HOME / LIFE

Park - From Page A1

savings in the Fiscal 2025 budget and not put this financial burden on our Fiscal 2026 budget,” he said. “This will also allow us to have our new Master Plan ready for council’s review early in 2026 just in time for Fiscal 2027 budget preparation.”

The city’s current Parks & Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 2016 and a five-year update was implemented in 2021. Grant told City Council members this week that “it is now time to begin the process of developing a new 10-year plan that will take us through 2036.”

“By bringing this request to (Council) now, we will be able to take advantage of some identified savings in the Fiscal 2025 budget and not put this financial burden on our Fiscal 2026 budget,” he said in his report to Council.

According to Grant, Belton received requests from 25 firms and nine proposals were submitted. MHS Planning & Design stood out as the top choice following a round of interviews.

The \$75,000 plan is expected to take about eight months to complete once the project begins.

Under the Master Plan created in 2016, the city’s walking and hiking trails more than

doubled in size, and a half-mile of trails at Heritage Park were added. Athletic complexes throughout the city have been improved, and a new dog park was constructed.

Other park improvements during the past 10 years include opening the Nolan Creek Nature Trail, opening Jeff Hamilton Park, re-opening Miller Springs Nature Center, adding kayaking and fishing programs, building a community garden at Heritage Park, installing a disc golf course at Heritage in 2018, and many more projects and improvements.

“Having a Parks Master Plan in place is extremely helpful with guiding our department in the direction our community wants us to go,” Grant added. “It helps us plan our budgets each year and is a requirement to have in place when applying to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for grants to help fund our projects.”

“Most recently, those grants have helped fund the Heritage Park expansion where we received a grant for \$750,000, and Standpipe Park project with another \$750,000,” he said.

“As you can see, spending a little money to conduct and have in place a great Parks Master Plan is extremely important and will really pay off in the future.”

CASA - From Page A1

“We are extremely proud of this group of new advocates,” said Kevin Kyle, Executive Director of CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties. “Not only did they excel in our first-ever one week pilot program, but their passion and commitment to serving children is unmatched. This training model is something we plan to continue offering moving forward, and it will open new doors for community members who want to get involved but need flexible options.”

CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties strives to serve as many children in foster care as possible, and with every new advocate sworn in, we get closer to ensuring each child has a caring adult by their side.

Judge Chris Cornish performed the swearing-in ceremony and commended the group for their willingness to step up and serve. Several family members were in attendance to celebrate this important moment and show their support.

CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect. They stay with each case until it is closed and the child reaches a safe, permanent home. Volunteers work with everyone involved in a child’s case, including parents, foster families, case-workers, and teachers, to ensure the child’s needs are met and their voice is heard.

CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties serves around 300 children annually with the help of nearly 150 trained volunteer advocates. With innovative training opportunities like this new one week training program, CASA continues to grow its reach and impact across the region.

For more information about how to become a CASA volunteer or to learn about upcoming training opportunities, visit www.casabellcoryell.org/volunteer or contact Maddy Ramos at madalyn.amos@casabellcoryell.org.





Leadership - From Page A1

Originally hired to serve as an assistant principal at Lake Belton Middle School, Ramirez quickly stepped into campus leadership this summer and has already begun leading the team—most recently during a campus planning retreat at Baylor University.

“Rachel has hit the ground running at Lake Belton Middle School,” said Ben Smith, Executive Director of Campus Leadership for Secondary Campuses. “She leads with empathy, clarity and a collaborative spirit that motivates those around her. I’m confident her leadership will strengthen the great things already happening at LBMS.”

Ramirez holds a master’s degree in educational leadership from West Texas A&M University, a master’s degree in teaching English to speakers of other languages from Grand Canyon University, and a bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She is a certified principal, a Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System evaluator and a graduate of the Principal Leadership Academy through N2Learning.

Both Ramirez and Babb officially began their new roles on Monday, August 4, and are already working closely with their campus teams to ensure a strong start to the school year.



Belton Independent School District
400 N. Wall Street
Belton, TX 76513
254.215.2000

“Belton ISD Career & Technical Education
Public Notification of Nondiscrimination

Belton ISD offers Career & Technical Education programs in Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources; Architecture & Construction; Arts, A/V Technology & Communications; Business, Marketing, & Finance; Education & Training; Engineering; Health Science; Hospitality & Tourism; Human Services; Information Technology; Law & Public Service; and Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics. Admission to these programs is based on student interest, aptitude as evidenced in successful completion of prerequisite courses, age and/or grade level appropriateness, class space availability, and overall student schedule.

It is the policy of Belton ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Belton ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Belton ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator at casandra.spearman@bisd.net, or 254.215.2078”

“El distrito escolar independiente de Belton (Belton ISD) ofrece programas de Educación profesional y técnica en: Agricultura, alimentos y recursos naturales; Arquitectura y construcción; Artes, tecnología audiovisual y comunicación; Negocios, mercadeo y finanzas; Educación y capacitación; Ingeniería; Ciencias de la salud; Hotelería y turismo; Servicios humanos; Tecnología de la información; Derecho y servicio público; y Transporte, distribución y logística. La admisión a estos programas se basa en el interés” del estudiante, la aptitud demostrada por la finalización exitosa de los cursos prerequisites, la edad y/o el nivel de grado apropiado, la disponibilidad de cupos y el horario general del estudiante.

Es política de Belton ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o discapacidad en sus programas vocacionales, servicios o actividades. Además, brinda acceso equitativo a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados, según lo exige el Título VI de la Ley de derechos civiles de 1964, según enmendada; el Título IX de las Enmiendas educativas de 1972; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de rehabilitación de 1973, según enmendada. De igual forma, Belton ISD no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, discapacidad o edad en sus prácticas de empleo, según lo exige el Título VI de la Ley de derechos civiles de 1964, según enmendada; el Título IX de las Enmiendas educativas de 1972; la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975, según enmendada; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de rehabilitación de 1973, según enmendada.

Belton ISD tomará medidas para garantizar que la falta de dominio del inglés no sea una barrera para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para obtener información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con la Coordinadora del Título IX al casandra.spearman@bisd.net o al 254.215.2078.



Why trust Us?
We've Got You
COVERED





Contact Us
254-939-0343
TannerRoofing.Com

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

Publisher: David Tuma, David@BeltonJournal.Com; **Classifieds & Legals:** Elsie Wiley, Legals@BeltonJournal.Com; **Marketing Experts:** Kimberly Cables, Ads@BeltonJournal.Com; Madison Sinclair, Sales@BeltonJournal.Com; **News Editor:** Lynette Sowell, LSowell@CoveLeaderPress.com; **Sports Editor:** Clay Whittington, Sports@BeltonJournal.Com; **Sports Reporters:** Tony Adams, Aries Ramos **Graphic Artists:** Jason Bachie, Emma Gill, Jordan Hernandez, Kat Burkhouse; **Creative Consultant:** Susan Kolodziejczyk; **News Reporters:** David Stone, Daniel Moctezuma, Michelle Rodriguez, Annie Dockery, Harvey Jackson Oss, Kaylee Dusang

Submission guidelines for The Belton Journal and related properties:

Any image, story or other unsolicited information sent to The Belton Journal is considered a community-contributed submission of material and falls under these guidelines.

- You retain ownership of any submission that is your original work. Submissions sent from third parties should only be by permission of the organization or individual who owns it, who also must agree to this submission policy.
- You understand that submissions may or may not appear in the Belton Journal and its related forms of publication, now or in the future.
- By contributing a submission, you are granting to the Belton Journal unrestricted, non-exclusive right to use it now and in the future. This includes modifying the original submission to fit print requirements.
- Submissions used become a permanent part of the Belton Journal and its product offerings. By virtue of appearance on the Belton Journal Web site, submissions may also become a permanent part of search engine caching libraries (such as google.com) and online archiving organizations (such as archive.org).
- Submissions not immediately used become a permanent part of the Belton Journal’s library, with rights for possible future use.
- By contributing any submission, you are indicating you have read and understood this policy and agree to its terms.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

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

Opinions expressed (including Letters to the Editor) are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by the Belton Journal’s management, staff or advertisers. Letters to the Editor should not exceed more than 350 words. Contact us at (254) 939-5754.



SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES FOR OVER 61 YEARS

Traditional Burial Services • Cremation Services • Veterans Services • Pre-Planning Options

Killeen

506 North 38th Street
(254) 699-8200

Belton

503 North Main Street
(254) 939 2411

Temple

500 West Barton Avenue
(254) 773-4564

OBITUARIES

Fielder
James A. Fielder
May 15, 1965 –
July 30, 2025

James A. Fielder, 60, of Moody, died Wednesday, July 30, 2025 in McGregor. Mr. Fielder was born May 15, 1965, in Belton, the son of Neal and Ruby (Dutschmann) Fielder. He graduated from Salado High School. He married Denna Y. Donnelly in 1995. He was a member of the Salado Church of Christ. Mr. Fielder was preceded in death by his wife in 2011. Survivors include his children, Tuff Fielder and wife Jana, Nicole Fielder and husband Ethan Pittman, and Juston Wall and wife Kristen; parents Neal and Ruby Fielder; five grandchildren, Garrett Pittman, Knox Fielder, Berklee Fielder, Abby Wall and John Wall; sister Judy Houston and brother John Fielder and wife Julie; one niece, Michelle Hanks and two nephews Nathan Houston and Brian Fielder.

Hermes
Cecelia Eileen Hermes
December 18, 1956 –
July 25, 2025

Cecelia Eileen Hermes, affectionately known as “Cele,” passed away peacefully on Friday, July 25, 2025, in Cornerstone Gardens Healthcare & Rehabilitation of Temple, Texas, following a prolonged illness. Born on December 18, 1956, in Houston, Texas, Cele’s life was marked by a deep sense of loyalty and love for her family. A proud graduate of Leander High School, where she was a part of the National Honor Society, Cele’s pursuit of knowledge did not end at high school. She furthered her education by obtaining an associate degree in quality control, demonstrating her commitment to personal growth and excellence in her endeavors. Her professional journey began at Texas Instruments and continued until her retirement in August 2012. Cele was known for her nurturing spirit, particularly as the older sister to Vicki Feazell. Growing up, she set a commendable standard for her younger sibling, reflecting her role as not just a sister but also a trailblazer. Her culinary talents were cherished by those fortunate enough to enjoy her home-cooked Italian and Mexican dishes, as well as her delightful baked cookies that graced holiday celebrations. In addition to her family and cooking, Cele had a passion for painting and crocheting. She was regularly seen out shopping, often drawn to her favorite color, purple. Her adventurous spirit led her to explore various destinations across the United States, including the breathtaking Grand Canyon and the coasts of California. Cele’s love

for the open road was evident, as she often took her time during travels, turning 30-minute trips into memorable three-hour journeys. Cele is survived by her beloved son, Adam (Edna) Hermes; her sister, Vicki Feazell; and her cherished grandchildren, Andrew and Ava Hermes. She was preceded in death by her devoted husband of seven years, Kenneth Hermes, and her parents, Edward and Josie (Crager) Feazell. Visitation took place from 10-11 a.m., followed by the celebration from 11 a.m. to noon. Celebration of Life services were held on Saturday, August 2, 2025, at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Temple, located at 2109 W Avenue H, Temple, TX 76504. Memorials can be made to Immanuel Lutheran Ministries. A special thank you to Slease Thompson & Wendy Eason for their compassionate and loving support. Cele will be remembered fondly for her fierce loyalty, creativity, and the profound love she had for her family, who were her proudest accomplishments. She now rests in eternal peace, united with the Lord and those who preceded her. Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center in Temple, Texas

