

# Belton ISD back to school

## Students returned to classes on Tuesday



Courtesy Photo

A student pauses for a photo opp on Tuesday morning before heading to class on the first day of the 2025-2026 school year. See more photos of Back to School on A2.

By Lynette Sowell  
The Belton Journal

It’s official. The Belton Independent School District welcomed the “Big Red Community” back to classes on Tuesday morning for the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

BISD Superintendent Malinda Golden greeted the students and families, along with other district staff who welcomed them in a video.

“Our campuses are buzzing with energy, and across every department from the classroom to the cafeteria, the bus lot, to the boardroom, we’ve been working all summer to get ready for you,” she said.

“No matter your role or campus, this new year is a fresh opportunity to grow, to lead, and to learn together. Our vision remains strong as we work to create the conditions for empowering each and every learner to pursue their dreams and enrich their communities, and together, it we will continue to pursue excellence for our students and staff and community. So welcome back, Big Red Community. We’ve been getting ready for you.”

Prior to the first day on campus, the district staff gathered for the annual convocation, which had a high-energy pep rally theme. The Belton ISD board of trustees joined the ac-

tion, donning jerseys and helmets.

Student groups joined in on the fun, with the Lake Belton drumline and cheer and a BISD mascot mash-up hyping up the crowd, along with performances by the Pirtle Elementary School dance team, and the Lake Belton High School Cantando Show Choir.

On Tuesday, Belton ISD opened its doors to 13,500 students. Across the district’s 20 campuses, 2,045 active employees were ready to greet students from pre-K through 12th grade.

See **BISD**,  
Page A2



# UMHB helps students with Love CTX

Special to the Journal

On Saturday, Aug. 9, as part of this year’s Welcome Week, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) students participated in Love CTX. The annual event is designed for students to discover service opportunities and grow closer to their Cru Groups by serving the community.

For the sixth year, UMHB’s Love CTX event supported One More Child, which provides Christ-centered services to vulnerable children and struggling families. Nearly 450 UMHB students packed 28,000 meals and wrote notes for Belton ISD students. This year, the local H-E-B in Belton donated all food items for the meals, equaling more than \$16,000 in in-kind donations.

H-E-B representatives expressed their excitement for being part of this effort. “H-E-B is proud to partner with UMHB and One More Child to support their mission to serve our community,” shared Amy Flores, H-E-B’s area community coordinator. “H-E-B is a firm believer in Texans Helping Texans, and it is important to be committed and involved in the communities we serve. That is why it is such an honor to work alongside UMHB students as they do meaningful work to serve our community with a purpose.”

See **UMHB**,  
Page A3

# River Farms subdivision to build more than 1,700 homes

Special to the Journal

A large residential development is a step closer after the Belton City Council approved plans for about 1,760 homes in the proposed River Farm subdivision east of Interstate 35. The subdivision will include walking trails, amenity centers and green spaces on Toll Bridge Road, north of the Lampasas River. A dedicated school site also is in the subdivision’s footprint. The proposal included the Phase 1 preliminary plat with 1,600 lots on 478.5 acres and Phase 2 with 164 residential lots and 10 homeowner association lots on 72 acres. This phase will include single family homes with at least 5,000-square-foot lots and patio homes with a minimum of 3,600-square-foot lots.



Courtesy Photo

The proposed River Farms subdivision to be constructed east of I-35 will include space for more than 1,700 homes.

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# Community Emergency Response Team program begins Sept. 4 in Belton

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

Tornadoes, floods, wildfires and other disasters can strike at any time, and when they do, anyone could be the first person to make a difference.

The people who make that difference aren’t always first responders. Sometimes, they’re just regular community members who chose to be prepared.

“That’s what the Community Emergency Response Team program is all about — empowering everyday people in our community to respond when it matters most,” said Angie Fontenot, a

CERT instructor and wife of Belton Fire Chief Jon Fontenot.

The Belton and Temple CERT programs are offering an 8-week training course this fall on disaster preparedness, basic first aid, search and rescue, and fire safety. Classes will be held on Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. at Harris Community Center in Belton, starting Sept. 4 with a final drill on Oct. 25.

“We learn a lot about fire safety and fire suppression, first aid and triage — there are a lot of ‘injured’ people in our drills,” Angie Fontenot said.

“We also do search and rescue training both indoors and outdoors,” she added. “We also learn a lot about mental health, terrorism and the power of

working as a team. There’s lots of hands-on training.”

She said the final day of the course will be a full-scale emergency management exercise.

Angie has been a CERT instructor since 2014, and she and her husband built a strong program in Tomball, Texas, before moving to Belton.

“The chief had a robust program in Tomball and he wanted to bring a strong CERT program to Belton as well,” she said. “Belton CERT was launched in 2022 and we’ve had 25 to 30 participants each year. We haven’t had many sign up yet

See **CERT**,  
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**BISD** - From Page A1



# Abbott vows to call sessions until Dems return

**By Richard Lee**  
*Special to the Journal*

The Texas Legislature will stay in session until House Democrats, who left the state to deprive the House of a quorum to stop consideration of a controversial mid-decade redistricting map, return to Austin, Governor Greg Abbott said in a statement Tuesday.

“I will continue to call special session after special session until we get this Texas First agenda passed,” he wrote.

The governor is empowered by the state constitution to call as many 30-day sessions as he wishes, and Lt. Governor Dan

Patrick said the Senate will pass the session agenda laid out by Abbott as many times as it takes.

“Let me be clear: the Texas Senate will pass the bills on Gov. Abbott’s special session call over, and over, and over again until the House Democrats return from their ‘vacation’ to do the people’s business,” said Patrick in a statement.

This comes after the House again failed to reach quorum on Tuesday, with only 95 members present, five short of the 100 required to transact business.

House Speaker Dustin Burrows said that if the House cannot reach a quorum on Friday, he will gavel the session out and immediately

gavel in the second called session of the 89th Legislature.

“The second session is coming,” Burrows said from the House rostrum. “It is time to get home and take your seats.”

As Patrick promised, the Senate continued passage of the special session agenda Tuesday, starting with the proposed redistricting map.

SB 4, by Weatherford Senator Phil King, is intended to increase the number of Republican held seats in the US House of Representatives by five, moving the delegation from a 25-13 Republican/Democratic split to a 30-8 split.

King said that in drawing the

map, he took no race-based data into consideration, and that the proposed map meets all applicable voting laws.

The bill was passed 19-2, as nine of eleven Senate Democrats staged a walkout in protest of the measure.

Other bills passed Tuesday include SB 6, by Senator Bryan Hughes of Mineola, which would allow Texans to sue manufacturers and distributors of medical abortion pills in the state.

SB 14, also by King, would shield certain information pertaining to law enforcement officers, like hiring information and unsubstantiated complaints, from disclosure under open records requests.

The Senate also passed a flood relief package in the form of three bills. SB1, the omnibus relief bill by Lubbock Senator Charles Perry, would require summer camps located in flood-prone areas develop, implement, and practice evacuation plans. Those plans would require evacuation to higher ground and would be triggered in the event of a local flash flood warning. It also promotes better coordination between the various public safety and law enforcement agencies regarding flood monitoring and response.

