

Salado Museum hosts Texas America250 Exhibit

Special to the Journal

Salado Museum and College Park, the museum of Salado, Texas, will host the all-new Texas America250 traveling exhibit June 1 thru July 25.

The exhibit, on loan from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, celebrates the nation's Semiquincentennial while highlighting historically significant Texas treasures from the State Archives.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular museum hours.

"We are very excited to bring an exhibit to Salado that provides a unique opportunity for Texans to reflect on our state's role in the American story," says Lynette McCain-Jones, Salado Museum Executive Director. "Viewing this exhibit is a great way for people of all ages to learn more about the state's role in U.S. history and to explore some of our most treasured documents, photographs and artifacts."

Texas has a story to tell about its

contributions to the legacy of America. The nation would not be what it has become without Texas. The Texas America250 exhibit shows how the state's people, landscape and innovations have helped to develop this country over the past 250 years.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission invite Texans of all ages to join its 2026 statewide Texas America250 Reading Challenge. For more information on this and upcoming America250 programs, go to www.tsl.texas.gov/america250.

Salado Museum and College Park, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, promotes and preserves the pioneer history of Salado through educational programs and exhibits that document the settlement and heritage of this area. The museum of Salado, Texas, is located at 423 South Main Street across from the Stagecoach Inn. College Park is located just south of the museum. www.saladomuseum.org.



Council updates codes; Waste Management presents scholarships

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The Belton City Council adopted the 2024 International Codes, the 2023 National Electric Code and local achievements during Tuesday's meeting.

City staff recommended adopting the codes to maintain current safety standards, align with regional partners, and address modern building practices.

This recommendation is the result of a collaborative, months-long effort between City staff, the City of Temple, and the Temple Area Builders Association,

ensuring the proposed amendments are practical, balanced, and broadly supported by community and industry partners.

The updates improve clarity, incorporate new technologies, and maintain affordability, reflecting a consensus-driven approach that supports both safety and development.

According to Bob van Til, development services director, the primary reason for adopting the 2024 International Codes is to maintain alignment with in-

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Courtesy Photo

Veterans salute during Monday's Memorial Day Ceremony and Patriot Way brick dedication.

Chamber hosts Memorial Day Ceremony and Patriot Way Brick Dedication

Special to the Journal

The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a special Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 25 in the front parking area for the Chamber office at 412 E. Central Ave. in Belton.

The ceremony was coordinated by the Chamber's Military Relations Committee, and co-hosted by the Henry T. Waskow VFW Post 4008, Lake Belton VFW Post 10377, VFW Post 1820, Belton American Legion Post 55, and Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

Each organization honored members who have died in the past year, and those having bricks added to the Patriot Way Brick Walk.

Randy Pittenger, President/CEO of the Belton Chamber, described

this event as a way for our community to honor our veterans in a special way, and to draw attention to the Patriot Way Brick Walk. "We are proud to honor the memory of those who have served our country and our community with this ceremony on Memorial Day, and we are especially proud to honor those who have been added during the past year to the Patriot Way Brick Walk," stated Pittenger.

This ceremony included remarks by Mayor David K. Leigh, and a Veteran's perspective on Memorial Day by Chamber Board Chair Scot Hrbacek. A bell ringing ceremony honoring each individual who had passed on was followed by the playing of Taps to close the ceremony.

The Patriot Way Brick Walk was originally established as a joint effort of the Belton Area Chamber

of Commerce and City of Belton when Central Avenue was renovated. Central Avenue is Belton's gateway, entering Belton from Interstate 35, passing in front of the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, and reaching the historic Bell County Courthouse in downtown Belton.

Bricks are added regularly as veterans are honored by friends and family. Order forms are available at the Chamber office or online at the Chamber website, www.beltonchamber.com. In addition, the website contains a searchable listing of all bricks added to the Patriot Way Brick Walk.

For more information about the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, visit the website at www.beltonchamber.com, call 254-939-3551, or email info@beltonchamber.com

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Belton summer reading program to begin in June

By Harvey Jackson Oss
The Belton Journal

Belton's summer reading program at the Lena Armstrong Public Library begins next week on June 1.

The theme for 2026 is *Unearth A Story*, relating to dinosaurs, paleontology, fossils, and digging.

"It's a really exciting one for us, because kids naturally love all of those things," said

Director of Library Services Amanda Hairston. Participating children will receive a weekly reading log and will set goals for reading time. Each week, they will return the log to the library in exchange for a prize. Readers can sign up in the library at any time starting June 1.

Hairston elaborated on the two-fold goal of the program. Summer reading seeks to maintain children's literacy while

school is out by providing fun incentives.

"We want to keep kids reading all summer long to avoid that summer slide."

Additionally, the library provides free and educational family programming to get families out of the house.

This year's reading program will include adults for the first time.

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Bell County reservoirs at full capacity as spring rains erase drought

By Lynette Sowell-Stevens
The Belton Journal

Bell County is heading into summer with a good water outlook — both of its major reservoirs are at capacity, zero drought coverage county-wide, and one of the wettest Aprils on record in the books.

The two reservoirs that provide water to the Belton, Temple, and Killeen metropolitan area and Bell County's water needs, are at capacity.

Belton Lake is at 100 percent of its conservation capacity as of May 25, with a water level of 595.13 feet and a total reservoir storage of 446,861 acre-feet against a conservation capacity of 432,631 acre-feet.

The supply is spilling into the flood pool, with a reading on Monday morning showing that the surface at 595.11 feet, places it 1.11 feet above the conservation pool elevation of 594.00 feet.

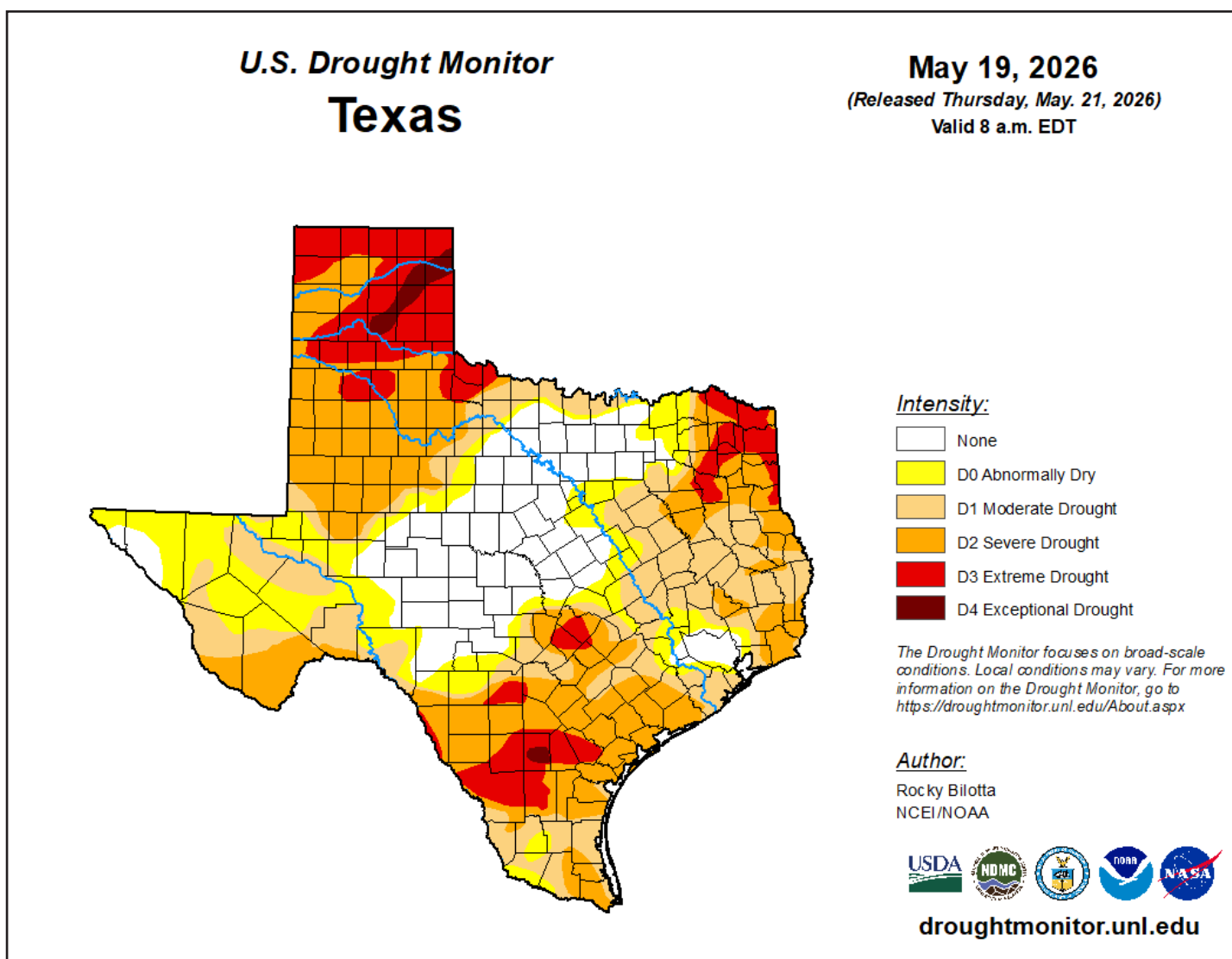
Stillhouse Hollow Lake likewise stands at 100 percent full with a water level of 624.12 feet and a total reservoir storage of 243,837 acre-feet, well above its conservation capacity of 229,796 acre-feet.

Its supply as well is operating in the flood pool as of Monday morning, with a water surface at 624.09 feet, which is 2.09 feet above the conservation pool elevation of 622.00 feet.

Compared to last May, Belton Lake sat at just 93.2 percent full, 403,402 acre-feet — roughly 29,000 acre-feet below where it is today.

Stillhouse Hollow was 90.3 percent full and 207,604 acre-feet a year ago to fully topped out today.