Loafman
Jann Farley Loafman
June 3, 1952 –
April 17, 2025

Jann Ellen Farley Loafman of Belton Texas passed away peacefully at her home on April 17, 2025 with her husband and two sons present. She was 72 years of age. Celebration of Life will be at 1 p.m. August 8, 2025, at the Belton Church of Christ with Mickey Blanks officiating. A reception will follow the service. Jann was born on June 3, 1952, in Idabel, Oklahoma to Glin & Wilma Lois Hughes Farley. She grew up in the Idabel area and Shidler, Oklahoma. She graduated from Shidler High School in 1970 as valedictorian of her class. She went on to attend college at Oklahoma Christian College in Edmond, Oklahoma the summer after graduation. She transferred to Northwestern State College in Alva, Oklahoma for her freshman year. She then transferred to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma at the start of her sophomore year of college where she went on to graduate in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education. During her sophomore year at OSU, Jann met the love of her life, incoming freshman Steven Loafman, at church. After her junior year of college, she married Steven at the 12th and

Drexel Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on August 11, 1973. They went on to enjoy 51 plus years of marriage until her passing. She was Steve’s loving wife, partner, and best friend who raised a family together and met all of life’s challenges together no matter what they were. Jann worked full time primarily as an English language arts schoolteacher. She taught in Red Rock, Oklahoma, Howe, Texas, and Belton, Texas. She also worked as a substitute teacher in Sherman, Texas and Belton. She retired in 2012 with 24 years of credited teaching service. Teaching students was one of her passions in life and she put a lot of time and effort into her preparations. Jann was a kind, polite, compassionate, and thoughtful person to everyone she encountered. Jann was the loving and encouraging mother of Lucas and Travis as well as a mother at heart to Angie Perez Bartley with whom she shared a special bond for almost 30 years. She was a loving and dedicated grandmother to her five grandchildren. She was a faithful member of the Church of Christ her entire life. She was a Bible class teacher, a Tuesday-Thursday school teacher, and a volunteer at Christian Farms Treehouse. Sadly, COVID, cancer, and a compromised immunity system forced her to watch church services on line the last five years of her life. These restrictions also made it very difficult to interface with anyone indoors, including family, this past five years.

Jann was the family communicator. As an English teacher she was very exacting in anything she wrote. She loved to read books and use her laptop and iPhone until the cancer no longer made it possible. She was in cancer treatment a total of four and a half years and met every challenge head on with a smile. She was very intent on researching articles on ovarian cancer. She was a member of several bulletin boards for cancer patients and she shared her experiences and counseled with others that were inflicted with this same disease. Jann’s favorite activity was spending time at their family condo in Port Aransas. Jann and Steve spent the first year of his retirement building back their unit after it had been damaged by Hurricane Harvey. They were just moving back into their unit when the COVID pandemic started and six months later she got her cancer diagnosis. Her doctors encouraged her to spend as much time there as she could because it was her “happy place”. The condo and Port Aransas in general were a great place for physical and mental healing. It did not matter if she was there for three nights or two weeks, she

and Steve were never ready to leave. She took the condo ownership seriously by serving on a by-laws committee and speaking up at almost every board meeting with fellow owners. She loved to take walks on the beach as well as around the condo complex. She loved to visit with fellow owners, condo complex staff, and visitors in the non-threatening outdoor environment. Jann is survived by her husband Steven of Belton; sons Lucas Loafman and wife Chelsea of Salado, and Travis Loafman and wife Vanessa of Conroe.; daughter at heart Angie Perez Bartley and husband David of Round Rock; brother Dwain Farley and wife Gay of Los Alamos, New Mexico; brothers-in-law Philip Loafman and wife Jane of Edmond, Oklahoma and Randy Loafman and wife Merle

of Guthrie, Oklahoma; grandchildren Adriana, Adalyn, and Annaliese of Conroe, and Caleb and Hannah of Salado; her surviving aunt Cora Lee McAdoo of Collinsville, Oklahoma who later passed on June 29th; and three nieces Melissa Brown of Los Alamos, Kate Loafman of Edmond, and Kristen Loafman of Stillwater. She was preceded in death by her parents and her in-laws. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in Jann’s name to her favorite charity Neema Village (neemavillage.org). The family would like to thank her oncologist Dr. Timothy McCormick,

nurses Tina and Rebecca, the rest of the nursing staff in the Baylor Scott & White gynecologic oncology department, and the entire nursing staff in the infusion center for the great care that they gave to Jann. A very special thanks goes to Dr. Penelope Holland-Barkis of the Belton Baylor Scott & White Clinic who served as Jann’s primary physician for over 20 years and who gave her the special care she needed throughout all of her medical needs. The family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, texts, words of encouragement, visits, food and flowers during this difficult time.



GRAND AVENUE THEATERS

2809 Oakmark Dr.
254-939-5000
www.grandavenuetheater.com

Visit our website or call for showtime info



Auto • Home
Life • Commercial

Kenny Paysse **FARMERS INSURANCE**

778-7136



First Presbyterian Church
2500 Church Street
Belton, TX 76513
Worship Service at 11am
fpcbelton@gmail.com
www.fpcbelton.org

All Are Welcome in Person or on Zoom!
Rev. Kathy Vineyard, Pastor



CENTRAL TEXAS MEMORIAL COMPANY

- Custom Designs
- Quality Workmanship
- Large Inventory
- Quick Turnaround Time

208 N. Head St. Belton, TX 254-933-2474



CAROTHERS EXECUTIVE HOMES

Custom Built Homes

773-5100
50 Wheat Rd. Belton

10 Year Warranty

Hewett-Arney Funeral Home

Serving families in our historic building since 1942



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.

100% Family Owned (254) 778-3200 Phones answered 24/7 Please don't text & drive!	Direct Cremation \$1600 <i>Complete Includes Crematory fee</i>	Complete Funeral \$5510 <i>Includes 20ga Steel Casket</i>
14 W. Barton Ave. • Temple • www.HewettArney.com		
Call and ask for pricing. By regulation funeral home must disclose pricing by phone.		

Home is Where the Care is!



At Home Care ✿ Alzheimer's Care ✿ Hospice Support

(254) 780-9864 CAREAGEHOMECARE.COM



Our home is accepting guests and available at no cost to those needing to make the most of every moment

OUR HOSPICE HOUSE

254-500-7123
www.OurHospiceHouse.org

Relax... We'll Handle It.

FCT
FIRST COMMUNITY TITLE

Temple
254-773-7750
Harker Heights
254-699-1102
Salado
254-947-8480
Belton
254-831-9320
www.fcttx.com

A4
Thursday,
August 7, 2025

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

An estimated 35,000 attend annual Bell County Comic Con

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

Cosplay, comic book, and other enthusiasts from Bell County, Central Texas, and some out-of-towners attended Bell County Comic Con, a family-friendly event this past weekend at Cadence Bank Center.

“We estimated 35,000 attendees and are still working on a count,” said CEO, Promoter, and Founder of BCCC, Johnny Huang.

BCCC kicked off with a special “Bluey Breakfast” on Saturday at 9 a.m. The cost was an additional \$25 per person which included an all-you-can-eat breakfast bar with beverages, a Bluey cereal bowl to take home, Bluey cartoons played on the big screen, a surprise Bluey visit with his sister Bingo, and friend Chase from Paw Patrol for free photo ops. There were Bluey coloring pages on the tables with crayons for kids to color, balloons, and a goody bag that contained a Bluey or Bingo mask.

“The sponsors for the Bluey Breakfast were Peggy’s Coffee House which is located at the Temple Mall, Expo Quick Stop, and the Temple and Belton Holiday Inns,” said Huang.

A Ninja Turtle Pizza Party luncheon kicked off BCCC on Sunday at noon in Hall D. The passes were an additional cost to the BCCC tickets. The luncheon included pizza, beverages, photo-ops with the Ninja Turtles, and a Ninja Turtle themed gift.

When attendees checked in they received their pass to wear with a lanyard and a BCCC comic book that contained a map, the celebrity guest list and artists, attractions, passport stamp challenge, scavenger hunt, and after party information.

“The passport stamp challenge and

scavenger hunt were a purposeful adventure for attendees to secure a BCCC exclusive challenge coin,” said Huang.

Table Toppers Board Game group was in Hall E, where they gave away free gear and had a variety of games to play including the Marvel Champions card game, the Harry Potter Hogwarts’s battle game, and the Sentinels of the Multiverse card games.

“We invite card and board game lovers to meet and play every Tuesday at Bit Bar in Temple from 7 p.m. to midnight to play games. It’s kid-friendly from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,” said Joey Smalls with the Table Toppers Board Game Group.

BCCC featured special celebrity guests, guest artists, and alumni.

“The celebrities were great especially Bonnie Wright, Dante Bosco, Tara Reid, who filled in at the last minute, Janet Hubert, and Karyn Parsons,” said Huang.

Sean Astin had a last-minute cancellation. Astin created an apology video explaining to fans that he couldn’t attend because he was ill.

“We had a lot of vendors. My favorite comic book vendor is Iconic Comics. They had all the creators, artist, and writers at their booth,” said Huang.

Attendees were encouraged to dress up in their favorite cosplay. There were many different costumes from anime characters, Ninja Turtles, Mario Brothers to superheroes, princesses, and bad guys like the Joker. There were different cosplay contests with categories including teen and children.

There were different cosplay panels which included sisters Areis and Arwin. They recreated a cosplay of a character from the movie The Dark Crystal.

“While I was doing the patterns, there



Courtesy Photo

Johnny Huang poses with the Sanderson Sisters of Austin at BCCC. Huang is the CEO, Promoter, and Founder of BCCC. It’s an annual family-friendly event that is held in Belton.

was red dye that rubbed off on my fingers. I didn’t realize that as I was sewing the individual beads. My fingers looked like they were bruised black. I took a shower, and the dye washed off,” said cosplayer Areis.

There was a variety of food truck and beverage vendors from Pecos Pete’s natural tea and soda where a BCCC limited-edition stainless-steel mug could be purchased with unlimited refills, Dynasty Restaurant, Texas Nachos, Oh’s Seafood, and Old Time

Funnel Cakes.

“This was one of our best years ever! All our staff, team, and volunteers are local community members. Our celebrity panels have done thousands of shows, and they expressed this is one of the best because of staff, team, volunteers, and attendees. They were treated like family and were treated with Texas-style hospitality. Attendees were grateful to have big talent come to our small town,” said Huang.

American Hearing Center in Temple offers advanced hearing loss and tinnitus treatments



Dr. Rita Johnson **Moni Johnson**

Special to the Journal

On July 21, the Hearing and Brain Centers of America, the nation’s highest-rated hearing healthcare provider, proudly announced the addition of the American Hearing Center in Temple, Texas, as its 17th location in the United States and the fourth in Texas.

Led by well-regarded local hearing instrument specialist Moni Johnson and audiologist Dr. Rita Johnson, Au.D., the Temple location offers decades of expertise and a deep-rooted dedication to serving seniors in Temple, Killeen, Belton, and throughout Bell County.

The integration of the American Hearing Center into this network enhances the organization’s ability to deliver innovative, patient-centered solutions that address hearing loss and tinnitus, as well as their associated cognitive

risks, such as dementia.

Moni Johnson and Dr. Rita Johnson have long been trusted figures in the Bell County community, earning accolades for their compassionate and expert care, particularly for the nation’s veterans.

Moni, an empathetic specialist, has dedicated his career to helping seniors reconnect with their loved ones through improved hearing. His personalized approach, along with extensive knowledge of prescription-grade hearing aids, ensures that each patient receives tailored solutions to enhance their quality of life.

