



Six Belton ISD students earn Eagle Scout rank

Special to the Journal

Six Belton ISD students have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Scouting America, through service projects that have made an impact on schools, nonprofits, first responders, and community organizations throughout Belton.

Eagle Scout recipients include Lake Belton High School students Landon Casperson, Gabe Jones, Jacob Lawrence, Andy Thomas and Johnny White, along with Belton High School student Wyatt McLean. Their projects focused on creat-

ing opportunities, improving community spaces and meeting local needs.

Lake Belton High School junior Johnny White constructed a bocce ball court for the district's Delta program, creating a new space where students can build friendships, stay active and participate in recreational activities.

White said his inspiration came from his younger brother, who competes in Special Olympics, as well as personal experiences that deepened his understanding of the impact inclusive environments can have on students.

"The thing that drove me to build a bocce ball court for Delta is that my little brother is in Special Olympics," White said. "Knowing that I am helping people I know personally makes me feel really good."

White, who participates in Lake Belton High School's Unified Track team and the Penguin Project, said the project was deeply personal because of the connections he has formed with students in Belton ISD's special education programs.

"Inclusion for me is a very powerful thing. See **EAGLE SCOUT**, Page A2



Courtesy Photo

Lake Belton High School junior Johnny White constructed a bocce ball court for the district's Delta program for his Eagle Scout project. White, along with five other BISD students, have completed Eagle Scout projects.



BELTON JOURNAL/Harvey Jackson Oss

Mike and Sara Dent present the \$75,000 proceeds of the CASA Classic Golf Tournament to CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties leadership.

CASA receives \$75,000 donation

By Harvey Jackson Oss
The Belton Journal

On Thursday, June 4, Wings, Pizza N Things hosted a record \$75,000 check presentation for CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties.

The donation was presented by restaurateurs Mike and Sara Dent, who facilitated the CASA Classic Golf Tournament fundraiser for the sixth year. The new restaurant building at 6776 W Adams Ave was blessed by Father Keith Pozzuto, who began the ceremony with a thankful prayer.

CASA serves abused and neglected children in the foster care system by providing trained volunteers to advocate for the child's rights to safety, family life, and a loving home.

CASA is an acronym for 'Court Appointed Special Advocates'. Funds raised by the CASA Classic Tournament help to expand CASA staff, which in turn allows more children to be served. Advocates are carefully vetted and monitored.

Mike Dent was raised in foster care. After graduating from high school at 17, he enlisted in the military. He opened the first Wings, Pizza N Things location around 20 years ago.

"I'm now in my 60s, and I just learned about CASA 6 years ago... how can I as a guy who grew up in foster care not know about them? I needed to get the word out," said Dent.

When CASA operations first started, there were around 1600 children without representation in Bell and Coryell Counties. The number has since been reduced to around 1000.

"There's still a long way to go, and it takes money to do that," said Dent.

CASA Board President Ashley Clapper Bennett spoke on the Dent's contributions.

"I am never surprised, but I am always amazed at the generosity of Mike and Sara Dent."

See **CASA**, Page A2

Belton Parks employee honored for heroism

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

A 19-year-old Belton Parks & Recreation maintenance employee was awarded the Lifesaver Award on Tuesday night for his efforts in rescuing a woman from a flooded Nolan Creek earlier this spring.

Ethan van de Plas received the award during this week's Belton City Council meeting by Police Chief Larry Berg and Fire Chief Jon Fontenot for his efforts in saving the life of the woman, who had jumped from the Penelope Street bridge into the swollen creek.

"He was working — clearing debris along the creek bank as flood waters were receding," said James Grant, executive director of Belton Parks & Recreation. "He saw a lady jump in the

creek and he pulled her to safety."

Grant said the water was running very fast when the incident occurred.

According to Berg and Fontenot, the woman who jumped off the bridge was in a mental health crisis.

"Water was rising from recent rains," Berg said. "Quick thinking and with no regard for his own safety, Ethan jumped in and rescued the woman. Parks, streets, police, fire, we all work together."

Ethan will be leaving Belton soon to serve in the Air Force.

The Belton Lifesaving Award is an official commendation presented by the city to first responders, military personnel and civilians who display extraordinary bravery or administer critical life-

saving measures during life-threatening medical, trauma or rescue emergencies within the local area.

Also Tuesday, Belton's Director of Human Resources, Megan Odiome was honored for receiving her Texas Municipal Human Resources certification, and several people were appointed to boards and commissions.

Terms for Parks Board members Bersoso and Josh Pearson expire June 20, and both were reappointed. Nelson Hutchinson and Mat Naegele were reappointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Council authorized City Manager Sam Listi to increase the professional services agreement with Half Associates for engineering

See **COUNCIL**, Page A3



Courtesy Photo

During Tuesday night's City Council meeting, Belton Fire Chief Jon Fontenot (left) and Police Chief Larry Berg (right) present Parks employee Ethan van de Plas with a Life Saving Award for rescuing a woman who jumped off Penelope Street bridge into a rain-swollen Nolan Creek.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
Obituaries.....	A3
Service Directory.....	A5
Lifestyles.....	A6
Church Directory.....	A7
Sports.....	B1
Classifieds.....	B4
Editorial.....	B6
B-TOWN.....	B7
Business Showcase.....	B8

Stillhouse Park leased to Baxter Properties

By Harvey Jackson Oss
The Belton Journal

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District has signed a lease agreement with Baxter Properties for the use of Stillhouse Park.

The 115-acre plot of land and water will restore marina access and manage day-use recreational opportunities under the name of Stillhouse Hollow Marina and RV Resort.

The Corps of Engineers will retain ownership of the property.

"By partnering with a commercial concessionaire, we are able to bring back marina operations and improve the overall visitor experience at Stillhouse Hollow Lake," said Tim MacAllister, chief of operations division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District in an April news release.

Stillhouse Hollow Lake is a major Central Texas recreation destination.

Reopening marina services will expand boater access and support

boating, fishing, and camping. Concession leases are a standard tool of the Corps of Engineers for stewarding federal properties.

The new marina is planned to include 250 boat slips. Pending Corps of Engineers approval, other new amenities will include an RV park, primitive campsites, a camp store, upgraded bathrooms, a dive shop, a bait and tackle shop and food service.

The previous marina closed in August 2024 due to damage from

fire and weather. New development will blend in with the natural aesthetics of the lake to maintain the tranquility and beauty of the park.

Collection of the preexisting \$5 entry fee at Stillhouse Park has caused some anger among parkgoers.

Previously, the fee was paid on the honor system.

"We didn't change the prices, we didn't change the structure at all,

See **STILLHOUSE**, Page A3

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

FARMERS INSURANCE

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

70 YEARS

SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS SINCE 1956

Tanner Roofing

2025 2024 2023
TOP PERFORMER
EXCELLENCE

TANNERROOFING.COM 254-939-0343

TEMPLE TOWING

(254) 771-1303

Templewrecker.com

Planning for Your Financial Future

254-613-5508 www.gunterfinancialservices.com 204 N Penelope St, Ste A, Belton

Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. Gunter Financial Services is not a registered Broker/Dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services. Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. member FINRA/SIPC. Raymond James does not offer tax advice.

GUNTER FINANCIAL SERVICES

A Partner of

OakCrest ADVISORS

Our consistent care.
Your complete comfort.

Receive up to \$1,800 in rebates* when you purchase the Ultimate Comfort System™**

OR Qualified Buyers make no payments, incur no interest for 12 months when financing a new Lennox® system**

PLUS, ask about local utility rebates that may be available**

LENNOX



Bell INC.
Air Conditioning

(254) 939-1141

Serving Central Texas Since 1964
Locally Owned and Operated
Visit us at bellaircond.com

TACL21562E
Offer expires June 12, 2026.
*Rebate requires purchase of qualifying items between March 9, 2026 and June 12, 2026 from a participating Lennox® dealer. Contact your local participating Lennox® dealer for promotion details. Qualifying items must be installed by June 19, 2026. This offer applies to residential installations only. Rebate claims must be submitted (with the Dealer's invoice to the homeowner listing all models and serial numbers) to www.lennoxconsumerrebates.com no later than July 19, 2026 11:59:59 p.m. ET. Rebate is paid in the form of a Lennox Prepaid Mastercard®. Use your card anywhere Mastercard is accepted. This card is issued by The Bancorp Bank, N.A., pursuant to license by Mastercard International. Mastercard and the circles design are registered trademarks of Mastercard International Incorporated. The Bancorp Bank, N.A.; Member FDIC. This is not a gift card. This card is issued for loyalty, award or promotional purposes. Please note that prepaid cards are subject to expiration, so pay close attention to the expiration date of the card. Conditions apply. See www.lennox.com/terms-and-conditions for complete terms and conditions. **Offer available between March 9, 2026 and June 12, 2026. All applications are subject to credit review and approval. Not all applicants will qualify. Requires purchase of qualifying Lennox® system. No down payment required. If you qualify for this promotion ("Promotion") and elect to participate, Finance Charges (interest) will not accrue for the first twelve months (Promotional Period), and you will not be required to make payments during the Promotional Period. If you pay the entire amount financed on or before the last day of the Promotional Period (Promotional Expiration Date), you will not have to pay any Finance Charges. However, if you qualify and elect to participate in the Promotion and do not pay the entire amount financed on or before the Promotional Expiration Date, you will be charged Finance Charges starting the first day after the Promotional Expiration Date at an annual percentage rate (APR) of 11.95%, and the balance will be payable in 120 scheduled monthly payments of \$14.30 per \$1,000 of the amount financed. No prepayment penalties. Minimum and maximum amount financed of \$3,000 and \$100,000, respectively. Late charges may apply. Complete terms and conditions and Truth in Lending disclosures will be set forth in the Retail Installment Contract which you should review carefully. **Savings vary based on local energy provider and where you live. Contact your local utility provider or ask your local dealer for details. ©2026 Lennox Dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.

Registration for Belton 4th of July Parade ends soon

Special to the Journal

The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting applications for the 4th of July Parade. The annual parade is a treasured family event with generations of central Texans lining the streets of Belton to celebrate the birth of our country.

The theme for the 4th of July Parade this year is "Celebrating 250 Years of America" in conjunction with the significant milestone being observed from the 1776 Declaration of Independence.

The Bell County Historical Commission, as well as the Bell County Museum, have been focusing on this significant milestone through special events, and will be helpful resources as people plan for their parade entries.

The parade will be held on Saturday, July 4 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and will follow the traditional route south on Main Street starting at UMHB, turning east on Central Avenue at the Courthouse, and continuing north on Birdwell, ending at the Belton Police Memorial.

Parade registration applications are available

online at BeltonChamber.com. The parade features Belton Area Chamber of Commerce members, and includes categories of for-profit organizations, non-profit organizations, clubs, teams, equestrian, and car groups.

The Chamber Parade Committee has been planning for several months to ensure that this year's parade is the best ever. Dozens of volunteers work alongside City of Belton Police, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation staff to take care of the logistics for this massive event, bringing over 30,000 spectators to our community to celebrate.

"We are excited about continuing this cherished tradition for our community," stated Randy Pitenger, Belton Area Chamber President/CEO. "We are a community that values tradition, so honoring the start of our country 250 years ago will be especially meaningful."

"The parade has been such an important part of our community for generations, and the many wonderful family traditions that are celebrated make this something we can all look forward to," added Pit-



File Photo

tenger. "This is a great opportunity for us to celebrate our community and history together while also bringing huge crowds of people to Belton to enjoy what we have to offer. It also serves as a great opportunity for our sponsors to get their message out to thousands of people."