As recently as late February 2026, both lakes were still short of full, with Belton at 97.5 percent and Stillhouse Hollow at 94.8 percent. The spring rains of 2026 made the difference.



According to Drought.gov, Bell County recorded its 9th wettest April on record over the past 132 years, coming in 3.74 inches above normal for the month.

For 2026 as a whole, the county remains well above average: the January–April period ranks as the 57th wettest year to date over 132 years, running 0.85 inches above normal.

The U.S. Drought Monitor shows

zero percent of Bell County in any drought category — from Abnormally Dry (D0) through Exceptional Drought (D4).

Just a month ago, drought coverage in Bell County dropped 100 percent since last month and 100 percent since last week.

Bell County's current water outlook and Central Texas as a whole is better than statewide, presently. Statewide, roughly 77 percent Texas — about 207,804 square

miles — remains under some level of drought conditions as of mid-spring 2026.

As recently as late March, the Brazos River Authority had implemented a Stage 1 drought status for Central Texas reservoirs including Belton and Stillhouse Hollow, asking residents to voluntarily reduce daily water usage by 5 percent as water levels dipped slightly below trigger thresholds.

Shooting incident at BLORA kills one, hospitalizes another

By Lynette Sowell-Stevens
The Belton Journal

A gathering on Saturday evening at the Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area turned deadly after military police responded to calls about a fight at BLORA.

A Harker Heights teen is dead, and a 21-year-old man was hospitalized after suffering gunshot wounds.

A 17-year-old high school student, Mia Griffin, died after being shot at the gathering.

Griffin was preparing to graduate this week along with her fellow classmates at Harker Heights High School.

Kaden Johnson, 21, was airlifted from the scene to a Temple hospital where he underwent surgery for gunshot wounds, as confirmed to local media by his mother.

As of Tuesday, few details had been released by officials as to how many individuals were injured during the incident, although a media release stated: "multiple injured individuals were treated or transported by

Emergency Medical Services."

According to the Fort Hood media release, at approximately 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, the Fort Hood Military Police (MP) desk received reports of disorderly conduct at Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area.

The report stated that there were vehicles bypassing the gate, which was followed by a later anonymous report of a disturbance involving alcohol, drugs, and minors.

MP patrols were dispatched to the scene to investigate.

At approximately 9:04 p.m., the responding MPs reported shots fired while attempting to break up a fight.

"During the exchange, the responding MPs returned fire. Additional MP units were immediately dispatched to establish a security cordon, render aid, and assist victims. Multiple injured individuals were treated or transported by Emergency Medical Services, two suspects were detained, and an air evacuation

transported another injured person for further care," the media release on Monday, May 25 stated.

"Multiple law enforcement and emergency medical agencies responded, and the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) continues to investigate and interview involved personnel."

Officials said that Army CID is actively investigating, and as this is an ongoing investigation in its preliminary stages, no further investigative information will be released at this time.

"Anyone with information about this incident is strongly encouraged to come forward. Tips may be submitted anonymously through Army CID at <http://www.p3tips.com/armycid> or by phone at 254-287-2722.

As far as public access to BLORA as of Tuesday, Fort Hood MWR posted on Monday on social media that access to BLORA is currently limited to Department of War identification card holders "until further notice."

Summer - From Page A1

"In the past we haven't really motivated adults to participate, but we know adults are great models for children" remarked Hairston.

Adult participation reinforces the importance of reading, while also enriching their lives. Adults will complete a book bingo, using a board made up of reading challenges. Upon completion, participants will have their name entered into a raffle for the chance to win prizes such as a Kindle Fire or a variety of gift baskets. Adults do not need to be parents to participate.

"You don't outgrow the love of reading," said Hair-

ston.

The first four events of the program will take place in June at the Harris Community Center. The schedule begins with the Summer Reading Kick-Off Party from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM on June 4, giving participants a chance to register, receive free books, and participate in activities from the Temple Children's Museum and Bell County Museum, among others. June 8 will feature a traveling museum by Dinosaur George from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. On June 18 at 2:00 PM, there will be a performance by comedian and tap dancer Terrence Taps. Author and vet-

eran Sarah Doran will entertain and inspire on June 25 at 2:00 PM. The street in front of the library will host a Mini Patriotic Parade at 10:00 AM. The final Ending Party will take place on July 9 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the library, where participants will receive their certificate as well as a free book and snow cones.

Beyond the main events of the schedule, the library also hosts smaller weekly programming. "During the afternoons, we typically have something going on" said Hairston. *Tinker Tuesdays* give children time to build with Legos and magnetic toys from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

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

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OBITUARIES



Williams

Barbara Anne Williams

January 23, 1931 – May 18, 2026

Barbara Anne Williams from Farmersville, TX, formerly from Belton, TX, went home to be with her Lord on Monday, May 18, 2026. She was a devoted daughter, wife, mother and teacher.

She is survived by her daughter, Edith Kay Combel and son-in-law, Bill of Farmersville. She was blessed with three grandchildren, Rita Anne Osborne Jones, and husband Chris of Temple, Michael Patrick Osborne of Temple, and Cortnee Combel Nixon and husband Brian of Allen.

She also leaves behind seven great-grandchildren, Jaccob Nixon, Dakota Price, Eric Osborne, Trevor Nixon, Jazmin Lucas, Colton Osborne and Brooklyn Osborne and four great-great grandchildren, Kili, Eli, Persophone and Emmie.

She was preceded in death by her parents Robert and Mildred Piland, two brothers, her husband of 63 years, Delbert Richard Williams and a daughter, Addie Jo Williams.

Visitation was held from 10 -11 AM on Saturday, May 23, 2026 at Scroggins Funeral Home, 637 W. Van Alstyne Parkway, Van Alstyne, TX 75495. Gravesite services followed at Van Alstyne Cemetery.

love of cattle and ranch life. For his children, he dedicated his time to helping them work and show cattle and encouraging them in 4H, FFA and rodeo. For his grandchildren, he took them to every sale, picked them up to feed in the evenings after work, and let them learn the lessons, both good and bad, of owning and taking care of cattle.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Rusty and Celestine Cross; and his son, Rusty Dale Cross.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jo; his children, Stacy Lynn Rugh and husband Bryan of Belton, Texas; James (Jimbo) Cross and wife Jennifer of Colleyville, Texas; grandchildren, Celestine Price and husband Taylor; Graham Rugh and wife Hillary; Cailynn Rugh; and Taylor Cross; great-grandchildren, Aiden, Wyatt & Josilyn Price; and Grady Rugh; brother, Jerry Cross and his wife Nancy; and numerous nieces and nephews.

While we will miss his smile and vibrant blue eyes, we are at peace knowing that he is no longer in pain and is in the loving embrace of our Savior. We look forward to the day that we are reunited with him and so many other loved ones in Heaven. Until then, we will keep his memory alive.

A private ceremony will be held graveside for the family.



Inman

Richard Walton Inman

November 7, 1941 – May 17, 2026

Richard Walton Inman, 84, passed away peacefully on May 17, 2026.

Born on November 7, 1941, Richard was widely known throughout Central Texas for his outstanding athletic achievements at Belton High School, where he earned All-American honors in football and track and was named All-State in football, basketball, and track for two consecutive years. He continued his athletic and academic career at the University of Oklahoma, where he played football and became a conference champion in both the shot put and discus.

After earning his pharmacy degree, he returned home to Belton and opened Inman Pharmacy, where he became a respected businessman, mentor, and community leader. Richard was known for his entrepreneurial spirit, unwavering faith, and genuine passion for helping others succeed. He faithfully served his community as a school board member and Sunday School teacher and was admired by many for his larger-than-life personality and generous heart.

Richard was preceded in death by the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Jane Inman. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Inman; his sister, Ann Carpenter and husband Wayne; his brother, Joe Inman; his children, Wade Inman and wife Kathy, Kerri Dixon and husband Bryan, and Bert Inman and wife Natalie. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Jordan and Alex Inman, Maddi and Abbi Busby, and Georgia Dean and husband Patrick and Campbell Inman, as well as his great-grandchild, Lennon Dean.

A celebration of Richard's life will be held at Belton First United Methodist Church on May 29, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to:

The Busby Foundation
901 S. Mopac Expressway
Building III - Suite 220
Austin, TX 78746



Cross

James (Jim) Dale Cross

August 15, 1926 – May 19, 2026

James (Jim) Dale Cross went to be with our Lord and Savior on May 19, 2026 at the age of 79. He passed away peacefully at home after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

James was born to Jarrell (Rusty) Cross and Celestine (Jo) Schul Cross on August 15, 1946 in Corsicana, Texas. He was raised in Temple and graduated Belton High School in 1965. He married Jo Rut on April 16, 1966 and together they had three children, Rusty, Stacy & James (Jimbo), and raised them in Belton, Texas.

James was a smooth dancer and was often fought over by his daughter and granddaughters at every event. He was known by all that met him as a "jack of all trades". There was not a problem that he couldn't solve or something broke that he couldn't fix. He spent his career as a commercial electrician, where he was respected for his hard work and the knowledge that he passed on to many others along the way.

His true passion, however, was his ranch and cattle. He taught his children – and later his grandchildren – the

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



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1919: Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity is tested by Arthur Eddington and others.

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Council reviews highlights of quarterly Financial Report

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The Belton City Council received the interim Financial Report for the first quarter of 2026 during Tuesday's meeting. The report was presented by Mike Rodgers, director of Finance for the city.

To increase transparency of city finances, the quarterly financial and investment reports will now be presented to City Council at regularly scheduled meetings throughout the fiscal year.

Highlights for the quarter ended March 31, 2026, and are listed below.

General Fund expenditures surpassed revenues during the quarter by \$1,365,385 with 93 percent of property taxes collected to date. Net income through March 31, 2026, decreased to \$4,592,659. Permitting fees are under budget due to the issuance of fewer permits. Expenditures are generally in line with budget except for street maintenance and capital outlay.