Dr. Rita Johnson, Au.D., brings a wealth of clinical expertise as an audiologist, specializing in comprehensive diagnostics and treatment plans for hearing loss and tinnitus. Their shared commitment to ongoing education and patient awareness has made the American Hearing Center a beacon of hope for those facing hearing challenges in Temple and Killeen.

“For years, Moni and Rita have been pillars of support for the seniors of Bell County, helping them navigate the challenges of hearing loss and tinnitus with empathy and expertise,” said Dr. Keith Darrow. “Their alignment with Hearing and Brain Centers of America is a natural fit, as their patient-first philosophy mirrors our mission to provide life-changing medical treatment while prioritizing affordability and cognitive health. We are thrilled to welcome them to our growing family.”

Patients at the Temple Hearing Center will benefit from Dr. Darrow’s protocol, which emphasizes early treatment to mitigate the social isolation, depression, and

cerebral atrophy associated with hearing loss. By addressing these issues promptly, Hearing and Brain Centers help patients maintain their independence, engage more fully in social interactions, and reduce their risk of cognitive decline.

A hallmark of Hearing and Brain Centers of America is its commitment to making high-quality hearing care accessible to all. Dr. Darrow has pioneered a low monthly subscription model for the medical treatment of hearing loss and tinnitus, eliminating the prohibitive upfront costs of traditional hearing aids. This innovative approach includes all-inclusive coverage, a price lock guarantee, and flexible financing options, ensuring that no patient is denied care due to financial constraints. The organization also collaborates with the nonprofit Sound of Life Foundation to support those unable to afford even the low monthly plans.

“At Hearing and Brain Centers, we believe that a treatment decision should never be a financial decision,” said Moni Johnson. “By joining forces with Dr. Darrow, we can offer our patients in Temple and Killeen the most advanced hearing and tinnitus treatment plans. This allows us to focus on what matters most: helping our patients hear better and live fuller lives while preventing decline to the best of our ability.”

Dr. Rita Johnson emphasized the transformative potential of this approach.

“Our patients often tell us that treating their hearing loss has not only improved their ability to hear but also revitalized their social lives and mental clarity. By adopting Dr. Darrow’s methodologies, we’re helping seniors in Bell County stay connected to their families and communities while safeguarding their cognitive health.”

To celebrate this milestone, Hearing and Brain Centers of America invites the Bell County community to learn more about the transformative power of its treatment methodologies. Residents are encouraged to request a complimentary copy of Dr. Darrow’s best-selling book, Preventing Decline: Advances in the Medical Treatment of Hearing Loss and Tinnitus, at www.HBCAbookoffer.com.

This resource offers valuable insights into the science of hearing health, practical strategies for managing tinnitus, and the cognitive benefits of early treatment.

“We’re excited to bring Dr. Darrow’s revolutionary approach to Temple,” said Dr. Johnson. “By combining our local expertise with the resources of Hearing and Brain Centers, we’re poised to make a lasting impact on the lives of our patients. We invite everyone to visit our hearing center, schedule a complimentary assessment, and discover how better hearing can enhance their quality of life.”

For more information, visit www.newsoundsolutions.com or call (254) 735-2059.



JOHN R. HOLMES SR.
Financial Advisor
john.holmessr@raymondjames.com
2010 Birdcreek Drive, Suite 100 // Temple, TX 76502
T 254.314.8867

Services offered
Investments • Financial & Retirement Planning Estate,
Charitable Giving & Trust • Educational Savings

RAYMOND JAMES

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. © 2021 Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. 21-BRAUW06-0002 TA 4/21

Local Activities & Events

CAC announces 2025 concert lineups

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

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

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.

Summer Reading Program - Aug 9

Join the Mary Ruth Briggs Library Summer Reading Program this Summer as we celebrate "Amazing Science". We will have programs with speakers on Weather, Rocks and Minerals, Plant Propagation and Forensics. Games, crafts, storytime and free backpacks with school supplies! This program is for ages pre-K through 5th grade. You can sign up for free at the Morgan's Point Resort website: morganspointresorttx.com or paper applications available at MPR City Hall located at 8 Morgan's Point Blvd, Morgan's Point Resort Texas. August 9 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Location is at the Mary Ruth Briggs Library, 8 Morgan's Point Blvd in Morgan's Point Resort. We look forward to seeing you!

Master Gardeners - Aug 14

Join us for our monthly Herb Study Group! August 14 (Thursday), 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at AgriLife Extension Grounds Learning Center, 1605 N. Main St., Belton. This month, we're diving into a Round Table discussion on Gotu Kola! Whether you're a seasoned herbalist or just curious, everyone is welcome to share their favorite herbs, bottles, or recipes for a fun and collaborative evening. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow herb enthusiasts and expand your herbal knowledge! See you there! Class Limit: 50 participants. Please register at RSVP BCMGA1998@gmail.com to secure your spot!

Master Gardeners Aug 20

Join us for our monthly Herb Study Group! This month, we're diving into a Round Table discussion on Gotu Kola! Whether you're a seasoned herbalist or just curious, everyone is welcome to share their favorite herbs, bottles, or recipes for a fun and collaborative evening. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow herb enthusiasts and expand your herbal knowledge! See you there! August 20 (Wednesday), Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at AgriLife Extension Grounds Learning Center, Belton, 1605 N. Main St., Belton. Class Limit: 50 participants. Register at RSVP BCMGA1998@gmail.com to secure your spot!

Bell County Museum - Everyone is an Artist - Aug 11

Join us at the museum to explore different art techniques through fun activities and a chance to see the newest exhibit, A Sense of Place: The Art of Billy Hassell. Make your own beautiful art pieces using techniques focused on watercolor pencils and stamps. The event is completely FREE for all ages, kids and adults at 201 N mains St, Belton, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Call 254-933-5243 for more information.

Soggy Doggy Day - Sept 6

Pups help end the Splash Pad Season in Belton. Right after Harris Community Park's Splash Pad closes to humans for the season, we fence it off and let dogs in! This year's Soggy Doggy Day will be Saturday, September 6, 2025. For more information contact Belton Parks & Recreation at 254-933-5860.

Firehouse Chili & Salsa Copetition - Sept 20

Mark your Calendar: On Saturday, September 20th, we have scheduled our annual Firehouse Chili and Salsa Competition, at Kleypas Park, by the Swimming Pool, in Morgan's Point Resort on Morgan's Point Boulevard. The event is one of our annual fundraisers; and we're focusing this year's funds to purchase accessories for the new Brush Truck - FIONA. Questions contact kastagne@att.net. Cook Team, Sponsor-Supporter, Vendor, Auction Contributor forms can be found at: morganspointresorttx.com/civicalert

Movies in the Park - Sept 20

The Parks & Recreation Department hosts the Movie in the Park series each year. Movies and activities are free and open to the public. Encanto will be shown at Harris Community Park, 312 N. Alexander, Belton. For more information contact Belton Parks & Recreation at 254-933-5860.

Family Camp Out - Oct 24 - 26

Roll up your sleeping bags and hit the trail for a campout at Heritage Park. Activities include fishing, kayaking, and s'mores. This year we are offering an extended weekend of fun, Saturday-Sunday, October 24-26, 2025. Stay tuned for registration information from Belton Parks & Recreation.

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

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

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on TUESDAY, July 8th and July 22nd at 6:30pm at the Temple VA Hospital. Use the entrance on the Valet parking side of the hospital and take the elevator to the 5th floor -Conference Room 5G31. Both care-givers, supporters and those suffering from mental illness are welcome to join us for mutual support and sharing of information. For more information, call 254-771-3638.

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

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

Bell County Historical Commission holds their meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the historical Bell County Court House, 101 E. Central Ave in Belton. Join us in our vision of preserving and promoting Bell County's rich historical heritage for current and future generations. We are dedicated to initiating and conducting programs that preserve and celebrate the county's historic cultural resources in alignment with state laws governing historical preservation in Texas. Our community resources consist of a research room, book repository, cemetery

information, historical markers and monument records. Our services include information on historic preservation, educational programming, history community outreach and partnerships. We welcome you to come join other history minded folks and get involved by serving on one of our committees that consist of preservation, cemetery, markers and education. To volunteer or for more information please visit historicalcommission@bellcounty.texas.gov, call 254-933-5917 or go by their office located in the historic Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave., RM 117.

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

Bell Fine Arts Visitors welcome Wednesday's from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 306 E 5th Ave in Belton. Mahjong 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.

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



NOW OPEN

Enjoy premier senior living in your new single-family style cottage!



**WOODLAND
COTTAGES**
BELTON

475 RIVER FAIR BOULEVARD, BELTON, TX 76513



RESERVE TODAY!

WOODLANDCOTTAGES.COM ♦ **254.613.6449**

Handicapped accessible units available. The owner and management company for Woodland Cottages comply fully with the provisions of the Equal Housing Opportunity Laws and nondiscrimination laws. The homes have been designed and constructed to be accessible in accordance with those laws.





Hamm's Tile & Marble
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
Showers, Floors, Walls
254-231-9016
Wesley@HammsTileAndMarble.Com
HammsTileAndMarble.com



MONTEITH
Abstract & Title Co
Home Owned Since 1876
Frank Turner, Jr. & Employees
106 South East St. • 939-5791

NEED CHURCH COVERAGE?

Winkler Can Help!



Get A Free Quote Today!

