

Look For Graduation  
TAB INSIDE



Bestselling local author  
launches national  
book tour in Belton

**By Harvey Jackson Oss**  
*The Belton Journal*

The Bell County Museum hosted a lecture and book signing event for local author Bryan Burrough on the evening of Friday, June 13.

The event was the first in a planned nation-wide tour for his newest book “The Gunfighters: How Texas Made the Wild West” which was released ten days prior.

The book has already been featured by publications such as the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and Washington Post.

Burrough—a native of Temple—began his career as a newspaper re-

porter for the Wall Street Journal. He was sought out by book publishers after his coverage of the 1988 leveraged buy-out of RJR Nabisco, the largest in history at the time.

Book writing had always been an interest for Burrough, so he took the opportunity. The Gunfighters marks Burrough’s eighth book, half of which are New York Times bestsellers.

Many of Burrough’s books revolve around separating fact from fiction in historical narratives—“I never cared much about fiction... I

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Bell County Farmer’s Market  
offers assortment of vendors



**ABOVE LEFT:** Melissa Guy talks with Daniel and BJ Lara about their locally grown produce. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Vendors line the parking lot at the weekly Bell County Farmer’s Market.

**By Annie Dockery**  
*The Belton Journal*

The Bell County Farmers Market sets up every Saturday, 7 a.m. until noon at 411 East Central in Belton.

The vendors offer up fresh fruits, vegetables, baked goods, meat and much more, including an Artisan Market. The venue is currently hosting about 15 booths.

Daniel Lara, Market Manager for the Bell County Farmers Market said, “We are here every Saturday. We’re in Temple every Tuesday and Thursday, from 7:00 to noon. We are a good family here.”

Much of the produce is locally grown. Lara has his own booth, D & L set up at the Market.

“The only (items that are) not local is the Cantaloupes and Watermelon. They all come out of Gustine, Texas,” Lara said. “We have zuc-

chini, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, and potatoes.”

Just starting out growing vegetables, Lara says they were helping a customer that he and his brother, BJ Lara knew. The customer encouraged them to grow their own because they had plenty of space to do it.

“Ok. We will try it. And we did. And we have been doing it for about 14 years now.” Lara said, “We try to grow everything we can.”

He continues, “A lot of people ask, ‘Well, do you spray our produce? No. Mother Nature, if it lets it grow, it grows. If it doesn’t, then we will try again.’”

Richard and Susan Riley’s booth, Meakleaf, displays their locally grown Microgreens.

“We have spicy mixed greens, sunflower, kale, carrots, cilantro, broccoli, and radish,” Susan Riley said.

Normally working on the weekends at the local hospital, Frances Wheeler says she comes to the market when she can.

“When I am off, I do come down here in the summertime,” Wheeler said, “for all the fresh produce that I enjoy in the summertime...the melons, the microgreens, and all the vegetables.”

Renee Biddle is a repeat customer at the Bell County Farmer’s Market. She says she likes the fresh vegetables and the unique items.

“It’s a fun thing to do on a Saturday morning,” Biddle said while visiting the booth of Margie Ramthum, Margie’s Cooking and Crafting.

For more information about the Bell County Farmer’s Market or interest in becoming a vendor call or text Daniel Lara at 254-624-4718.

Lara said, “Come out and support us.”

Leadership Belton celebrates class of 2025 graduation



Courtesy Photo

*Special to the Journal*

The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated graduates of the Leadership Belton Class of 2025 at a special luncheon on Thursday, June 12 at the Harris Community Center.

Wayne Carrpenter, former Mayor and City Council Member, and long-time Belton servant leader, provided a message to encourage and inspire the new graduates as they continue their servant leadership in our community.

Graduates of the Leadership Belton Class of 2025 are Daniel Aguirre, Deputy Chief for Belton Police Department, Amanda Cruz with Edward Jones, Leah

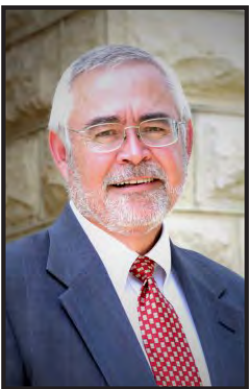
Hodges with H2 Realty Team, Jenny McCaslin with Kelly Realtors, Rodney Morales with Horizon Bank, Uche Ogwudu with Touch Root Foundation, Kourtney Rambeau with First Community Title, Delilah Ramirez with Extraco Banks, Freddy Robles with City of Belton Public Works, Justin Rogers with Belton Christian Youth Center, Chad Ruff with CGI, and Lindsay Weaver, formerly with City of Belton.