The Water & Sewer Fund reports net income of \$86,014 through March 31, 2026. At 40 percent of the annual budget, revenues totaling \$5,923,228 are 1.5 percent higher than last year but \$343,238 (5.5 percent) under budget. Total expenses of \$5,837,214 are 41 percent of budget as debt payments and

capital purchases will occur later in the year.

Expenditures in the Drainage Fund surpass revenues by \$18,148 due to encumbrances for detention pond mowing, flood warning system upgrades, and consulting fees related to drainage projects

The Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund reports a net loss of \$178,682 through the second quarter due to costs for events and tourism marketing services. Revenues are only 29 percent of budget because the occupancy taxes collected by hoteliers through March 31 are not due to the city of Belton until the end of April.

With 93 percent of property taxes collected, revenues far exceed expenditures in the Debt Service Fund to date. Debt service payments occur in January and July of each year.

City contributions into the TIRZ Fund push revenue above expenditures

by \$1,524,735 through March 31, 2026. Only 50 percent of the budgeted transfers into the TIRZ Capital Project Fund have occurred to date.

The Information Technology Fund reports a net loss of \$41,211 through the second quarter as the purchase of computers and software subscriptions occurred early in the year.

Building Maintenance Fund revenues and expenditures are generally in line with budget.

BEDC Fund revenues surpassed expenditures during the first quarter by \$669,167, increasing net income to \$1,390,120. Like the General Fund, sales tax revenues are lower than last year but generally in line with budget. Capital and other expenditures will occur later in the year.

City-wide combined interest earnings total \$1,344,611 through March 31, 2026. Yields for the quarter ranged from 3.30 percent to 3.79 percent.

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Application period opens Monday for Bell County Historical Commission grants

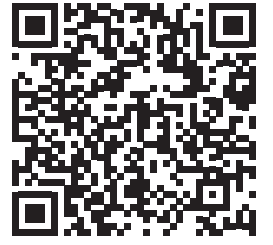
Special to the Journal

The Bell County Historical Commission is offering small grants for projects that preserve and promote Bell County history. The grants are available to non-profit organizations and institutions in Bell County.

Individuals and for-profit businesses are ineligible. Funding is given for work to be done with in the next fiscal year, October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027. The application period is June 1, 2026, until July 31, 2026.

Funds available for the annual grants are limited to the aggregate funds budgeted by the Commission each year for the grants program and as funded by the Bell County Commissioners Court for Fiscal year 2027. Grant applications and

guidelines can be obtained online at the Bell County Historical Commission website: hist.com@bellcounty.texas.gov or at the office on the first floor, room 117 of the historic courthouse, 101 East Central Ave., Belton.



Council - From Page A1

industry standards and ensure that Belton's regulations remain current and effective.

The Texas Fire Chief's Association's Best Practices require that we operate under codes that are no more than two editions behind the most currently published version or six years.

Updated codes are published every three years. Remaining within this range ensures that our

regulations incorporate the latest safety requirements, building technologies, and operational best practices.

"Adopting the 2024 codes also allows us to address emerging construction methods, enhance fire and life safety measures, and improve code clarity — ultimately reducing ambiguity for developers and increasing compliance rates across the community," van Til

said.

Belton municipal staff, the City of Temple staff, and the Temple Area Builders Association (TABA) Intergovernmental Affairs Committee worked together to develop the local amendments.

"The Belton staff consisted of the Building Official, Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, Assistant Director of Development Services, and me," he

said. The City of Temple team consisted of senior members from their inspections department. The TABA team consisted of Brad Wyrick (Sandor Homes), Brandon Brackett (Kiella Homebuilders), John Cristopher (Flintrock Builders), Ryan Waldron (Omega Builders), and Michael J. Smith (TABA).

The team met over a period of four to five months to develop the lo-

cal amendments.

Prior to adopting the codes, Council held a public meeting.

In other action, Paul Daugereau of Waste Management presented four scholarships to Belton ISD students. Waste Management has been presenting scholarships for about 14 years, and this year they presented four scholarships totaling \$4,000.

Receiving scholar-

ships were Anahitaa Malhorta, \$1,500; Palu Muringathuparambil, \$1,000; Canaan Hammonds, \$750; and Hadley Dollar, \$750.



Courtesy Photo

Waste Management presented scholarships totaling \$4,000 to Belton ISD students during Tuesday evening's city council meeting. Receiving scholarships were Canaan Hammonds (\$750), Anahitaa Malhorta (\$1,500), and Palu Muringathuparambil (\$1,000), as given by Paul Daugereau of Waste Management. Not pictured is Hadley Dollar (\$750).

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Holiday FACT:

These North American holidays during the month of May may be times when people host guests and serve grilled food.

Answer: Memorial Day, Victoria Day

June 6th 2026 Annual Gatesville Shivarree

Come join us on the Coryell Court House Square for a full day of activities. Starting off the day with the Color Run at 8am (starting line is at the city pool). We have over 40 food and other vendors signed up, Gateway Baptist Church Kids corner with bounce houses and other games for the kids, petting zoo, magic show, then to top the evening off the winner of the Shivarree Star - Jayden Palady, the concert opener Clayton Landua and then The Josh Abbott Band should hit the stage about 8:30pm.

Concert Tickets are \$20 per person, Coolers \$20 (no glass bottles)

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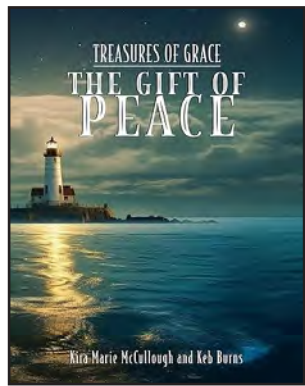
LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Survivor retells experience of 2024 tornado



Kira Marie McCullough



By Shalee Corey-Wiebe
The Belton Journal

Kira Marie McCullough has had a fascination with tornados since she was a little girl and would eagerly await the airing of *The Wizard of Oz* each year to see the tornado scene.

She has experienced multiple tornados throughout her life, but none close enough to home to shake her like the storm that tore through the Temple/Belton area on May 22, 2024.

Unaware of the oncoming storm, Kira drove directly through an intersection where a tornado was about to touch down while she was on her way to Cedarbrake Retreat Center for

an afternoon walk.

While at Cedarbrake, she got the sense that something was wrong, like an “electric tingling.”

In her devotional, *Treasuries of Grace: The Gift of Peace*, she paints a picture of the eerie atmosphere before the storm. “Heaviness and oppression filled the air like invisible specters of the underworld. Not a sliver of light patterned the path nor danced between the branches of cedars. Even the usually bright and cheerful wildflowers had closed their faces against the sky.”

So she drove home, passing through that same intersection once more. There, she took her cat into the bathroom of her apart-

ment and got in the bathtub with her computer, keeping track of the oncoming storm, which was about a mile out at this point, when the power went out.

The air shifted, like it was being sucked in and out of the room.

McCullough said, “Everything was just rattling. The place was shaking. Hail was coming down on the roof like a herd of cattle racing across the prairie. I could hear lightning striking nearby.”

“I just sat there, it was about 15 minutes, and prayed, just prayed, asking God to protect all of us. And then it was immediately over, and I got out of the tub, shaky, thankful

that I was spared. Went outside, and it was just a total mess. There were branches of trees everywhere. The entire parking lot was littered with branches of trees everywhere.”

She described the feeling of intense fear beyond anything she’d experienced, even through other tornado storms.

“I was so petrified. There’s nothing wrong with being fearful—that’s a natural emotion that we have physically, because we want to protect ourselves. But this was different, because it felt so personal, it felt so real, and I felt like it was possible that I might die.”

She talked about preparing her heart.

“What I ended up realizing was that I needed to learn how to trust God with my life, but also my death, and not be afraid that when it is God’s time—and that doesn’t mean it’s going to be God’s time that I die in a tornado—but when it is, to not be afraid.”

McCullough and her friend Keb Burns wrote the devotional together, which echoes the similar sentiments throughout various stories in their lives, about finding peace “in all kinds of circumstances.”

Treasuries of Grace: The Gift of Peace, along with other books, can be found on Kira’s website.

kiramariemccullough.org.

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Free summer meals return to Belton ISD

Special to the Journal

Belton ISD is continuing its commitment to supporting students and families this summer by offering free meals through the 2026 Summer Feeding Program.

Made possible through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the program provides free meals for children ages 18 and younger, as well as eligible students with disabilities up to age 21, during the summer months while school is out.

The Summer Feeding Program is part of a nationwide effort funded by the USDA to address food insecurity during the summer months and operates as an equal opportunity program.

No registration or ID is required. Meals must be consumed on-site, and each child is eligible for one free breakfast and one free lunch per day total.

Meals will be available at the following locations:

- May 26–July 31 (Monday–Friday)
Lunch | 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- Hubbard Branch Elementary – 1651 O.T. Tyler Dr., Belton
- Belton Early Childhood School – 501 E. Fourth Ave., Belton
- June 1–June 26 (Monday–Thursday)
Breakfast | 8:15–8:45 a.m.
- Lunch | 12:15–12:45 p.m.
- Southwest Elementary School – 611 Saunders St., Belton
- South Belton Middle School – 805 Sagebrush Dr., Belton
- May 27–July 31 (Monday–Friday)
Breakfast | 7:30–8 a.m.
- Lunch | 11:30 a.m.–noon
- Belton Christian Youth Center – 505 E. Avenue C, Belton

Closures:

- Belton ISD sites will be closed June 19 and June 29–July 3.
- Belton Christian Youth Center will be closed June 19 and July 3.

Children ages 18 years and younger are eligible to receive meals through the program. Students enrolled in high school grade levels and under, including eligible students with disabilities up to age 21, may also participate in accordance with Texas Education Agency guidelines.

Families can view menus at SchoolCafe or on the Belton ISD Nutrition Services page.

For questions about the Summer Feeding Program, families may contact Belton ISD Nutrition Services at nutrition@bisd.net or 254-215-2186.