Call or Text
254-771-5600
jason@winklerinsurance.com



BELTON/MORGAN'S POINT RESORT	Freedom Bible Fellowship 3087 W. Ave. D ~ 254.933.3310	Covenant Lutheran Church 4202 Hickory Rd. ~ 254.733.7718
Agape Christian Center 321 N. Penelope ~ 254.939.WORD	Holy Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith 519 S. Pearl St. ~ 254.613.4591	Eighth Street Baptist Church 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. ~ 254.773.2598
Anchor of Hope Fellowship 5700 F.M. 439 ~ 254.721.6514	Hope Community Church 507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222	First Baptist Church Temple 8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866
Belton Christian Church 9425 W FM ~ 436 254.939.1172	Hope Tabernacle 202 E. 1st Ave. ~ 254.933.8222	First Methodist Church Temple, GMC 102 N. 2nd Temple. TX ~ 254.773.7992
Belton Church of Christ 3003 N. Main ~ 254.939.1816	Iglesia de Cristo 3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910	First Presbyterian Church Temple 12 West French ~ 254.773.3407
Belton Church of God in Christ 1122 W. 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.1697	Keys Valley Baptist Church 4393 W. US Hwy. 190 ~ 254.939.1650	Foundation Church 10751 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673
Belton First Assembly of God 500 S. IH-35 ~ 254.933.2803	Lakeview Baptist Church 7717 N Hwy. 317 ~ 254.780.1884	Grace Baptist Church 740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401
Belton Lighthouse 1001 NE Loop 121 ~ 254.654.7278	Liberty Church 302 E. Central Ave. ~ 254.933.7107	Grace Comm. Primitive Baptist Church 3111 N. 3rd St ~ 254.774.8192
Belton Nazarene Church 1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404	Liberty in Christ Church 2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337	Grace Presbyterian Church 2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134
Bethel A.M.E. Church 401 S. Davis St. ~ 254.939.6090	Miller Heights Baptist Church 1400 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.1835	Harvest Church 2501 General Bruce Dr. ~ 254.780.3566
Central Texas Cathedral Worship Center 700 S. Main Street ~ 254.831.3064	Ministerios Vida 2020 S. IH-35 ~ 254.624.8015	Immanuel Lutheran Church 2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898
Christ Bible Baptist Church 1590 Jack Rabbit Rd ~ 254.939.9247	Mt. Zion United Methodist Church 218 Alexander St. ~ 254.939.5621	Leon Valley Church of Christ 4404 Twin City Blvd. ~ 254.939.0682
Christ the King Catholic Church 310 E. 24th Ave. ~ 254.939.0806	New Life Fellowship 706 E. 4th. ~ 254.939.8011	New Hope Church of God 2005 W. Ave D., Suite D. ~ 254.742.2181
Christian Tabernacle Church Apostolic UPC 1010 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.3464	Nolan Valley Baptist Church 13206 W. FM 93~ 254.721.5998	Oak Park United Methodist Church 5505 South 31st St. ~ 254.773.3021
Cornerstone Community Church 5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250	Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ 117 N. Birdwell St. ~ 254.939.0822	St. Francis Episcopal Church & School 5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255
Crossroads Church 500 South I-35 ~ 254.939.2122	Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church 2378 FM 1670 ~ 818.519.9855	St. Luke's Catholic Church 2807 Oakdale Dr. ~ 254.773.1561
Dominion Life Chapel 105 Green Briar St. ~ 254.563.0472	Tapestry Community Church of Belton 1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.986.2333	St. Mary's Catholic Church 1018 S 7th St. ~254.773.4541
Elm Grove Baptist Church 6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127	Temple Vision de lo Alto 4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231	Taylors Valley Baptist Church 2497 W. FM 93 ~ 254.939.0503
Family Gospel Church 2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707	Trinity Full Gospel 810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673	Temple Bible Church 3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233
Fellowship Baptist Church 2025 Morgan's Point Rd ~ 254.780.2388	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bell County 1726 Morgan's Point Rd. ~ 254.778.8034	Temple First Church of the Nazarene 5000 S. 31st ~ 254.773.3744
First Baptist Church Belton 506 N. Main St. ~ 254.933.3391	~ TEMPLE ~	
First Mexican Baptist Church 703 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.6900		
First Presbyterian Church of Belton 2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115	Chalice Church - Disciples of Christ 300 N 5th St ~ (254) 773-9061	Unity Church of Temple 318 N. 2nd ~ 254.770.0070
First United Methodist Church 205 E. 3rd Ave. ~ 254.939.5703	Christ Episcopal Church and School 300 N. Main St. ~ 254.773.1657	Vineyard Christian Fellowship 7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802
Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus 1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201	Christian Life Church 4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626	Vista Community Church 7051 Stonehollow Dr. ~ 254.774.7992
		Wildwood Baptist Church 5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

Blueprint of Faith: Lessons from the Ark



John C. Perry

We visited the Ark Encounter in Kentucky this past June. Many friends had told me it was an unforgettable experience, and they weren't exaggerating. Nothing prepared me for the sheer scale of the ark. Built according to the biblical dimensions in Genesis, it's massive. To call it breathtaking wouldn't be an overstatement, it truly is a sight to behold.

Once we stepped inside, I was struck by the thoughtful layout. While we don't know exactly how Noah organized things all those generations ago, common sense and the ingenuity of the exhibit allow you to imagine. Cages for each pair of animals. Systems for food, water, and waste. And all without modern plumbing or machinery. It was a humbling reminder of what obedience and determination can accomplish.

One of the exhibits featured a life-size animatronic figure of Noah, speaking about his calling. It wasn't perfectly lifelike, but it didn't need to be. Standing there, listening to this portrayal, I found myself imagining the real man. His labor. His loneliness. His patience. His faith.

Think about it: what kind of belief does it take to start building a giant boat because God told you a flood was coming, a flood the world had never seen? How do you even know it was God speaking? Imagine someone today starting a similar project with no precedent and no proof. You'd likely think they'd lost their mind.

But that was Noah.

"By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family..." — Hebrews 11:7

He trusted in the unseen. He believed in a promise that hadn't yet materialized. And he followed God's instructions down to the last cubit, never improvising, never arguing.

"Noah did everything just as God commanded him." — Genesis 6:22

We often speak of the patience of Job, but what about Noah?

Noah spent years, possibly decades, constructing the ark. Not a word of complaint is recorded. He waited.

He worked. He endured. Then, when the flood finally came, it wasn't a matter of a few rainy days. Scholars believe Noah and his family were inside the ark for over a year. Imagine that: no land, little fresh air, no way of knowing how long it would last. Yet Noah didn't rush out when the rain stopped. He waited until God said, "Go."

"Then God said to Noah, 'Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives.'" — Genesis 8:16

To me, Noah is the blueprint for patience, trust, and faith.

What if we lived like that today? What if our faith didn't waver in the face of ridicule? What if we trusted God even when we didn't understand His timing? What kind of world would we create? I think we all know the answer, one filled with more peace, purpose, and grace.

If it's been a while since you've read the full story of Noah, I encourage you to revisit Genesis chapters 6 through 9. There are still lessons waiting for us, lessons we need now more than ever.

John C. Perry is the Lay Leader with New Life Methodist Church. They meet every Sunday at 9 a.m. (Bible Study) and 10 a.m. (Worship Service) in the Salado Middle School at 1169 Williams Rd.




TEMPLE TOWING
Statewide 24 Hours Anywhere
Cars • Pickups • Trucks • 18 Wheelers
Statewide 24 Hours Anywhere
Cars • Pickups • Trucks • 18 Wheelers
Motorcycles • Forklifts • Small Tractors
3815 Shallow Ford West
Temple, TX 76502
Phone: (254) 771-1303
Fax: (254) 771-5613



NAGY PLUMBING
For All Your Plumbing Needs
• Commercial/Residential
• New Construction & Remodels
• Sewer lines & Camera Services
254-760-9334
M-36617



939-5132
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1945
1010 S. Main St. • Belton



STAAS PLUMBING COMPANY, INC.
REPUTATION BUILT ON SERVICE
778-2575
KEN STAAS
2101 W. AVENUE M • TEMPLE, TEXAS 76504
M-12173



Jerry Graves TACLA21562E
310 E. Central Ave. • 254-877-2628

Popelka Law Firm, PLLC

Drew Popelka

Attorney - CPA

(254) 774-7880

6173 W. Adams Ave. • Ste. C-201 • Temple, TX
templeattorney@sbcglobal.net • www.popelkalaw.com

today, tomorrow, the future



R.K. BASS ELECTRIC, INC.
Residential & Commercial
1200 East FM 2410 • Harker Heights
(254) 698-8751 • 939-5665

Mc Gregor Welding Supply Co

Welding Equipment and Supplies



Mon - Fri: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Sat: 7:30 am - 12:00 pm
(254) 933-9353
110 S. Wheat Rd. Belton TX 76513

Adrian's GARAGE

5225 SOUTH 31ST STREET
TEMPLE, TEXAS 76502
774-7510
General Auto Repair & Maintenance



Extraco Banks | Let's Build Some Dreams™
774.5500 | Belton | extracobanks.com



BEST-WAY Carpet Services
VINYL PLANK | HARDWOOD | VINYL
CARPET | CERAMIC TILE
GET PROFESSIONAL SERVICE 254.770.0932
Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm
Feel free to write us, info@bestwaycarpets.net
3206 Airport Rd, Temple, TX 76504



DON RINGLER
AUTOMOTIVE
CHEVROLET | TOYOTA
I-35 Exit 294B | 778-4285
www.DonRingler.com



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2500 Church Street
Belton, TX 76513
Worship Service at 11am
fpcbelton@gmail.com
www.fpcbelton.org
All Are Welcome in Person or on Zoom!
Rev. Kathy Vineyard, Pastor



We believe in a BETTER flooring experience.

LET US FLOOR YOU!



254-933-1313 Bellcountyflooring.Com
6401 St.Hwy 317 Ste. B M-F 8-5:30 Sat: 8-3

EDITORIAL

An Accident or Accidental

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Recently I was involved in a discussion about some of the newer safety features of modern automobiles. We have some very safe vehicles now, however there are a lot of dangers of flying down the road in a metal can. Some “old timers” believe that when cars were made of real steel and very little plastic. They were much safer. I don’t tend to agree with that, I know that modern technology has developed safe autos and even using plastics that tend to work better than metal in certain situations. We also have a lot of new safety features on the vehicles, even going so far as to think for the driver and perhaps react faster, or at the least alert you of a hazard. The discussion that I was in centered around how some drivers believe the car to be smart enough that they don’t need to do all the driving and tend to neglect some needed duties and therefore are becoming less safe even with a safer car.

I guess I am lucky, I like to drive, I enjoy it, and I also have vehicles that I like to drive. I pay attention to what is happening around me. I see a lot of people that pay more attention to something in their lap than their driving. I put “phone-users” in the same category as drunk drivers. There are two types in both of those groups. The first type are the ones who have complete disregard for anyone else, they drive fast and are either oblivious or pay absolutely no attention to their driving. The other group is the ones that are aware they are not up to driving safely, they drive slower thinking it is better, the difference here is that the drunk in this case is driving slow and actually watching the road because they are paranoid where the phone abuser is driving slow and thinking they are safe while their eyes stay glued to their screen.

On a daily basis we see or hear about a “wreck” or “accident”. A wreck is defined as a crash, either a part of or involved in. Is that different from an accident? An accident is something unexpected, unforeseen, unplanned, something along those lines. We might hear of a toddler having an “accident” as he is learning to navigate the world without a diaper. Perhaps not completely unexpected, but close enough. You can operate a vehicle and look at your phone, but at some point it is expected that you will operate yourself and your vehicle right into a wreck. You may not want to admit it, and given the history of your success you might gain more confidence. However those of us that follow you, or meet you coming down the road can see that the vehicle isn’t staying between the lines very well. And yes they are plenty wide, even on a bridge. It is a sad statement to your driving skills when the car has to constantly alert you to the fact that you are crossing the lines on either side of the area you are to be operating within. We have cars that steer you back into your lane, a bit of technology that is hard to get used to. Some cars brake in a situation where a crash seems inevitable, others just flash a bright light if you are actually looking down the road. All of these are good and certainly beneficial as we drive. We should not rely on them, and certainly not let the car do the driving. It should be for the extreme emergency when the normally attentive human is unexpectedly distracted. I mean if the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader bus was broken down on the side of the road and all the Cheerleaders were standing on the shoulder, I could see that might be a bit distracting. Reading about your high school friend Norma’s aunt’s gallbladder surgery on social media shouldn’t be.

I guess this is just a bit of a rant on my part, one of the benefits of my writing. I know that none of my readers are the ones I am writing about this week. The fact that you are reading a real paper newspaper would show me that you aren’t the type to be glued to a phone and especially when you should be operating a motor vehicle. I am as tech savvy as I need to be, I use my phone and even listen to music in my ride while I drive. I pay less attention to it, only checking the caller ID when I get those calls telling me that my vehicle warranty has expired and I need to take action now! I am happy that we have safer autos than just a few years ago. I hope that I can always drive my car, I enjoy it and spend my time actually thinking about what I am doing and not what the latest drama is on whatever platform is popular today. Have a good week and drive safely.

Hard of hearing

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

I need a new secretary. My old one is either a smart-alec, or she needs hearing aids.

Siri is the reason I spent the big bucks on an i-Phone. Despite the fact that she has yet to fetch my coffee in the morning, I like being able to send her on virtual errands to find information, call my husband, or add an item to my grocery list. But this morning, I depended on her. This morning, I needed her. This morning, she failed me.

I picked up my mom to take her to her doctor’s appointment in the next town. I’d never been to this particular address, so I asked Siri to find a map. That’s not too much to ask a secretary, is it?

“Siri, find directions to 1717 Paluxy Drive, Granbury.”

“Finding directions to 707 Taluxy Drive, Grand Prairie.”