The annual parade serves as the centerpiece of a weeklong celebration in Belton that includes a kick-off Downtown Street Party on the Courthouse Square Saturday, June 27, and the 102nd annual three-day PRCA Rodeo at the Cadence Bank Center July 2-4.

On Saturday, July 4 in addition to the Parade, we will celebrate with the Annual Patriotic Program at the Bell County Historic Courthouse, Festival on Nolan Creek in Liberty Polk Park featuring the Rev, White & Blue Car Show, and the Backyard Party Concert and Fire-

works at Schoepf's.

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

CASA - From Page A1

CASA Executive Director Kevin Kyle spoke next, recognizing supporters in attendance such as County Commissioner Bobby Whitson, Daniel Winford of First United Bank, the Temple Chamber of Commerce, and John Potts and Paul Sarle of American Legion Post 133.

"We're just honored and humbled because you give us a chance to serve these kids and make their families whole again," said Kyle, who then introduced Mike Dent to speak.

Dent credited CASA with his success in opening a new Wings, Pizza N Things location.

"I don't believe this building would exist without that CASA relationship, you know, owning a restaurant is hard."

He spoke on his own experience in the foster care system.

"I don't want to say you feel ashamed but you kind of suppress it a lot, and being able to talk freely about it and not be ashamed or embarrassed about it is just as

beneficial for me as it is for [the children]," he added.

CASA continues to gain new sponsors each year. The golf tournament raised \$30,000 its first year, increasing annually up to the current \$75,000. The Dents presented the giant check to CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties.

"I'm hoping that next year we can surpass the \$80,000 mark," stated Dent.

For more information on CASA, visit casabellocoryell.org

Eagle Scout - From Page A1

erful topic," White said. "I want the entire community to be connected by good faith and a common goal of including everyone."

Lake Belton High School junior Gabe Jones focused his project on sup-

porting Feed My Sheep Farm, a local organization that provides fresh produce for food assistance efforts in the community.

Jones installed a rainwater collection system featuring collection barrels, custom-built stands and a PVC gutter system attached to the farm's barn. The system allows the organization to irrigate crops using harvested rainwater, reducing water costs and helping direct more resources toward serving families in need.

At Heritage Park, Lake Belton High School junior Landon Casperson replaced temporary story walk displays with permanent metal signs designed to withstand the elements and serve families for

years to come.

The updated displays feature rotating children's stories, educational information about local wildlife and facts about the Belton community, creating an interactive experience that encourages reading, learning and outdoor exploration.

Lake Belton High School junior Andy Thomas chose to give back to a place that helped shape his childhood by building a Little Free Library and bench for Lakewood Elementary School.

"Lakewood has always been a special place to me," Thomas said. "I wanted to create a fun and easy way for kids to get their hands on books at the same school where I grew up."

Thomas said he hopes the library helps make reading more accessible for students throughout the year, including during summer months when school libraries are closed.

"I really hope it gives kids that are not big fans of reading or are intimidated by libraries an easy way to get books in their hands," he said. "It just spreads the joy of reading."

The project also holds special significance for Thomas and his family. His older brother previously completed an Eagle Scout project at Lakewood Elementary, building a pedestrian bridge that connects the school to a nearby neighborhood.

"The idea of kids looking back and talking

about fond memories and the little free library being a part of that gives me great joy," Thomas said.

Lake Belton High School senior Jacob Lawrence also completed an Eagle Scout service project as part of earning the prestigious rank.

Belton High School junior Wyatt McLean partnered with Sparta Fire and Rescue to construct gear-drying racks used to clean and maintain firefighting equipment following emergency calls. The project supports the health, safety and readiness of first responders who serve the Belton community.

"These projects are powerful examples of students using their skills and passions to make a dif-

ference," Belton ISD Superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden said. "What I love most is that every project was rooted in service to others. These Eagle Scouts identified a need, brought people together and created something that will continue benefiting our community for years to come. They represent the very best of Belton ISD and what it means to lead with purpose."

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest achievement in Scouting America and requires years of leadership development, service and dedication. Each student must plan, organize and lead a significant community service project that benefits an organization outside of Scouting.

GRAND AVENUE THEATERS
2809 Oakmark Dr.
254-939-5000
www.grandavenuetheater.com
Visit our website or call for showtime info

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

Publisher: David Tuma, David@BeltonJournal.com; **Classifieds & Legals:** Elsie Wiley, Legals@BeltonJournal.com; **Advertising:** Shanna Grote, Marketing@BeltonJournal.com, Randa Miller, Sales@beltonjournal.com; **News Editor:** Lynette Sowell, News@BeltonJournal.com; **Sports Editor:** Clay Whittington, Sports@BeltonJournal.com; **Sports Reporters:** Tony Adams, Aries Ramos **Graphic Artist:** Jason Bachie; **Creative Consultant:** Susan Kolodziejczyk; **News Reporters:** David Stone, Annie Dockery, Michele Weisman, Shalee Corey-Wiebe

Submission guidelines for

The Belton Journal and related properties:

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

You retain ownership of any submission that is your original work. Submissions sent from third parties should only be by permission of the organization or individual who owns it, who also must agree to this

submission policy.

You understand that submissions may or may not appear in the Belton Journal and its related forms of publication, now or in the future.

By contributing a submission, you are granting to the Belton Journal unrestricted, non-exclusive right to use it now and in the future. This includes modifying the original submission to fit print requirements.

Submissions used become a permanent part of the Belton Journal and its product offerings. By virtue of

appearance on the Belton Journal Web site, submissions may also become a permanent part of search engine caching libraries (such as google.com) and online archiving organizations (such as archive.org).

Submissions not immediately used become a permanent part of the Belton Journal's library, with rights for possible future use.

By contributing any submission, you are indicating you have read and understood this policy and agree to its terms.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

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

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

OBITUARIES



Ferrell

Dianne Louise Ferrell
Oct. 6, 1948 – May 28, 2026

Dianne Ferrell, 77, of Belton, passed from this earthly life Thursday, May 28, 2026, in Temple, Texas. Dianne was born October 6, 1948, in Peoria, Illinois, to George and Helen (Wheeler) Ferrell. They moved from Peoria Illinois, to Tampa, Florida, and on to Chattanooga, Tennessee, then to Houston and San Antonio, Texas, before settling in Belton, Texas, in 1960. There Dianne finished her education and graduated from Belton High School, in 1966. She received her Bachelor of Science with a major in Elementary Education from Mary-Hardin Baylor University, in 1971, and her Master's in Education from Stephen F. Austin University, in 1973. Dianne retired from teaching school in 2001.

Throughout her teaching career, she taught in Belton, Carthage, and Humble, Texas. She also taught in Adelaide, Australia and Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico through a teachers exchange program.

Dianne's favorite hobbies, passions, and interests: Her passion was Genealogy, where she spent many hours researching and days traveling to uncover information. She enjoyed going to the library often to check out books. She loved to read, not just books, but newspapers and magazines. Her favorite TV shows were Jeopardy, the PBS network, and Wimbledon Tennis matches. Her game of choice was Scrabble and she was always ready to have a bite of chocolate.

Dianne was a lifelong member of The First United Methodist Church of Belton, Texas. She volunteered as a Sunday School Teacher, helped with Vacation Bible School and Meals on Wheels.

Dianne was preceded in death by her parents.

Dianne is survived by one sister Cheryl Grimm of Houston, TX; one brother Wes Ferrell and wife Joy of Holland, TX; two nieces Kim LaCanne and husband Brent of Salado, TX and Melissa Dean of Georgetown, TX; four nephews Brian Grimm and wife Brigitte of League City, TX; Jason Harmon and wife Misty of Holland, TX; Jacob Ferrell and wife Amanda of Belton, TX; Caleb Ferrell and wife Danielle of Salado, TX; sixteen great-nieces and nephews and one great-great nephew.

Services in care of Broecker Funeral Home of Salado.

Council - From Page A1

services related to Interstate-14 Extension Project, Segment 1 Design.

"Half Associates has been assisting us in reviewing and commenting on the consequential IH-35/IH-14 expansion proposed by TxDOT and its impact to Belton," Listi said.

"Half has been engaged since September 15, 2025, and during that time has been instrumental in providing substantive comments that have resulted in meaningful revisions to the plans," he continued. "This is an ongoing process, involving written and telephonic correspondence, onsite meetings with TxDOT and City Staff, and critical engineering analysis of design proposals."

"It is important Half remain engaged during this preliminary design phase through the end of 2026," Listi said. "Hourly expenditures for Half's services under the current agreement are approaching \$100,000, so Council authorization is needed to exceed this amount. We recommend a maximum of \$150,000."

Stillhouse - From Page A1

we just actually asked people to make the payments," said Justin Lewis of Baxter Properties, as reported by KCEN6.

Commercial tenants are not under obligation to accept the America the Beautiful Pass or the USACE annual pass for admission to the lake.

However, Stillhouse Hollow Marina and RV Resort will continue to accept

the two passes until the end of the fiscal year on October 1.

The resort plans on debuting their own annual pass the following fiscal year.

Visitors can find up to date information on the resort at their website www.stillhousemarina.com.

For direct contact, email info@stillhousemarina.com or call 254-346-9909.

Mutton Bustin' sign-up today for the Belton 4th of July Rodeo

Special to the Journal

Contestant sign-up for Mutton Bustin' at the annual Belton 4th of July Rodeo is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, June 11 at the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 412 E. Central in Belton.

One of the most popular highlights of the annual Belton 4th of July Rodeo is a very special event for the youngest participants, Mutton Bustin' sponsored by Vista Real Estate. Always a

crowd pleaser, seeing these young cowgirls and cowboys ride sheep for as long as they can hold on while the animal runs and jumps around the rodeo arena is an experience that brings the loudest cheers.

Each night of the rodeo features up to 15 riders, all vying to be the champion who scores the highest. Scoring is based on the length of time they stay on the sheep, as well as the judges' assessment of their overall ride. Just

like the cowboys who ride the bulls and bucking broncs, the sheep vary in their speed and jumping abilities. Some riders can hold on for only a brief time while others have more extended rides, adding to the excitement.

Children ages 4-7 weighing under 55 pounds are eligible to sign up on June 11 for this exciting event. Each year there is high demand for the limited slots available. The fee to participate is \$40, payable in cash only.

Participants receive tickets to attend the rodeo as well as a commemorative Mutton Bustin' shirt.

Some children are understandably nervous about their first ride but soon find out the thrill of the ride is worth overcoming their fear. Safety is a high priority for every rodeo event, including Mutton Bustin', so the young riders are outfitted with protective equipment including a helmet and vest.

"We always look forward to the sign-up event to see the enthusiasm our youngest fans bring to the rodeo," stated Randy Pittenger, Belton Area Chamber President/CEO. "Then on each night of the rodeo, the anticipation of their big ride brings out many cameras from supportive family members and friends. Just like our other rodeo participants, their event might only last a few seconds but the memories they make will last a lifetime."

Mutton Bustin' is one of many events at the rodeo, featuring family friendly entertainment. This will be the 102nd consecutive year for the annual Belton 4th of July Rodeo, held July 2-4 in

the air-conditioned Cadence Bank Center (formerly known as the Bell County Expo). Opening night on Thursday, July 2 is Hometown Heroes Night, honoring local first responders, health-care, and education professionals. Friday, July 3 is Military Appreciation Night. Closing out the

rodeo is Family Night on Saturday, July 4 that includes the KPA Engineers Stick Horse Stampede.