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Two Quiet Heroes of My Youth



John C. Perry

I spent my high school years in Temple, where my family attended St. Paul Methodist Church. It was a small congregation, but we were blessed with pastors who helped me understand what being a Christian was really about.

Still, the part of church

that shaped me most was our Methodist Youth Fellowship. Through MYF I made friendships that lasted well beyond those teenage years, including one of my closest friends, Doyle Walker. Life took us in different directions for a while when he and his wife Cathy moved to Plano, but we eventually reconnected and stayed in touch until his very untimely passing. I'm grateful God gave us that second chapter of friendship.

But the greatest gift MYF gave me wasn't the friendships or the fun, it was our leaders, Walter and Evelyn Buro. They weren't staff

members or trained youth ministers. They were simply teenagers who loved the teenagers in our church enough to give us their time, their energy, and their hearts.

They planned everything from hayrides to a trip to see Gary Lewis and the Playboys in Waco (anyone remember them?). But what stayed with me wasn't the activities. It was the way they lived their faith in front of us. They showed us what caring, steady, Christ-centered adults looked like. I can't imagine how many hours they poured into us, but every one of them felt like quality time. I consider

myself blessed to have had them in my life at such a formative age.

Lately I've been thinking about the example they set, and how I measure up as a Christian role model. I'll be honest, some days I think I get a failing grade. When someone cuts me off on I35, my reaction isn't always Christlike. When I feel wronged, grace isn't always my first instinct. Maybe you've been there too.

Scripture doesn't let us shrug that off. The Bible doesn't just encourage us to be good examples, and it treats it as part of our calling. Paul tells Timothy, "Set an

example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." That's a tall order.

Jesus raises the bar even higher in Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Being a role model isn't about drawing attention to ourselves. It's about pointing others toward Him.

And in Titus 2:7-8, 7 «In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness, 8 and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned . .

» Paul is reminding us that integrity and consistency matter. People listen differently when they see a life that matches the message.

I still have a long way to go. Maybe you feel that way too. But imagine the difference we could make, in our families, our churches, our community, if we simply lived each day with the same quiet, steady Christian love that Walter and Evelyn showed a bunch of teenagers back in the 1960s.

John C. Perry is the Immediate Past 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.

Good Luck

ON YOUR
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★ TO THE GRADUATES OF ★

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Courtesy Photos/Belton ISD

A total of 985 graduates were honored during ceremonies last Thursday at the Cadence Bank Center in Belton. This included 520 graduates from Lake Belton High School, 387 graduates from Belton High School and 78 graduates from Belton New Tech @Waskow. Among this year's graduating class are 29 students who earned associate degrees from Temple College before receiving their high school diplomas, marking the largest cohort of early college graduates in district history through the Texas Bioscience Institute partnership program. Special recognition was given to the valedictorians and salutatorians: Taylor Rogers and Dhruv Bhat from Lake Belton High School, Emma Flory and Abby Idoux from Belton High School, and Samantha McKenzie and Leland Moore from Belton New Tech @Waskow.

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By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

English Maids, in Waco and Belton, celebrates 20 years in business this year. They are locally owned, started by Kay English. Her daughters, Lauren English-Thurman and Elizabeth English, now run the company. They provide the highest level of quality cleaning, sanitation, and communication for their clients.

English Maids believe that a cleaner home is a happier and healthier home, and has a 100% satisfaction guarantee. They use a PH neutral, EPA, all-purpose, all-surface cleaner, which is kid-safe, pet-safe, and cleans 99.9% of all germs.

English-Thurman said, "Relationship building is very important to us. We don't want to have another customer that we're coming to clean for. We want to build a relationship with them and hopefully have lifelong customers." The English Maids blog explains

how professional cleaning can help whether you're moving out of an apartment, into a new home, or deep cleaning. Find out more at englishmaids.biz/blogs/.

English Maids, through their membership of The Cleaning for a Reason Foundation, a national foundation, offer free cleaning to women receiving cancer treatment. You can find more information here englishmaids.biz/cleaning-for-a-reason/.

Services offered by English Maids are residential and commercial. Quote requests can begin on their website. They belong to several chambers, including the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Temple Chamber of Commerce, and the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce.

English Maids has been voted Best of Waco and *LocalsLoveus.com* serving a 30-to 40-mile radius from their Waco and Belton offices. To find out more information, visit englishmaids.biz or call 254-355-5756.

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Japanese dance performances: 11:45am-12:15pm

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Belton product Planz eyeing 2028 Olympic berth in LA



Courtesy Photo

Liana Planz — an Olympic hopeful from Belton poses with the American Samoa flag following her recent trip to Fiji for the Oceania Aquatics Championships.

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Liana Planz is one stroke closer to the Olympics.

After spending years honing her craft and perfecting her form, the former Lady Tigers standout swimmer is on the verge of making an appearance

on the sport's grandest stage.

The 2028 Summer Olympic Games will be held in Los Angeles, and Planz is working tirelessly to be among the talented qualifiers.

Despite her ties to Belton, where she originally developed a love for swimming, Planz intends to represent American Samoa due to her lineage.

Recently, she traveled to Fiji for the prestigious Oceania Aquatics Championships and delivered a successful showing.

Planz competed in the 50-meter freestyle, 100 freestyle and 50 butterfly, producing personal-best times along the way.

In the 50 butterfly preliminaries, she posted a time of 29.94 seconds, and the following day, she was 15th in the 100 freestyle with a time of 1:02.90. Then, in the 50 freestyle, Planz advanced to the finals by finishing

the race in 28.39.

Now, Planz intends to build on the performance as the Olympics draw closer.

She will need to meet qualifying standards, excel in elite meets and uphold all national expectations before earning an elusive spot on the roster, but Planz is committed to the task.

Her first international competition was in 2024 at the Budapest World Aquatics Swimming Championships, yielding American Samoa records in the 100 butterfly and 100 freestyle.

In the years since, Planz has traveled the world in preparation for her run toward the Olympics, gaining valuable knowledge and experience at each event.

The window for growth, however, is beginning to close, and before long, her fate will be determined, and Planz does not intend to squander the opportunity.

Lake Belton soccer program hosts a skills development camp for youth

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

get their young athletes on the field this summer.

From the start, the camp has made it clear that it is designed with more in mind than just repetition and instruction. While skill development is at the heart of each session with campers working through the fundamentals of dribbling, passing, shooting, and small sided play, the coaching staff has built the week around an atmosphere that makes every kid genuinely excited to

The Lake Belton High School soccer program is bringing young athletes to the Bronco turf this week for three mornings of skill development, competition, and memories that go well beyond the typical youth sports camp experience.

Running May 26 through May 28 at the LBHS turf field, the Boys and Girls Soccer Camp is welcoming incoming first through sixth graders for daily sessions from 8:30 to 11 a.m., all under the direction of the Lake Belton soccer coaching staff, led by Lady Broncos head coach Jamie Tibbetts. At \$60 per camper, the program is offering families in the Temple and Belton area an accessible way to



See **SOCCER CAMP**,
Page B3

MVP Cope leads Broncos' all-district haul

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Broncos cruised to a sixth consecutive league championship, and it is easy to see how they accomplished the feat.

After suffering a narrow 8-7 loss to Belton in the District 16-5A opener, Lake Belton was not challenged again, winning its remaining nine games by a combined score of 101-14 before advancing to the third round of the Division I playoffs.

Recently, multiple Broncos were individually recognized for their roles in the collective accomplishments, garnering three of five superlatives and eight spots on the all-district list.

Braxtan Cope, a senior, received the loftiest accolade by being named most valuable player, and his production was not limited to his position, according to Lake Belton head coach Chris Peacock.

"He just brings so much to the table," Peacock said. "He swung the bat really well during district play, and he is a fantastic catcher, who we would bring in to pitch in close-out games. He stole a ton of bases and just brought so much value to our team in so many different ways."

"I'm just really happy for him and how he got to have his career culminate with that."

Also a senior, Maverik Maddux punctuated his time at

Lake Belton in similar fashion after being named pitcher of the year for the second consecutive season, but plenty of talent remains within the program, including sophomore Travis Moore.

The third baseman was named newcomer of the year.

Two seniors — shortstop R.J. Hunt and outfielder Landon Willey — two juniors — pitcher Gavin Carpenter and first baseman Logan Winkler — and sophomore designated hitter Easton Robertson complemented the Bronco's superlative showing by landing on the first team.

Senior second baseman Zavian Rodriguez, senior outfielder D.J. Lavalley and junior outfielder Colby Anthony were placed on the second team.

"A tradition has been engrained within the program," Peacock said, "and guys coming up have seen the guys before them earn these types of awards, and they know the work they had to put in to get to that point."

"They know it doesn't just happen through practice or playing, but it involves a lot of extra time outside of those aspects. ... We hope that just continues to perpetuate itself."

The second-place Tigers, who finished with a 7-3 record to beat out Killeen Chaparral (6-4) and Waco University (6-4) in the final standings, also commanded attention on the list.

Mason Chartier, a senior catcher, was named co-defensive player of the year, splitting the award with Waco



University senior outfielder Carlos Perez.

Like their crosstown counterparts, Belton will likely remain competitive despite losing key components thanks to five potential returners securing spots on the first team. Junior pitcher Habtamu Childers, junior outfielder Billy Young, sophomore third baseman Nash Jordan, sophomore outfielder Cason Morton and sophomore utility player Pecos Smith comprised the quintet.

Additionally, junior outfielder Evan Echipare and sophomore first baseman Oakley Torres were placed on the second team for Belton.

Chaparral senior pitcher and outfielder Geno Ybarra rounded out the superlatives by being named offensive player of the year.

Broncos run first of two youth baseball camps

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The past few months have been a whirlwind for Chris Peacock. This week, he was reminded of his roots.

Beginning in February, the Broncos began plummeting down a path toward the playoffs, and it was a successful run. Lake Belton won 26 games, celebrated a sixth consecutive district championship and advanced to the Class 5A, Division I regional semifinals.