Was she kidding me? I had spoken quite clearly. But everyone’s entitled to an error every now and again, and I’m a forgiving person. The first time, anyway. “Siri, find directions to

1717 Paluxy Drive, Granbury.”

“Finding directions to 1617 Patuxie Drive, Hamberry.”

Hamberry?

“Siri. Find directions to 1-7-1-7-P-A-L-U-X-Y Drive, G-R-A-N-B-U-R-Y.”

And on we went. After the seventh or eighth try, she got it right. At that point, I was ready to chunk her out the window. At that point, we were nearly there.

I should really have more compassion, considering the number of times I’ve failed to hear Him correctly. Time and again, God has given clear directions for my life. He doesn’t mumble or stutter, and yet time and again, I’ve heard what I wanted to hear instead of what He actually said.

I can be stubborn. Obstinate. Even pig-headed.

I pretend not to hear. I choose my own path and then try to plead ignorance. I plow right into that wide, muddy path when the detour is clearly marked.


When God tells me to go left, I

pretend to hear “right,” and I feign surprise when I get stuck in the mire. I’m not sure why He hasn’t fired me yet, or left me to gurgle and kick in the quicksand of my decisions.

I’m so glad He’s patient with me. When others would have left my stubborn self to sink, He comes every time to pull me out of whatever hole I’ve landed in. He gives me chance after chance to get it right, whispering words of wisdom and counsel in hopes that this time, I’ll listen.

I don’t know why I’m so hard of hearing, but I am. He spells things out clearly, and I still mess up. Sometimes He even yells. The problem is all mine; I need to adjust my spiritual hearing aids so I can recognize His voice, listen to His guidance, and find my way the first time He speaks.

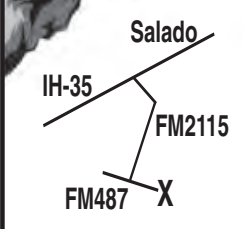
“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock,” Matthew 7:24.



We Buy Stocker & Feeder Cattle Daily

The benefits of selling your cattle to us are:

- ✓Competitive Pricing – Call for a quote!
- ✓Cattle are weighted immediately – NO shrink!
- ✓We are fast! (If you bring your cattle during regular business operations 7a.m.-4p.m.)
- ✓Open 6 days a week • Closed Sundays
- ✓Centrally Located – Save \$ on gas!



CAPITOL
Land & Livestock

LOCATION: 4651 EAST FM 487 - SCHWERTNER, TEXAS

Call Anytime: 254-527-3342



Standards
HOME HEALTH | HOSPICE

Raising the Standards in Health Care



1.888.671.7007

free in home consultation

www.StandardsLifeCycleSolutions.com

Your **Local, Hometown** Healthcare Provider

Expert, Affordable Auto Repairs & Maintenance

DARREL & STEVEN GREEN



254-770-0666 | www.DarrelGreensAutoTX.com



THE BELTON JOURNAL
Since 1866

FREE 3 Month Trial Subscription



205 E. THIRD AVE.
BELTON, TX
254-939-5703
FUMCBELTON.ORG

OPEN HEARTS
OPEN MINDS
OPEN DOORS



BELTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Heart of Texas Gymnastics

Enrolling Now

939-0737

Year-Round Program

- ★Pre-School & Recreational Gymnastics
- ★Tumbling Classes
- ★USAG Competitive Men’s & Women’s Teams
- ★Special Needs Instruction
- ★“Tyke Jam”

Birthday Parties Available

USAG NATIONAL INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

★ USA Gymnastics Member

Recipient of GAT Distinguished Service Award

Bring this ad and receive the First Class FREE!

6110 S. General Bruce

Premium Kennel Services & Pet Daycare



Looking for top-notch care for your furry friend?

- Comfortable, climate-controlled overnight boarding •
- Structured, stimulating daycare activities •
- Playgroups sorted by size & temperament •
- On-site staff 24/7 for your peace of mind •
- Safe, secure, & full of tail-waggin’ fun! •

Where every pup has a seat at the table!

First-Time Visitors
Get 10% Off!

(555) 123-4567
www.BeltonDogs.com



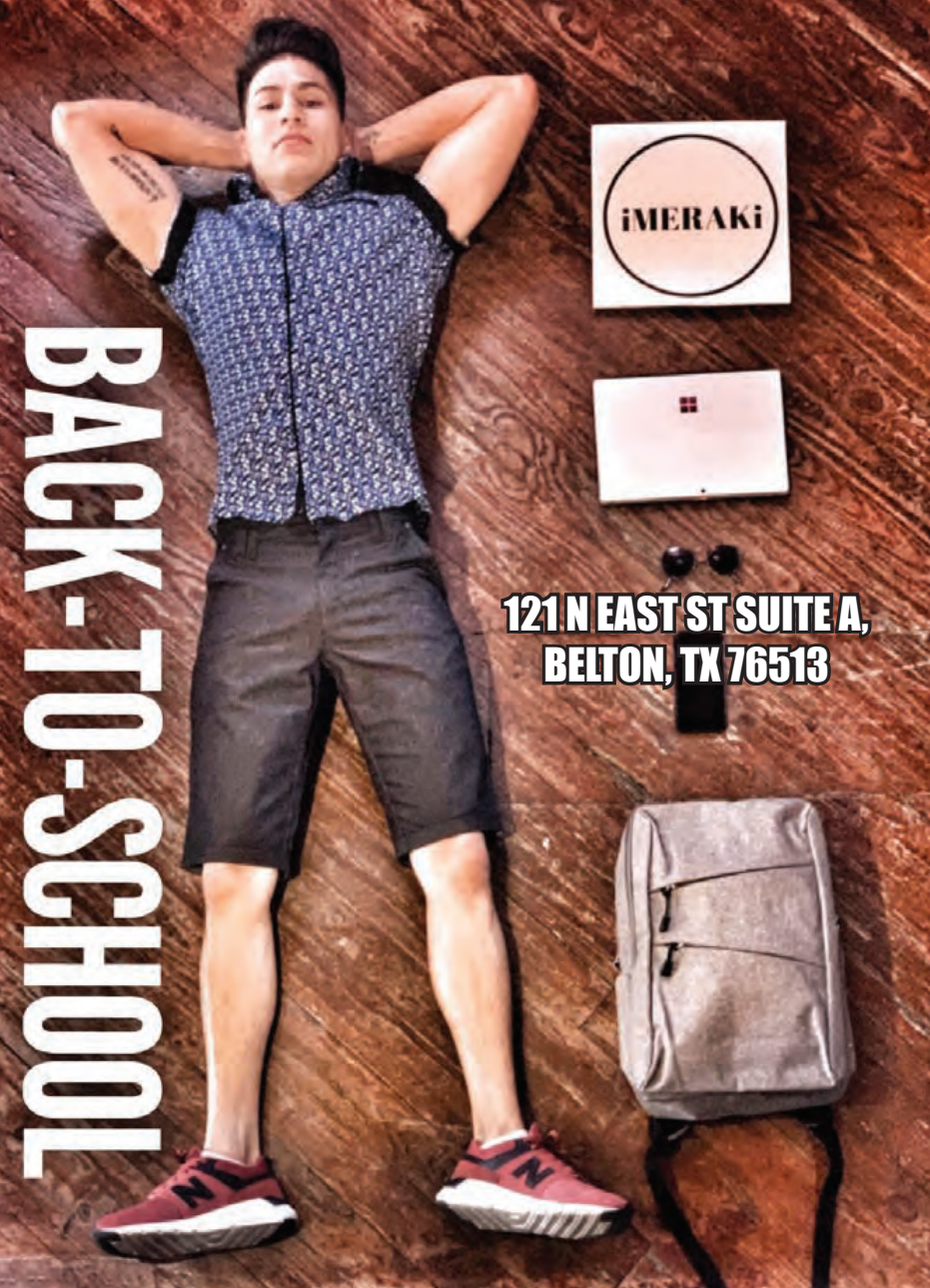
ZOOTYS

ZOOTYS | 1407 South 31st Street | Suite C | Temple, Texas 76504 | 254.770.0904

Photography: Angela Stiz | Model: Councilwoman, Jessica Walker



BACK-TO-SCHOOL



**121 N EAST ST SUITE A,
BELTON, TX 76513**



BCYC

Belton Christian Youth Center

Christ Centered ★ Mission Driven

LEADING BY KINDNESS, HONESTY, & RESPECT

Our prayer for every child who comes to BCYC is to know they are loved and cared for every time they step through our doors!

BELTONYOUTH.COM | 254-939-5759

505 E Ave C Belton, TX 76513

Making memories, one child at a time!

AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS SUMMER



Lady Tigers volleyball coaches select team

By **Aries Ramos**
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers Volleyball teams are gearing up for an exciting start to their season with a couple of scrimmages before their season opener against Rudder on August 19th.

The scrimmages will provide preparation and insight into how the teams are shaping up for the upcoming season, as they fine tune their skills and build team chemistry.

On Friday, August 8th, the Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshman teams will head to Robinson for a series of scrimmages. The itinerary is packed with action, as the teams aim to get a feel for game situations. The Varsity team will play in the main gym at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., providing them with two key opportunities to test their readiness and strategies. Meanwhile, the JV team will

compete in the auxiliary gym at 9 a.m. on Court 2, followed by matches at 10 a.m. on Court 1 and 11 a.m. on Court 2. The Freshman Red team will also participate in the scrimmages, playing at 9 a.m. on Court 2, 10 a.m. on Court 1, and 11 a.m. again on Court 2. The teams are expected to depart Belton at 7:45 a.m., with the day wrapping up and the teams returning to school around 2:45 p.m.

The following day, on August 9th, the Belton Tigers will travel to Cedar Ridge for another round of scrimmages. This trip will give them the chance to face off against different opponents and continue to tune their skills ahead of the season. The Varsity team will compete in the main gym on Court 1, with games scheduled for 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.. The JV team will take

See **TIGERS**,
Page B2



BELTON JOURNAL/Tony Adams

Belton utility player Jaclyn Munoz (left) and Lake Belton pitcher Maddison Ruiz each received a Texas Teenage Baseball-Softball Association college scholarship on Saturday at the 2025 TTA State Meeting held in Ennis. Munoz and Ruiz both played and volunteered time with the Belton Youth Softball Association over a 13-year span. Munoz has committed to play softball at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Ruiz has committed to play softball at Angelo State University.

Belton ISD baseball players earn accolades

By **Clay Whittington**
The Belton Journal

A trio of Belton ISD standout players recently earned some impressive accolades.

Lake Belton pitcher Brandon Holley and second baseman Bryce Davis along with Belton outfielder Cole Haisler were placed on the Blue Bell/Texas Sports Writers Association Class 5A All-State Baseball Team.

Haisler received the loftiest recognition by landing on the list's third team.

As a senior, Haisler was named 16-5A All-District Offensive Player of the Year for the second-place Tigers, who produced a 7-3 record en route to reaching the playoffs for the ninth consecutive season.

Along the way, he produced a .415 batting average for the season and made his collegiate commitment to Mary Hardin-Baylor. In district competition, Haisler delivered a .562 batting average with 18 hits, 12 RBIs, eight runs scored, five doubles and a triple.

Additionally, Haisler was selected to participate in the annual Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game in Round Rock.

In 2024, Haisler was named 22-5A All-District Pitcher of the Year.

For the Broncos, Holley and Davis were each named honorable mentions for their contributions toward the program's fifth consecutive district championship.

En route to a perfect 10-0 record, Lake Belton was almost flawless, outscoring its op-

ponents 96-11 and winning seven games by at least eight runs.

Undoubtedly, the Broncos' all-state members were significant to the success.