For more information about the rodeo and other Belton 4th of July Celebration events, visit the website at www.beltonchamber.com, call 254-939-3551, or email info@beltonchamber.com.



File Photo

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

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

Auto • Home
Life • Commercial

Kenny Paysse FARMERS INSURANCE
778-7136

CENTRAL TEXAS MEMORIAL COMPANY

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

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

Hewett-Arney Funeral Home

Serving families in our historic building since 1942

From 1968 to present, world life expectancy has increased from 56 years to 74 years. Even higher for the U.S.A. Maybe getting a guaranteed price for a future burial or cremation is a good idea? Call us about prearrangement.

100% Family Owned

(254)778-3200

Phones answered 24/7

14 W. Barton Ave. • Temple • www.hewettarney.com

Please don't text and drive!

• Direct Cremation

\$1650 Complete

Includes crematory fee

• Complete Funeral

\$5550

Includes 20 ga. steel casket

Call and ask for pricing. By regulation funeral home must disclose pricing by phone.

Custom Built Homes

773-5100

50 Wheat Rd. Belton

10 Year
Warranty

PRIVATE 24-HOUR CARE AT HOME

Discreet, professional in-home care for families who want the very best.

For families seeking the highest level of personal care, CareAge HomeCare offers **Signature 24-Hour In-Home Care.**

- 24-Hour Continuous Care
- Alzheimer's & Dementia Expertise
- Personal Assistance & Mobility Support
- Meal Preparation & Household Support
- Compassionate Companionship

Serving Temple, Belton, Salado and surrounding communities

Contact us today for a confidential consultation

254-780-9864

www.careagehomecare.com

Call us today to reach over 12,000 readers from Temple to Lampasas, Cove to Hamilton!

254-939-5754 • ads@beltonjournal.com

ESTABLISHED IN 1866

THE BELTON JOURNAL

COPPERAS COVE

LEADER PRESS

SINCE 1881

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

BCRSEA installs officers for 2026-2028

Special to the Journal

The Bell County Retired School Employees Association (BCRSEA) concluded the 2025-2026 year with its Spring Luncheon on May 7, at First Baptist Church Temple.

Members enjoyed a special performance by Michael Alexandersson, whose entertainment was a highlight of the event.

In addition to the musical program, BCRSEA installed officers for the 2026-2028 term and honored teachers, administrators, and other school employees who passed away during the past year through a memorial recognition ceremony. Association Historian Judy West prepared the memorial tribute.

The luncheon was coordinated by Host Committee Chair Jane Nash, with assistance from Carol Holcombe, Bonnie Bumpus, Deyette Pauer, Sandra Atmar, Tina Coppin, Marilyn Bird, Jande Waldron, Kathy Cook, Janelle Winkler, Karen Borman, and Dr. Robin Battershell.

The Bell County Re-

tired School Employee Association (BCRSEA) installed new officers at the luncheon. Officers for 2026-2028 are Marci Petter, Recording Secretary; Dr. Karen Morgan, 2nd Vice President; Celia Ray, Treasurer; Patrick Cain, President; Brenda Hight, President-Elect; Karen McGregor, 1st Vice President, and Regina Lundy, Corresponding Secretary.

BCRSEA is an organization comprised of retired school personnel and other persons interested in education.

The purpose of the association is to encourage members to use their talents, their training and experience in furthering the educational, social, and civic growth of the community, the state, and the nation, and to afford opportunities for united action in solving problems relative to the needs of all retired school personnel. The BCRSEA cooperates with the Texas Retired Teachers Association.

The BCRSEA is currently accepting membership dues for the 2026-2027 year. Dues are \$15. TRTA



Courtesy Photo

Bell County Retired School Employees Association officers for 2026-2028 are, from left to right: Marci Petter, Recording Secretary; Dr. Karen Morgan, 2nd Vice President; Celia Ray, Treasurer; Patrick Cain, President; Brenda Hight, President-Elect; Karen McGregor, 1st Vice President, and Regina Lundy, Corresponding Secretary (not pictured).

state dues are \$35. Members must also be a member of TRTA to join BCRSEA for a total of \$50. Checks may be made to BCRSEA.

The association's next meeting will be held on September 3.

Membership is always open, and prospec-

tive members are encouraged to join by June 30 to ensure their information is included in the upcoming yearbook.

For more information and membership forms, visit the BCRSEA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BCRSEA>.

First Juneteenth parade to be held in Belton



Courtesy Photo

In the past, Miss Juneteenth scholarship pageant contestants served at local food banks, learning to serve their community.

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

The public is invited to the first Juneteenth parade in Belton, a community service project by the Heart of Texas Miss Juneteenth.

The event begins the evening before with a prayer

celebration, held at the Church of God in Christ, honoring the prayers of their ancestors who prayed for an end to slavery. It will occur Thursday, June 18, at 6 p.m. to praise God and pray to Him.

"We're praising God for our past, grateful for our present, and praying for equality and justice and freedom for all people. Our neighborhoods, our schools, and

our government, today's youth, and our government. It's called Prayer Celebration," said Ramona Clark, the event's founder.

The following morning at 10:30 a.m., the Juneteenth parade will start at Liberty Park and go to Fifth Street.

The contestants from the Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant secured entries and vendors as fundraisers for the event.

One of the parade's Grand Marshals will be Ophelia Turner.

The parade will include the Democratic Women of Belton, the Buffalo Soldiers motorcycle riders, Taylor Sports Academy, Texas Longhorns, the Belton Masonic Lodge, and the Texas Corvette Car Club.

Following the parade a gathering will be at Yettie Polk Park with food, mechanical bull riding, music, and gospel singers.

Clark said, Pastor Patrick Russell of Belton will open in prayer. The Belton Mayor was asked to give an opening welcome, and Charity Gaines will sing the black national anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing.

"My hope in holding the parade here is to open the citizens' eyes. That we can all work together and all have a good time. A lot of the black citizens still hold their head down, as if they're not really accepted," said Clark.

"This is a community event. So many people see Juneteenth and think it's just for Black people – no, it's a community event. Bringing Belton together as a whole and as a community will make a difference, with the youth, in the schools, in society altogether. I believe when Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation (Proclamation), that there would no longer be slaves, he was trying to make us all equal," Clark added.

The public is also invited to attend the Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant at the Harris Center, which begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 19.

Heart of Texas Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant set for next Friday

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

The Heart of Texas Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant 2026 will be held at the Harris Community Center in Belton on Friday, June 19, starting at 6:30 p.m. and ending at 9:30 p.m., entrance is free to the community.

She is living her Ancestors Dream is the theme of this year's pageant.

Contestants began preparing in February for girls from age five to eighteen years old. A choreographed dance will open the pageant.

"The pageant starts off with an introduction dance. They introduce themselves, then they come back with a talent. The formal is where they have to answer questions related to Juneteenth or the history of Juneteenth," said Ramona Clark, the event's founder.

"My hope in holding the pageant is to encourage young ladies to have a positive outlook on their lives," Clark added.

The high school contestants, Clark said, are the scholarship recipients. They write a 300-word essay, expressing the year's theme, *She is living her Ancestors Dream*. It can be about someone famous or a relative of the contestant.



Courtesy Photo

Former Miss Juneteenth contestants the night of the scholarship pageant with Ramona Clark, event founder.

The Miss Juneteenth scholarship pageant educates young women about history, serving their community, and how to present themselves.

"In 2018 my husband pastored a church in Rosebud, and there were so many young ladies and so many moth-

ers there that did not have the knowledge of what Juneteenth was. They had never been told what Juneteenth was. They just thought it was having a picnic party. It



We believe in a BETTER flooring experience.

LET US FLOOR YOU!

TILE & STONE FLOORING

LUXURY VINYL FLOORING

HARDWOOD FLOORING

CARPET FLOORING

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

Council awards street project bids

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The Belton City Council awarded a bid to Bennett Paving of Leander for the annual street maintenance project.

Three qualified bids were opened in May and Bennett's total bid of \$1.14 million was significantly less expensive than bids of \$1.5 million by Lone Star Paving and \$1.37 million by Texas Materials Group.

The bids included 47,924 square yards of two-inch Mill and Overlay, 29 five-foot by five-foot concrete collars for manholes, 49 concrete collars for valves, 250 linear feet of curb and gutter, 315 linear feet of thermoplastic striping, and other materials.

According to Freddy Robles, assistant director of public works, Belton staff evaluated the bids and determined Bennett Paving, the low bidder, "has the capacity and experience to perform and execute the requirements of the contract."

"This project was developed to require the contractor to complete the project before Oct. 1, and staff

are prioritizing Mill & Overlay work to be substantially complete over the summer months to lessen the impact on school traffic," Robles said.

Also Tuesday, Council awarded a bid to Yoko Excavating of Belton for the Spring Street/East Central Avenue bridge replacement project. Yoko's bid of \$4.91 million was well below nine other bids, including a \$5.3 million bid by Emerson Construction of Temple.

Scott Hodde, director of Public Works, said Belton worked closely with Congressman John Carter's staff in 2022 to develop a proposal for Community Project Funding. The proposed project involved a replacement bridge on Central Avenue over Nolan Creek, to be located east of Interstate-35 at Spring Street.

"With the passage of the Omnibus Bill in December 2022, Congressman Carter informed us that Belton's \$5 million request for Community Project Funding was approved," Hodde said.

With a total project cost estimated at \$6.3 million, Belton sought \$5 million in Federal funds, combined with a City commitment of \$1.25 million. This project

is listed as a priority project in the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone CIP list.

The East Central Avenue Bridge Project achieves vital goals including:

- Removal of the Last Low Water Crossing in Belton
- Flood Mitigation for Private and Public Properties east of IH-35
- Emergency Access for Vehicles and Personnel
- Access to Essential City Infrastructure – Lift Station, Sewer Lines, and Water Lines
- Access to Important City Facilities – Shooting Range
- Development for Landlocked Properties.
- Components of the E. Central Avenue Bridge replacement project include:
 - Installation of a 325 LF Bridge Structure
 - Two Lane Road (31' wide) with a 5ft Sidewalk
 - New Connector Road from the new Bridge Structure to existing E. Central Avenue
 - 1000 Linear Feet of 8-Inch Waterline
 - Street lighting Along Bridge.

Juneteenth - From Page A4

was very important to me that the young ladies actually learned how to carry themselves. That was at the 150th year that Juneteenth had been established. I just would get the girls and teach them and work with them," said Clark.

Clark explained that after the Emancipation Proclamation, Texas got the news two years later that the slaves were freed.

She said that Miss Opal Lee, known as the grandmother of Juneteenth, from Fort Worth, Texas, petitioned the states in order to make Juneteenth a national holiday.

"We promote self-esteem, self-awareness, so that by

the end of it they have all the confidence in the world. They learn how to walk, and they're to never, never let their crown fall. It doesn't have to literally be the crown. It's just the way you carry yourself," said Clark.

In the past, their service projects included serving at Feed My Sheep and The Love of Christ.

This year, the service project starts with a Prayer Celebration on Thursday, June 18th at 6 p.m. at Church of God in Christ at 1122 W. 2nd Street in Belton, and the Celebration of Freedom. Then there will be Belton's first Juneteenth Parade Friday, June 19, starting at 10:30 a.m.

followed by food, music, and activities at Yettie Polk Park.