See **ABBOTT**,  
Page A8



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OBITUARIES

**Trevino**  
**Alex J. Trevino**  
**March 29, 1994 –**  
**August 7, 2025**

Alex J. Trevino, age 31, of Belton, passed from this life Thursday, August 7, 2025. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Belton. Burial will follow at North Belton Cemetery. A time of visitation will take

place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, August 15, at the funeral home. Alex was born on March 29, 1994, at Scott & White Hospital in Temple, Texas. Diagnosed at birth with dwarfism, Alex never let his condition define him or hold him back. He graduated from Belton High School in 2014. A devoted father, Alex welcomed his daughter, Fernanda Trevino, into the world on July 1, 2018, in Mexico. He was also the youngest of his three maternal brothers. Throughout his life, Alex en-

joyed playing football, baseball, basketball, cross-country, and kickboxing. He was the person everyone called when they needed a helping hand or a companion for a road trip. To his nieces, nephews, and younger cousins, he was the best babysitter - always ready to let them eat candy and watch their favorite YouTube shows. Alex was an organ donor, and although his condition ultimately prevented donation at the end of his life, his giving spirit never wavered. Since birth, Alex was a fighter-

determined to be seen as an equal to his peers and to live life to the fullest. Known for his humor and playful teasing, “little Alex” brought laughter wherever he went. He loved to travel, try new things, and embrace every adventure. Though small in stature, he was an older, wiser cousin and a big presence in the lives of all who knew him. Alex will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his family, friends, and all who were blessed to share in his life.

City Council discusses fee schedule, strategic plan

By David Stone  
The Belton Journal

During its meeting on Tuesday evening, the Belton city council discussed a proposed ad valorem tax rate of \$0.5225 per \$100 for Fiscal Year 2026. In September, City Council could adopt a rate that is lower, but not higher, than the proposed rate. Mike Rodgers, Director of Finance, said the city received its certified tax rolls from the Appraisal District of Bell County on July 23. The total taxable value of property located within the city of Belton is now \$2.58 billion including property located within the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone. This represents a 9.9 percent increase to the 2024 adjusted taxable value of \$2.35 billion. The \$233,031,376 increase in total property value can be broken down into two components: existing property and new property. The value of existing property rose by

\$148,145,917 from Jan. 1, 2024, to Jan. 1, 2025. New property contributed \$84,885,459 to the total, Rodgers said. The average taxable value of a home in Belton increased by 4.3 percent from \$296,559 in 2024 to \$309,386 in 2025. Belton property tax paid on the average home last year was \$1,550. The average homeowner would pay \$1,617 in city property taxes if the budgeted tax rate of \$0.5225 is adopted, an increase of \$67 for the year or \$5.58 per month. The date the budget and property tax rate will be adopted depends upon the rate that is being considered by City Council, Rodgers said. A tax rate that is equal to or less than the voter-approval rate must be adopted within 60 days of receiving the certified tax roll, which is Sept. 22. Because the deadlines for an election have passed, it is too late to approve a tax rate that exceeds the voter-approval rate. Council set a public

hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 9 at Harris Community Center for the proposed tax rate for Fiscal 2026. The city council heard a presentation and discussed potential changes to the Fiscal Year 2026 Belton Fee and Rate Schedule. A public hearing was set for Aug. 26 to discuss proposed changes, and council is expected to vote on the changes during the Sept. 9 meeting. Mike Rodgers, director of finance for the city of Belton, said city staff analyzes all fees and rates for services annually as part of the budget process. Proposed changes include increasing several permit and inspection fees for new residential and commercial construction. New residential fees will go from 10 cents a square foot to 12 cents, and commercial fees will go from 15 cents a square foot to 18 cents. Re-inspection fees will go from \$35 to \$50. Proposed changes also include demolition fees and a fee for permit renewal for

non-activity to encourage builders to continue making progress on the project, adding a fee for appealing a case in Municipal Court, increasing fees for city-installed fire-line taps and increasing fees for meter box and meter-box lid replacement. If approved by council, fence permits and above-ground swimming pool permits will increase from \$35 to \$50. Also this week, council heard a presentation on Belton’s Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2030 from City Manager Sam Listi. A public hearing on the plan has been set for Aug. 26. “Belton’s Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2026-2030 has been updated following a comprehensive update this year,” Listi said in a report to Council. “A Council Retreat produced a number of key recommendations leading to changes in the focus of goals, as well as a refresh of the Strategic Plan document.” The strategic plan in-

cludes 41 initiatives within six Pillars of Emphasis that emerged from the retreat. Adoption of the Fiscal 2026-2030 Strategic Plan is scheduled for Sept. 9.



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UMHB - From Page A1

One More Child has deeply valued the long-standing relationship. “One More Child is happy for another year of partnership with UMHB and the opportunity to feed more Belton students than ever before, thanks to H-E-B’s generosity,” explained Joanna LeMasters, One More Child’s director of initiative engagement. This annual community collaboration is a meaningful example of liv-

ing with purpose at UMHB. “We are so thankful that we get to help impact our community in this way. Having H-E-B partner with us on this project for the second year has been a huge blessing,” said Katy Hartt, UMHB’s associate director of Student Leadership and Organizations. “Together we are able to help provide meals to our BISD students who struggle with food insecurities.” The meals will go to

Belton ISD’s Project Heartbeat program to help students who may not have food at home and will be distributed throughout the school year. “Thank you for filling our care closets, feeding our students nights and weekends, and giving us time for teachers and staff to spend with their students, bonding over snacks,” said Christina Wilson, McKinney Vento liaison, coordinator for Project Heartbeat with Belton ISD.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:  
I am writing to express my utmost disappointment and outrage about this special session being hijacked by Governor Abbott to push through state redistricting at the behest of President Trump to obtain 5 new Republican seats. Representative Hilary Hickland expressed in the informal meeting she held prior to the start of this special session that the law would be followed but as the voter data consulted is not publicly available, I find myself skeptical of this claim. The only thing being adhered to, if anything, is the consolidation of power of an unpopular and failing regime. During the last public hearing held on August 1, 2025 regarding this, Representative Hickland expressed “Obviously I

support this map and I’m hopeful that that’s what we’re going to get.” By this admission she approves denying the voters of Texas fair representation. That admission also furthers the motion put forth to end fair representation across the nation; if Texas engages in this, then nothing can stop any other state from following suit. I have to wonder if these hearings were a farce; a token for the public to express their disdain on the record but ultimately end up ignored in favor of passing the controversial legislation. This alarming trend has also been present when raising concerns about recent actions and policy from the Trump Administration to our U.S. legislators. One could make the argument that they neither represent nor serve the best interests

of their constituents with this blind adherence to party loyalty. I hope Representative Hickland can proudly look her children in the eye and tell them she supports the fall of democracy in Texas and the United States and would proudly usher it in. Should this map be adopted, and I have no doubt Governor Abbott will do everything in his power to machinate in its favor, that will be her legacy and ours should we fail to stop it. I cannot speak for everyone but I am so tired of our state representatives from local to federal bending the knee in subservience to the whims of wannabe petulant tyrants. Their duty is to their constituents first and it’s high time that they remember that.

Emmanuel Perez



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**A4**  
Thursday,  
August 14, 2025

# LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL



File photo

In December, outdoor synthetic ice skating will return to downtown Belton as an extended part of the City’s annual holiday event, Christmas on the Chisholm Trail. Last year’s rink was up for two weeks and brought thousands of people downtown for free skating. This year’s rink will be installed for four weeks rather than two. It also will be enlarged by 36 feet to 110 feet. On July 8, the Belton City Council approved renting the rink from Ice-America at a cost of \$79,233. Funding will be from the city’s Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. Skates, racks and accessories will be available for skaters to use.

## Museum commemorates 205th birthday of Salado founder

Special to the Journal

Salado Museum & College Park will host a special celebration to commemorate the 205th birthday of Salado founder, Colonel Elijah Sterling Clack Robertson, on Saturday, August 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Festivities will include a wreath laying ceremony, an audio-video presentation, a musical tribute, a bagpiper and, of course, birthday cake.