Accomplishing such goals, however, required intense preparation, consistent execution and a relentless collective drive, but just weeks after the season concluded, Peacock returned to the field with far different emotions.

The Broncos opened their annual three-day summer camp Tuesday, providing area incoming seventh- through ninth-graders an opportunity to gain skills and widen their general knowledge of the game.

The change of pace was admittedly refreshing to Peacock.

"It is just nice to get back to the basics," he said. "During the season, you are just going so fast. This allows me to just slow down a little bit and get back into just teaching the game."

"That part of it is fun."

While broadening their talents in a variety of aspects, including hitting, fielding and throwing, the two-and-a-half-hour sessions also introduce players into life within Lake Belton's program.

With the intention of mimicking a typical practice for the most part, players can gain insight into how to operate at a highly competitive level while also taking part in fun games and contests.

The camp is run by Peacock and his assistants, but the coaches also received help from current players, who volunteered their time.

"We had about 12 guys there just helping out," Peacock said. "That is fun to see them out there bringing energy and giving back. I love just getting to sit back at times and watch those guys go about coaching and teaching."

"They are out there showing how to execute the things you taught them, and that part is really fun."

Approximately 40 kids took part in the camp, and Peacock is anticipating a similarly large turnout next week, when the Broncos conduct a second camp for younger athletes.

Starting Monday, incoming second- through sixth-graders will be welcomed to Lake Belton's diamond for another round of instilling fundamentals through fun.

The three-day camp will last from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day, and registration is available at LakeBeltonAthletics.com.

Regardless of attendance, Peacock cannot help but be taken back whenever the future Broncos take the field.


"This is always just an exciting time," he said. "It always reminds me of the guys I had at camp as incoming freshmen my first year and everything they became."

"So, it is exciting to think about how I might be seeing some of the same things with these guys."



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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Just days after winning a gold medal at the University Interscholastic League Class 5A Track & Field State Meet, Belton standout sprinter Christian Porter made his collegiate commitment official.

Following a highly successful career with the Tigers that included consecutive appearances at the state meet culminating with a first-place showing in the

400-meter run at this year's event, Porter announced his signing with Abilene Christian.

Porter won the state championship with a personal-best time of 47.25 seconds.

VICTORY BOWL

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will host its annual Victory Bowl all-star games this weekend, beginning with a pair of basketball games tonight.

Playing at Fairfield High School, the girls game will start at 5 p.m. with the boys game following.

Mary Hardin-Baylor will host the event's baseball and softball games on Friday with each starting at 6:30 p.m.

Then, the centerpiece football game will be played at Waco ISD Stadium on Saturday at 10 a.m., and it will be followed by a volleyball match at Waco University High School at 2:30 p.m.

The FCA Victory Bowl allows recently graduated seniors from the area one final opportunity to represent their schools before beginning the next chapters of their lives. Teams are composed of athletes from all UIL classifications who spend the week participating in devotionals, community service projects, practices, skills clinics and fun activities while staying with host families.

Belton ISD will be represented by several standouts.

Lake Belton's Caleb Chandler, Hunter Loraus, Gavin Stewart, Braxtan Cope and Gavin Owens will play in the football game, while Natalie Hosch and Addison Sims will take part in the softball game, and Madison Bingham will play in the volleyball match.

Belton will be represented by softball players Iris Molina and Presli Thompson and boys basketball player Noah Childers.

All Belton ISD athletes will be part of the Red teams.

BELTON VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Tigers will hold a player/parent meeting Friday at 5 p.m. inside the school's gymnasium.

The meeting will address multiple topics, including tryouts, summer workouts and regular season expectations.

All players who anticipate participating in the volleyball program and their parents should plan to attend.

For more information, contact Belton head coach Haleigh Johnson at Haleigh.Johnson@BISD.net.

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Belton's summer strength and conditioning program begins Monday and will be open to all middle school and high school athletes.

On the available dates throughout June and July, high school boys will begin two-hour sessions at 8 a.m., while middle school boys start at 7 a.m.

Regardless of school, all girls will begin each day at 9 a.m.

For more information, visit BeltonTigers.com.

SUMMER CAMPS

Belton and Lake Belton are now offering summer sports camps to area youth.

The camps will be available to boys and girls of all skill levels that are preparing to enter kindergarten through 12th grade, and they will be conducted at the respective campuses.

Led by team coaches, volleyball, basketball, softball, baseball, soccer and tennis camps will be available.

Dates and times will vary by sport.

Registration is open at events.hometownticketing.com/beltonisd.

For more information, BeltonTigers.com or LakeBeltonAthletics.com.

Belton Lake Stillhouse

FAIR. Water normal stain; 60 degrees; 0.87 feet below pool. It is a "tale of two fisheries" right now for Lake Belton white bass. There are fish steadily making their way up the Leon River to spawn, and there are fish still residing in the main lake. Both have their pros and cons. The river fishery is best on the weekdays and during poor weather when fishing pressure is minimized, otherwise, expect plenty of company. Trolling crankbaits which imitate medium-sized threadfin shad, like the Bomber 5A, or the Storm Smash Shad will put fish in the boat slowly but steadily. If you closely watch side-imaging, you will likely spot migrating schools which can be cast to to put bonus fish in the boat. Horsehead-style jigs with an under-spin in white and chartreuse less than 2 inches long do well. Back on the main lake the deep, lethargic fish which have been present but difficult to goad into biting are now much more aggressive. Look in 35 feet or less along the old Leon River channel or Cowhouse Creek channel during bright conditions, and as shallow as 12-14 feet at first light, last light, and under cloud cover. The Mini White Bass Alabama rig with white paddle tails less than 3 inches long or MAL Originals get the job done when retrieved with a sawtooth retrieve. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are excellent in 10-25 feet of water. Slow drifting with suspended baits around points and river channels has worked best for blue catfish. Flathead catfish are slow, but have been caught near structure and rock piles with live perch and shad. Channel catfish are fair and have been caught in shallow water around timber using punch bait. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing.

FAIR. Water stained; 60 degrees; 1.90 feet below pool. It is a "tale of two fisheries" right now for Stillhouse white bass. There are fish steadily making their way up the Lampasas River to spawn, and there are fish still residing in the main lake. Both have their pros and cons. The river fishery is best on the weekdays and during poor weather when fishing pressure is minimized, otherwise, expect plenty of company in tight quarters. Trolling crankbaits which imitate medium-sized threadfin shad, like the Bomber 5A, or the Storm Smash Shad will put fish in the boat slowly but steadily. If you closely watch side-imaging, you will likely spot migrating schools which can be cast to to put bonus fish in the boat. Horsehead-style jigs with an underpin in white and chartreuse less than 2 inch long do well. Back on the main lake the deep, lethargic fish which have been present but difficult to goad into biting are now much more aggressive. Look in 35 feet or less along the old Lampasas River channel during bright conditions, and as shallow as 12-14 feet at first light, last light, and under cloud cover. The mini white bass Alabama rig with white paddle tails less than 3 inches long or MAL Originals get the job done when retrieved with a sawtooth retrieve. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service.



Lake Belton to host a second tennis camp June 2-4

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton High School tennis program hosted the first of two summer camps this past week, welcoming a new generation of Broncos to the courts for three days of instruction and development.

Running from May 26 through May 28, the camp drew incoming seventh through ninth graders for morning sessions from 8 to 10:30 a.m. each day. The three day format gave young players an opportunity to build foundational skills under the guidance of the Lake Belton coaching staff, with each session designed to introduce campers to the fundamentals that define competitive high school tennis.

For many of the attendees, the camp represented a first real look at what the Broncos program has to offer. Whether stepping onto a court for the first time or sharpening skills already in development, participants spent the morning hours working through the core elements of the game, footwork, stroke mechanics, court positioning, and competitive match play. The condensed 8 to 10:30 a.m. window kept sessions focused and high energy, giving campers a structured but accessible introduction to the sport at the high school and middle school level.

The camp comes on the heels of a strong 2025-26 season for the Lake Belton tennis program, which com-

peted at the regional level this spring. For the coaching staff, summer camps serve as both a development tool and a pipeline builder, a chance to connect with the next wave of athletes who could one day suit up for the Broncos.

For those who missed the first session or are looking for additional court time, the Lake Belton tennis program will host a second camp running June 2 through June 4, with the same morning schedule of 8 to 10:30 a.m. and the same eligibility for incoming seventh through ninth graders.

Registration information for the June camp is available through the Lake Belton Athletics website at lakebeltonathletics.com.



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Soccer Camp - From Page B1

be there. For players still years away from high school competition, the goal is simple, fall in love with the game.

That philosophy is showing up in how each day is framed. Day one was Favorite Jersey Day, and the turf was a sea of color as campers arrived repping everything from club kits to international sides and favorite professional clubs. Day two brought Crazy Hair and Sock Day, adding a layer of personality and laughs to the morning sessions. Day three closes the camp out with Water Day, a fitting and well earned celebration to cap off three days of work in the late May Texas heat.

The themed days are not just for show. They serve as a reminder that for this age group, the best coaching happens when kids are smiling, engaged, and eager to come back the next morning. The Lake Belton staff has leaned into that, creating an environment where the instruction never feels like instruction and the fun never comes at the expense of development.

For the Broncos program, camps like this one are an investment in the future, a way to connect with the next wave of athletes and plant the seeds of what could eventually become a varsity career on the LBHS turf.



Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

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*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
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Third: "Where do you want to live?" You'll want to consider family, healthcare access and cost of living, among other factors.

The fourth question: "What will your retirement lifestyle cost?" The more active you are, the more you may need to add to your budget.

And finally, "Does your plan include giving back?" It might be to family, community or causes you care about.

Your answers are just the beginning. Work with your financial advisor to align your savings with the lifestyle you want. And revisit your plan as priorities evolve.