Holley emerged as the all-district most valuable player, producing a 10-4 overall record as a senior highlighted by a 1.94 ERA. During district, he did not allow a single run in his five starts, pitching 26 innings while giving up only 13 hits and three walks to go with 26 strikeouts.

The three-year letterman, who was selected to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Super CenTex Victory Bowl after his graduation, served as both a starting and relief pitcher during his career, earning all-district first-team honors as a junior.

Holley signed with Richland Junior Col-

lege during the spring.

Coming off appearances on the all-district first team as both a sophomore and junior, Davis excelled in his final campaign, finishing the season with a .388 batting average and 32 runs scored for the Broncos. The performance earned him another spot on the all-district first team.

He played both right field and second base during his four years with the program, and like Holley, Davis was selected to participate in the THSBFA All-Star Game and the FCA Victory Bowl as a senior.

Davis departs as one of the Broncos' most accomplished players, ranking among the team's all-time leaders with 91 hits in 108 career games.

Lady Broncos hold tryouts for volleyball program

By **Clay Whittington**
The Belton Journal

No matter what happens this season, the worst is already over for Allison Waits.

Numerous athletes converged inside Lake Belton's gymnasium Friday and Saturday for the Lady Broncos' two-day volleyball tryout process, and every player had hopes of emerging with a spot on the varsity roster.

Some, however, were denied the opportunity, and for Lake Belton's head coach, the determinations were devastating.

"It is quite honestly the worst day of this job," Waits said. "It is so difficult to make those decisions and have those hard conversations, but at the end of the day, we have to do what is best for the program as a whole. I have to decide what is going to push us toward success."

"It wasn't easy, but I do believe we did that."

Now, the attention turns toward molding the chosen players into a cohesive powerhouse capable of claiming the District 16-5A championship — a feat the Lady Broncos fell two victories shy of achieving last

season.

Lake Belton posted 30 wins for the third consecutive year in 2024 but were unable to hoist a third straight league title after being swept by Killeen Chaparral, dropping it into second place. Nevertheless, the Lady Broncos hoisted trophies, defeating Midlothian and Dallas White in straight sets to open their playoff run before being eliminated by Frisco Reedy in the third round.

Obviously, the objective is to improve on the showing, but doing so will be difficult.

Multiple key components graduated from the squad, including outside hitter Gabby Jones, setter Hannah Kasner, middle hitter MyKenna Johnston, defensive specialist Natalie Maldonado and libero Hannah Ward.

Waits believes talent remains, though.

"The chemistry on this team is already undeniable," she said. "It is some of the best team chemistry I've ever been a part of, so right now, I go home after some very long days with a very full heart. Not every

See **LAKE**,
Page B2



Courtesy Photo

The Belton Lions Club presented their annual Heritage Park partnership check of \$5,000 at the meeting last Thursday.

BISD Hurlers focused on continuing success

By **Aries Ramos**
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers and Lady Tigers Cross Country teams are gearing up for what promises to be another exciting and competitive season in 2025. After an impressive showing last year, both teams are focused on continuing their success at the district, regional, and state levels.

The Lady Tigers enter the new season with high expectations following a standout 2024 campaign. Last fall, the girls captured the 16-5A District Championship with a commanding team performance,

scoring just 40 points to claim the title. That victory propelled them to the UIL 5A Region II Cross Country Meet at Lynn Creek Park in Grand Prairie, where they finished 11th out of 24 teams. Leading the way was senior Olivia Brillhart, who placed 4th overall out of 174 runners with an outstanding time of 18:45. Her performance qualified her for the UIL State Cross Country Meet for the fourth consecutive year.

At the State Meet in Round Rock, Brillhart capped off a phenomenal high school career by placing 26th overall out of 148 runners with a time of 19:10. Her con-

sistency, leadership, and dedication to the sport were highly important in the Lady Tigers' recent success. Now committed to run at the University of Houston, Brillhart leaves behind a lasting legacy and a motivated group of returning runners ready to carry the torch.


This year's Lady Tigers squad returns several experienced upperclassmen who were key contributors during last year's championship run. With a mix of veteran leadership and young talent that performed well at the JV level in

See **XC**,
Page B2



JOHN CORSI
STATE FARM INSURANCE
Voted Best Insurance Agency in Bell County
101 Lake Road Belton, TX (254)939-5846





Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm Saturday 9am- 3pm

• Vinyl • Hardwood • Laminate

• Carpet • Ceramic Tile

• Vinyl Plank

5812 S. General Bruce Dr. • floorcosurplus.com 254.727.4061

Engineered Hardwood

(Starting at \$3.00)

Sq. Ft.

Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Broncos and Lady Broncos tennis team has a busy weekend ahead as they prepare to play three matches.

Lake Belton opens by traveling to Robinson on Friday for a 4 p.m. start. Then, on Saturday, it plays at China Spring and Waco Midway at 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., respectively.

FOOTBALL
Preparations for the upcoming football season will begin in just days for countless teams across the state.

University Interscholastic League rules permit teams that did not participate in spring training to begin workouts earlier this week. Belton and Lake Belton, however, took part in spring training, so each squad can begin conditioning Monday.

The first day the Tigers and Broncos can don pads and have full contact is Aug. 16.

Both teams have a scrimmage set for Aug. 21 with Belton hosting Killeen Shoemaker and Lake Belton traveling to Copperas Cove. Each scrimmage will start at 7 p.m.

The regular-season schedule kicks off Aug. 29, when the Tigers play at Pflugerville Hendrickson and the Broncos play at College Station A&M Consolidated.

BELTON BOOSTER
The Belton Tigers

Athletic Booster Club has scheduled its Meet the Tiger event for Aug. 16 at 6 p.m.

NEW TECH TENNIS
After several weeks of practice, the Dragons and Lady Dragons open their district schedule today, traveling to Liberty Hill Legacy Ranch. Play begins at 4:30 p.m.

NEW TECH CROSS COUNTRY
The Dragons and Lady Dragons began

their preparations for the upcoming season Monday, when they conducted their first practice.


The runners encountered some rain during the session, but it did not prevent them from participating.

New Tech is approximately two weeks away from opening their schedule at the Belton Invitational on Aug. 22. The event will be held at the Belton Lake & Outdoor Recreation Area at 7:30 a.m.

The host Tigers and Lady Tigers will also be competing at the event.

ATHLETIC PASSES
Belton ISD family passes are on sale for \$75 and can be purchased at the Belton High School field house or at the Belton ISD administration office.

The pass allows the owner and all immediate family members entry into any Belton ISD athletic event played at home, excluding football games.



529 education savings plans: More flexible than you think

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

Planning for your child's education can feel overwhelming. But a 529 education saving plan offers a flexible way to help build a financial foundation for their educational future.

While most people know that 529 plans can help cover college and university tuition, these versatile accounts also can pay tuition for vocational and trade schools, making them suitable for students pursuing careers in skilled trades — from plumbing to culinary arts.

Withdrawals also can be used for costs beyond tuition, covering room and board for students

enrolled at least half-time. And, plans can help pay for books, computers and other qualified expenses. And, surprisingly to some, plans can help with student loan repayment — up to \$10,000 per beneficiary.

Of course, there are potential tax benefits, but don't overlook flexibility when considering enrolling in a 529 education savings plan.

Investments in 529 plans will fluctuate with changes in market conditions and may be worth more or less than the original investment when redeemed.

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

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
3011 N. Main, Ste C, Belton, Tx 76513
(254) 933-7680 • scot.hrbacek@edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Lake - From Page B1

coach is able to say that.

“We lost some great talent, and we lost some great leaders, but we have a phenomenal senior class coming in this year. They are some really great kids.”

They are pretty good players as well.

Defending all-district setter of the year Madi Bingham, defending co-offensive player of the year Kaitlyn Hutchins, an outside hitter, and defending co-newcomer of the year Ava Wood, a junior middle hitter, are all returning. Bingham and Hutchins are each entering their senior season.

Furthermore, Keileigh Krueger, Thia Allison, Nia Grayson and Morgan

Kukulski return for their senior campaigns along with fellow all-district representative in sophomore Abbi Jones.

The new-look Lady Broncos will have their first outing together Friday, when they travel for a scrimmage at Pflugerville Weiss. Then, on Saturday, Lake Belton scrimmages at Copperas Cove.

The Lady Broncos' season opener is set for Tuesday — a mere 11 days after their first practice — at Killeen Harker Heights, which will be immediately followed by a trip to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex for the ultra-competitive, three-day Duncanville ISD tournament.

District competition begins Sept.

23 at Belton.

Ultimately, Lake Belton hopes to claim the league title and produce another deep postseason run, but Wait's focus is admittedly elsewhere for the first few weeks.

“Right now,” she said, “we are just having a crash course in all things related to volleyball IQ. We're talking about the defenses we want to run and the offensive things we want to implement this year.

“We just need to make sure we are all on the same baseline. Then, we can build from there, but the girls have just been sponges, and we are starting much further along than we have in the past.”

Tigers - From Page B1

the floor in the main gym on Court 2 at 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m., and 10:45 a.m., while the Freshman Red team will be in the auxiliary gym at 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. The Freshman White team will also be playing in the auxiliary gym at 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m., and 10:45 a.m. The Tigers are expected to leave

Belton at 7:15 a.m., with an estimated return to school around 2:45 p.m.

Both scrimmages provide crucial opportunities for the team to test different lineups, build cohesion among players, and improve their overall performance as they prepare for the start of the season. The team's coaches will be

keeping a close eye on the players' development and the effectiveness of their strategies as they approach their season opener against Rudder on August 19th.

The season opener against Rudder is sure to be an exciting match for the Tigers, as they look to set the tone for the season. The Belton Tigers are hun-

gry for success and eager to show their strength on the court, and these scrimmages will play an important role in helping them reach their full potential.

With the teams working hard during these scrimmages, they will be well prepared and confident as they take on Rudder in their season opener.

XC - From Page B1

2024 including a first place finish for the JV girls at District, the team is aiming for another district title and a stronger showing at Regionals. Their goal is clear, return to the state meet with more than one qualifier.

On the boys' side, the Tigers finished as district runner-up in

2024 and qualified for the Region II meet, where they placed 19th overall out of 24 teams. Senior David Shelburne was the team's top performer, finishing 31st out of 185 runners. His graduation opens the door for rising upperclassmen to step into leadership roles. With a strong offseason and competitive depth, the Tigers are focused on

improving their regional placement and challenging for a district title.

With solid returning talent, a tradition of postseason success, and a program culture built on hard work and resilience, the 2025 Belton Cross Country season is set to be one that will add to the trophy cases once again.

Call today to start your new subscription!

254-939-5754

Proud supporters of the



2025

PLATINUM EXCELLENCE PRODUCT

2025

PLATINUM TOP PERFORMER GROWTH



(254) 939-0343 TannerRoofing.Com



Smith Brothers Drive-In
Tiger Car Wash & Speed Wash

GO BIG RED

921 E. 6th • Belton 939-2471



@ BELTON TIGERS ALTHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB



254.939.2411 • 503 N. Main Street
www.harpertalasek.com
2"x1.7" HT.SportsSponsorship'21



2509 N. Main Street Belton



Banking | Insurance | Mortgage
774.5500 | Belton | extracobanks.com
Extraco Banks is a Member FDIC

Go Tigers!

We're with you all the way!