Leadership Belton is a 10-month program sponsored by the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce focusing on three key elements: community awareness training, leadership training, and team building.

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Members of the Leadership Belton class of 2025 are celebrated during a graduation ceremony on June 12 after completing the 10-month program.

David Blackburn is Belton 4th of July Parade Grand Marshal



David  
Blackburn

*Special to the Journal*

The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce announced that the Grand Marshal of the Belton 4th of July Parade this year will be David Blackburn, Bell County Judge.

The theme for this year’s parade is “Celebrating 175 Years of Bell County” so it is fitting that one of the most recognizable leaders in Bell County, the County Judge, serves as the Grand Marshal.

Blackburn has served as Bell

County Judge since 2019, with a career in local government service spanning 30 years, including previously serving as City Manager for the cities of Killeen and Temple, as President of Temple Economic Development Corporation, and as a board member on a number of other boards and commissions.

“We are excited to celebrate the 175-year anniversary of Belton and Bell County with our theme for the parade this year,” stated Randy Pittenger, President/CEO

of the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce. “Judge Blackburn is a great representative, not only of our community, but also of the historical legacy we enjoy. It is notable that he was a history major in college long ago, and continues as a champion of our local history.”

The annual parade serves as the centerpiece of a week-long 4th of July celebration in Belton that will start with a Downtown Street

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# Belton ISD celebrates milestone as 2022 bond projects reach completion

Special to the Journal

The Belton Independent School District announced last week the successful near-completion of projects funded by the district’s \$173.8 million 2022 Bond, thanks to the collaborative efforts of district leaders, staff, contractors, and an engaged community of stakeholders.

From concept to completion, the 2022 Bond has

brought improvements to campuses and programs across the district—enhancing student experiences and positioning the district for long-term success.

Guided by priorities set during months of community engagement, including the work of a dedicated Bond Exploration Committee, the 2022 Bond prioritized growth, safety and security, facility

improvements and future-ready learning environments.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mike Morgan, who has been involved in the process since its early planning stages, praised the spirit of collaboration behind the bond’s development and execution.

“The extensive engagement of hundreds of stakeholders throughout the needs assessments,

design phases, programming, and feedback loops was extraordinary,” said Morgan. “The projects actively work to level the playing field for our students, ensuring that the facilities of their specific campus do not dictate the quality of their learning experience.”

Despite facing steep inflation and long material delays, all projects under the bond program were completed without major scope reductions.

New facilities like James L. Burrell Elementary and Hubbard Branch

Elementary, along with significant renovations at Belton High School, Lake Belton Middle School and Southwest Elementary, have added over 1,500 elementary seats and addressed key aging facility needs.

More than \$6 million in safety and security upgrades were also delivered district-wide, including new secure vestibules, shatterproof window film, and improved playground and lighting systems.

Board Trustee Brandon Bozon, who previously served on both the Bond

Exploration Committee and the Bond Committee, called the experience “extremely rewarding.”

Bozon stated, “Providing high-quality learning environments for our children and the educators who dedicate their careers to them is critical. From elementary education to middle school extracurriculars to high school career and technical education, everything has been enhanced through this bond program. Our children

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## Book - From Page A1

loved the facts,” he said.

Burrough read his first book about gunfighters at age 11 when he was a student at Cater Elementary in Temple. From that point on, he knew he would eventually write his own work about them.

In *The Gunfighters*, Burrough postulates that Texas, as the overlap between the old dueling south and the new gunfighting southwest, was the origin of the culture of violence that plagued the region in the late 19th century. Chaos seemed to follow Texan cattlemen to every town they passed through along the Chisholm Trail.

Crafting a generalized book about gunfighters was a challenge for Burrough, as the men of focus covered disparate areas and did not interact with one another. The typical approach to the genre was to cover a collection of gunfighters and confine their lives to individual and separate chapters, but Burrough was not satisfied with this approach. Through his narrative of Texan influence on the wild west, Burrough tied the lives of these men together into one overarching story.

*The Gunfighters* is casual, conversational, and at times humorous, and features names you probably know, like Wild Bill Hickok and Billy the Kid, alongside some you may not recognize such as Elfego Baca and Commodore Perry Owens.

Burrough first spoke at the Bell County Museum in 2019, and has helped recruit other authors such as Wes Ferguson, Sarah Bird, and David Courtney.

“I think he kind of thinks of the museum as his home base, which is really special for us,” stated Executive Director Coleman Hampton, who opened for Burrough.