The event is free to the public but donations are welcome in person or online. [www.saladomuseum.org](http://www.saladomuseum.org).

“The celebration will begin at 10 a.m. in the Main Street courtyard of the Museum where attendees will follow Bagpiper Doug Slauson to College Hill,” said Lynette Jones, Museum Executive Director. “There we will gather around Colonel Robertson’s statue near the ruins of Salado College for a brief memorial ceremony that will include a formal wreath laying and the playing of Amazing Grace.”

Returning to the Lucile A. Robertson Event Center in the museum, guests will enjoy a presentation by Gene Rhea Tucker, Ph.D., Professor of History at Temple College, which will focus on Colonel Robertson’s life and his contributions to Salado and its people.

This will be followed with the viewing of a pre-recorded musical tribute by renowned Celtic fiddler, Colin MacLeod, of Edinburgh, Scotland.

The Museum of Salado Texas is located at 423 South Main St. across from the Stagecoach Inn. College Hill is located just south of the museum.

For additional information, visit [www.saladomuseum.org](http://www.saladomuseum.org) or call the Museum at 254-947-5232.

Salado Museum and College Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to promote and preserve the pioneer history of Salado, Texas, through educational programs and exhibits that document the settlement and heritage of this area.



Courtesy Photo

A statue of Col. Elijah Sterling Clack Robertson commemorates one of the founders of the Village of Salado. The Salado Museum is holding a 205<sup>th</sup> birthday event in honor of Robertson on Aug. 23.

## Local development on the increase in Belton

By David Tuma  
The Belton Journal

Single-family building permits for the city of Belton, including Three Creeks, are 213 through June of this year.

In 2024, there was a total of 367 single-family building permits, up from 171 in 2023. Belton’s population is estimated at 27,500.

Three Creeks is a Municipal Utility District development in the City of Belton’s ETJ. The 1,600-lot subdivision will eventually be part of the City of Belton. Over the past 2 and a half years, 354 homes have been built in Three Creeks.

River Fair is another MUD being developed on 478 acres with a possible 1,775 lots developed.

Over the past couple of years development in Belton has seen an uptick in addition to housing and some of those are: BISC Ag Barn and Delta Building, Cadence Bank Center Open Air Facility, USA Capitol Building 2, Glass Expanse, Integrity Urgent Care, Oncor Substation, McDonald’s, Panda Express, Bearden Industrial buildings and Amazon building.

Numerous retail businesses have located in the downtown area and north Belton along Main Street.

The Amazon site is a 133,095-square-foot warehouse, the latest addition to a growing business base in Belton.

The Temple-Belton Wastewater treatment plant is in Phase Two, with two bids received in \$68 million to \$77 million range.

City of Belton’s portion of this project is in the \$16 million range. TCEQ requires a wastewater treatment plant expansion when influent flows exceed 75 percent of permitted capacity in three consecutive months. This was first triggered back in 2010. Phase 1 was completed in 2020.

## Sol Life brings herbal medicine to Belton

By Harvey Jackson Oss  
The Belton Journal

Sol Life Natural Wellness relocated to Belton last year. The studio, founded by Shae Stinson, offers a variety of herbal and holistic products and services. The new venue is located on Lake Road near the Quail Meadow neighborhood.

Stinson founded Sol Life in 2023 on West Adams in Temple, after being inspired by a yearlong struggle with her

own health. Stinson endured lengthy treatments of conventional medicine, but was unsatisfied with the poor results. She decided to look into holistics, and discovered the use of herbal medicine. When her herbs finally brought her relief, she knew she needed to share them with the area.

“It really was like a voice from the divine spoke to me and told me to bring herbal medicines to the community,” said Stinson.

Stinson is an herbalist, a type of holistic health practitioner that matches symptoms to specific herbs.

“I’m really good at helping get down to root causes,” explains Stinson. Her clients’ problems may be emotional, lifestyle-based, or physical. Stinson also sells minerals and vitamins, and offers Reiki energy healing sessions.

Sol Life also features an in-house masseuse, Julie Rodriguez from Buena Vida Massage. Stinson hosts monthly community classes where she demonstrates things like making bath salts or crystal grids. She holds yoga sessions in the back of the property.

In May 2024 the West Adams area was ravaged by a devastating EF-2 class tornado that destroyed over 500 homes and businesses.

“It kind of took everybody’s lives and turned them upside down,” stated Stinson. Sol Life was severely damaged by a bombardment of debris and forced to

close.

Just over one year ago in August 2024, Stinson moved her business to a house on Lake Road. The venue was intended to be temporary, but she came to love the area so much that she bought the building to establish a permanent presence.

“We have the trees, and we have the land... it’s just a cool place to be,” mentioned Stinson. The living rooms were converted into retail spaces, and the master bedroom became an office. Another two rooms were made into healing areas.

Stinson has lived in Belton since 2008. She appreciates how Lake Road provides her business visibility, being one of the busiest roads in town.

“I love this area too, I just love the community,” said Stinson.

Many of Stinson’s original Temple customers frequent the new Belton location. Sol Life has also received lots of growth from customers in Belton. Last month, July, was the most successful in Sol Life’s history.

“We are picking up where we left off,” said Stinson. She hopes to continue growing and serving the Belton community, and eventually open franchises.



BELTON JOURNAL/David Tuma

Shae Stinson, owner of Sol Life moved her business to a house on Lake Road in Belton last August after the devastating EF-2 class tornado destroyed her Temple location.



## Local Activities & Events

### Newcomers Club Activities

09/01: Bookworms, Chat n Canasta  
09/02: Footloose Singles  
09/03: Monthly Luncheon, Popcorn Bridge  
09/04: 42 Dominoes  
09/09: Couples Night Out, Singing Bluebonnets  
09/11: 42 Dominoes, Mexican Train Dominoes  
09/12: TGIF Lunch

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### 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 weeks 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.

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:RSVP BCMGA1998@gmail.com) to secure your spot!

#### 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](mailto:kastagne@att.net). Cook Team, Sponsor-Supporter, Vendor, Auction Contributor forms can be found at: [morgan-spointresorttx.com/civicalert](http://morgan-spointresorttx.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 Pars & 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](mailto:GayleInBelton@gmail.com) or (254) 718-4197.

**Marine Corp League** will meet the third Tuesday of each mont at VFW 3859. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and metting will begin at 7:00 p.m. 201 VFW Dr, Harker heights, Tx 76548. Email [commandant@mcl1249tx.com](mailto:commandant@mcl1249tx.com)for more inforamtion.

**NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)** will meet both on TUESDAY, July 8th and July 22rd 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](http://aspenhealthcare.net) or call 512-856-5668 for more information.

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

**Bell County Historical Commission** holds their meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the historical Bell County Court House, 101 E. Central Ave in Belton. Join us in our vision of preserving and promoting Bell County's rich historical heritage for current and future generations. We are dedicated to initiating and conducting programs that preserve and celebrate the county's historic cultural resources in alignment with state laws governing historical preservation in Texas. Our community resources consist of a research room, book repository, cemetery information, historical markers and monument records. Our services include information on historic preservation, educational programming, history community outreach and partnerships. We welcome you to come join other history minded folks and get involved by serving on one of our committees that consist of preservation, cemetery, markers and education. To volunteer or for more information please visit [historical-commission@bellcounty.texas.gov](mailto:historical-commission@bellcounty.texas.gov), call 254-933-5917 or go by their office located

in the historic Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave., RM 117.