"Over the years, since we started, we have five girls that are in college that benefited from the scholarship. One young lady who went to Temple College, and she's now a ranking officer in the Navy," said Clark.

The Heart of Texas Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant is rebranding from Tri-County Miss Juneteenth. Their Facebook page still reflects the former name. One of the speakers will be Erica Lee Carter, the daughter of Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee.

Local SERVICE DIRECTORY

Your guide to trusted local professionals.

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

BEST-WAY Carpet Services

VINYL PLANK HARDWOOD VINYL
CARPET CERAMIC TILE

GET PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
254.770.0932

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm

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

SYSTEMS & APPLIANCES

Pomykal Heating & Cooling

Belton, Temple, Killeen

(254) 938-6290

William Pomykal Service & Repairs
Gwen Pomykal Preventative Maintenance

www.gopomykal.com TACLA22074C

CONSTRUCTION

Brown's House Leveling & Foundation Repair

Belton Owned Free Estimates

Est. 1960

254-228-9179

YARDWORK

The Original

Ash Tree Service

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

Free Estimates

Split Firewood For Sale

Third Generation

254.654.6317
254.939.7007

CLEANING

English Maids

We will sweep you off your feet!

Kei English
Lorena English

Residential/Commercial • Cleaning Service

FREE Estimates • Bonded • Insured • Wash Comp • Locally Owned & Operated

254-231-0583

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Double T Construction, Inc

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

Free Estimates

(254) 939-1934
doubletconstruction@hotmail.com

www.DoubleTConstructionTX.com

All Work Warranted and Insured
50 Years Local Experience

CALL FOR Pricing!

If you own a business and want to run an ad in the local service directory, reach out to the team at the Belton Journal.

FOR MARKETING AND AD PLACEMENT, CONTACT
Shanna Grote

Marketing@BeltonJournal.com
or text 254-654-5166

FOR PRICING AND SALES INFORMATION, CONTACT
Randa Miller

Sales@BeltonJournal.com
or text 254-493-2637

We appreciate your support of *local business!*



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

OUR HOSPICE HOUSE

254-500-7123
WWW.OURHOSPICEHOUSE.ORG

Relax... We'll Handle It.

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

A6
Thursday,
June 11, 2026

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Scotti's Italian Ice holds grand opening, ribbon cutting

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Scotti's Italian Ice, which imports Italian ice from New York City, opened its new storefront with a ribbon-cutting and a line of customers out the door.

Ann Scotti brought Italian ice from the Jersey Shore to Texas, first selling the product out of a trailer.

Customers have been asking for items off the menu, such as soft scoop, and this new location will make those requests possible.

Some other menu items include Italian cream sodas, fresh-squeezed lemonade, pastries, iced espresso, Italian ice sundaes, ice cream, and, of course, Italian ice.

Free samples were given out at the grand opening. The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce grand opening ribbon cutting was started with Scotti telling the story of how the business started.

There was a prayer led by Randy Pittenger, president and CEO, at Scotti's request. Then the ribbon was cut by Scotti.

Scotti, a Belton resident for 10 years and retired from the military, grew up in New Jersey.

Visits home with her daughters stirred conversations about Italian ice in Belton.

The business succeeded, and Scotti and her daughters decided to add a physical storefront.

Scotti was making friends in the business area before the doors opened. A family at the neighboring swim school checked regularly in on the storefront's progress.

"It's not just a business, it's so special to me," said



BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman

Scotti's, with the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, celebrates the opening of the Italian ice shop.

Scotti.

She added a surfboard to the shop's decor that lists places she has lived or been to, including Long Branch and Asbury Park. She said that Cape May is the most beautiful place you've ever seen in your life.

Scotti's Italian Ice is located at 7546 Prairie View Road, Suite 130. It's open Sundays, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Monday through Saturday from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Scotti's Italian Ice trailer is still in operation.

Sunrise on the Leon kayaking event set for June 26

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Belton Parks & Recreation is launching a new early-morning outdoor adventure that allows paddlers of all skill levels to start their day with a connection to nature.

The Sunrise Kayak event will be held Friday, June 26 at 6 a.m. on the Leon River.

The guided tour focuses on the sunrise and surrounds paddlers with scenic landscapes and local wildlife.

"This is our first Sunrise Kayak event and it gives local residents a chance to enjoy the Leon River," said Adam Wells, Belton's recreation coordinator. "We will start pad-

dling at 6 a.m. and the sun will rise at 6:24 a.m. that day."

"The kayak excursion will begin and end at the Heritage Park fish camp," Wells added. "It's a nice place for launching kayaks."

"Guests can expect a leisurely paddle, safety guidance, and unforgettable sunrise views along one of the region's most beautiful waterways," he said.

Paddlers can bring their own kayak, canoe or paddleboard, or they can reserve a craft from the Belton Parks & Recreation site www.rec.us/belton, according to James Grant, executive director of the parks department.

"We have five double, four single and five kids' kayaks," Grant said. "We hope to have 25 people on the water

for Sunrise Kayak."

Right now, Sunrise Kayak is a one-day event, but Grant said more excursions are likely as summer moves along.

In addition to vibrant sunrises, paddlers have a strong chance to viewing a variety of birds and Bell County wildlife.

"There are always birds such as wild geese, visitors often see deer, raccoons, turtles and people fishing," Grant added.

The Sunrise Kayak event is free of charge but space is limited.

To register or reserve a kayak, visit the website.

Dinosaur George Comes to Belton

By Shalee Corey-Wiebe
The Belton Journal

The Belton Public Library hosted the Dinosaur George Traveling Museum at the Harris Community Center for the first time on Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event was free and open to the community, thanks to a sponsorship from H-E-B through the Summer at the Li-

brary Grant Program.

Over 900 people had already shown up throughout the morning to look at the fossils, and by early afternoon, the hallway was still packed with families.

"Dinosaur George" Blasing, owner of the company, said, "So far this year, this has probably been the biggest turnout that we've done, and we've done events

in cities that are twice the size. You know what I really like? Is that even though it's busy and it's packed, we've had no complaints."

The Dinosaur George Traveling Museum does events like these during the summer, but mainly visits elementary schools during the school year, setting up the fossil displays in gyms.

Blasing emphasized

the importance of motivating kids to learn.

Blasing is the writer, co-creator and host of "Jurassic Fight Club" on the History Channel.

"The best way to learn is to read, but when they get to see these things, you don't know how that motivates them. It will encourage them to want to read more," he said. "Sometimes kids believe the world is ex-



BELTON JOURNAL/Shalee Corey-Wiebe

"Dinosaur George" pays a visit to the Lena Armstrong Public Library as part of the Summer Reading Program.

actly what they see in their backyard, so they think there's limitations to what they can do, but when you come into a room like this and you see fossils from around the world, all of a sudden you start to realize that there's so much more to life."

The traveling museum included fossils from Australia, China, Mexico, and Africa, but Blasing thought it was also important for kids to learn about animals from the local area.

"I really focus on Texas animals because I want kids to understand the things that used to

live here," said Blasing. Ultimately, events like these bring families together.

"My favorite thing is watching parents and grandparents with their kids enjoying it together. The parents are just as interested as the kids," Blasing said. "Sometimes you do events like this, and the parents just stand off on the side—let the kids do it. But by looking at them together, they get to go home, they get to eat lunch and talk about it, they get to eat dinner and talk about it. And that is so important to society, for parents and kids to have a bond."

Hello, Friends!

They're Coming Back for a Special Performance!

Save the Date!

David Starr & Erik Stucky

Friday, June 26th

7-9pm

Grace Gallery-108 W. Central-Belton
Suggested Donation-\$15+ per person
Performers receive all donations.
Bring your favorite beverage. Snacks and water provided. Invite your friends.

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

Popelka Law Firm, PLLC
Drew Popelka
 Attorney - CPA
 (254) 774-7880
 6173 W. Adams Ave. • Ste. C-201 • Temple, TX
 templeattorney@sbcglobal.net • www.popelkalaw.com

Bell INC.
 Air Conditioning
LENNOX
Jerry Graves TAGLA21562E
 310 E. Central Ave. • 939-1141

Air/Control
 TRANE Financing & Trade-Ins Available
 5515 TAYLORS VALLEY RD. TEMPLE - 254-933-8030
 7604 WOODWAY DR. WACO - 254-772-8042
 Texas State License: TAGLA13738C (Temple) & TAGLA2364C (Waco) www.airctrl.com

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

today, tomorrow, the future

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

Me Gregor Welding Supply Co
 Welding Equipment and Supplies
Encourages YOU
to Attend the Church of YOUR Choice!
 Mon - Fri: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm (254) 933-9353
 Sat: 7:30 am - 12:00 pm 110 S. Wheat Rd. Belton TX 76513