The free event reached capacity in record time compared to similar events in the museum’s history.

Burrough, referring to the museum, stated, “Institutions like this are what keep our community strong.”

Attendee Earl Nottingham commented on the author, “It’s just amazing to see the national attention and notoriety that a local guy has achieved, and the content of the book is just so amazing too.”



**BELTON JOURNAL/HARVEY JACKSON OSS**  
Local author Bryan Burrough signs a book at the Bell County Museum on Friday evening. The museum hosted Burrough’s first event promoting his new book “*The Gunfighters: How Texas Made the Wild West*.”



**File photo**  
Hubbard Branch Elementary School officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony in January 2024. The new campus was constructed as part of the 2022 bond projects.

## Leadership - From Page A1

The program provides opportunities for participants to learn about and engage in the community through site visits, meetings and presentations with community leaders, and working on project teams.

Participants are selected through an application process and meet monthly with a specific focus for each session. The first session focuses on leadership skills and team building, with other sessions focusing on Social Services, Education (public, private, and post-secondary), Healthcare, Economic Development, City and County Government, State Government, Quality of Life/Recreation, and the Military (Fort Cavazos). Visits to key locations around the Belton area for a behind-the-scenes look at the operations of various businesses and organizations include opportunities to meet with a variety of community leaders.

Another significant element of the program is

the team building component. The class is asked to select a project within our community that will have a lasting impact. Each group is assigned a mentor to assist in the project planning and implementation process. Chamber Board Members Rhonda Eggleston and Meredith Duke served as mentors for groups this year. These projects become a source of pride for the members, as well as an opportunity to contribute to the betterment of the community.

One of the projects for this year was to add security cameras in Yettie Polk Park. These cameras will provide additional safety for the public when using the hike and bike trail or park areas such as the basketball court.

The other project team focused on improvements at Miller Heights Park, including resurfacing the court, and adding benches, dog waste stations and trees.

Team members pro-

vided status updates on their projects at the graduation luncheon, and will be scheduling events to highlight the sponsors when the projects are complete.

“Leadership Belton continues to be an exceptional experience for our participants,” stated Randy Pittenger, Belton Area Chamber President/CEO. “The opportunities to learn and grow have been significant not only for each participant, but also for our community. We are proud of the work they have done and know they are well equipped to be leaders in our community.”

The Chamber is currently accepting applications for the next Leadership Belton class set to begin in September.

For more information about Leadership Belton, other programs, or membership in the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, visit the website at [www.beltonchamber.com](http://www.beltonchamber.com), call 254-939-3551, or email [info@beltonchamber.com](mailto:info@beltonchamber.com).

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# OBITUARIES

## Watson

**Dr. Darrell Gene Watson**  
August 29, 1947 – June 15, 2025

Dr. Darrell Gene Watson of Belton, Texas, passed away June 15, 2025, at the age of 77.

The funeral service will be held at 10 am on Friday, June 20, 2025, at Dossman Funeral Home in Belton, Texas, with the burial service to follow at the Old Independence Cemetery in Brenham, Texas.

Darrell was born to Ralph Walter & Bessie Fay Watson on August 29, 1947, in Quanah, Texas. He graduated from Childress High School in 1965 and Sul Ross State Teachers College in 1969. He earned his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Texas A&M University in 1975. Darrell taught at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) for more than 31 years, also serving as the Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences during that time. He holds several patents and is one of only two professors at UMHB to be selected for the prestigious Piper Professor Award which recognizes superior teaching at the college level. Dr. Watson’s research played a large part in the development of an anticonvulsant drug for individuals with epilepsy, which was brought to market in 2008.

Dr. Watson was heavily involved in getting youth excited about science. He founded a Young Scholars summer workshop, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, which gave students about to enter high school the chance to learn math and science on a college campus working with college professors. He also taught Chem Camp, which gave elementary school students opportunities to gain hands-on experience with science experiments and chemical reactions. Dr. Watson started the Demos in the Dark program, where he and his team would travel to schools to demonstrate exciting chemical reactions and experiments.

At his retirement from UMHB, he was named Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and holds the Amy LeVesconte Professorship.

He married Patricia Ann McAlister August 30, 1968 in Alpine, Texas. Darrell and Trish lived in Belton for the past 34 years where he loved fishing, gardening, and coin collecting.

Darrell is survived by his wife Patricia and 3 sons; Mike and wife Brandy, Ron and wife Samantha, Allen and wife Lauren. He was the proud “Pa Pa” to Adrienne, Zachary, Rebekah, Amelia, Adelynn, Wyatt, and Elizabeth.

