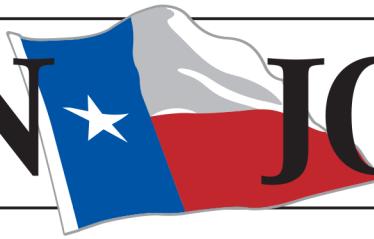


# THE BELTON JOURNAL



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## Council approves minimum building standards ordinance

By CASSIDY PATE

Belton Journal

During last week's Belton City Council meeting, Interim Director of Planning Bob van Til led a public hearing regarding a proposed minimum building standards ordinance, as he said the current ordinance was adopted in 1981 and lacks provisions of State law. This ordinance - an amendment of Chapter 4, Article VII, of the Code of Ordinances - would create policies and procedures pertaining to the abatement of substandard or dilapidated buildings, as well as replace the Housing Board of Adjustment and Appeals with a Building and Standards Commission (BSC) - a quasi-judicial body, meaning the actions of the board are final and not to be considered by city council, van



Til said.

"The goals of the ordinance are to simply save buildings which contribute to a vibrant and sustainable community," van Til said.

In addition to the above updates, van Til said the following will also be implemented in this ordinance: the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), the inclusion of all structures (not just residences) and provides property owners an appeal process to district court.

This process is two-fold and was outlined by van Til prior to the public hearing. - Non-Emergency Process: identifies the dangerous structure, notifies the owner, schedules a public hearing at the commission for commission action, compliance by owner (more than 30 days results in commission schedule; more

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## Commissioners Court approves Nov. 3 General Election results

By LINDSAY STARR

PLATT

Belton Journal

Bell County Commissioners met Monday for the weekly Commissioners Court Meeting via live-stream video conference due to COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings.

Commissioners were able to approve and disapprove agenda items with interactive software during the livestream. Livestream participants were also able to prompt during the meeting when they would like to speak.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Bill Schumann and Kathryn A. Long were approved for re-appointment as Bell County Representatives on the Bell County Public Health District Board. This appointment is for three year terms for both representatives from Sept. 11, 2020 until Sept. 10, 2023.

The results of the Nov. 3 General Election held in Bell County were approved

by Commissioners.

The Commissioners approved the acceptance of the Nov. 3 General Election results for the legal formation of the Bell County Emergency Services District #1.

An Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with McLennan County was approved by Commissioners. This agreement is to provide the housing and care of inmates in McLennan County Jail when Bell County Jail has reached its capacity.

Commissioners approved the final plat of "Krueger Estates," a one-block subdivision located within the City of Temple's ETJ.

Commissioners discussed and took no action on the Bell County Local Disaster Declaration and associated Directives. This declaration was first dated March 18, 2020. Associated Directives include any Directives that have been issued by the County Judge and any federal or state declarations or orders associated with

See COURT,  
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## A new regime: Belton City Council welcomes Carpenter, Bucher and O'Banion



PHOTO BY DAVID TUMA, BELTON JOURNAL

Following the canvassing, or verification, of the General and Special Election returns during a special called Belton City Council meeting on Monday, Wayne Carpenter (left) took the Oath of Office and was sworn in as mayor of Belton, and Daniel Bucher and Guy O'Banion were sworn in as councilmembers.

## Belton ISD celebrates middle school band members for All-Region Band placements



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lake Belton Middle School Band is celebrating 28 students for achieving placement in the Region Band in the TMEA All-Region Auditions.

By CASSIDY PATE

Belton Journal

Belton ISD middle schools are celebrating a successful run in the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-Region Band Auditions. Seven students from South Middle School, 16 students from North Belton Middle School, 17 students from Belton Middle School and

28 students from Lake Belton Middle School received placements in the All-Region Band.

"This was done in a virtual format with students recording three scales and

two musical studies they have been preparing since July for the competition," LBMS Band Director Jor-

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## Belton ISD Board of Trustees close out Orchestra Addition Construction project

By CASSIDY PATE

Belton Journal

The Belton ISD Board of Trustees held a regular meeting at the Pittenger Fine Arts Center on Monday.

Beginning with a time of recognition, the board recognized Belton High School senior Ryan Carpio-Brown and Belton New Tech High School @ Waskow senior Kylan Menapace for being named African American Scholars by the College Board and BNTHS@W senior Ethan Rodriguez for being named a Hispanic Scholar by the College Board. More on these individuals can be found on

Page A5.

Kristie Shepard, digital instructional coach at Lake Belton High School, was named the Rotary Educator of the Month by the Temple Rotary Club.

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Deanna Lovesmith presented the district's goals in regard to House Bill 3 Early Childhood Literacy, Early Childhood Math and College, Career and Military Readiness (CCMR).

"There is a goal in Texas

that we will be the highest achieving state in the country by 2030," Lovesmith said. "The research behind that is that third grade is connected to early high school dropouts and then CCMR is connected directly to students leaving college and career ready and so that's the premise behind these goals."

The first two goals pertain to third grade students, stating that the percent of students scoring at grade level and above on the STAAR

Reading test will increase from 50 percent to 60 percent and 52 percent to 60 percent on the STAAR Math test by June 2024.

"How we came to that was looking at school districts at our size maybe that don't have the same demographics as us but could achieve that goal at a system of that size," Lovesmith said.

This does not only refer to third grade, she said, as the

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