BELTON HIGH SCHOOL
600 Lake Rd. 215-2200



Designers & Manufacturers of Quality Library Furniture
Classroom, Auditorium, Library and Science Furniture
indecO sales
939-5742 • 1-800-692-4256
805 E. 4th Ave. • Belton



WE GO THE EXTRA SMILE

SIT MEANS SIT
DOG TRAINING

(254) 541-3343



centraltexas.sitmeanssit.com

CENTRAL TEXAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

LIONS

New Enrolling Book A Tour Today!

www.ctcslions.com | 254-939-5700



200 East FM 2410 • Harker Heights 254-698-8751



NEED A ROOF? LOCALLY OWNED

Residential, Commercial, General Construction

SERVICES

3809 S. General Bruce Drive, Ste #103-324,
Temple, Texas, 76502 (254) 300-8242
whitishroofing.com





BIRDDOG FENCE & CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Let us point you in the right Direction!

254-346-1405

Birddogfence1@gmail.com





Norman Building Materials
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1945

WE MAKE SURE YOU EXPERIENCE THE BEST & FASTEST SERVICE.

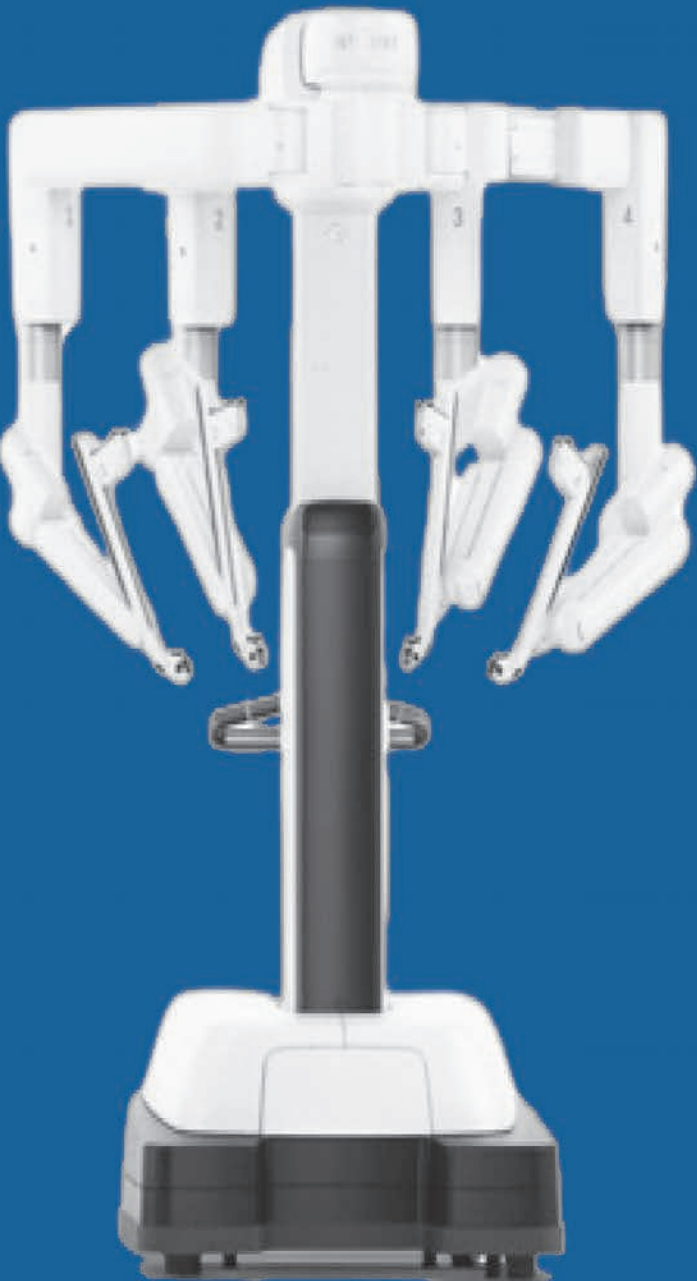


Building Materials Millwork Hardware Plumbing Tools

1010 S MAIN ST.(254) 939-5132
Normanbuildingmaterials.com

Robotic Surgery

Innovation in Motion



AdventHealth Central Texas is proud to introduce the Da Vinci DV5 - the latest advancement in robotic technology for our community.

Provided in Part by the AdventHealth Central Texas Foundation



EDITORIAL

Top ‘o the mind to ya

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

In a previous column I wrote about TOMA – top of the mind awareness – and what it Should “mean” to small businesses and their customers.

If you own a small business, it is a given that you need enough customers or clients to keep you going – even if you are a small crafts business.

I have heard it said before when discussing newspaper advertising, “I took out one ad and nothing happened.” Or, maybe four ads. Gone are the days where ONE ad will get the ball rolling for you and keep it rolling, as a business owner. Anywhere. In any form, print or online.

Some business owners think their business will go viral and there is a magic formula to do that. However, keep in mind that VIRAL does not translate into sales.

People buy when they are ready.

For some reason, some small business owners do

not advertise at all due to the above reason – “I took out one ad.” They believe if they spend \$100 on an ad, they should get \$100 in return right away. But it doesn’t work that way.

Even the big social media behemoth of Facebook does NOT guarantee a return on investment. For example, we participated in a social media advertising program, running some sponsored ads on Facebook. (Facebook is just one component of us marketing ourselves as a media outlet.)

But I’m getting ahead of myself. I’m going to save that one for Part 3 – your golden ticket.

I have heard some business owners say, “I’m not going to advertise because I don’t need to. I will put it on Facebook and people will find me.”

If that principle worked, then the big business “big guns” would do that and nothing more. But watch a little television and pick up some magazines along with the newspapers. There are “big guns” that will spend a lot of money on advertising and not keep it all on Facebook. I’m singling out healthcare and national fast-food restaurants.

We have a number of local hospitals. Every once in a while, we will need a hospital. So, why do hospitals advertise? You would think they are “big” enough that they don’t have to.

Why do fast food restaurants advertise? McDonald’s is big enough already and makes billions of dollars annually. Why do they advertise? Why do they spend tens of thousands of dollars weekly, if not more? Why don’t they

just hang onto that money? Is the company “throwing money away” on ads because they “assume” customers know they already exist?

McDonald’s wants to be the first place on customers’ minds when they want something to eat and want something fast. They already have ardent fans who will drive up and order – and they likely have customers who have had horrible experiences. They also know they have competition and if they are out of a customer’s sight, they will be out of a customer’s mind.

Mom ‘n Pop restaurants and businesses would do well to take a few notes from Micky-D’s playbook.

Repetition is the key to advertising. Customers don’t see things the first-time round, and so do shoppers or those who need our services. Sometimes it can take a while to encounter that customer who is ready to buy from us RIGHT NOW.

Also, in addition to repetition, show customers how what you do is different. What makes YOUR product or service different and/or better than the next one who’s selling the same thing? You need to answer that question and put it into your advertising language.

Find your audience and stand in front of them with what you have. Keep showing up and getting your brand and what you do out there. Your customers might be on Facebook, but they are also a LOT of other places.

So, do you think “free” Facebook is going to keep your business afloat? Think again. Stay tuned for the golden ticket in a future column.

A Hopeless Case

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

Over the years, I have gotten my hands on a rather varied and eclectic collection of books, most of which I got second-hand.

Among the books I have are two titles written by the legendary actor & comedian Bob Hope. One is “I Owe Russia \$1200”, which discusses a number of projects he had been working on in the previous few years. The other is “Don’t Shoot, It’s Only Me”, which is a more full-fledged autobiography in the traditional sense.

One thing that both books talk about is when Bob Hope was persuaded to film a movie on location in France, the idea being that he would co-star with a French entertainer who was widely regarded as his French counterpart. Practically from the beginning, however, the production process proved to be very troubled. Not only did Hope discover that his counterpart was in fact a bit petty, to the

point of walking off set after realizing that Hope was in one more page of script than the counterpart was, he also had trouble working with the local French labor unions.

Basically, Hope was used to working with the labor unions in Hollywood, who were willing to engage in a bit of give-and-take. In contrast, the French labor unions operated in exact compliance with the letter of their contract. For example, there was one incident where Hope and his crew were in the middle of filming a scene when the clock reached the agreed upon end of the working day for the union members. Whereas the unionized workers in Hollywood would have allowed the filming to continue through to the end of that scene in exchange for the requisite overtime pay, the French unionized workers all proceeded to head for the exit, the last one out turning the lights off and

thus ruining the take. This and other incidents with the French unionized workers forced significant revisions to the schedule, to the point that the film barely came in under deadline. By the time everything was said and done, Hope was so frustrated that he never filmed on location in France again.

There’s a particular social media website where people can crowdsource answers to whatever question they might have. One day, someone asked why it was that France, as a nation, has a negative reputation among many international business communities. I recounted the above anecdote to illustrate the fact that the legal and cultural environment in France is different enough from other nations that even the most well-meaning of foreign figures can inadvertently stumble, offend, or even run afoul of the law, especially if they haven’t done adequate research ahead of time, result-

ing in a situation where nobody goes home happy.

At the time, the website was running an experiment: if you didn’t upload or hotlink an image to illustrate your response, it’d feed your response to three different AI-based image generators. The idea was that whoever typed up the answer could use their choice of the three in their response. Sure enough, the three image generators went right to work on my answer.

...Whereupon one of them produced an image of Bob Hope leading a pitchforks and torches – type group in what appeared to be the French Revolution...

For those in the arts community who are worried about AI image generators taking your jobs, I’m thinking that if this incident is anything to go by these image generators have a very long ways to go before they can reliably come close to replacing anyone on a regular basis.

FISHING REPORT

Belton Lake

FAIR. Water stained; 81 degrees; 4.36 feet above pool. Catfish are fair. Anglers can find blue catfish around points and sand flats in 10-25 feet of water. Larger fresh cut baits have been effective for trophy size fish. Eater fish under 10 pounds can be caught slow drifting with small cut shad along sand flats. Channel catfish are good and can be caught on punch bait in 10-20 feet of water. Flatheads are excellent on live bait in shallow water around river mouths. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

Stillhouse

SLOW. Water stained; 84 degrees; 3.38 feet above full pool. The lake is flooded with 7.68 feet of water above full pool, dropping about a half-foot per day with a 2,500+ CFS release ongoing. US-ACE has only one boat ramp open inside the Union Grove Park at this time, so that park is more congested than usual on both weekdays and weekends, and will remain so until other ramps come online. Flooding has led to two significant changes in white bass fishing: the fish have moved shallower and are often in under 30 feet now; and the fish are once again using bottom, not suspending exclusively. The best bite is in the first 3 hours of the morning. Downrigging to find concentrations of fish using Pet Spoons on multi lure rigs like umbrella rigs is working well. Once the concentrations are found, locking in the vicinity and working vertically and horizontally with MAL Heavy Lures with a silver body and blade with chartreuse tail. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Bass are great in the shallows around the flooded vegetation and are destroying topwater baits such as frogs, etc. This will not last long, so get out there soon if you want some of that action. Otherwise, throwing worms and creature baits in deeper water around 20 feet in cuts and coves will get plenty of bites as well. Report by Bryan Cotter, Texas Hawgs

The nutritional value of seafood

Certain types of cuisine tend to inspire a little extra devotion, and seafood is one such food. Seafood is an umbrella term that refers to fish such as salmon and tuna as well as shellfish like shrimp, crab and oysters. That’s a wide range of foods, which underscores the versatility of seafood.

Versatility is one notable attribute of seafood, and diners can keep that in mind as they plan nights out on the town. Another worthy quality of seafood is its nutritional value, which is perhaps more significant than even the most devoted fish and shellfish lovers recognize.

- Fish is low in saturated fat. The American Heart Association notes that fish is not high in saturated fats. In fact, the AHA recommends eating two servings of fish, particularly fatty fish like salmon, each week. Additional types of fatty fish include bluefin tuna, oysters, mussels, herring, mackerel, and anchovies.