Darrell is preceded in death by his parents and younger brother Fred Watson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Darrell’s name to the Georgetown Palace Theatre, the Chemistry Department at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, or seeingeye.org.

## Otunuya

**Amaya Renee Otunuya**  
June 10, 2025 — June 10, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of sweet Amaya Renee Otunuya, who was born sleeping on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, in Temple, Texas. As one of two identical twins, Amaya embarked on her eternal journey to be with the Lord.

From the moment Mr. and Mrs. Otunuya found out they were expecting their “two little cuties”, a nod to the only thing that mom could eat without adverse effect (mandarins), their hearts brimmed with joy and

anticipation for these immensely loved little ones. On March 24, which also marked her father’s birthday, an official doctor’s appointment confirmed the miraculous news of the twins. The couple was eager to welcome their precious daughters and showered them with love even before their arrival. Jessica experienced the joys and challenges of pregnancy, craving mandarins and string cheese, while Isaiah greeted each new day with heartfelt “Good Mornings” directed towards his girls. The atmosphere in their home was filled with laughter, love, and musical praise, as Jessica would sing gospel hymns that echoed her deep faith—including favorites like “Incredible God-Incredible Praise” and “Brighter Day.”

As the days passed, the twins shared a special bond, often described as a compassionate hug, cradled closely in their mother’s womb. Even up to the point of Amaya’s last breath, her twin sister comforted her head-to-head and chest-to-chest.

Amaya is survived by her devoted parents, Isaiah and Jessica Otunuya, and her twin sister, Alani, who remains actively growing in mom’s belly. Amaya will forever be cherished for the brief but beautiful moments they shared with her. Though her time with us was fleeting, her impact on the hearts of her family is indelible. As they navigate the days ahead, they carry with them the love and light that Amaya brought, holding on to their memories until they meet again.

Amaya Renee Otunuya’s spirit will remain a cherished part of her family’s story, a reminder of love’s enduring presence, even within a brief life.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center.

## Lunde

**Rose Celia Lunde**  
June 4, 1933 — June 10, 2025

Rose Celia Lunde, a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, peacefully departed this life on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, in Belton, Texas, at the age of 92. Born on June 4, 1933, in the Village of Walton, New York, Rose was a vibrant spirit who filled the lives of those around her with joy and laughter.

While in her younger years she was baptized as a Lutheran in Osceola, Wisconsin, Rose graduated from high school and married Ruddy Lee Lunde. Together, they welcomed three children into the world: Rodney Lee Lunde, born in 1951, Robert Len Lunde in 1956, and their daughter, Rhonda, in 1958. As a military wife, she supported her family with grace while balancing her roles as a devoted mother and conscientious homemaker.

In 1988, Rose embarked on an entrepreneurial journey when she bought and operated the Barrel Inn, a local beer joint, until 1994. Known for her bubbly and outgoing personality, she formed strong connections with her patrons, treating them like family. Rose’s vibrant spirit extended beyond her professional life; she was a woman of many interests, enjoying dancing to Western music, camping, and spending time at the lake. She possessed a servant’s heart, always going out of her way to do for others and ensuring that every situation was met with a positive outlook.

After the passing of her husband she married a lifetime friend, Walter Greeson where together they have spent the rest of their lives together.

Rose leaves behind a legacy of love and togetherness. She is survived by her two sons, Rodney Lee Lunde and Robert Len Lunde and his wife, Jessica; her daughter, Rhonda Copeland and her husband, Lonnie; one brother, Harry Peterson and his wife, Sally; one sister, Shirley Lubinsky and her husband, John; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Rose was most proud of her family, cherishing every moment spent with them.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George Peterson and Eleanor (Greenburg) Peterson; her first husband, Ruddy Lee Lunde; three brothers, Jim, Edward, and George Peterson; and one sister, Dorothy Adams.

Rose’s life was a testament to the power of love, laughter, and family. Her enduring spirit will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. May she rest in peace.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial

donation to the VFW POST 1820 to help veterans in need Attn: Service Officer.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center.

## Young

**Jeanette Kay Young**  
December 26, 1960 - June 3, 2025

Jeanette Kay Young, affectionately known as “Grandma,” left this world unexpectedly on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at the age of 64 in Temple, Texas. Born on December 26, 1960, in Salem, Oregon, to Ernest and Stella (Holmes) Young. Jeanette was a beacon of warmth and humor, leaving an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Jeanette’s life was a testament to dedication and service. After graduating from high school, she began her career with the honor and pride of serving in the Air Force, enlisting in February 1986. During her time at Lackland Air Force Base, she displayed unwavering commitment, earning the Air Force Training Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal. Jeanette was a proud participant in Operation Desert Shield/Storm, where her contributions made a difference to her fellow service members.