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

**Bell Fine Arts Visitors** welcome Wednesday's from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 306 E 5th Ave in Belton. Ma-jong games are available every Monday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come join the fun and meet new folks. For more information text Jeanne at 409-313-0611.

**Local chapter of the Crochet Guild of America** meets from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Lena Armstrong Public Library, 301 E. First St., in Belton. The group is open to anyone interested in crochet. All skill levels are welcome. For information email Betty Reichert at [bettyreichert@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyreichert@yahoo.com) or Kathy Bement at [katshookandneedle@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:info@beltonchamber.com).

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

## 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](http://www.beltontexas.gov/takemehome). Read more about the program here: [https://www.beltontexas.gov/news\\_detail\\_T11\\_R1166.php](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](http://ssa.gov/scam) for tips.

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



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**Belton Church of Christ**  
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**Belton Church of God in Christ**  
1122 W. 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.1697

**Belton First Assembly of God**  
500 S. IH-35 ~ 254.933.2803

**Belton Lighthouse**  
1001 NE Loop 121 ~ 254.654.7278

**Belton Nazarene Church**  
1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404

**Bethel A.M.E. Church**  
401 S. Davis St. ~ 254.939.6090

**Central Texas Cathedral Worship Center**  
700 S. Main Street ~ 254.831.3064

**Christ Bible Baptist Church**  
1590 Jack Rabbit Rd ~ 254.939.9247

**Christ the King Catholic Church**  
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**Christian Tabernacle Church**  
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**Cornerstone Community Church**  
5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250

**Crossroads Church**  
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**Dominion Life Chapel**  
105 Green Briar St. ~ 254.563.0472

**Elm Grove Baptist Church**  
6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127

**Family Gospel Church**  
2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707

**Fellowship Baptist Church**  
2025 Morgan's Point Rd ~ 254.780.2388

**First Baptist Church Belton**  
506 N. Main St. ~ 254.933.3391

**First Mexican Baptist Church**  
703 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.6900

**First Presbyterian Church of Belton**  
2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115

**First United Methodist Church**  
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**Iglesia de Cristo**  
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**Keys Valley Baptist Church**  
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**Liberty Church**  
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**Liberty in Christ Church**  
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**Miller Heights Baptist Church**  
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**Mt. Zion United Methodist Church**  
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**New Life Fellowship**  
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**Nolan Valley Baptist Church**  
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**Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ**  
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**Tapestry Community Church**  
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1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.218.4008

**Temple Vision de lo Alto**  
4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231

**Trinity Full Gospel**  
810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of**  
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~ TEMPLE ~

**Chalice Church - Disciples of Christ**  
300 N 5th St ~ (254) 773-9061

**Christ Episcopal Church and School**  
300 N. Main St. ~ 254.773.1657

**Christian Life Church**  
4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626

**Covenant Lutheran Church**  
4202 Hickory Rd. ~ 254.733.7718

**Eighth Street Baptist Church**  
215 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. ~  
254.773.2598

**First Baptist Church Temple**  
8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866

**First Methodist Church Temple, GMC**  
102 N. 2nd Temple. TX ~ 254.773.7992

**First Presbyterian Church Temple**  
12 West French ~ 254.773.3407

**Foundation Church**  
10751 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673

**Grace Baptist Church**  
740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401

**Grace Comm. Primitive Baptist Church**  
3111 N. 3rd St ~ 254.774.8192

**Grace Presbyterian Church**  
2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134

**Harvest Church**  
2501 General Bruce Dr. ~ 254.780.3566

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898

**Leon Valley Church of Christ**  
4404 Twin City Blvd. ~ 254.939.0682

**New Hope Church of God**  
2005 W. Ave D., Suite D. ~ 254.742.2181

**Oak Park United Methodist Church**  
5505 South 31st St. ~ 254.773.3021

**St. Francis Episcopal Church & School**  
5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255

**St. Luke's Catholic Church**  
2807 Oakdale Dr. ~ 254.773.1561

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
1018 S 7th St. ~ 254.773.4541

**Taylor's Valley Baptist Church**  
2497 W. FM 93 ~ 254.939.0503

**Temple Bible Church**  
3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233

**Temple First Church of the Nazarene**  
5000 S. 31st ~ 254.773.3744

**Unity Church of Temple**  
318 N. 2nd ~ 254.770.0070

**Vineyard Christian Fellowship**  
7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802

**Vista Community Church**  
7051 Stonehollow Dr. ~ 254.774.7992

**Wildwood Baptist Church**  
5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

## Scrolling Past What Matters



John C. Perry

This week, I had a rare day with no meetings and no deadlines looming. On our back porch sits a rocking chair that's seen its share of quiet mornings. I poured my coffee, sat down, and let the moment surround me, birds chirping like crazy, blue skies stretching overhead, a sea of green grass and leaves dancing in the breeze.

It should've been a slice of peace. A breath of stillness. But did I savor it? Nope. I pulled out my smartphone and started scrolling. Like so many, I struggle with smartphone dependence. That little handheld marvel can do astonishing things, but what is it doing to us as Americans?

A 2024 study found that 99% of American adults under 50 own a cellphone. Even among those 65

and older, the number is an impressive 94%. And most of these aren't flip phones, they're smartphones. Among older adults, 79% of us seasoned souls carry one. Add social media to the mix, and the numbers are just as startling. This year Pew Research found that 93% of adults ages 18-29 use YouTube, 76% Instagram, 65% Snapchat, and 62% TikTok. Even Facebook tells a story: one-fifth of users are under 30, while nearly one-third are 50 and older.

We have become a smartphone nation, and it dominates. Unfortunately, I think that the consequences aren't always benign.

Constant alerts, emails, texts, they wear us down. I know that emotional fatigue firsthand. Even when we're together, the phone builds invisible walls. We sit in the same room, but we're marooned on separate digital islands.

And what about relationships? A 2024 study revealed that 30% of Americans feel lonely at least once a week. Instead of cultivating deep friendships, we scroll, swipe, and substitute screens for souls.

**So, what's the remedy?**

Let's become quiet revolutionaries in a loud, distracted

culture. We won't toss our smartphones into Belton Lake, but we can reclaim the sacred places they've invaded: our dinner tables, our morning coffees, our churches, our friendships.

Start with one intentional choice. Silence the phone during family time. Leave it in the car when you walk into church. Share a story, not a screen, with someone you love.

And most importantly, spend time in the Word of God. Expand your relationship with Him through prayer, not through posts, reels, endless scrolls or digital noise. I challenge you to turn your phone off for just one hour a day. Redirect that time from social media to sacred connection, with your fellow humans, and more importantly with the One who made you.

Because depth doesn't live in your social media feed. It's found in presence. In grace. In God.

Let presence lead us back to what matters most!

*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.*

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# EDITORIAL

## The Food Chain

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

We as humans fit into the food chain fairly close to the top, not because we have the naturally sharp teeth or claws. We are at the top, or near the top because of our brains. We have the ability to reason and solve problems. However even with logical thinking we still have a lot of unfounded fear of other creatures. Some folks have an unreasonable fear of spiders. They think that all spiders are dangerous and will track us down just to bite us for no reason. I mean even if a spider did hunt us and could disable us there is no way we could be a meal for them. The same with snakes, there is a lot of fear surrounding something that slithers across the ground with no legs. Most snakes that we will see around here are completely harmless, they eat things that annoy us humans. Even the venomous (not poisonous, a toadstool is poisonous) snakes in Texas serve a valid purpose, they eat rats and mice. Now one might think that some of these snakes would catch a bus to New York and live in the parts of the city that are notorious for the number of rodents running wild. The venomous snakes are no different than the other snakes we see, they are not hunting us for food. They will get defensive because they see us as a very large animal that is likely going to kill them for food, so they will bite since that is their only defense, much like picking up a mad kitten. Quite a few animals will bite when we seem to be a threat to them, including that cute little puppy.