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

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

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

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

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

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

Space Available
Shanna Grote
 Marketing@BeltonJournal.com
TEXT: 254-654-5166

Extraco Banks Let's Build Some Dreams™
 254.774.5500 | Belton | extracobanks.com

- BELTON/MORGAN'S POINT RESORT**
- Agape Christian Center 321 N. Penelope ~ 254.939.WORD
 - Anchor of Hope Fellowship 5700 F.M. 439 ~ 254.831.1035
 - Belton Christian Church 9425 W FM ~ 436 254.939.1172
 - Belton Church of Christ 3003 N. Main ~ 254.939.1816
 - Belton Church of God in Christ 1122 W. 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.1697
 - Belton First Assembly of God 500 S. IH-35 ~ 254.933.2803
 - Belton Lighthouse 1001 NE Loop 121 ~ 254.654.7278
 - Belton Nazarene Church 1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404
 - Bethel A.M.E. Church 401 S. Davis St. ~ 254.939.6090
 - Central Texas Cathedral Worship Center 700 S. Main Street ~ 254.831.3064
 - Christ Bible Baptist Church 1590 Jack Rabbit Rd ~ 254.939.9247
 - Christ the King Catholic Church 310 E. 24th Ave. ~ 254.939.0806
 - Christian Tabernacle Church Apostolic UPC 1010 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.3464
 - Cornerstone Community Church 5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250
 - Crossroads Church 500 South I-35 ~ 254.939.2122
 - Dominion Life Chapel 105 Green Briar St. ~ 254.563.0472
 - Elm Grove Baptist Church 6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127
 - Family Gospel Church 2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707
 - Fellowship Baptist Church 2025 Morgan's Point Rd ~ 254.780.2388
 - First Baptist Church Belton 506 N. Main St. ~ 254.933.3391
 - First Mexican Baptist Church 703 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.6900
 - First Presbyterian Church of Belton 2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115
 - First United Methodist Church 205 E. 3rd Ave. ~ 254.939.5703
 - Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus 1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201
 - Freedom Bible Fellowship 3087 W. Ave. D ~ 254.933-3310
 - Holy Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith 519 S. Pearl St. ~ 254.613.4591
 - Hope Community Church 507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222
 - Hope Tabernacle 202 E. 1st Ave. ~ 254.933.8222
 - Iglesia de Cristo 3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910
 - Keys Valley Baptist Church 4393 W. US Hwy. 190 ~ 254.939.1650
 - Lakeview Baptist Church 7717 N Hwy. 317 ~ 254.780.1884
 - Liberty Church 302 E. Central Ave. ~ 254.933.7107
 - Liberty in Christ Church 2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337
 - Miller Heights Baptist Church 1400 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.1835
 - Ministerios Vida 2020 S. IH-35 ~ 254.624.8015
 - Mt. Zion United Methodist Church 218 Alexander St. ~ 254.939.5621
 - New Life Fellowship 706 E. 4th. ~ 254.939.8011
 - Nolan Valley Baptist Church 13206 W. FM 93 ~ 254.721.5998
 - Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ 117 N. Birdwell St. ~ 254.939.0822
 - Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church 2378 FM 1670 ~ 818.519.9855
 - Tapestry Community Church of Belton 1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.218.4008
 - Temple Vision de lo Alto 4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231
 - Trinity Full Gospel 810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673
 - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bell County 1726 Morgan's Point Rd. ~ 254.778.8034
 - ~ TEMPLE ~
 - Chalice Church - Disciples of Christ 300 N 5th St ~ (254) 773-9061
 - Christ Episcopal Church and School 300 N. Main St. ~ 254.773.1657
 - Christian Life Church 4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626
 - Covenant Lutheran Church 4202 Hickory Rd. ~ 254.733.7718
 - Eighth Street Baptist Church 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. ~ 254.773.2598
 - First Baptist Church Temple 8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866
 - First Methodist Church Temple, GMC 102 N. 2nd Temple. TX ~ 254.773.7992
 - First Presbyterian Church Temple 12 West French ~ 254.773.3407
 - Foundation Church 10751 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673
 - Grace Baptist Church 740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401
 - Grace Comm. Primitive Baptist Church 3111 N. 3rd St ~ 254.774.8192
 - Grace Presbyterian Church 2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134
 - Harvest Church 2501 General Bruce Dr. ~ 254.780.3566
 - Immanuel Lutheran Church 2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898
 - Leon Valley Church of Christ 4404 Twin City Blvd. ~ 254.939.0682
 - New Hope Church of God 2005 W. Ave D., Suite D. ~ 254.742.2181
 - Oak Park United Methodist Church 5505 South 31st St. ~ 254.773.3021
 - St. Francis Episcopal Church & School 5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255
 - St. Luke's Catholic Church 2807 Oakdale Dr. ~ 254.773.1561
 - St. Mary's Catholic Church 1018 S 7th St. ~ 254.773.4541
 - Taylor's Valley Baptist Church 2497 W. FM 93 ~ 254.939.0503
 - Temple Bible Church 3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233
 - Temple First Church of the Nazarene 5000 S. 31st ~ 254.773.3744
 - Unity Church of Temple 318 N. 2nd ~ 254.770.0070
 - Vineyard Christian Fellowship 7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802
 - Vista Community Church 7051 Stonehollow Dr. ~ 254.774.7992
 - Wildwood Baptist Church 5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

The Unpopular Virtue



John C. Perry

At our smallgroup Bible study a couple of weeks ago, we found ourselves talking about gentleness. It's a word we all think we understand. The dictionary calls it "kind, tender, or mild in temperament and behavior." Scripture goes even further. Depending on

the translation, gentleness appears 15-20 times in the Old Testament and nearly 50 times in the New. Paul especially seemed to love the word.

So, let me ask you: What is your gentleness level? If you have a quick temper, your gentleness level may not be as high as you'd like. Proverbs 15:1 reminds us, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Pastor Rick Warren once described gentleness as "an antidote to anger." It can defuse conflict before it ever has a chance to grow. Warren offered a

simple but powerful practice: "When other people raise their voice, you lower yours." That, my friends, is remarkable advice. And it works. A loud voice usually loses steam when met with calm strength.

Some people think gentleness is weakness. I don't buy that. Real gentleness requires restraint, discipline, and inner strength. Anyone can lash out. Anyone can match volume with volume. But to stay steady and kind while someone else is losing control, that's strength. That's maturity. That's Christlike.

Warren also famously

observed, "Be tender without surrender." That line has served me well more than once. Gentleness doesn't mean you stop standing for truth. It simply means you stand in a way that reflects the heart of Jesus.

And Jesus is, of course, our perfect example. In Matthew 11:29 He says, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Notice what He didn't say. He didn't announce His power, His miracles, or His authority, though He had all of those. He simply said, "I am gentle."

What about gentleness in our culture today? Sadly, it's not exactly trending. Social media rewards the loudest voice, the sharpest comeback, the snappiest retort. Outrage gets clicks. Gentleness rarely does.

But maybe that's why we need it so badly.

Remember Jackie DeShannon's 1965 song, "What the World Needs Now Is Love"? I'd argue that what the world needs today is gentleness. Imagine Washington, D.C. Who knows, they might even get things done up there if gentleness were valued. Imagine our neighbor-

hoods. Imagine our homes. It could change our world.

And what about your life? If you find yourself running low on gentleness, pray for it. Ask God to grow it in you. He will. And when He does, you may discover that gentleness doesn't just change the temperature of a conversation, it changes the direction of a life.

Maybe even yours!

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.

AMERICA 250
IS ALMOST HERE!

ORDER NOW
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

Custom America 250 Commemorative promo items & apparel that will last and go down in history.

HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS | CUSTOM SOLUTIONS | DELIVERED IN TIME

Universal Creative Concepts
Be seen. Get noticed.

Patti Powell
254-624-5197
patti@uccpromos.com
www.uccpromos.com

MAKE YOUR MARK
ON AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY!

Vintage Texas Addiction offers Belton shoppers a little bit of everything

Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Texas Vintage Addiction, owned by Doug and Kimberly Hunter, is in its second year of providing vintage items for those looking to add usable items without modern price tags.

The Hunters, formerly only vendors in the store, now run the shop. Working in vintage for about ten years, they enjoy their working relationship with their vendors.

“The vendors that we have are really good about fluffing and changing things out and keeping it fresh. It gives people a reason to come back,” said Kimberly Hunter.

When items aren't selling, Texas Vintage Addiction has creative ways to move that product on.

“We actually had a yard sale last weekend, just trying to get rid of the stuff that hadn't sold. In May, we did a free auction using Monopoly money,” said Kimberly Hunter.

Through the historic home turned vintage store, shoppers will discover silver serving dishes, crystal, China sets, fishing items along with camping gear for serving food, Polish pottery, Dixie Bell chalk paint, hats, and so much more.

Their customers are looking for a good deal and quality items, no matter their age or need.

“It's a good mix. We have a lot of people from UMHB. We have a lot of

older people. We have a lot of people buying their first home or their third home. We have a wide base of customers,” said Kimberly Hunters.

Kimberly Hunter has tips for vintage and antique shoppers.

“With this economy people are looking for things that they can use and not fall apart. The condition is important. I would make sure things are real wood, and if it's not real wood, it should be priced accordingly,” said Kimberly Hunter.

Kimberly explained that vintage means an item is 20 years old or more. To be considered an antique, furniture is 100 years old or more.

Their vendors do have some more modern pieces, but they each have about 80 percent vintage items on display.

Belton is a small hometown feel for cus-

tomers and vintage business owners. The Hunters use to go to the vintage stores in Belton, and they liked what they saw.

“We were like, oh, this is so cute, this is so pretty. Then we just kind of started buying things here and there, and we just got hooked. We love it,” said Kimberly Hunter.

Doug Hunter takes care of painting the walls and getting the background just right for the vendors.

The Hunters know and visit the other vintage shops in Belton. It's a small, supportive community, Kimberly Hunter said.

Texas Vintage Addiction is located on 206 E Sixth Avenue in Belton and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are closed on Sundays and Mondays.

To the Belton High School Bicentennial Class of 1976
The Most Historic Class to Ever Graduate from BHS

Join your classmates on June 27th, 2026 at our old high school campus for an evening of Fun, Fellowship, and Fantastic Music, as we celebrate Ourselves!
“The Best, The Brightest, The Blast from the (recent) Past!”

The Band Hall at our Alma Mater aka MegaBytes Cafe
6:30-10:00 PM



Courtesy Photo
Texas Vintage Addiction's welcoming front porch on East Sixth Avenue.

Foster Grandparent Volunteer Program for Texans 55 and Older

Strengthening our communities, one generation to another.



You've Got A Lot to Give

Foster Grandparent Program Volunteers serve as role models, mentors and friends to children with exceptional needs at schools and other community centers.

Eligible volunteers may receive a monthly stipend of \$240 to \$640, plus mileage reimbursement, training and more!

Temple, Belton, Killeen and Copperas Cove, Texas

254-563-3230

hhs.texas.gov/foster-grandparent

Serving Texas children since 1965



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Belton ISD girls set to show off at TABC Showcase

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Lady Tigers and Lady Broncos have lots to prove, and next weekend, they will get the opportunity.

After putting together a pair of impressive campaigns, the squads are already preparing for next season, and a chance to put their skills on display is rapidly approaching.

The annual Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Girls Showcase is on the horizon, and both Belton and Lake Belton will be among the hundreds of teams in attendance.

Rosters from all University Interscholastic League classifications will converge on the Bryan-College Station area for the prestigious three-day event beginning June 18.

Although the Showcase places players on center stage in front of countless college scouts, giving them the opportunity to potentially return home with a verbal commitment, pride is on the line as well.

Following last season's success, the Lady Tigers and Lady Broncos intend to show the state they will remain competitive.

Lake Belton is coming off the best showing in school history, establishing itself as one of Texas' top teams by winning 33 of 34 games, earning an undefeated league championship and rising to No. 4 in the state rankings.

And the Lady Broncos are fueled by

youth.

The outing was highlighted by guard Aniya Taylor, who completed her junior year by being named 16-5A All-District Most Valuable Player. She averaged a team-high 15.3 points per game during Lake Belton's perfect 10-0 district run to go along with 3.9 rebounds, 3.1 steals and 1.9 assists.

The Lady Broncos received two more superlatives as well.

Freshman small forward Olivia Dann was named newcomer of the year following a 7.7-point, 6.0-rebound, 1.2-steal, 1.2-block and 0.9-assist per-game average debut, and Tiffney Barnes was named head coach of the year.

Additionally, sophomore guards Alexa King and Erica Taylor were placed on the first team, while junior shooting guard Gemma Pierce and sophomore shooting guard Layla King were second-team selections.

During district, Alexa King followed Taylor in scoring, averaging 14.8 points, and Erica Taylor was the team's top rebounder with 6.8, including 2.1 offensive, per game.

The Lady Tigers returned to the playoffs for the first time since 2022 behind sophomore guard Isabella Warner, who led the team offensively with 18.7 points to go with 4.6 rebounds, 2.6 steals, 1.6 assists and 0.8 blocks per game in league play.

Her efforts were complemented by sophomore post Emma Harvey and sophomore Laila Huston.



The Lady Tigers and Lady Broncos each begin their treks through four-team pools June 19.

Belton will play Spring at Rudder High School at 5:40 p.m. before facing Jersey Village at 10:05 a.m. on June 20 at Sadberry Intermediate School. Then, at 4:35 p.m., the Lady Tigers close their stay

against Hutto at Legends Event Center.

Lake Belton plays Poth at Legends Event Center at 5:40 p.m. to open their run before encountering Brock at 9 a.m. on June 20 at Davila Middle School. The Lady Broncos return to Legends Event Center at 2:25 p.m. for their finale against Bridge City.

Belton softball camp inspires next generation

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Belton Softball Field was alive with activity June 8 as the Belton High School Softball Summer Camp opened its three day run, drawing players from third through ninth grade for a morning of instruction, competition and hands on development under the guidance of the Tiger softball program.