After transitioning to civilian life, Jeanette brought her nurturing spirit to the community through her work in research coordinating. She furthered her education by earning an associate degree in science from Austin Community College. Her passion for pharmaceuticals and her dedication to helping fellow veterans was evident; she became known as the ‘community mom’ among her friends and neighbors, always extending kindness and support to those around her.

A vibrant personality, Jeanette was renowned for her comical sense of humor, often sharing the best—and sometimes the dirtiest—jokes that brought laughter to any gathering. She approached life with a selfless attitude, always thinking of others before herself, embodying a spirit of charity that touched countless lives. A devoted Green Bay Packers fan, she cheered passionately for her team, a trait that her family will fondly remember.

Jeanette is survived by her loving son, James Harrell and his wife Samantha; two daughters, Sabrina Freytag and her husband Nick, Cassandra Roberts and her husband Joe; her beloved brother, Robert Cox; in addition to five cherished grandchildren who were the light of her life. Jeanette also leaves behind her adored cat, Gibbs, who brought her much comfort and joy.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and

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**BELTON JOURNAL/DAVID TUMA**  
As of June 17, 2025, Belton, Texas, has received approximately 17.5 inches of rainfall this year. In 2024, Belton had received 11.85 inches of rain through May. Pictured is Nolan Creek near flood stage from last week.

## Obits - From Page A3

Stella Mae (Holmes) Young, whose love and values inspired her throughout her life. Jeanette was immensely proud of her educational achievements and instilled in her family the importance of pursuing knowledge, encouraging them to reach for their dreams.

In reflecting on Jeanette’s life, it is clear that her legacy is woven through the many hearts she touched. Her love for her family—her children and grandchildren—defined her existence, making her a matriarch whose spirit will continue to guide and inspire them. As we remember Jeanette, let us carry forward her laughter, her kindness, and her unwavering commitment to serving others, ensuring that her spirit lives on in our lives forever. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial donation to the Wounded Warriors Foundation.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center in Temple, TX.

### Dickson

**Chester “Chet” Edward Dickson**  
**October 4, 1946 – June 8, 2025**

Chester “Chet” Edward Dickson, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, passed away on June 8, 2025, in the arms of his beloved wife of 52 years, Diane Dickson. He was born October 4, 1946, and raised in Houston by his parents, Helen and Edward Obediah “Obie” Dickson.

Chet had two passions: church and work. He was a devoted member of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Houston for over 70 years and served as a trustee for Memphis Theological Seminary and Bethel University. He regularly invited people, everywhere he met, to join them in worship. In his view, church-going was the lifeblood of meaningful community, and the source of spirit.

Chet was more than a visionary entrepreneur—he was the heart and soul of WorldVue (formerly World Cinema). From the very beginning, nearly 50 years ago, he built this company with a relentless belief in putting people first—customers, colleagues, and partners alike. His personal warmth, faith in God, integrity, and unwavering commitment to service shaped the foundation of the culture that continues to guide the company today.

Chet is preceded in death by his parents, Helen and Obie Dickson.

Chet’s memory will live on through his wife, Diane; their five children: Scott Dickson and wife Lisa, Kelley Fitzgerald and husband Alec Borrett, Holly McDaniel and husband Marshall, Kimberly Ruud and husband Lance, and Thomas Fatjo III and wife Wendy; Grandchildren Clive and

Maeve Dickson, Griffin Fitzgerald, and Hugh, Lilly, Andie Borrett, Paige Roehl, and Marcos and Bella Bustos-McDaniel, Landon (Emma), Justin and Jessica Ruud, Berkeley, Thomas IV, and Travis Fatjo; Great-Grandchildren Liam Chester and Jack Ruud. Chet is also survived by his sister, Wrenne Saunders, multiple nieces and nephews and cousins-removed, all of whom he loved dearly.

A celebration of life will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 24th, in the Chapel of Grace Presbyterian Church, 10221 Ella Lee Lane, in Houston. The family will gather for a private burial at a later date. The family would like to thank Cody and Fisher Alderson, and all those who participated in the rescue, for their heroic efforts and compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Houston Texas, 2119 Avalon Place, Houston, Texas 77019.

### Treter

**Leslie Paul Treter**  
**February 27, 1979 – May 20, 2025**

Leslie Paul Treter, known to most simply as Paul, passed away unexpectedly on May 20, 2025, in Temple, Texas. Born on February 27, 1979, in Kansas City, Kansas, Paul lived with unmistakable spirit—shaped by both hardship and joy, always with a spark of mischief in his eye and purpose in his stride.