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NOTICE of Federal Program Planning for Belton ISD

The Belton Independent School District is currently in the planning process for the 2026-2027 ESSA Consolidated Federal Application for the following programs:

- Title I, Part A — Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C — Education of Migratory Children
- Title II, Part A — Supporting Effective Instruction
- Title III, Part A — English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act
- Title IV, Part A — Student Support and Academic Enrichment

Private Nonprofit Schools and/or Homeschools with government nonprofit status that serve students living within Belton ISD boundaries and that are interested in receiving program information on participation and/or providing input into program planning for services, please contact Dawn Schiller at (254) 215-2032 or dawn.schiller@bisd.net by 12:00 pm on June 4, 2026.

Schools that choose to participate in programs and services must comply with all federal requirements. Campus eligibility for Title I is based on low income data and enrollment.

Belton ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs, activities, or hiring practices. Inquiries regarding the Title IX policies should be directed to Sandy Garrett, 254-215-2616.



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LEGALS

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE IS BEING STORED AT TOW MASTERS TOWING

2002 Toyota Camry, No License Plate, VIN #JTDDBE32K120083290. The vehicle was brought in as a abandoned vehicle tow. This vehicle was picked up at Fort Cavazos, TX on July 22, 2025. Charges for this vehicle: Tow Fee \$175.00, Daily Storage \$22.85, Impound Fee \$22.85 , Loaded Miles 37.50, Fuel Surcharge Fee \$21.25, Notification Fee \$50.00. This vehicle is being stored at Tow Masters Towing 6000 S Fort Hood St, Killeen, TX 76542. TDLR # 0659157VSF. Please contact us at 254-432-4011 for further questions 05.28

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE IS BEING STORED AT B & B RECOVERY

2020 Carry-On Trailer, No License Plate, VIN #4YMBU1219LV016694. The vehicle was brought in as a abandoned vehicle tow. This vehicle was picked up at 3407 Hereford Ln, Killeen TX on March 25, 2026. Charges for this vehicle: Tow Fee \$272.00, Daily Storage \$22.85, Impound Fee \$22.85 , Notification Fee \$50.00. This vehicle is being stored at B & B Recovery 4002 Bacon Ranch Rd, Killeen, TX 76542. TDLR # 0660455VSF. Please contact us at 254-245-8007 for further questions 05.28

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION – CIVIL CAUSE NO. 26DCV359702

To THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ABDUL SHAHEED

Greetings:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the original petition for foreclosure at or before 10 o'clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o'clock AM, before the Honorable 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said original petition for foreclosure was filed in said court on February 19, 2026.

The file number of said suit being No.

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26DCV359702. The names of the parties in said suit are:

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. VS. SHIRLEY ANN GUNTHER, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ABDUL SHAHEED

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit: Bank of America, N.A. ("Plaintiff"), its successors in interest or assigns, by and through its attorney of record, Bradley Conway of Marinosci Law Group, P.C., 16415 Addison Road, Suite 725, Addison, TX 75001, (972) 331-2300, brought suit against Shirley Ann Gunther, The unknown heirs at law of Abdul Shaheed, deceased, the United States of America on Behalf of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development ("Defendants"), to enforce the Note on the property located at 1202 North 4th Street Killeen, TX 76543 ("Property"), and legally described as SEE EXHIBIT A

This was issued at the request of attorney: BRADLEY CONWAY MARINOSCI LAW GROUP PC 16415 ADDISON ROAD SUITE 725 ADDISON TX 75001.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty- two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on May 06, 2026.

Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909 Belton, Texas 76513

EXHIBIT "A", LEGAL DESCRIPTION for a tract of land in Bell County, Texas, part of the J. R. Smith Survey, Abstract No. 797 and being the same tract described as 0.145 acre in a deed to Centex Properties recorded in Volume 4614, Page 759 official Public records of Real Property of Bell County, Texas, and known as part of Lot 3, block 8, Scharbauer Addition recorded in Volume 86, Page 326, Deed records of Bell County, Texas. The Bearings and Distances shown herein are Existing Calls and Record Calls.

BEGINNING at a ½" iron rod found at the intersection of the north right of way line of Garrison Avenue and the east right of way line of North 4th Street being the southwest corner of Lot 3 and the southwest corner of the 0.145 acre tract for the southwest corner of this THENCE, 17 deg. 04' 56" E, 69.92 feet with the east right of way line of North 4th Street to a ½" iron rod found in concrete being the southwest corner of the Howard G. Fisher tract recorded in Volume 1148, page 237 and the northwest corner of the 0.145 acre tract, for the northwest corner of this.

THENCE S.71 deg. 16' 22" E, 89.82 feet to a ½" iron rod found in the west line of the Jimmy & Janice Woodwall tract recorded in Volume 3442, Page 50 being the southwest corner of the Fisher tract and the northeast corner of the 0.145 acre tract for the northeast corner of this.

THENCE S. 16 deg. 56' 25" W, 70.35 feet to a ½" iron rod found in the north right of way line of Garrison Avenue being the southwest corner of the Woodwall tract and the southeast corner of the 0.145 care tract for the southeast corner of this.

THENCE N. 71 deg. 00' 00" W, 90.01 feet base bearing with north right of way line of Garrison Avenue to the place of beginning containing 0.145 acre of land according to my survey and my calculations.

The bearings of this Legal Description are based on the south line of the tract described as 0.145 acre in a Deed to Centex Properties recorded in Volume 4614, Page 759, Official Public Records of Real Property of Bell County, Texas.

By: M Cortez Deputy Clerk 05.14,21,28,06.04

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST

LEGALS

THE ESTATE OF PEGGY NELL LEVY, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary were issued on May 14, 2026 in a proceeding styled Estate of Peggy Nell Levy. Deceased, in Cause Number 26CPB00016. pending in the County Court of Bell County, Texas. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executrix, addressed as Hamblen Sellers Fuller Independent Executor of the Estate of Peggy Nell Levy, Deceased c/o Burk Roberts, Roberts, & Roberts. L.L.P., 2501 East Elms Rd.. Ste. A ,Killeen, Texas 76542-3023

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Signed on May 18, 2026. Roberts & Roberts. L.L.P. Attorneys for Hamblen Sellers Fuller

By: Burk Roberts
05.28

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION Case Number 26CPB00191

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ERNEST DUNCAN CANTRILL TIFFANY BURLESON, Applicant, on May 18, 2026, filed an amended application to probate will and for independent administration with will annexed in a proceeding styled: ERNEST DUNCAN CANTRILL, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00191 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 May 28, 2026 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: MARY 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 May 19, 2026.

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX/76513

By: Lillian Phillips Deputy
05.28

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 26CPB00196

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LINDA GAIL CANTRILL A/K/A LINDA GAIL CANTRILL

TIFFANY BURLESON, Applicant, on May 18, 2026, filed an Amended Application to Probate Will and for Independent Administration with Will Annexed in a proceeding styled: LINDA CANTRILL A/K/A LINDA GAIL CANTRILL, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00196 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 May 28, 2026, 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

LEGALS

oppose or contest it. Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: MARY 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 May 19, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road ,Belton, TX 76513

By: Lillian Phillips Deputy
05.28

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION – CIVIL
CAUSE NO. 26DCV361378**

To UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF WILLIAM THOMAS CRUMLEY SR., DECEASED
UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF ALICE CRUMLEY, DECEASED

Greetings:
You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the ORIGINAL PETITION at or before 10 o'clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o'clock AM, before the Honorable 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said ORIGINAL PETITION was filed in said court on April 29, 2026.

The file number of said suit being No. 26DCV361378. The names of the parties in said suit are:
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION VS. SHIANCA LATOSHA TAYLOR,BONNIE TAYLOR, JR,DIANA TURNER-ROBERT,UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF ALICE CRUMLEY, DECEASED,UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF WILLIAM THOMAS CRUMLEY SR., DECEASED

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:
THIS PROCEEDING CONCERNS THE FORECLOSURE OF A LIEN ON THE FOLLOWING REAL PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS COMMONLY KNOWN AS 2402 LAKE RD., KILLEEN, TX 76543, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS LOT 10, BLOCK 9, KIRBY CREEK VILLAGE, SECTION IV, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 97120, PAGE 256, MAP RECORDS OF DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS.

This was issued at the request of attorney: TENIA OUELLETTE TROMBERG MILLER MORRIS & PARTNERS 6080 TENNYSON PKWY STE 100 PLANO TX 75024.
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a writ-

LEGALS

ten answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on May 13, 2026.

Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909 Belton, Texas 76513

By: M Cortez , Deputy Clerk
05.21, 05.28, 06.04,06.11

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00088**

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
RICK CLARK, Applicant, on February 11, 2026, filed an application to determine heirship and for letters of independent administration in a proceeding styled: JAMES GARRETT CLARK, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00088 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 May 28, 2026, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: DREW POPELKA ,6173 W. ADAMS AVE SUITE C-201, TEMPLE, TX 76502
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 May 19, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road ,Belton, TX 76513

By: Erika DeCasas Deputy
05.28

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00314**

To: Unknown Heirs
CHARLES E. OBERMILLER, Applicant, on May 15, 2026, filed an application for independent administration and issuance of letters of administration and application to determine heirship in a proceeding styled: JOSEPH EDWARD OBERMILLER, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00314 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 May 28, 2026, 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

LEGALS

commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: JOHN ERIC STOEENBER, 2106 BIRD CREEK DRIVE ,TEMPLE, TX 76502

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 May 18, 2026.