Running through June 10 with sessions from 9 a.m. to noon each day, the camp gave participants a full slate of skill work covering nearly every dimension of the game. Hitting, fielding, throwing, sliding and overall game knowledge were all on the agenda, giving them a well rounded experience rather than a narrow focus on

any single area of the sport.

With Belton's coaches and Lady Tiger student athletes leading the sessions directly on the home diamond,

campers got to work in the same environment where Belton softball has built its reputation as one of the stronger programs in District 16-5A.

There's something to be said for a young player stepping into that space, taking cuts in the same batter's box and tracking fly balls on the same turf that

Belton's varsity squad has competed on throughout the season.

The camp's age range stretching from rising third graders all the way through incoming ninth graders meant the instruction had to meet players at different stages of development.

Younger campers were introduced to the foundational mechanics of the game, while older participants had the chance to sharpen more advanced techniques and

gain a better understanding of situational awareness and in game decision making.

The three hour morning format kept things structured and purposeful. With gloves in hand and softball pants on, campers moved through drills and competitive reps at a pace designed to maximize touches and keep energy high throughout each session.

For the Belton program, summer camps are about more than the sport itself. They are a direct investment in the pipeline and a chance to put the coaching staff and players in front of the next wave of Lady Tigers and show them what Belton softball is all about from the ground up.

Three days on the diamond. One program. A whole lot of groundwork laid for what comes next.



Young participants get a chance to learn the basics at basketball camp

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The gyms at South Belton Middle School were filled with energy and the sounds of squeaking sneakers as the Belton Boys Basketball Camp I got underway June 8, bringing together some of the area's youngest ballers for three days of skill building, competition and instruction. Running through June 10, the camp welcomed players in grades first through fifth for morning sessions from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. each day. With Belton coaches and Tiger student athletes leading the way, the camp gave young participants a chance to learn the game from those who know it best, the players and staff who represent Belton basketball every season. For many of the

campers, it was their earliest exposure to the fundamentals of the sport in a structured, program led setting. Coaches walked players through the basics ball handling, footwork, passing and shooting mechanics while student athletes served as role models, demonstrating proper technique and keeping the atmosphere competitive but encouraging throughout the week.

The three hour morning format kept sessions focused giving campers plenty of repetitions without wearing down younger players who are still developing their stamina and attention for the game. Drills were mixed with small sided games and competitive activities, giving kids a chance to apply what they were learning in real time and have fun rather than just standing in lines.

Beyond the X's and O's, camps like this one serve a bigger purpose for a program like Belton's. They plant seeds early, introducing elementary aged kids to the Tiger culture and giving them a vision of what playing basketball at Belton could eventually look like. When a third grader spends his summer mornings working on his crossover with a high school player guiding him along, that moment sticks.

The camp also puts Belton's program in the community in a meaningful way. Parents dropping their kids off each morning at South Belton Middle School got to see the coaching staff in action and witness firsthand the kind of environment Belton basketball cultivates, one built on development, effort and pride in the orange and black.


With the next generation of Tigers already getting their reps in, the future of Belton boys basketball is arriving one summer camp at a time.





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





FLOORCO.
PREMIUM FLOORING & MORE

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

- Vinyl • Hardwood • Laminate
- Carpet • Ceramic Tile
- Vinyl Plank

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

**Engineered Hardwood
(Starting at \$3.00)
Sq. Ft.**

Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Schedules for the Tigers' and Broncos' upcoming trips to Duncanville for the annual Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Boys Showcase were recently announced.

The prestigious three-day event begins June 26, when Belton opens against Cypress Falls at 3:10 p.m. The Tigers follow with a game against Dallas Highland Park at 6:25 p.m.

Both contests will be held at Duncanville Fieldhouse.

Belton closes with a game versus Waxahachie on June 27 at Duncanville High School.

The Broncos begin their stay June 27, facing Dallas White at 6:45 p.m. at Mansfield Summit High School.

Lake Belton returns to the venue June 28 for a 10:05 a.m. start against Brenham. Then, the Broncos play La Porte at Duncanville High School in their finale. Tipoff is set for 2:25 p.m.

The event is an opportunity for hundreds of teams to display thousands of players in front of countless college coaches, who attend in search of talented prospects to recruit.

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.

Next week, there will be a pair of basketball

camps available.

Belton and Lake Belton will each conduct their three-day boys basketball camps beginning Monday.

The Tigers will host incoming sixth- through ninth-graders from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day, while the Broncos will host incoming third- through ninth-graders from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. each day.

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

For more information, BeltonTigers.com or Lake-BeltonAthletics.com.

WRESTLING

Lake Belton is currently holding summer skills sessions each week.

The sessions run every Monday and Wednesday from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Belton's summer strength and conditioning program is underway and is 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.

RUNNING

Registration for the Lions on the Leon Captain "D" Dash for Sight is open until race day Oct. 3.

Hosted by the Belton Lions Club, the five-kilometer race will be held at Heritage Park beginning at 8:30 a.m. An opening ceremony will start at 8:15 a.m.

The event will begin and end at the Lions Pavilion.

Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each age group, and an award will be given to the best pirate costume.


The race proceeds help provide eye exams and glasses for those in need, and donations of used glasses will be accepted for recycling.

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.





Turn your savings into paychecks in retirement

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

Retirement changes everything — especially how you feel about your money. After years of saving, spending can feel uncomfortable. But a clear strategy helps you move forward with confidence.

Start with a conservative budget and give yourself permission to spend those amounts.

Next, consider adding guaranteed income, like an annuity, to create steady cash flow.

A cash cushion helps you avoid selling in down markets, so try to keep about a year of withdrawals in

a cash account and three to five years' of withdrawals in short-term investments.

Review your plan at least annually and adjust after major life changes.

And stay flexible — adjusting spending when markets decline can help your retirement strategy endure.


With a thoughtful approach, you can help make your savings last and enjoy the retirement you've earned. A financial advisor can help you build a strategy tailored to your goals and your lifestyle.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Edward Jones

3011 N. Main, Ste C, Belton, Tx 76513
(254) 933-7680 • scot.hrbacek@edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

We Buy Stocker & Feeder Cattle Daily



Salado


IH-35

FM2115

FM487 X

The benefits of selling your cattle to us are:

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



LOCATION: 4651 EAST FM 487 - SCHWERTNER, TEXAS

Call Anytime: 254-527-3342

Proud supporters of the



2025 EXCELLENCE PRODUCT
2025 TOP PERFORMER GROWTH

(254) 939-0343 TannerRoofing.Com







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



2509 N. Main Street
Belton



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



BELTON HIGH SCHOOL
600 Lake Rd. 215-2200



805 E. 4th Ave. • Belton



WE GO THE EXTRA SMILE



(254) 541-3343
centraltexas.sitmeanssit.com



www.ctcslions.com | 254-939-5700



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



NEED A ROOF? LOCALLY OWNED
Residential, Commercial, General Construction
SERVICES

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





WHITISH
 ROOFING | CONSTRUCTION





YOUR MANAGED SERVICES PROVIDER
 We Make IT Simple.

WE CAN HELP ...

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

templetechnology.net



Norman Building Materials
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1945

WE MAKE SURE YOU EXPERIENCE THE BEST & FASTEST SERVICE.


Building Materials


Millwork


Hardware


Plumbing

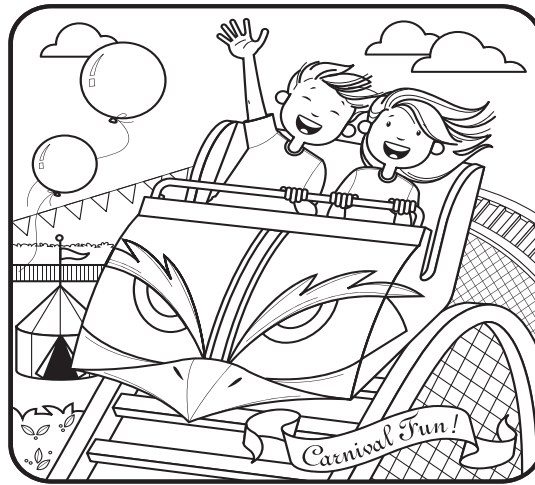

Tools

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



Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

CKATR
1 2 3 4

LAFL
5

PSDEE
6 7

CITTEK
8

O N
5 2 1 4 3 2

2 8 7 6 2

Answers: Track, Fall, Speed, Ticket : Front car rider

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



- 1665:** Thomas Willett is appointed the first mayor of New York City.
- 1817:** The earliest form of bicycle, the dandy horse, is driven by Karl von Drais.
- 1939:** The Baseball Hall of Fame opens in Cooperstown, New York.

World FACT:

The roller coaster that will be the tallest and fastest in the world is being built in this country.

Answer: Saudi Arabia

NEW WORD

INVERSION

a roller coaster that turns riders upside-down

How they say that in...

- English:** Ride
- Spanish:** Atracción
- Italian:** Giostra
- French:** Attraction
- German:** Attraktion

Did You Know?

LaMarcus Adna Thompson is widely credited as being the "father of the roller coaster."



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Roller coaster trestle



FREE 3 Month Trial Subscription

ESTABLISHED IN 1866

THE BELTON JOURNAL



EMPLOYMENT

MCGUIRE TIRE

is looking to hire automotive tire/lube tech. Apply in person 103 Lake Road in Belton, or 603 South First in Temple. Pay based on experience
TFN

FOR SALE

Large round bales of coastal hay. \$40.00 limited Supply. Extra large round bales \$60.00. E. R. King, 254-760-4264
06.04-06.25pd

FOR SALE

Mini freezer, \$60.00. Come by 505 Mitchell St.
06.11,06.18pd

LEGALS

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

Your home or land could be one of your largest investments.

We would be honored to represent you in this important transaction.