To Paul, family and friends were everything. He found joy in life’s simplest pleasures: firing up the grill, cranking up the music, and being surrounded by the people he loved. His legendary BBQs and laid-back movie nights were more than gatherings—they were events filled with laughter, love, and second (and third) helpings. His mix of grit and warmth made him the guy everyone wanted on their side—especially when the dominoes got serious. Paul thrived in good company. His get-togethers weren’t just about food; they were about connection. Nothing said bonding like sipping a cold one and passionately arguing that the Kansas City Chiefs will win again this year.

Though Paul had a few rough edges, he had a heart of gold—and nothing lit up that heart more than being around the ones he loved. His video calls with his grandson, Kadan Brooks, were never just “How’s daycare?”—they were more like “Ready to hear my best dad jokes?” Each call echoed with laughter, love, and a little mischief, just like Paul himself. In 2019, he met Tammy York, the woman he knew he’d spend the rest of his life with. By January 2025, he made it official and proposed—because when you know, you know. Tammy and her three children filled his life with even more joy, love, and purpose... and maybe just a few more

## Parade - From Page A1

Party on the Courthouse Square on Saturday, June 28.

The 4th of July will be full of festivities, including the Patriotic Program, Parade (starting at 9:00 a.m. again this year), Carnival and Festival on Nolan Creek in Liberty Park featuring the 1st Cavalry Rock Band and Rev, White & Blue Car Show, opening night

## Bond - From Page A2

will be better educated and well-rounded and our community will be stronger as a result.”

Throughout the process, community voices played a central role. Teachers, parents, students and administrators informed design elements through surveys, planning meetings and collaborative design workshops—including a student design team of third to sixth graders who helped shape the layout of the new elementary campuses.

For Ellen Burnett, a bond committee member and longtime community volunteer, one of the most powerful moments came while touring the completed campuses.

“It was a full-circle moment to see students and staff utilizing the very spaces we had envisioned years ago,” she said. “That’s the heart of these projects—making positive changes that impact the lives

of the 101st annual PRCA Rodeo at the Cadence Bank Center (formerly known as the Bell County Expo), then finishing the day with the Backyard Party at Schoepf’s Concert and Fireworks.

For more information about these events, visit the website at [www.beltonchamber.com](http://www.beltonchamber.com), call 254-939-3551, or email [info@beltonchamber.com](mailto:info@beltonchamber.com).

of BISD students and their communities.”

Burnett and Bozon both emphasized the value of public involvement and encouraged others to participate in future district committees.

The success of the 2022 Bond sets a strong foundation for the district’s future growth.

“This bond positions Belton ISD to effectively manage future expansion and continue providing high-quality education for all students,” said Morgan. “We are genuinely thankful to our community for trusting us with this investment. The outcomes are a direct reflection of that trust.”

Belton ISD remains committed to transparency and engagement as the district plans for continued growth and evolving needs.

To learn more about the 2022 Bond, visit [www.bisd.net/bond2022](http://www.bisd.net/bond2022).

people to test his joke material on.

Paul leaves behind his beloved children, Ariel and Malek Treter—living testaments to the love and values he poured into fatherhood. He leaves his fiancée Tammy, with a love so deep it’ll be hard for any man to ever match. He also leaves his father, Donald Treter; his siblings, Luke, Carl, Rick, Holly, and Heather; and his chosen brothers, Mark Bouldin and James Petersen—his lifelong ride-or-dies.

He is reunited with his mother Dorothy, his nephew Conner, his grandparents, and his loyal companion, Rocky.

Paul’s personality was big, bold, and full of soul. He loved fishing, camping, gaming, racing and late-night talks under the stars—usually with music playing and a good story on his lips. Beneath his tough-guy exterior lived a fiercely loyal, loving, and protective man.

Though his time with us was far too short, Paul leaves behind a legacy of unforgettable memories—funny, heartfelt, and full of life. He’ll be remembered for his laugh, his loyalty, his legendary brisket, and—of course—that ongoing debate about the Chiefs, which we imagine he’s continuing in the great beyond. In every shared story, every sizzle of the grill, and every warm memory, Paul lives on.

A visitation was held on Sunday, June 15, 2025 at 11:00am at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home. The family asked for attendees to wear purple to honor his life. Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center in Temple, Texas.