On the planet there are very few animals or creatures that would see us as food and probably have the ability to overpower us and afterwards eat us. Those would be the polar and grizzly bears, they are fast enough to catch us and big enough to make a meal of us if they decided to do so. For the most part we are not really in their environment so we are not a natural food source for them. The only large cat that might be a real concern is the tiger. In the ocean we are probably on the menu for the larger sharks. Although we apparently don't taste that well, but will do in a pinch. We are often mistaken for their natural food, a seal, because we dress in a rubber suit that looks like a giant seal. So once they take a bite they often spit us out, or don't want to fight for us, otherwise we might just hit the spot. The largest animals in the ocean are surprisingly not a concern for us. The whales are not interested in eating us, and most couldn't if they wanted to. Now I am sure someone is going to bring up Jonah getting eaten by a whale, well I am happy that you mentioned that. I can only imagine how that conversation went.

God: Wally the Whale, I have a job for you.  
Wally: Sure God, anything you want. What is it?  
God: I need you to eat a man to teach him a lesson.  
Wally: I don't eat people and I don't think I could eat one if I wanted to. Why don't you just feed him to the sharks, they eat people all the time?  
God: I want to scare him, not kill him. I will make it easy for you to eat him, then spit him up on a beach in a few days once he changes his mind about my request.  
Wally: So let me get this straight, I need to swallow something a million times larger than my normal food, let him upset my stomach for a few days, beach myself and vomit him up later?  
God: Yes, you got it.  
Wally: What if I refuse to do it?  
God: I just created a giant dolphin that I am calling a Killer Whale, it likes to eat very large sea creatures and has incredibly sharp teeth.  
Wally: Uh, what is this guy's name?  
We are smart creatures and we shouldn't fear a lot of the things that we do fear. We need to just understand how we fit in the food chain. We also need to let some other creatures fit into the food chain without us pummeling them when we see them. They are after the same things we are after, a nice place to live and ample food.

# Remembering the Dinosaurs

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

A few years back, somebody found a rock near Glen Rose, Texas that showed a dinosaur footprint. Many authentic dinosaur tracks have been discovered in that area, but this one is different. The dinosaur's footprint is smack-dab on top of a human footprint, and they appear to have been made within minutes of each other. If proven authentic, this would supply evidence that man walked the earth alongside dinosaurs.

Experts are still arguing over the legitimacy of this find. Last I checked, the creationists and the evolutionists were still battling it out.

I won't speculate whether or not this discovery is real. I'm no paleontologist. I don't even know the proper names for even the most common dinosaurs. I still call them "the one with the long neck" or "the short, fat, scaly one" or "the scary one with wings." And whatever the experts decide, it won't change my views about creationism vs. evolution.

As I look at pictures of the stone, I can't help but wonder about the story behind the footprints. Was the dinosaur chasing the person? Did the guy know he was being pursued? Maybe he was just walking along, gathering seeds and berries, whistling Dixie (did they whistle Dixie back then?) when all of a sudden, WHOMP! He was cordon-bleu.

Talk about a bad day.

Or maybe the dinosaur was a pet. Anybody who's watched the Flintstones knows they had pets back then. Maybe they're authentic Fred and Dino footprints! Next best thing to an autograph.

But seriously, I would hate to have been that guy or girl. I'd have been terrified. Even if the dinosaur was vegetarian, he was huge! And I've never seen a friendly-looking dinosaur.

I've never seen any dinosaur, but that's beside the point.

Sometimes it feels like I'm being chased—even stepped on—by a dinosaur. Bills show up, bigger than expected, like a Velociraptor looming overhead.

People can be cruel, unkind, and dismissive, making them seem more Stegosaurus than human.

When Rick's parents' house burned to the ground last spring?

Big ol' stompin' T-Rex.

But there's good news! The God who created dinosaurs is bigger than the dinosaurs. He loves each of His creations. But He loves us most of all. After all, we were made in His image. No matter what hovers over us, chases us, or threatens to eat us for lunch, God is stronger. He will help us.

He delivered Jonah from a whale's guts. He rescued Daniel from the lion's den. Surely, he'll save you and me from our own beasts. After all, you haven't seen any dinosaurs around lately, have you?

"And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God." Daniel 6:23

## CERT - From Page A1

this year, but people tend to register at the last minute."

Angie said those who complete the Belton, Temple CERT program will receive a certificate of completion as well as an emergency backpack loaded with gloves, a flashlight and batteries, a first-aid kit and other starter equipment.

"Many people take the course to be a community asset," she said. "We teach skills and knowledge that can be used in every-day life. When disaster strikes, we will have a pool of trained community members to assist in search and rescues."

"We had a lot of CERT members out following the two May 22, 2024, tornadoes," she added. "We teach skills that can be used as a team or individually. This course gets training out there for our community."

To register for the free CERT course, email Angie Fontenot at [belton-cert@gmail.com](mailto:belton-cert@gmail.com). To take the course, a participant must be 18 years old or 14 if a parent also attends training.

"Those are the only requirements," she said. "The CERT program is open to anyone interested in learning how to be better prepared for emergencies."



Courtesy Photo

Two members of last year's Belton/Temple emergency training program extinguish a fire.



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Broncos take advantage of summer workouts for football program

By Clay Whittington  
The Belton Journal

Caleb Chandler patiently waited for his moment, and Monday, it arrived.

University Interscholastic League rules permitted Lake Belton to begin practicing for the upcoming season earlier this week, and the Broncos took full advantage as they returned to the field in anticipation of embarking on a fourth consecutive trip to the playoffs.

While the program is still in the infancy of its campaign, Lake Belton's standout defensive lineman felt he finally completed a journey.

"It's awesome to get to be

one of our senior leaders," Chandler said. "It is really kind of a full-circle moment for me, because I can remember back to when I was one of the younger guys looking up to older players who just seemed massive and like they knew everything."

"The coaches are expecting us to take on more responsibility as leaders, and that is a great feeling, because it means they have trust in me to get things right. It is a great feeling for them to want me to be somebody that sets the example."

The Broncos are spending the first week of practice in helmets only, but beginning Saturday, they will be allowed to practice in pads with full contact, and

Lake Belton will take advantage of the opportunity.

An intrasquad scrimmage will be conducted Saturday at 8 a.m., and the Broncos will follow by traveling to Copperas Cove for a scrimmage on Aug. 21, marking their final tune-up prior to starting the regular-season schedule at College Station A&M Consolidated on Aug. 29.

With only weeks separating Lake Belton from its opener, the window to prepare appears small, but the Broncos' dedication to success began long ago, according to Chandler.

"Over the summer," he said, "you could go out to our football field at almost any time of the day, and there would be cones set

up and stuff. There was always somebody out there working."

"We've really made it a point to bring people along, and there were guys conducting lessons for young kids. Everyone just wants to keep developing."

Lake Belton is coming off a 7-4 showing with its lone District 8-5A, Division I losses coming to Leander Rouse and Georgetown. The Broncos finished league play in a three-way tie for second place with a 5-2 record before falling to Midlothian 35-30 in the opening round of the playoffs.

Despite the success, Lake Belton is still in search of its inaugural postseason victory after falling shy in its first three

attempts.