We KNOW Belton!
GoCov.com
(254) 939-3800

LEGALS

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 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

APPLICATION HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

For Caseys Marketing Company for a Wine Only Package Store d/b/a Casey's #4742 located at 500 E FM 2410 Rd., Harker Heights, Bell County, TX 76548. Officers: Samuel James – President, Brian Johnson – VP, Douglas Beech – Asst. Sec., Scott Faber – Secretary, Eric Larsen – Treasurer
06.04, 06.11 pd

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of JUDY V. MORRIS PATTERSON, Deceased, were issued on June 5, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00259, pending in the County Court-At-Law: Number one, BELL County, Texas, to: KEENAN CHARLES.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: JAY R. BEATTY Attorney at Law, 3106 South W.S. Young Drive Building D, Suite 401, KILLEEN, TX 76542 DATED the 5th day of June 2026 Jay R. Beatty, State Bar No.: 01992450, 3106 South W.S. Young Drive Building D, Suite 401, KILLEEN, TX 76542, Telephone: (254) 526-3024, Facsimile: (254) 526-2545, E-mail: jbeatty@mbaattorneys.com Attorney for Keenan Charles
06.11

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 25CPB00770

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS
GREGORY SWANE, Applicant, on June 04, 2026, filed an First Amended Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration and First Amended Application to Determine Heirship in a proceeding styled: JANICE CAROL BRANCH, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00770 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 June 11, 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: ASHLEY S CLAPPER CORBIN & CLAPPER PC, 603 N 8TH ST, KILLEEN TX 76541

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

LEGALS

decendent 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 June 05, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Andrea Marks Deputy
06.11

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 26CPB00355

To: Unknown Heirs
JESSICA FUSON, Applicant, on June 02, 2026, filed an application to determine heirship and for letters of dependent administration in a proceeding styled: AMANDA NICOLE FUSON, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00355 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 June 11, 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: STEVE BLYTHE, 319 N. THIRD ST., PO BOX 2088, TEMPLE, TX 76503

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 decendent 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 June 04, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513
By: Erika DeCasas Deputy
06.11

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 26CPB00354

To: Unknown Heirs
REBECCA YU, Applicant, on June 03, 2026, filed an application to determine heirship seeking independent administration and letters of administration in a proceeding styled: MIN WOO HWANG, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00354 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 June 11, 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: LANE HEGINBOTHAM, 425 NORTH 8TH STREET, KILLEEN, TX 76541

LEGALS

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 June 04, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas PO Box 480 1201 Huey Road Belton, TX 76513
By: Erika DeCasas Deputy
06.11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CHONITA YVETTE PISCHINGER, Deceased, were issued on June 2, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00296, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: SCOTT R. PISCHINGER.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. ESTATE OF CHONITA YVETTE PISCHINGER c/o: SCOTT R. PISCHINGER, 17605 Wildrye Drive, Austin, Texas 78738
DATED June 3, 2026.
KAREN M. VILLANUEVA, State Bar No.: 24102608, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: karen@templawoffice.com
06.11

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00344**

To: Unknown Heirs
MICHAEL LYNN ZELISKO, Applicant, on June 01, 2026, filed an application to determine heirship in a proceeding styled: JON CARTER ZELISKO, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00344 in the County

LEGALS

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 June 11, 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: JOHN ERIC STOEBNER, 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 June 01, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas PO Box 480 1201 Huey Road Belton, TX 76513
By: Erika DeCasas, Deputy
06.11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Danny Boyd Buchanan, Jr., Deceased, were issued on May 8, 2026, in Cause No. 25CPB00342, pending in the County Court at Law of, Bell County, Texas to: Daphna Sue Ramos
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being adminis-

LEGALS

tered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Estate of Danny Boyd Buchanan, Jr. c/o: Burke C. Marold Attorney at Law, 2135 E. Hildebrand Ave, San Antonio, Texas 78209
06.11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Guardianship of MARIA TERESSA SMITH, an Incapacitated Person, were issued on June 4, 2026, in Cause No. 25CPB00564, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: GIOVANNE TURINCIO.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. ESTATE OF MARIA TERESSA SMITH c/o: GIOVANNE TURINCIO, GUARDIAN, P.O. Box 142284, Austin, TX 78714
DATED the 8th day of June. 2026.
J. ERIC STOEBNER, State Bar No.: 24046919, 2106 Bird Creek Drive, Temple, TX 76502, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: eric@templawoffice.com
06.11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ELSE BERTA MORRELL, were issued on June 2, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00022, in the County Court at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: STEVEN KIRKPATRICK.
All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within the period prescribed by law. Claims should be mailed to: Steven Kirkpatrick, Independent Executor of The Estate of Else Berta Morrell, Deceased c/o Jeremy Sandoval West Short & Howell, PLLC, 313 W. 10th Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626 DATED the 9th day of June 2026. 06.11

Celebrating

TEXAS

★

16th Annual

Bell County Senior Expo

★



SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2026

★ 8AM - 1PM ★

CADENCE BANK CENTER BELTON, TEXAS

★ A DAY OF RESOURCES, CONNECTIONS & CELEBRATION FOR SENIORS! ★



HEALTH RESOURCES



COMMUNITY VENDORS



GIVEAWAYS



SENIOR SERVICES

★ RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY! ★

SHANNA GROTE
Marketing@BeltonJournal.com
TEXT: 254-654-5166

RANDA MILLER
Sales@BeltonJournal.com
TEXT: 254-493-2637

DAVID TUMA
David@BeltonJournal.com
CALL: 254-939-5754



★ LEARN MORE ★

PRESENTING SPONSORS







CELEBRATING TEXAS ★ CELEBRATING SENIORS ★ CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

EDITORIAL

Top ‘o the mind to ya

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

In a previous column I wrote about TOMA – top of the mind awareness – and what it should do to small businesses and their customers.

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

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

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

People buy when they are ready.

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

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

of us marketing ourselves as a media outlet.)

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

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

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

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

Why do fast food restaurants advertise? McDonald’s is big enough already and makes billions of dollars annually. Why do they advertise? Why do they spend tens of thousands of dollars weekly, if not more? Why don’t they just hang onto that money? Is the company “throwing money away” on ads because they “assume” customers know they already exist?

McDonald’s wants to be the first place on customers’ minds when they want something to eat and want something

fast. They already have ardent fans who will drive up and order – and they likely have customers who have had horrible experiences. They also know they have competition and if they are out of a customer’s sight, they will be out of a customer’s mind.

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

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

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

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

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

Parental Guidance Suggested

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

As I’ve noted in past columns, I’m more for the rock and metal scene when it comes to music. I’ve got quite a few albums between physical and digital, including more than a few that don’t get a whole lot of attention these days from radio and the internet. One of these is Judas Priest’s 1986 “Turbo” album.

If anything from “Turbo” does make it to TV or radio, it’s usually either title track “Turbo Lover” or follow-up single “Locked In”. The rest of the album is largely overlooked, even if “Reckless” is sometimes mentioned in context of the original “Top Gun” movie (as some sources say that it was almost on the soundtrack). Today, though, I’m calling attention to the track “Parental Guidance”.

For as long as there’s been rock & roll as a genre, there’s been “concerned” adults who felt

it was a bad influence on the youth of whatever country the music made its way to. And as so often happens, as time went on even many of the youth who enjoyed the rock & roll of their era came to be suspicious of the rock & roll of their kids’ era. That’s where this song comes in.

You see, the song is from the perspective of a frustrated teenager. They know that the parental figure they’re speaking to used to really dig rock & roll when they were a teenager. As a consequence, they can’t entirely square how it is that their parent went from being a rocker to being so opposed to rock. Rather than ranting and raving, however, the teenager in question tries to turn things around. Cue such lines as “Every day you scream at me to turn the music low, but if you keep on screaming, you’ll make me deaf, you know”.

The song ultimately ends with the teenager throwing down a sort of gauntlet, but *not* out of disrespect. Rather, the teenager extends a spare jacket to their parental figure and invites their parental figure to go to a concert with them; the jacket is something the parent can wear so that they better fit in. Essentially, the teenager is saying “how about experiencing what I’m into for yourself and *then* deciding if it’s as bad as you thought it was?”.

Folks, so-called “moral panics” are nothing new. I myself have lived through more than I can count. Dungeons & Dragons. Mortal Kombat. Doom. Beavis & Butthead. Backwards messages on heavy metal albums. You name it. I’m also now at an age where the younger crowd is starting to see me as a wise adult figure and mentor. So I’m rather at an in-

between point.

Parents, if you’re concerned about whatever hobby or interest your kids are into, ask if you can take part in it yourselves so that you can make a more informed decision about how good or bad it actually is; once you’ve done that, follow up by offering to share with them some of what you were into at that age.

Kids, if your parents are questioning something that you’re doing, don’t be afraid to openly discuss it with them or even invite them to join you so that they can see what it is you’re seeing in whatever you’re doing.

This all goes back to what I keep saying about how we need to step outside of ourselves a little more and try new things so that we better understand each other and form connections. Remember, “sharing is caring” and whatnot.

Random Thinks

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnost

Why is it called “Gator”-ade if there is no actual gator in the recipe?

How come blue jeans take about five good washings before you can wear them? Then at some point they teeter on a couple of washings and they come apart at the seams.

What if a bee or ant suddenly decided that he was no longer a social creature and wanted to move out on his own?

Have you ever noticed that when it starts to lightly rain, you move your intermittent wipers up, and the rain increases, so you change to a faster wiper, and just about the time you go to full-blown wipers on, the rain quits?

Who first grabbed a kiwifruit and felt the skin and decided to try and eat it anyway?

Have you ever thought this; Pluto was a planet, then wasn’t, then was, then wasn’t again. Has anyone ever seen Pluto that you know? What if this is some science joke a bunch of bored astronomers are pulling on us? Maybe Pluto doesn’t really exist and they just like the drama.

What would happen if a rogue hurricane hit Arizona instead of Florida?

What, or should I say “who” did we use before crash test dummies?

Why is it called a “sun roof”? Because when the sun is

out you have it closed.

I wonder if some early cook popped a super hot pepper in his mouth and then thought; “Wow this was a really dumb idea”?

Maybe there was another early cook that was walking through a field and found a leafy plant, tasted the leaf and thought; “This tastes horrible, so I will dig up this and see if something is below ground that tastes better”, and discovered turnips. And probably the same thing with beets, only they weren’t quite bad enough without pickling and coloring them.

Does it make sense for a multi-story hotel to have a “Stair Master” in their exercise room?

How come the new car smell only lasts a couple of months, but by golly if you hit a skunk that smell stays with you forever?

I found a job better than a TV weatherman...err... weather-person. It is the guy that travels all over the world looking for the answer to all the mysteries. He never really finds anything, and just ends up with more questions than answers, yet gets to keep his show for another season.

We all know this random couple. Him (starting a story); Last Wednesday, no, Thursday, no it was Wednesday. Her; Typical, you can’t remember anything, especially our anniversary.

sary. Him; Well I only remember pleasant things. Her; Well it hasn’t been a cake walk for me either. Him; Well sure looks like you eat a lot of cake. Her; It sure wasn’t your mother making cakes fit for human consumption. Him; I didn’t know my mother taught you to cook. ...etc... until everyone else in the room feels uncomfortable...

Have you noticed two types of people with beards, they go without shaving for a couple of weeks, half immediately look like lumberjacks and the others just look homeless.

Have you ever been driving along and thought; why in the world would anyone buy a car in that color?

Why can’t all the small electrical device makers get on the same page and come up with one type of charger so you don’t have to carry enough cables to wrap around the moon? I have an extra one that stays in my travel bag, it doesn’t fit anything that I have, but I am afraid to get rid of it.

What if you had a catfish that, like a cat, didn’t like water? And what do catfish eat, mouse-fish or bird-fish?

All those old western towns, like you would see in TV shows and the movies, who cut the barber’s hair? Or perhaps that is where the mullet started.

A few thoughts for the week.

Genie in a bottle

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

Me: It’s your bottle. You do it.

Her: Ew! Mom, no. (Screams again.) Mom, please. Do something!

Now, in front of Staples there was a table set up with a sign that read Jesus Saves or something like that, and behind that table sat a man who looked very much like he was enjoying the show.

I took the Sprite bottle and walked it to the garbage can, which happened to be right next to the Jesus man. I figured the mouse would spill out into the trash and have a smorgasbord of popcorn and candy bar remnants, like Templeton from Charlotte’s Web. “There’s a mouse in here,” I explained to the Jesus man, as if that were the most logical thing in the world I could say.

“Aren’t you gonna set it free?” he asked, grinning like this was the most action he’d seen all day.

“Be my guest,” I said.

That’s when his friend exited the store and sat down next to him, behind the table. Now, this friend was about eight feet tall, had a beard, and reminded me a little bit of Goliath, only friendlier. I gestured to the bottle, which was upright on top of the jam-packed trashcan. “There’s a mouse in that Sprite.”

“Aren’t you gonna let it out?” Goliath asked.

“Go right ahead,” I told him. “I’m not touching it.”