### Antonowsky

**Neil Lawrence Antonowsky**  
**June 3, 1968 – March 22, 2025**

Neil Lawrence Antonowsky, born on June 3, 1968, in Princeton, New Jersey, passed away at his home in Mountain View, Hawaii, on Saturday, March 22, 2025. He was a beloved father, grandfather, brother, and friend. Neil was deeply appreciated for his generous spirit and love for life. Neil’s early life began in Millstone, NJ before he moved to Swedesboro, NJ where he graduated from Kingsway High School in 1986. A multifaceted individual, he showcased his talents in music as a trumpet player and was a dedicated member of the choir. In his youth, he displayed his athleticism through baseball and remained a passionate fan of the Mets. Growing up in the Jewish faith, instilling religious values into his daughters, and whereas he practiced throughout his life. Neil was a dedicated member of the U.S. Army, serving two terms where he developed a profound love for language and adventure. As part of Army intelligence, he learned Russian and completed a six-month tour in Saint Petersburg, Russia during a time of joint operation. This experience not

only enriched his life but also introduced him to the serene beauty of Hawaii, which would hold a special place in his heart forever. Distinguished by Army Lapel Button, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer’s Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle/Pistol Bars, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar, Expert infantryman Badge.

Professionally, Neil started his career selling furniture, eventually channeling his strengths into the real estate industry. He found great success in selling new custom homes around the Round Rock and Austin areas. His career took him to Palmer Homes and subsequently to David Weekly Custom Homes, from which he retired in 2017. Neil’s personal pursuits included Bikram yoga, disc golf, and reading various literature, all of which contributed to his holistic approach to life. He lived with a deep appreciation for love, love for oneself and for others—demonstrating throughout his life an unwavering commitment to kindness, peace, and hope. One of his many traits was having a servants heart and being able to connect with all walks of life bringing awareness to each person he met through the alignment of numerology. Neil is survived by his two daughters, Francine Marie Antonowsky and Amber Lee Antonowsky; one granddaughter, Lillia Jones; one brother, Mark Antonowsky, and his wife, Sherry; and two sisters, Wendy Antonowsky and Barbara Rakoczy, along with her husband, Steven. He is preceded in death by his parents, David Antonowsky and Francine Dorothea (Roth) Antonowsky, and one sister, Michelle Andrea Antonowsky.

A Celebration of Life was held on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center in Temple, Texas. The service commences at 2:00 p.m. Burial of his cremated remains will be interred at the Central Texas Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas.

Neil ventured into the tourism industry, founding Thalia’s Enchanted Forest, a highly regarded Airbb retreat, providing guests with a taste of the peace and beauty he cherished in life. In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial donation to keep his dream and legacy in continuum. Neil’s spirit will live on in the hearts of those who had the privilege to know him. His legacy is one of love and light, reminding all of us of the importance of connection and joy in our everyday lives. Arrangements are under the direction of Sabrina Young at Young’s Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center in Temple, Texas.



Breaking News

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## Local Activities & Events

### Newcomers Club Activities

JUNE

06/18: Popcorn Bridge  
06/19: 42 Dominoes;  
Nonfiction Book Club  
06/20: Trailblazers Walking Group  
06/23: Well-read Women;  
Monday Canasta  
06/25: Crochet and Knit;  
Fun Lunch  
06/26: 42 Dominoes  
06/28: 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](http://www.bellcountynewcomers.com)."**

### CAC announces 2025 concert lineups

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

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

#### RUTHIE FOSTER JAZZ BAND — July 12

With five Grammy nominations to her name, Ruthie Foster stands as a testament to the power of authenticity and resilience in music. Her soulful melodies, heartfelt lyrics and an unwavering commitment to her art inspire audiences and fellow musicians as she continues to carve a path uniquely her own.

#### AN CLIBURN FINALIST CLAYTON STEPHENSON — Oct. 18

American pianist Clayton Stephenson's love for music is immediately apparent in his joyous charisma onstage, expressive power and natural ease at the instrument.

#### ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL — Nov. 8

Founded in 1970, Asleep at the Wheel has been part of the American roots music landscape for more than 50 years.

#### SHINYRIBS - Dec. 6

Shinyribs, a regular visitor to the CAC, defies genres as a melting pot of Texas blues, New Orleans funk, horn-driven Memphis soul, country twang, border music, big band swing and roots-rock. The 2025 CTOS Classic Music Series includes four big shows.

#### Belton's 4th of July Celebration and PRCA Rodeo - June 28 through July 5

Join us in celebrating patriotism, traditional family values, and small-town America at the Belton 4th of July Celebration!