Now, with only one season remaining in his high school career, Chandler intends to help the Broncos earn their first bi-district championship.

"We're still a new program," he said, "but in our first few years, we've always been eligible to go to the playoffs. We're still very hungry for our first playoff win, though."

"We keep getting closer and closer every year, and last year was very disappointing to lose to Midlothian after having the win in our hands. It was sad, but for me, it just drove me harder, and I want that playoff win, so we can leave behind a legacy."

Gott stays local, to continue softball career at UMHB

By Tony Adams  
The Belton Journal

To say that Brysen Gott has had a trying past couple of years is an absolute understatement.

Gott is a tremendously gifted athlete with a non-stop work ethic. She helps work at Gott Equine and Twin Falls Stables, helping her father, Brandon Gott, tending to the barns before school and workouts.

She started her high school career as a Belton Tiger Softball standout, with playing catcher, second base and third base on an extremely talented Tiger squad over her first two high school seasons.

Tragedy struck the Gott household in May 2024 when the F2 tornado that struck West Temple claimed the Gott's home.

Fighting through homelessness after the tornado, Brysen moved from Belton to Lake Belton for her junior season. Gott fit right in with the Broncos.

However, it took some time for Gott to get back on the field, as surgery delayed the start of her 2025 campaign. Gott had surgery on her arm, which caused her to miss the first few games on the field but was an emotional leader in the dugout.

Upon the completion of the 2025-2026 school year, Gott will have the opportunity to continue her softball career at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in 2026, playing under head coach Melissa Mojica and assistant coach Leah Guest.

"The reason why I chose UMHB is be-



cause how the coaches are. They are amazing at what they do, and they don't just care about softball," Gott said. "They care about you as a person, and I love how the softball team does bible study and hangs out together. I love how close I am to home and the education is amazing. I heard the professors talk to you, actually know your name, lol, but after all I am just really excited to play at UMHB with all my friends and family there."

"I'm so excited for her, and as a father when I saw her dreams come true I won't lie I got real emotional, she is my youngest baby," Brandon Gott said. Brysen continues to battle through every day, not only working the stables but also working on the field throughout this summer.

"Ethic has always been very hard because I've always wanted to work very hard in life, and I love helping my dad at the barn and doing everything with him," Brysen said. "I think it's really helped me when I got on the softball field, knowing like I really need to push myself if I want to be one of the best, one of the top, and ever since I just, I've worked very hard for what I wanted. I want to help my teammates, push and push and help my team in the hardest times."

"She has fought so hard and overcome so much and still always positive. Works harder

See GOTT,  
Page B2



Tiger Volleyball scrimmages set table for opener against McNeil

By Tony Adams  
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers Volleyball team began their 2025 season over the past two weeks with a pair of strong scrimmages this past weekend in Robinson and Round Rock.

On Friday, the Tigers traveled to Robinson High School as they took on the Rockets and Midway Pantherettes.

The Tigers first played the Pantherettes, and it was an extremely talented Midway group that played Belton extremely tough.

In the second match up, the Tigers played the Rockets extremely well and built momentum for Saturday's scrimmages.

On Saturday, Belton traveled to Cedar Ridge High School in Round Rock to take on the Raiders, Round Rock Christian Academy, and Lorena.

In the opener against the Raiders, it took the Tigers some time to combat the experienced Cedar Ridge squad. The switch flipped on 25 minutes into the 45-minute session, and things began to click for the

Tigers. Shots were landing over the net in empty Cedar Ridge spots, and the serves sent the Raiders scurrying for answers.

The next matchup was against Round Rock Christian. The Tigers were in sync through the entire period and dominated the scrimmage with crisp passing, exceptional net play, and a solid backline performance.

The third matchup against Lorena was more even played, with each team holding short waves of momentum. In the end, the Tigers played excellent volleyball and set themselves up for Tuesday night's home opener against Round Rock McNeil.

The Tigers were rested following the weekend and received the Lady Mavericks' best challenge. McNeil, after falling in the opening game, fought off seven Belton game points before the Tigers obtained the last two points and outlast the Lady Mavericks in the final game for the sweep.

The scores of the match were 25-15, 26-24, and 25-15.

"At times, we were out of system, but

See TIGERS,  
Page B2

Bronco Volleyball starts strong, collects opening sweep at Harker Heights

By Tony Adams  
The Belton Journal

The 2025 edition of the Lake Belton Broncos began their season with seven stiff challenges within the season's first 12 days.

While only one counted for the record, the other six were just as important.

On Friday, the Broncos, a 34-12 team and 5A-I Regional Semifinalist in 2024, began their scrimmage schedule at Weiss High School, as they took on the Hendrick-

son Hawks, Wolves, and Leander Glenn Grizzlies at the Wolves Den in Pflugerville.

In the three 50-minute sessions, the Broncos were tested against each squad, with all three teams displaying height along the net front that the middles patrolled expertly.

The Broncos grabbed an early lead against the Hawks, using their speed and

See BRONCOS,  
Page B2

Belton Tigers football preparing for scrimmage next week

By Aries Ramos  
The Belton Journal

With anticipation building and the 2025 football season just around the corner, the Belton Tigers are gearing up for their first action of the year, a preseason scrimmage against Killeen Shoemaker on August 21.

The matchup marks the Tigers' first opportunity to hit the

field with game conditions, offering players and coaches a chance to evaluate their progress after a summer of preparation.

Coming off an offseason filled with hard work, the Tigers are looking to build momentum and establish their identity early. While the scrimmage won't count in the standings, it will serve as a checkpoint for head coach and staff to gauge where the team

stands in terms of execution, discipline, and depth.

Junior quarterback Will Shepard (6'1", 175 lbs) is among the names to watch on offense as the Tigers begin their live reps for the season. Shepard has shown promising command during offseason workouts, and the upcoming scrimmage will offer a valuable opportunity to see how he performs in game like conditions.

In the trenches, look for returning junior lineman Angel Zarate (6'0", 209 lbs) at center to anchor an offensive line that includes rising talent like Beckett Butler (6'5") and Benjamin Gutierrez (6'2").

Defensively, the Tigers will rely on a mix of upperclassmen and hungry underclassmen. Junior Graham Chambley (6'1", 160 lbs) and Azian Wilkinson

(5'10", 170 lbs) form a promising duo in the secondary, while juniors William Young and James Barrera bring intensity at the outside linebacker spots. Expect to see Javid Nua Planz (5'10", 181 lbs), a versatile junior who lines up at both middle linebacker and running back, play a key two way


See FOOTBALL,  
Page B3



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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington  
The Belton Journal

The cross country season has arrived, and two of the Belton ISD programs will be in action Friday.

Lake Belton will open its schedule at the ultra competitive Temple Invitational, which will be held at Temple’s Lions Park.

The Broncos and Lady Broncos will traverse a three-mile course in the Class 5A/6A division beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Starting at 8 a.m., Belton will take part in the more casual Vern’s No Frills 5K at Georgetown’s Berry Springs Park to begin its season.

New Tech remains idle until Aug. 22, when the Dragons and Lady Dragons race in the Belton Invitational alongside the Tigers and Lady Tigers.

Lake Belton will be traveling for the Cedar Park Vista Ridge Invitational on the same day.

**TENNIS**

Belton suffered a 17-2 defeat in its season opener at Waco Midway, but the Tigers and Lady Tigers bounced back with a 10-9 victory at Robinson to even their record.

Belton trailed 3-4 following doubles matches and fell behind 3-7 before claiming seven of the final nine singles matches to determine the outcome.