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road , Belton, TX 76513

By: Erika DeCasas Deputy
05.28

**APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH
THE
TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
COMMISSION**

for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's On Premise Permit by HEB Beverage Company, LLC dba HEB Food Store #039, 2509 N Main St, Belton, Bell County, Texas. HEB Retailers, LLC, Managing Member; Howard E. Butt, President; Lynette Padalecki, Chief Financial Officer; Yun C. Au, Secretary; Joseph F. Fielder, Assistant Secretary; Jennifer M. Heath, Vice President.
05.28,06.04PD

**APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH
THE
TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
COMMISSION**

for a Wine & Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit (BQ) by D&S Brothers 2019 LLC d/b/a Peace Food Mart, to be located at 1000 Squire Drive Suite A, Belton, Bell County, Texas 76513. Members of said LLC are Deepesh Chaturvedi and Sunil Adhikari.
05.28,06.04

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING
CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF DONNA LEE DAVIS,
DECEASED**

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Administration were issued on May 6, 2026, in a proceeding styled Estate of Donna Lee Davis, Deceased, in Cause Number 25CPB00787, pending in the County Court At Law 1 of Bell County, Texas.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Administrator, addressed as follows: Gary Wayne Davis (Administrator) Independent Administrator of the Estate of Donna Lee Davis, Deceased. c/o Burk Roberts, Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P. 2501 East Elms Rd., Ste. A Killeen, Texas 76542-3023

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Signed on May 7, 2026.

Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., Attorneys for Gary Wayne Davis (Administrator)
By: Burk Roberts
05.28

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EDITORIAL

Food memory and why we like food pictures

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

So I had a really delicious lunch today, and it was so yummy I ate it before I could even take a photo. Isn't it funny how nowadays people love to share pictures of food?

Actually, it's not really a new thing, our love of food photos.

In centuries past, some of the great artists would make paintings of subjects such as "still life with fruit."

There are paintings that are at least 200 years old hanging in galleries, and the subjects are what was possibly somebody's dinner at some point.

What is it about food or special recipes that makes us want to take photos of them, or make them again and again, if we are foodies?

I recently picked up a copy of a locally produced cookbook that was printed in 1994. (Not so long ago, if you think about it...and then I realized it was 32 years ago. I suddenly felt very old...)

Among its pages are at least four recipes for chick-

en spaghetti, in a nice four-recipe block on a page.

I'm not saying it's a bad thing to have more than one type of chicken spaghetti recipe in a cookbook. I'm sure those who love chicken spaghetti (I do) have their own particular version of the recipe that they prefer.

Recipes get handed down from family to family, and those recipes are the subject of that book.

Technology has changed the way some of us store our recipes, but not a palate's need to save a mouth-watering recipe.

For example, I really like Pinterest. When I find a recipe online that I like, I will "pin" it to my Pinterest board (Foodie Finds), so I always have it. However, if for some reason I can't get online, then I would be in a bit of trouble. I do have a weathered plastic box with recipe cards inside it. The contents of the box are a mishmash after being dumped from the counter. But, the recipes are there and not susceptible to the whims of technology.

My mother had the Better Homes and Gardens New Cookbook in our kitchen when I was growing up – the one with the red gingham cover. I learned how to make a good pie crust from that book.

There are reasons we pass recipes along, because they're either easy to make or they're worth the taste when you make it successfully and there's simply no substitute.

If you remember Disney's movie "Ratatouille", there is a pivotal scene in the movie when a food critic tastes a bite of the little rat's food (not knowing a rat is the chef). That one bite transports him back to when he was a young child at his mama's table.

Recipes do the same thing.

We all know how the taste of a certain bite of food can remind us of a time when Grandma prepared it, whether it was Sunday dinner on the table with the family, or a Thanksgiving gathering of long ago.

We taste it, and the years rewind.

A Word Of Warning

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

Folks, I've said this several times before, and yet the more I talk with people the more I feel the need to say it again:

Any company, person, or organization can spend one month out of the year saying that they support one group or another. It's what they do the other eleven months out of the year, and what they do when the spotlight isn't on them, that you need to watch out for.

The more someone has to try and signal their virtue, the less likely it is that they have any virtue in the first place. Otherwise, the virtue they have would at some level be enough to speak for them, and they'd be content at letting that happen. Instead, it's pretty much clockwork how whenever some sort of social issue hits the news or a certain date comes up on the calendar, we, the general public, are deluged with an assortment of mes-

sages, signs, slogans, flags, and the like. While it is fair to ask where someone or something stands on a matter, what we're seeing is overboard.

...And cynical, given how those same messages, slogans, signs, and whatnot all disappear practically in unison, just like they all practically went up in unison. Folks, we're well past "one is a fluke, two is a coincidence, three is a trend" here. We're in that old "Far Side" cartoon where the space aliens are asking a gas station attendant for directions, only to be told that not only are they on the wrong planet they're in the wrong solar system.

As I've explained in the past, I was trained in the bad side of marketing, the "applied psychological warfare" side of marketing. This is the side that exists to figure out what makes you tick and so thoroughly turn it against you that you

do what they want you to do while still thinking it's your own idea. Government conspiracies to alter how you think? Businesses spend gobs of money each year to do that very thing.

Far too often, when you hear a company, person, or organization talking about how they are trying to "reach out to" some group or other, what they're *really* doing is trying to reach out to their wallets. Full stop. They only care about the group so long as that group continues to hand over their cash.

In extreme instances, we'll have situations where these groups will brag and boast about how advanced and aware they are to one audience, yet deliberately censor or tailor offerings to audiences that wouldn't even dream of supporting what they're standing for. I've heard tales, for example, about movie studios loudly pro-

claiming to US audiences that they support diversity, only to censor and edit their movie posters for countries where diversity isn't as welcome or allowing edits to the movies themselves for the same reason.

In between you'll often find offerings meant to appeal to these groups but which are so hastily-done and half-hearted that they actually just end up offending many people in the groups they're supposed to appeal to. This is, in particular, a major issue with US comic books right now, where even today it's depressingly common to see walking stereotypes pushed as triumphs for diversity.

Folks, your common sense is your own best line of defense against being taken advantage of. Ask questions, do some digging, and don't be afraid to walk away if it doesn't feel or sound right.

The Early Bird

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

I was sitting outside on my deck at the lake house early one morning enjoying the cool morning air. Actually, it is the only house I own, but is close to the lake, which is easy in this area. I can hear boats on the lake, even if I can't see them, but that is enough to classify this as a "lake house" for me. I enjoy the mornings when it is quiet outside, just the birds singing. I am convinced that almost all birds are indeed "early birds", they seem happy to be up as soon as the morning sun comes up. So I am sitting there in my fancy patio chair with my morning coffee when a redbird lands on the table. Of course I didn't move so hopefully I wouldn't scare him (he was bright red so I am assuming male). He was only about a foot away from my coffee cup. Suddenly he turns and apparently sees me and lets out an "EEP!"

"I didn't see you sitting there!" he said.

"I have been here for a while," I answered back.

"Are you going to eat me?" he asked nervously.

"Of course not, I don't eat birds in my backyard, where do you think these fancy bird feeders come from and how they stay full of food?" I quipped.

"We always assumed those metal things just magically refilled at night, and of course anything bigger than us birds are likely going to eat us, so you can understand my fear," he replied back, a little more

relaxed now.

"I just like to sit out here and listen to you birds singing in the morning, that is why I put the feeders out for you guys," I stated.

"Do you have anything to do with these little ponds here too?" he asked.

"You mean the 'bird baths', yes, I put them out and keep them full of fairly clean water. Although you do realize that some of your 'friends' are not keeping the water as clean as they should. I mean it is a bird-bath, not a potty," I offered.

"Oh I know, some of those others are not very thoughtful. I always wondered how the water stayed so nice and fresh day after day," he popped back.

"I always wanted to know what you guys are saying when you sing your songs, is it something specific or just happily singing?" I asked.

"Well we males sing a song 'hey hey good lookin', hopefully to attract females," he said with a confident voice.

"Okay, it is funny because there was a famous song that had those same words in the lyrics," I told him.

"Yes, our ancestors told us that one of our males sang that song to a human in Alabama many, many years ago and they made a radio song of it. That bird

is a bit of a legend in redbird history," he proudly stated.

"Well it was a fairly famous song, and has been done by several other artists over the years, but it wasn't really that long ago, well perhaps in bird years, then yes. I do have another question, it is said that redbirds that visit someone are bringing memories of a departed loved one, is that true?" I asked.

"Not really, we can sense when someone is feeling down so we sit nearby and sing, but a different song at that time," he answered back.

"Why are male redbirds the ones that are brightly colored and so ornate?" I queried.

"Well the females of your species are the most attractive and you see how long it takes them to get ready, can you imagine if the female birds had to get all fancy every morning, it would be noon before we started singing, and we would never get a worm, although we rarely eat worms, so I am not sure where you humans came up with that saying!" he stated.

"Fair enough!" I laughed.

"Well I need to go, I will get questioned if I sit here too long, you big guys are still scary to most of us, thanks for not eating me!" he said as he flew off to a nearby tree.

Falling Apart

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

I've now added one more item to my long list of wanna-be career options. I'm trying my hand at bookbinding.

I know what you're thinking. But hear me out. I've started watercolor painting, and the best way to practice is in an art journal. But with watercolor, the paper matters. Cheap paper = poor results. There are plenty of affordable watercolor journals out there with cheap paper, but if I practice on the cheap stuff I won't have the skills to paint on quality paper. The water behaves differently on different paper, and the only way to learn how to control water on each material is through practice.

There are journals with the good paper, too... but oh. My. Word. They are expensive. I could just buy the good paper, cut it into smaller practice sheets, and use those. But then I'll have a bunch of loose papers scattered everywhere, and my organizational skills aren't the most advanced. I need a bound journal to keep it all together.

A bunch of people in my online art group make their own journals, which is way more cost effective. So I decided to jump on the wagon and try it. I made my first one

several weeks ago.

It's not hard. It just takes a little time. You buy an old hardback book at Goodwill, cut the inner pages out, and glue the new pages in. (There are few more steps than that.) My first attempt turned out okay, even with skipping the step of sewing the pages together first. It looked pretty, until I started painting in it every day. Turns out, opening and closing the spine causes the pages to break loose from the glue. So after about my fifth painting session, the pages started falling out.

I fixed it though. There's now a lovely strip of masking tape between each page section.

I've re-learned a lesson I should have mastered long ago. There are no shortcuts. Do something right the first time and you won't have to do it again. By skipping the sewing stage on my journal, I created a lot of extra work for myself, trying to fix it. Plus, it doesn't look good.