Girl-child and I entered Staples as if nothing out-of-the-ordinary had just happened. The sad thing is that for our family, this really wasn’t that big of a stretch.

We made our purchase and left the store. “Did you let him out?” I asked the Jesus-men.

“Yep,” Goliath said. “He’s one of God’s creatures, too.”

“That may be, but he was trespassing,” I replied, and

they laughed. I wasn’t trying to be funny.

Now here’s the thing. Once in the bottle, it would have been nearly impossible for that mouse to escape without help. Not entirely impossible, mind you . . . but it was a lot easier with assistance from the Goliath-man. It reminded me of the Bible verse that says it’s easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven.

In biblical times, the Eye of the Needle was a low portal in the city wall. Anyone entering or leaving the city had to go through that gate. Merchants who wanted to enter with a loaded-down camel had a hard time of it; the camel had to be stripped of all its extra baggage. Then it had to kneel down and crawl through on its knees. It was possible, but difficult.

In other words, the camel had to humble himself, if he wanted to get into the city. And the rich man (meaning pretty much anybody here in the U.S.) has to humble himself if he wants to become who God wants us to be. I can’t speak for anybody else, but humbling myself has never come easy for me. I was taught to hold my head high and have pride in who I am . . . and yet if I want to live out God’s purpose for my life, I have to strip myself of my extra baggage, kneel down, and crawl.

But like the Jesus-giant helped that mouse the other day, the Holy Spirit helps us. Who’d have thought a drenched rodent could help deliver such a powerful message.

I guess you could call it a mouse-age in a bottle.

“Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God,” Matthew 19:24.

Sometimes, I long for a dull life. Just a simple, peaceful life where there are no daily crises, no high-drama moments, and no stories to tell. Oh, the bliss. Just a bland, grey life filled with nothing but yawns and cozy cat-stretches . . . this is the existence of my dreams.

My real life, most days, is too far-fetched for even Hollywood to produce. Like the time when my daughter bought a bottle of Sprite while I was getting gas.

The drama started when, about ten miles down the road, she dropped the bottle lid and it rolled under the seat somewhere. She spent a minute or two looking for it before giving up. Okay, no real drama yet, but just hang with me.

We got home, unloaded the car, and forgot all about the capless bottle of Sprite in the car. Until the next day, that is.

We had some errands to run. We’d just pulled into a front row space at Staples, when my daughter squealed, “Mom! There’s a frog in my Sprite bottle!”

Sure enough, a creature peered at me from inside her half-empty soda container. Only, it wasn’t a frog. It looked like some kind of drenched alien space being, paddling for its life. Was it a genie? I couldn’t be sure. I rubbed the side of the bottle, just in case.

That’s when the woman-child screams, “It’s a mouse! Oh-my-gosh-oh-my-gosh-oh-my-gosh! Mom, get it out!”

People around us stared.

The conversation went something like this:

Her: Mom! Do something!

Me: What do you want me to do?

Her: Set it free!

Me: In the car? I don’t think so.

Her: Over there, in the grass!



Local Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

June

- 06/11: Mexican Train Dominoes, Couples Night Out
- 06/15: Snack Time Mah Jong, Bunco
- 06/17: Popcorn Bridge
- 06/18: Nonfiction Book Club
- 06/22: Well Read Women, Monday Canasta
- 06/23: Singing Bluebonnets
- 06/25: Mexican Train Dominoes
- 06/26: Fun Lunch
- 06/27: 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



BCYC Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction - June 13

Save the date, June 13, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Johnny Steakhouse, 301 Thomas Arnold Rd, Salado. This year's event will once again feature our signature reverse raffle, silent auction, great food, and a fun night of fellowship and generosity in support of the Belton Christian Youth Center. For more information visit beltonyouth.com/reverse-raffle/

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.

NAMI - June 23

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on TUESDAY, June 23rd at 6:30pm at the Temple VA Hospital. Use the entrance on the Valet parking side of the hospital and take the elevator to the 5th floor -Conference Room 5G31. Both care-givers, supporters and those suffering from mental illness are welcome to join us for mutual support and sharing of information. For more information, call 254-771-3638.

1976 Class Reunion - June 27

Join your classmates on June 27, 2026, 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at the singing Coyote Farm, 6841 West FM 436, Belton for an evening of Fun, Fellowship, and Fireworks.

America's 250th Birthday Party, MPR - July 3

Bring the family for a morning of patriotic fun as Morgan's Point Resort celebrates America's 250th birthday! The event begins with a 10:00 a.m. ceremony at the City Hall flagpole, Morgan's Point Resort City Hall, 8 Morgan's Point Blvd., Morgan's Point Resort. Followed by outdoor games, birthday cake, and a Glow Room Party inside the Library. Additional activities may be added as the date approaches. All are welcome.

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@mc-11249tx.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 Care-giver 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 the Bell County Museum, 201 North Main St., Belton, TX. 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 additional information please 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. If you have a desire to meet, learn, and work together with those of similar interests or just curious, come visit with us and see what we are about. Mah Jong games are available every Monday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come join the fun and meet new folks. For more information text Jeanne at 409-313-0611 or just come by.

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.

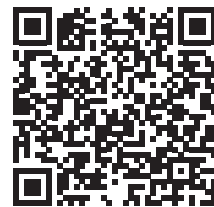
Bell County Texas Democratic Women holds their monthly meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Belton AgriLife Center, 1605 N Main in Belton. Join us to hear from local and state candidates and about important issues and events. This is open to the public.

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 BISS 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

STAY CONNECTED: STAY INFORMED

GOT A LOCAL EVENT, CHURCH GATHERING, OR MEETING?
TELL US AND KEEP EVERYONE IN THE LOOP.

EMAIL DETAILS TO:
NEWS@BELTONJOURNAL.COM
 OR CALL (254) 939-5754

IF WANT TO SPONSOR THIS PAGE
 EMAIL: DAVID@BELTONJOURNAL.COM

Belton students receive scholarships through Central Texas College Foundation



Courtesy Photo

William Rea of Belton received three scholarships during the Central Texas College Foundation's 34th Annual Scholarship Event. Pictured with CTC Chancellor Dr. Michele J. Carter, Rae was awarded the Central Texas College Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship, the Dr. Ray Stanley Laney and Dr. Billie Johnson Laney Endowed Scholarship, and the Kinesiology Endowed Scholarship. The scholarships will help support his educational goals as he continues his journey at Central Texas College.

By Wendy Sledd
Special to the Journal

The Central Texas College Foundation awarded 252 scholarships totaling more than \$601,000 during its 34th annual scholarship event, continuing its mission of making higher education accessible and affordable for students from all backgrounds.

Two Belton residents received a total of four scholarships.

Ricardo Castillo Flores received the Single Parents Endowed Scholarship.

William Rea received the Central Texas College Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship, the Dr. Ray Stanley Laney and Dr. Billie Johnson Laney Endowed Scholarship, and the Kinesiology Endowed Scholarship.

The scholarships support students pursuing academic degrees, workforce

training, and career certifications at Central Texas College, helping reduce financial barriers and opening doors to future opportunities.

"The generosity of our donors continues to transform lives through education," said Valerie Payson, Executive Director of the CTC Foundation. "These scholarships help students overcome financial challenges, remain focused on their studies and pursue goals that might otherwise be out of reach. We are grateful for the community support that makes these opportunities possible."

The Foundation raises scholarship funds throughout the year through community-supported events including its annual golf tournament, purse bingo, bowling tournament, and other fundraising initiatives. Donations from local businesses, alumni, organizations, and community members continue to expand

opportunities for CTC students.

The impact of the scholarships was evident throughout the event as students shared how the awards are changing their educational journeys.

Foundation Board Member Cyd West emphasized the importance of investing in students and strengthening the community through education.

"By continuing to expand scholarship opportunities, the Central Texas College Foundation is helping students stay on track toward graduation, career advancement, and long-term success while reinforcing CTC's commitment to accessible education for all," she said.

Central Texas College's next scholarship application window is open July 1-31 with scholarships awarded for the fall semester which begins Aug. 17.

Expert, Affordable Auto Repairs & Maintenance

DARREL & STEVEN GREEN

254-770-0666 | www.DarrelGreensAutoTX.com

Call us today to reach over 12,000 readers from Temple to Lampasas, Cove to Hamilton!

254-939-5754 • ads@beltonjournal.com

ESTABLISHED IN 1866

THE BELTON JOURNAL

COPPERAS COVE

LEADER PRESS

SINCE 1881

THE GATESVILLE MESSENGER

BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Texas Vintage Addiction Keeps Shoppers Coming Back

SHOP UNIQUE.

Texas Vintage Addiction
Antique Shop and Estate Sales

Home of the affordable unique antiques

WHAT YOU'LL FIND:

- Antiques & Collectibles
- Furniture & Home Décor
- Vintage Finds
- Estate Sales & More

UNIQUE FINDS FROM YESTERYEAR

Giving old treasures a new home.

(254) 856-3765
206 E 6th Ave, Belton TX
Tuesday-Sat 10am-5pm

Follow us on Facebook for new arrivals and estate sales!

Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Texas Vintage Addiction, located in a historic home in Belton, has several vendors, and those vendors have repeat customers. Kimberly and Doug Hunter, who run the shop, know that customers return to see what vendors have added to their booth area.

Traveling from room to room, customers discover silver serving dishes, crystal, China sets, women's hats from days gone by, and vinyl records. There is also furniture, uranium items that glow under black light at the shop, books tucked into bookshelves, wall décor hanging, lighting on display, and jewelry in a glass hutch.

Kimberly Hunter said the vendors have given people a reason to come back. They stock about 80 percent true

vintage items and mix in newer pieces here and there.

Kimberly Hunter has learned their customers are looking for a good deal and quality items. She has tips to help them out.

"With this economy people are looking for things that they can use and not fall apart. The condition is important. I would make sure things are real wood, and if it's not real wood, it should be priced accordingly," said Kimberly Hunter.

Kimberly explained that vintage means an item is 20 years old or more. To be considered an antique, furniture is 100 years old or more.

Texas Vintage Addiction is located on 206 E Sixth Avenue in Belton and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Bell County Museum

Let's Dance, Sing, and Paint

Join us to celebrate African American art, dance, and music!

Explore the work of Alvin Ailey, Alma Thomas, and Scott Joplin with fun crafts and activities.

LET'S DANCE, SING & PAINT!

Date: June 20, 2026
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

BELL COUNTY MUSEUM ALWAYS FREE ADMISSION!

201 N. Main St. Belton
BellCountyMuseum.Org

English Maids

We will sweep you off your feet!

Kay English
Owner
info@englishmaids.biz

Lauren English-Thurman
Director of Operations
lauren@englishmaids.biz

254-231-0583

Residential/Commercial • Cleaning Service
FREE Estimates • Bonded • Insured • Work Comp • Locally Owned and Operated

Cash

We Pay Top Dollar for Junk Cars!
We Can Haul it Too!

(254) 939-6700

Budget WRENCH A PART

Self Service Auto Parts

"Bring your own tools"

Open 7 Days a Week
4497 W. Hwy. 190 • Belton

New York-style Italian ice, imported directly from NYC

SCOTTI'S ITALIAN ICE

Bringing The Jersey Shore To Texas

Catering & Events:
AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND FOR BIRTHDAYS, CORPORATE EVENTS, SCHOOL FUNCTIONS, WEDDINGS, AND MORE.

219 S East Street Belton, TX 76513
(Behind The Gin)

www.scottisitalianice.com