Later in the same day, however, at China Spring, the Tigers and Lady Tigers

fell into a 6-1 hole and never recovered, falling 15-4.

The squad looks to bounce back Friday, when it hosts Leander Glenn.

On Tuesday, Belton returns home for a match versus New Tech.

**BRONCOS BASEBALL**

Lake Belton senior pitcher Maverik Maddux recently took part in the 2025 Area Code Games in Long Beach, CA., after being selected to play for the Rangers.

The defending 16-5A All-District Pitcher of the Year and TCU commit threw two innings against the Reds, allowing two hits and no runs.

Scouts from all 30 MLB teams were in attendance as the event serves as the beginning of a year-long interview process, culminating with the MLB Draft each summer.

**BELTON BOOSTER**


The Belton Tigers Athletic Booster Club has

scheduled its Meet the Tiger event for Saturday at 6 p.m.

**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.



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One of your first steps together likely will be to create a customized long-term strategy. You probably have several long-term investing goals — retirement, your child’s college education and so on — that you’ll want included in your overall

strategy.

Next, you’ll want to diversify your investments. That can help you weather different market conditions, though it can’t guarantee profit or protect against losses. A financial advisor can help find the right mix.

One more: You need an emergency fund. For most people, three to six months of living expenses is about right. That may or may not be the amount that’s right for you.

Unexpected events are part of life. Having a professional by your side can help.

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**Broncos** - From Page B1

agility to force Hendrickson, who was 25-24 and a 5A-1 playoff team a year ago, out of system at periods of time. The Hawks adjusted in mid-session, which made for some good periods of adversity for the team to work through. In all, the Broncos came out of the initial scrimmage having felt great about the work.

Weiss was next on the schedule for the Broncos. A team that was 39-12 and a 5A-II Regional Semifinalist last year, the Wolves

came with speed and agility that took the Broncos a few minutes to adjust to. Once the Broncos readjusted their system, Lake locked in to play head on with one of the best teams in the Austin area.

Glenn was the last opponent of the Weiss scrimmage for the Broncos. Armed with several tall defenders, the Broncos were prepared for the Grizzlies following the earlier two tilts. The Broncos and Grizzlies battled it out for 50 minutes, going back

and forth with momentum, and finished with a flurry of volleys that helped build confidence for the Saturday schedule in Copperas Cove.

The Broncos traveled to the Dawg Pound and took on stout competitors in Copperas Cove, Salado, and Ellison, all three playoff teams a year ago. Salado was a 4A-DII State Semifinalist in 2024 with a 40-8 mark.

Lake Belton played solid against all three teams in preparation for their Tuesday opener against the

Harker Heights Knights.

It was another solid performance for the Broncos, as they swept the Lady Knights by scores of 25-18, 25-11, and 25-13. It sets them up for a rugged weekend tournament at Duncanville.

“Overall, I am proud that we came out on top,” Lake Belton head coach Allison Waits said. “Definitely some takeaways of things to work on. It is helpful to know some focus areas before this weekend.

**Tigers** - From Page B1

still making plays,” Belton head coach Haleigh Johnson said. “The right side really stood out for us. Malu Pula and Taylor Collins did really well in their first varsity game. Every time they went up for the ball, they came down with a kill. Our outside hitters were also solid tonight. It was an all-around team effort.”

Belton set the tone early with a 13-3 lead in the first game, with back-to-back aces by Kaitlyn McCracken and Ella Tucek. CJ Stites had three kills in the opening game, and Miley Davila had three digs as the Tigers held on to win by ten points in the opener.

The Tigers opened a seven-point lead in game two and

were poised to close out the game when the Lady Mavericks battled past seven Belton game points to tie the game at 24-24. Collins and Pula registered kills to close out the game and give the Tigers a 2-0 lead in the match.

“Honestly, it came down to a serve-and-receive game. We got in our own heads a bit,” Stites said. “We calmed down and concentrated on the one pass. Once we concentrated on that, we passed the ball around, and went from there.”

Belton started game three with a five-point advantage that McNeil closed to two points. The Tigers used a 15-7 stretch to close out the match.

as well. They made me love the game again. They push me and believe me and helped me through hard times and I would also say my hitting coach that I have worked with since I was 8 years old till last year is Coach Marty (Rubinoff). He has always helped me push and helped me work on my swing and become the athlete that I wanted to be till today and then also I would say Coach Pat Grant. He has really helped me with softball recruiting and he helped me get there at that stage so I would say those people helped me really in my life.”

**Gott** - From Page B1

than anyone,” Brysen’s father, Brandon, said. “We were homeless for most of last year from the May 2024 tornado bouncing around hotels, both her sisters leaving home, then a very invasive surgery on her arm in January and she never once complained or asked for more. She gets up early with me every morning and helps at the barn then goes to workouts. Not just because she is mine, but she is truly a special kid,”

Gott’s relationship with her teammates and friends over the years went a long way into the deciding factor of staying in Belton for college.

“I have had a lot of memories with a lot of people, but I would say my top people that’s always pushed me and help me when I get back into the game that I love so much is Coach Mac (Lake Belton head coach Kelsie McEachern) who has really helped me wanting to play my sport that I’ve loved forever since I was a baby. I have almost thought about quitting, but when I met Coach Mac and Coach (Rachel) Ripley and Coach (Jeremiah) Adams, they really helped me as a person grow and as an athlete grow

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**Football** - From Page B3

role during the scrimmage. With plenty of returning experience and some new faces eager to prove themselves, the Tigers will use this scrimmage to iron out the kinks, establish communication on both sides of the ball, and set the tone for a season filled with high expectations.

Shoemaker brings physicality and speed to the field, and while no official score will be kept, the competition and experience is what both teams are looking forward to the most. For Belton, this is the first chance to show what kind of team they can be in 2025.

Kickoff for the scrimmage is set for the evening of August 21st.

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EDITORIAL

We’re mean

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

One of my favorite books from childhood begins like this: “It was a dull autumn day and Jill Pole was crying behind the gym. She was crying because they had been bullying her. This is not going to be a school story, so I shall say as little as possible about Jill’s school, which is not a pleasant subject.”

So opens *The Silver Chair* by C.S. Lewis, published more than 60 years ago.

Supposedly at Jill’s school, the leaders believed children should be allowed to do what they liked, and about 15 of them liked nothing better than bullying the others. Was it stopped? No.

“Instead, the Head[master] said they were interesting psychological cases and sent for them and talked to them for hours. And if you knew the right sort of things to say to the Head, the main result was that you became rather a favorite than otherwise.”

Bullying is nothing new. Our little digital natives use the new technology to fling words like darts at anyone they please. And our big digital natives do the same thing. “Kids will be kids,” some people say. And oh yes, they most certainly will.

We’ve all heard of the “pecking” order. Everyone knows who’s the coolest, the best, the stars.

If you stand out in a bad way, the one person you wish wouldn’t notice, does notice, and they never let you or anyone else forget it.

The world is filled with the awkward, the tentative, the ones who haven’t quite figured things out. People can take decades to figure things out. For those who see and focus on someone’s backwardness, the awkward and tentative are fair game.

We all know the one person in the office who’s the backwards one. The one who doesn’t say quite the right

thing, the one apt to leave the rest room with toilet paper stuck to their shoe, or the one who doesn’t dress quite as nicely as the others. People know. And people say it doesn’t matter. But it does.

Standup comics and snarky shows make belittling people an art form, and make it fun to pick out someone’s worst moment and magnify it for everyone.

No wonder our children learn how to turn their peers into shreds. Making fun of someone else at their expense may earn someone the title of a quick wit. They look for chances to prove how smart they are by picking on another, to earn laughter and attention. The more attention they get, the meaner they get.