My bad.

I've started my second hand-made journal, and this time I plan to sew the pages together with the help of a

handy bookbinding kit I bought on Amazon. (Still cheaper than buying a high-quality art journal for \$150 a pop.)

The process is enjoyable. And relaxing. It feels good to make something useful with my own hands. And it's fun to pick out old books with cool covers. I'd love to find copies of some classics... but then again, I'd hate to dismantle a classic. So I'll probably stick to engineering textbooks. I have zero guilt ripping out those pages.

In the meantime, I'll keep working in my slapped-together journal, each page a reminder that I'm a lot like the book I'm painting in. Not perfect. Not even close. But in spite of my falling-out pages and taped-together parts, I'm still useful. Not because of anything I've done, but because of God's grace. I'm so glad He doesn't look at what a mess I am and toss me in the bin. Instead, He keeps shaping me, molding me, and sewing me together in His image. Today and every day, I hope He paints in me a beautiful likeness of Himself.

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31



Local Activities & Events

**Newcomers Club Activities
May**

05/28: Mexican Train Dominoe
05/30: Jimmy's Egg

**"To join or for more information, please call:
Mary Pringle (760)265-5035 or
email at: pringlem@msn.com**

Visit the website: www.bellcountynewcomers.com."

The Murph Challenge - May 23

Honoring the legacy of Michael P. Murphy. Step up to the Murph Challenge and test what you are truly capable of. One mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 air squats, and another one mile run at Chupacabra Strength & Conditioning. For more information call 254-228-5771.

2nd annual Temple Memorial Festival - May 24

More than just a festival. We are educating on Lupus. We are supporting the Marissa Lupus/Kidney Foundation at the Temple Santa Fe Plaza, 315 W Ave B, Temple, Noon to Midnight. 5K Walk begins at 9:00 a.m. For more information contact Raymond Saucedo at 254-624-8172.

MPR Explorers @ the Point - May 28

The Mary Ruth Briggs Library volunteers invite residents to the upcoming MPR Explorers @ The Point social, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., May 28 at Garrett & Mic Hill Event Center, 60 Morgan's Point Blvd. This month's gathering features Mayor Jimbo Snyder, who will join attendees for an informal conversation focused on community priorities, leadership transitions, and opportunities for resident engagement. The event is open to all ages, and light refreshments will be available. For more information visit library@mprtx.us

1st Annual Juneteenth parade Celebration & Heart of Texas Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant - June 19

We are making HISTORY in Belton, Texas with the 1st Annual Juneteenth parade Celebration & Heart of Texas Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant! This event is about honoring the TRUE meaning of Juneteenth—celebrating freedom, culture, and the strength of our community. In a city where this history has not always been fully recognized, we are creating a space to uplift, educate, and celebrate together. We need your support! We are currently seeking: Parade entries (organizations, schools, dance teams, car clubs, etc.), Vendors (food trucks, small businesses, artisans, nonprofits), Pageant participants for the Heart of Texas Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program, and Sponsors & community partners. Let's come together to rebuild, support Black-owned businesses, and create something powerful for future generations. For registration and inquiries call 254-534-2225.

Temple-Belton Ladies Lion Club Meeting Second and Fourth Monday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Belton V.F.W., 2311 S. Pearl St., Belton.

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

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

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

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

Bell County Historical Commission holds their meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the historical Bell County Court House, 101 E. Central Ave in Belton. Join us in our vision of preserving and promoting Bell County's rich historical heritage for current and future generations. We are dedicated to initiating and conducting programs that preserve and celebrate the county's historic cultural resources in alignment with state laws governing historical preservation in Texas. Our community resources consist of a research room, book repository, cemetery information, historical markers and monument records. Our services include information on historic preservation, educational programming, history community outreach and partnerships. We welcome you to join other history minded folks and get involved by serving on one of our committees that consist of preservation, cemetery, markers and education. To volunteer or for more information please visit historicalcommission@bellcounty.texas.gov, call 254-933-5917 or visit the office located in the historic Bell County Courthouse, 101 E. Central Ave., RM 117.

The Bell County Genealogical Society meets the fourth Saturday of each month. The group offers free Genealogy Guidance. Members of the Bell County Genealogical Society will be present to help those with questions about researching their family trees. General meetings are held in Temple, Belton, Killeen, and Salado on a rotating basis. All meetings are open to the public. You do not have to be from Bell County or have ancestors from Bell County to participate. For locations and time of meetings visit our website at <https://txbcgs.org/home/events/>

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. Majong games are available every Monday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come join the fun and meet new folks. For more information text Jeanne at 409-313-0611.

Local chapter of the Crochet Guild of America meets from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Lena Armstrong Public Library, 301 E. First St., in Belton. The group is open to anyone interested in crochet. All skill levels are welcome. For information email Betty Reichert at bettyreichert@yahoo.com or Kathy Bement at katshookandneedle@gmail.com. Anyone interested in joining the local chapter of the Crochet Guild of America will also need to join the National Crochet Guild of America. Visit www.crochet.org for details.

Bell County Texas Democratic Women holds their monthly meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Belton AgriLife Center, 1605 N Main in Belton. Join us to hear from local and state candidates and about important issues and events. This is open to the public.

Leadership Belton is an excellent source for learning leadership skills. This 10-month program focuses on three key elements: community awareness training, leadership training, and team building. Do you have someone ready to take the next step to become a leader? If so, Leadership Belton is here to make that difference. For more information on how to participate, contact the chamber at 254-939-3551 or e-mail at info@beltonchamber.com.

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

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/take-me-home. Read more about the program here: https://www.beltontexas.gov/news_detail_T11_R1166.php.



Dial 988 for Mental Health Emergencies To help those contemplating suicide, press option 1 for assistance with military/veteran population.

Text-to-911 for speech/ hearing impaired, those unable to call or speak due to home invasion, abduction or domestic violence or physically incapable. Providing location, city name and nature of the emergency in the first message is imperative. For further education on this service, don't hesitate to call 254-933-5500.

Citizens Helping in Police Service (CHIPS) are extra eyes and ears while in areas where large groups may gather. Contact the Belton Police Dept. to join.

Belton Citizens Police Academy meets Thursday nights to enhance police and community partnerships. Apply online to be a part of this exciting program.

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

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

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Frank's Marina brings water sports to Belton Lake

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Frank's Marina, an ideal place to have fun and make memories on Belton Lake. Gerrell Williams, the marina's manager, wants everyone to feel welcome and be safe while enjoying water sports.

Known for the best rental prices on the lake, Frank's Marina's also known for a friendly, family-like atmosphere. A wall of life jackets promises a safe adventure.

The marina has slips for houseboats to sailboats and a gas pump. They rent paddleboards, kayaks, and two-seater Craicats. For a sunset cruise, you check out a boat at 6 p.m. and return it gassed up at 8 a.m. It is suggested that when going out on the pontoons, you pay \$20 extra for a tube that the whole family can enjoy.

The customers Williams sees at the marina are mostly young people and young families. He shared about students from UMHB renting day crafts from the marina.

"They're super folks. They're big on a paddle boarding. And we have a friendly place for them," said Williams.

Water safety is a priority. Williams stocks plenty of life vests for each person that takes out their watercrafts.

"Everybody who hits the water has a life jacket. No matter who you are, old, young, big, small, it doesn't matter to us," Williams said.

There is a policy of no drinking for the driver of the boat; they are the designated driver.

Tips for customers are to make reservations two to three weeks in advance. Also, consider weather conditions, like wind and rain. Don't plan for over ten people for a single boat rental. Life jackets are a requirement. And to have a good time on the water, limit your alcohol use. Except for the driver, who is to remain sober.

Williams said, "We would love for our boaters to understand that they're sharing the water with paddle boarders and kayakers. Try, try, try to look out for them. Find out where they are, as we had a couple of

close calls this last year from day boaters going fairly fast near kayakers."

"On the flip side, we warn our kayakers and paddleboarders to be safe and watch out for boats. So it's a dual partnership. It takes, it takes both parties looking out for each other to keep everyone safe, is what we're after," said Williams.

Stephanie Ogdon helps with leasing and equipment maintenance. She has added plants and a new mural on the marina.

"I'm weed-eating and cleaning up garbage up on the hill," Ogdon said. "I'm trying to make it pretty."

The Corps of Engineers has worked with the marina, providing guidance on leasing and contracts.

"They've communicated needed responses and timely inspections. It's working out as a good lease for both parties," said Williams.

Frank's Marina is owned by Jim Hightower. Top Side Marinas is looking into purchasing and are surveying bringing fishing back to the marina as well.

To find out more or book a rental, visit their website at franksonthelake.com.



Photos Credit: Michele Weisman and Gerrell Williams

Friends at Frank's Marina enjoy the paddleboards, kayaks, and two-seater Craicats that are available for rent. They also offer slips for houseboats and sailboats.

The United States of AMERICA @250



When Americans celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States throughout 2026, names like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams are bound to come up. While those four men played notable roles in the establishment of the United States of America, many more Founding Fathers bore significant influence as well.

America's semiquincentennial is a great time to celebrate all who have helped make the country into what it is today, and that includes some of the Founding Fathers who have not become household names over the last 250 years.

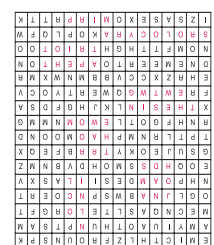
Presidential Films and Shows ZIG ZAG FIND



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The letters of the movies or TV shows with an American presidential theme are hidden below. They are connected by tiles on top, below, right, or left, but not diagonally. Find them all.

- "JOHN ADAMS"
- "LINCOLN"
- "THE WEST WING"
- "THE PATRIOT"
- "PRIMARY COLORS"



See how many words you can form with these letters. See how many patriotic words you can form. All of the words should contain the letter in the center circle.

Word Ideas: Star, Flag, Eagle, Legal, State, Great, Legal, Eagle, Health



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