- Certain types of fish and seafood can help lower triglyceride levels. Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) are two types of fatty acids found in fish such as mackerel and salmon that are associated with heart health. The Cleveland Clinic notes that EPA and DHA help to lower triglyceride levels, which is beneficial for a variety of reasons. According to the Mayo Clinic, high triglycerides may contribute to a hardening of the arteries or a thickening of arterial walls, a condition known as arteriosclerosis. Arteriosclerosis is a known risk factor for stroke, heart attack and heart disease.

- Shellfish are high in protein and low in calories. WebMD reports that shellfish are a great source of lean protein. That’s a notable benefit, as lean protein is easily digestible and vital for muscle growth and repair. Lean protein sources also can help people feel fuller for longer periods of time, potentially reducing the likelihood that people will overeat. WebMD notes that a single, three-ounce serving of clams contains 22 grams of protein, which is more than 40 percent of the daily recommended intake for people adhering to a 2,000 calorie diet. That same three-ounce serving also contains just 126 calories.

Many people mistakenly believe that dining out will compromise their diets. However, individuals who make wise choices when dining out can enjoy delicious foods without the guilt. Various dishes that fall under the umbrella of seafood provide a delicious and healthy option when diners want to hit the town without compromising their overall health.

FREE 3 Month Trial Subscription

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A WRITER

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A TALENTED WRITER TO JOIN OUR TEAM! IF YOU'RE CREATIVE, DETAIL-ORIENTED, AND HAVE A PASSION FOR CRAFTING ENGAGING CONTENT, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Scan me

JOIN NOW!

Email:gm@beltonjournal.com

ESTABLISHED IN 1866

THE BELTON JOURNAL

YOUR MANAGED SERVICES PROVIDER

We Make IT Simple.

WE CAN HELP ...

- Increase Efficiency
- Prevent Work Delays
- Reduce Work Related Stress

templetechnology.net

LEGALS

Double T Construction, Inc

ROOFING

- Seamless Gutters
- Custom Cabinets
- Window Replacement
- Counter Tops
- Window Screens

Free Estimates

(254) 939-1934
doubletconstruction@hotmail.com

BBB
 BUSINESS
 SELLER
 RATED

MasterCard

AMERICAN EXPRESS

DISCOVER
 CARD

VISA

All Work Warranted and Insured
 50 Years Local Experience

www.DoubleTConstructionincTX.com

LEGALS

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road Belton, TX 76513
BY: Sophia Nieto Deputy
08.07

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00414

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
JACKIE PURCELL, II, Applicant, on July 28, 2025, filed a FIRST amended and restated application for determination of heirship and letters of independent administration in a proceeding styled: JACKIE LEON PURCELL, III, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00414 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.
The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be August 07, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.
Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: DANIEL PALMER 100 N Ritchie Road Suite 200 WACO TX 76712
The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section

LEGALS

202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on July 29, 2025.
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road,
Belton, TX 76513
By: Sophia Nieto Deputy
08.07

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00422

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
CYNTHIA DIANE ENO, Applicant, on July 02, 2025, filed an application for independent administration, letters of administration, and determination of heirship in a proceeding styled: ROBERT MATTHEW ENO, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00422 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.
The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be August 07, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.
Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.

LEGALS

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: JAY R. BEATTY, 3106 SOUTH WS YOUNG DR BLDG D #401, KILLEEN TX 76542
The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on July 29, 2025.
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Sophia Nieto Deputy
08.07

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of GILBERT RAMIREZ, Deceased, were issued on July 17, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00338, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: PATRICIA RYLANDER.
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: Jeffrey Thigpen Attorney at Law, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503
DATED the 4th day of August 2025.
Jeffrey Thigpen Attorney for RATRICIA RYLANDER, State Bar No.: 24099990 ,PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503, Telephone: (254) 773-1663, Facsimile: (254) 773-2574 ,Email: jeff@linzythigpen.com
08.07

MPR City Council holds special session

By **Michelle Rodriguez**
The Belton Journal

The City Council of Morgan’s Point Resort held a workshop on July 23, followed by a special session. During the workshop, council members discussed updates and changes to the 2024 Strategic Work Plan, as well as the approval of the Strategic Work Plan for fiscal years 2025-2026. They also addressed a budget amendment for fiscal year 2023-2024, which involved recognizing revenue and expenditures, along with carryforward funds. Additionally, they reviewed a budget amendment for fiscal year 2024-2025, which similarly recognized revenue, expenditures, and carryforward amounts. Other topics included the Revenue and Expense Report for fiscal years 2024-2026 and concerns regarding dangerous buildings. An executive session was held to discuss these matters in more detail.
It was questioned how to know who owned the trailers. The marina manager issued tags, but an updated list is needed,” said City Manager Dennis Baldwin.

Mayor James “Jimbo” Snyder opened the public hearings at 6:17 p.m. The public hearings were for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Budget Amendments. There is a requirement for public hearings postings, with a summary provided at the meeting. Public hearings were closed at 6:18 p.m.
“We will move on to Ordinance 25-012, discuss and consider an ordinance approving the fiscal year 2023-2024 Budget Amendment recognizing revenue and expenditures and carryforward. It’s just some cleanup items requested by the Council. I will accept a motion to table that ordinance until the next regularly scheduled council meeting,” said Snyder. The council voted yes.
Ordinance 25-013 was proposed to discuss and consider an amendment to the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget, specifically recognizing certain revenues and expenditures as well as carryforward amounts. A motion was made to acknowledge the TEDM funding, which included an adjustment to the account totaling \$168,000. There were questions regarding the check copies from Texas A&M.
Finance Director Mary Tolman stated, “The

backup includes the \$5,080 and the TEDM check, so when I refer to revenue, you will have all the supporting documents. This is also for the auditors.”
For ordinance 25-014, the council discussed and considered a fiscal year 2024-2025 Budget Amendment to transfer funds between departments within the general fund. It was noted during the workshop that the amendment was initially listed under code enforcement. The motion was accepted.
The last item on the agenda was resolution 25-024, which involved discussing and considering changes and updates to the 2024 Strategic Work Plan, along with the approval of a FY 2025-2026 Strategic Work Plan. Council decided to defer this topic to the next meeting in August. An announcement will be made on Facebook and the website regarding the date of this meeting.
Council members thanked Tolman and everyone in City Hall for their commitment and attitude.
The next regular City Council sessions are scheduled for August 12, September 9, October 14, November 4, and December 9.



SPACES FILLING FAST!! APPLY TODAY!

BIGGEST pet event in Central Texas

10th Annual **PET EXTRAVAGANZA!**

✔ Showcase adoptable pets ✔ Sell unique pet products, home goods & more

✔ Giant Trick-or-Treat for kids & pets ✔ Promote animal rescue

CADENCE BANK CENTER

October 11 & 12  **254-231-3690**

RescueMagazine@Yahoo.Com

PROMO

CODE

BELTON JOURNAL

Engage with **THOUSANDS OF ATTENDEES** alongside special guest, Captain Dan Sparrow from the UK! **CAN'T MAKE THE EVENT???** Consider one of many **SPONSORSHIPS**. Whether you're a vendor, nonprofit, performer, or food truck, this is **YOUR CHANCE** to reach thousands of pet lovers, families, and shoppers in a **HIGH-ENERGY, FUN-FILLED ENVIRONMENT**.

Local Service Directory

Household Services

Systems & Appliances

Construction



BEST-WAY
Carpet Services

VINYL PLANK HARDWOOD VINYL

CARPET CERAMIC TILE

GET PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
254.770.0932

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday
9:00am - 1:00pm

Feel free to write us, info@bestwaycarpets.net
3206 Airport Rd, Temple, TX 76504

Pomykal
Heating & Cooling

Belton, Temple, Killeen

(254) 938-6290

William Pomykal Service & Repairs
Gwen Pomykal Preventative Maintenance

www.gopomykal.com TACLA22074C

Brown's House Leveling & Foundation Repair

Belton Owned  Free Estimates

Est. 1960

254-228-9179

Est. 1972
Custom Draperies
By Monica

We design & fabricate in our own workroom!
Custom Draperies • Fabrics • Blinds

1305 N Main St, Belton, TX 254-939-1070

Spoons

Home Appliance Service
Since 1970

We provide in Home Service on
All Major Brands of Appliances.

791-1973 

MJ PAINTING CONSTRUCTION
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

- DRYWALL REPAIR AND PAINTING
- COMPETITIVE PRICES
- UNPARALLELED SERVICE

FREE ESTIMATES
512-746-6123

Yardwork

The Original
Ash Tree Service



- Tree Trimming
- Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Tree Planting

Free Estimates

Split Firewood For Sale

Third Generation

254.654.6317
254.939.7007

Cleaning

English Maids

We will sweep you off your feet!

Kari English
Owner
Residential/Commercial Cleaning Service

254-231-0583

Good Neighbors Fencing and Construction

A GOOD FENCE KEEPS A GOOD NEIGHBOR
LOCALLY OWNED

LOOKING FOR A LOCAL FENCING CONTRACTOR IN TEMPLE, TX?

(254) 346-1405

CALL FOR PRICING!
(254) 939-5754

Enjoy Life We Will Take Care Of The Cleaning

A TOUCH OF SPARKLE
PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SERVICES

20% OFF

For New Clients, Existing Clients with referral, or Existing Clients with a deep cleaning service at no extra cost.

 (612) 659-3428

Hamm's Tile & Marble
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
Showers, Floors, Walls



254-231-9016

Wesley@HammsTileAndMarble.Com
HammsTileAndMarble.com

How reading affects children

Early childhood is a critical time for personal development. During this period, many intellectual, physical and emotional changes are taking place in a child's body at a rapid pace. Parents want to give their children the best opportunities for success in life, and encouraging children to read is one of the ways they can help youngsters develop intellectual and emotional maturity.

Data from the Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development project, an American national cohort study with more than 10,000 participants across different ethnicities and varying socioeconomic statuses, found that reading for pleasure in early childhood was linked with better scores on comprehension cognition assessments and better educational attainment in young adolescence. It also correlated to fewer mental health problems and less time spent on electronic devices.

Reading is a learned activity, and reading early on with a child is a bonding activity between caregiver and child. The Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children says reading has the potential to increase academic achievement by improving vocabulary and learning comprehension. Interactive reading also helps increase mental imagery and language processing.

It's important to note that reading can positively affect the body physically as well. Children may experience less stress by reading, as reading is thought to be even more calming than listening to music or even taking a walk.

In a study published in the journal Psychological Medicine, researchers in the UK and China found that 12 hours of reading a week was the optimal time linked to improved brain structure and good brain health. When researchers examined brain scans from those who had been reading from an early age, the scans showed moderately larger total brain areas and volumes, including in regions of the brain responsible for roles in critical cognitive functions.

"It's widely accepted that [reading] inspires creativity, increases empathy and reduces stress," says professor Barbara Sahakian from the University of Cambridge.

Reading is a skill that children should begin to enjoy at an early age. Parents can introduce reading to their children by reading to them, and then supporting children's efforts at independent reading.

Double T Construction, Inc

- ROOFING
- Seamless Gutters
- Custom Cabinets
- Window Replacement
- Counter Tops
- Window Services

Free Estimates

(254) 939-1934
doubletconstruction@hotmail.com
www.DoubleTConstructionIncTX.com

 All Work Warranted and Insured
50 Years Local Experience

CALL FOR PRICING!
(254) 939-5754

THE BELTON JOURNAL
Since 1866



Delta Students

Breaking News

COME VOLUNTEER WITH US

FOR THE SUMMER OR FOR FOREVER

ANYDAY ANYTIME **512-540-6875** DELIVER NEWSPAPERS



Temple Work Based Learning

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

**Sponsorship opportunities
are still available!**