Bullies aren’t born: they are made.

The line is crossed where “kids will be kids” teas-

See **MEAN**,  
Page B8



## 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. USACE 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.

Keep On Trucking

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

As I’ve noted in a prior column, I have a bad back.

Presently I drive what most people would regard as a sensible sedan, the kind that is perfect for running errands in an urban or suburban environment. In fact, this sedan has indeed been a loyal servant for the several years I’ve had it, although as it’s on the older side it’s had some mechanical issues here and there. There is, however, one difficulty I have with it, and that’s how low to the ground it is. Between how low it is and the state of my back, it’s not exactly easy getting in or out. Getting in means bracing off of the frame, lowering myself into position, sitting down sidesaddle, and then rotating myself into position; getting out is the reverse.

In contrast, I have far fewer problems with the family truck, a light pickup of a make and model that was popular in the 2000s. I do still have to brace off of the handgrip inside the cab and still go in sidesaddle, but I’m not having to raise or lower myself. As a consequence, I’ve come to the conclusion that when my current sedan finds itself beyond economic repair I’ll be switching over to either a light pickup or a light SUV, depending upon what’s available locally.

This decision is one I find myself periodically revisiting, not because of regret but because about once a month or so someone in my social media feeds will be going on a tangent about pickup trucks. The someone in question is generally a city-slicker from a very large, very dense urban region, typically along the coast. Where they live, everyone and everything is on top of each other, such that there’s little need to own a car and barely any room to park one even if you did have a need. In the rare event that something is too far for them to walk to, they can generally take mass transit.

Generally, this person will declare that they don’t understand why pickup trucks even exist, bemoan how large they are, and then cast aspersions on anyone who owns them; if they happen to see a pickup truck in their urban domain, they’ll generally have a bit of rage behind their words. 9 for 10, however, as people talk to them and ask them questions, it will quickly become apparent that this person has spent their entire life, or near enough to it, inside of that city. They won’t have traveled outside of it, nor will they have met anyone who drives a pickup. They’ll just presume that their life experiences are “normal”, and either not care about anyone whose life experiences deviate or automatically presume that person to be “wrong” by default.

Cue them having to backpedal when, say, someone with physical limitations (like myself) talks about how pickups work better with our limitations or someone who works in the skilled trades talks about how they use their pickups for legitimate work purposes.

This goes back to what I’ve mentioned before about how we each, as individuals, can easily find ourselves trapped in bubbles of our own creation. We can get so fixated on what is our personal “normal” and so locked in to our frame of reference that we miss seeing what others see. As much as possible, we should be looking to expand our own worlds, including interacting with those from other walks of life.

That being said, I’d love to see a little urban commuter car try to haul a sofa...



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LEGALS

Box 480 1201 Huey Road Belton, TX 76513  
By: Lillian Phillips Deputy  
08.14

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of MARY E. WELCH, Deceased, were issued on June 26, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00277, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: TARA A. HARRY.  
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. ESTATE OF MARY E. WELCH, c/o: TARA A. HARRY, 912 Cliffside Drive, Harker Heights, TX 76548  
DATED the 6th day of Aug. ,2025.  
KAREN M. VILLANUEVA ,State Bar No.: 24102608, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: [karen@templelawoffice.com](mailto:karen@templelawoffice.com)  
08.14

LEGALS

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00499**  
To: Other Living Relatives  
KERILYN L BLACKBURN AND MICHAEL BLACKBURN Applicants, on August 05, 2025, filed an APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CO-GUARDIANS OF THE PERSON WITH FULL AUTHORITY in a proceeding styled:, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00499 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 14, 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

LEGALS

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: MARY LINDLEY-WILEY, 100 W CENTEX EXPWY STE 302, HARKER HEIGHTS TX 76548  
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 August 06, 2025.  
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road Belton, TX 76513  
By: Anna Morse Deputy  
08.14



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## Fun ways to showcase local businesses

Small businesses are the backbone of local communities. Various statistics illustrate how money spent at local businesses stays in the communities where they are located. According to the American Independent Business Alliance, the local multiplier effect means money spent within a local community circulates through the local economy two to four times more than money spent at a non-local company. These dollars benefit communities in myriad ways, including job creation.

People have plenty of reasons to patronize local businesses, including more tailored customer service and niche products that may not be available elsewhere. There are fun ways residents can get behind local businesses, and entertaining ways businesses can interact with their communities. Explore these ideas.

### Sports sponsorship

Customers who are regulars can ask their favorite shopkeepers or service providers in town to sponsor a local sports team.

### Giveaways

Many organizations, including schools, utilize tricky tray gift auctions to raise money. Such events require donated merchandise and service vouchers. Community residents can ask businesses to sponsor these functions by donating items. Businesses get their name and products out to those who may be unfamiliar, and they are associating their products or services with an enjoyable event where people are having a good time.

### School or club chats

Local business owners can be invited to speak to students or youth groups about their experiences. This will give children

and young adults information about how local enterprises work and the products they produce.

### Parades and festivals

Local businesses may want to participate in various events that take place in the community. For example, a food merchant or restaurant may want to set up a booth at a fair or festival to introduce new customers to their foods. Business owners and their employees can march in parades through Main Street during holiday celebrations. Residents may have fun trying to hit the target and fell a prominent local business owner in a dunk tank. Someone who owns a trucking company can have big rigs on display so that children can take a picture in front of or inside of them.

There are plenty of entertaining ways to connect local businesses with their communities. Residents get to see a fun side of the businesses, and the owners enjoy unique ways to get their brand or message out to the masses.

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Mean - From Page B4

ing transforms into a toxic reign of terror that can cause the sweetest kid with the brightest future question his or her very existence.

Kindness and respect don't come naturally to the self-centered. The self-centered children listen to us, the adults, and pay very close attention to how we talk to and about people who don't quite measure up to our expectations.

They say it starts at home – and indeed it does. When grownups talk about others, to make fun of them and degrade them, youngsters pick up on it. They hear conversations that we don't think they

hear.

We should not be shocked when the acid and barbs fly from the young mouths or from their fingertips as they text. We can learn who they learn it from. Us. The ones who should know better. They learn bullying from watching us.

There's a perverse, heady feeling of power that comes to those who bully, who get caught up into making someone's life miserable for no real reason. But is there a reason to bully if someone "asks for it" by their demeanor? We must face it before we can change it: sometimes, we're just plain mean.

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"During COVID, it was really important because a lot of people were trying to keep their house clean and sanitized," said Lauren English-Thurman. "Our motto is a clean home is a healthy home."

Every home is cleaned and disinfected during every visit, she added. English-Thurman said that some of their customers utilize their services because they physically cannot clean or do it themselves.

"I get the most joy when we can go in and help

them, and then they're so appreciative because it helps their overall quality of life to have a clean home," Thurman-English added. "And it definitely helps the busy moms working and things like that, but I find the most satisfaction when I can help somebody that would not otherwise be able to do it." The company employs around 10 to 12 employees at each of its offices, in both Waco and Belton. Each employee is well-trained, screened and has passed a background check. They are also insured, bonded and carry workers' compensation.

"I think what sets us apart is we're family owned and operated," English-Thurman said. "We pay special attention to detail. I talk to our customers on a regular basis, build a relationship with them, so that we can customize their cleaning."

English Maids is a member of The Cleaning For a Reason Foundation and offers free cleanings to women receiving cancer treatment. For more information, visit [www.englishmaids.biz](http://www.englishmaids.biz) or call 254-231-0583.



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