Music is an important part of our celebration with the Backyard Party at Schoepf's Concert and Fireworks show being an annual favorite. Kicking off our weeklong celebration is the Downtown Street Party and Concert on June 28th! The Downtown Street Party is open to the public as a free non-ticketed event. Reserved VIP areas are available for sponsors.

With an estimated 30,000+ people lining the streets, and a live televised broadcast reaching around the world, the 100-year tradition of the Belton 4th of July Celebration will include a 1 1/2 mile parade route running south on Main Street (FM317) from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor to the Bell County Courthouse, then east on Central Avenue, and north on Birdwell to the Belton Police Memorial.

Following the parade, much of the crowd moves to the adjacent Liberty Park for the Festival on Nolan Creek with food and craft vendors, games, a petting zoo, static displays of military and first responder equipment, and live entertainment at the centrally located gazebo. Carnival rides and attractions fill Liberty Park located within a short walking distance on the Belton Hike and Bike Trail.

The three-night PRCA Rodeo is held July 3-5 at the Cadence Bank Center, an indoor, air-conditioned facility with a capacity for 5,900 rodeo attendees. Cowboys from around the country descend on the only PRCA Rodeo in Texas during this holiday weekend making it a must-see event.

For more information visit [beltonchamber.com](http://beltonchamber.com).

#### Master Gardeners - July 8

Bell County Master Gardeners Association and Harker Heights Library & Activity Center are hosting Insects in the Home and Garden on July 8th, 6:00-7:30 PM at 400 Indian Trail, Harker Heights. Certified Master Gardener, Dave Slaughter will be presenting insects of the home and garden and a discussion of their characteristics and benefits or detriments. Photos of their life cycle and a conversation regarding tolerance vs. termination and methods of insect management. Class Limit: 50. To register for this class please see [HarkerHeights.gov/Library](http://HarkerHeights.gov/Library).

#### Summer Reading Program - July 19 & 26, Aug 2 & 9

Join the Mary Ruth Briggs Library Summer Reading Program this Summer as we celebrate "Amazing Science". We will have programs with speakers on Weather, Rocks and Minerals, Plant Propagation and Forensics. Games, crafts, storytime and free backpacks with school supplies! This program is for ages pre-K through 5th grade. You can sign up for free at the Morgan's Point Resort website: [morgan-spointresorttx.com](http://morgan-spointresorttx.com) or paper applications available at MPR City Hall located at 8 Morgan's Point Blvd, Morgan's Point Resort Texas. The dates are 4 Saturdays: July 19th and 26th and August 2nd and 9th from 10:00 AM until noon. Location is at the Mary Ruth Briggs Library, 8 Morgan's Point Blvd in Morgan's Point Resort. We look forward to seeing you!

**Marine Corp League** will meet the third Tuesday of each mont at VFW 3859. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and metting will begin at 7:00 p.m. 201 VFW Dr, Harker heights, Tx 76548. Email [commandant@mc11249tx.com](mailto:commandant@mc11249tx.com)for more inforamtion.

**NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)** will meet on Tuesday, June 24th at 6:30pm at the Temple VA Hospital. Use the entrance on the Valet parking side of the hospital and take the elevator to the 5th floor -Conference Room 5G31. Both care-givers, supporters and those suffering from mental illness are welcome to join us for mutual support and sharing of information. For more information, call 254-771-3638.

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

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

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

**Pistons on the Creek** will meet every third Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Come down to Nolan Creek and show off your rides. From classic to modern, muscle, rat

rod, exotic, all automotive enthusiasts are welcome. Support our awesome downtown businesses and restaurants surrounded by live music, food, drinks and a great atmosphere.

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

## Community Information

**TAKE ME HOME PROGRAM** The Belton Police Department is adopting the Take Me Home Program, aimed at helping individuals who need special assistance to return safely home after getting lost. The program is a database with photos and personal information to help police officers find someone who is lost or wandered away from home. Take Me Home is designed for individuals who may need additional aid including those with Dementia, Autism or specific mental health needs. It's free to register someone and the data is kept confidential to first responders. You can sign up a loved one here: [www.beltontexas.gov/takemehome](http://www.beltontexas.gov/takemehome). Read more about the program here: [https://www.beltontexas.gov/news\\_detail\\_T11\\_R1166.php](https://www.beltontexas.gov/news_detail_T11_R1166.php).

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

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

#### Citizens Helping in Police Service (CHIPS)

are extra eyes and ears while in areas where large groups may gather. Contact the Belton Police Dept. to join.

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

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

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



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# Departments give updates at MPR City Council meeting

By **Michelle Rodriguez**  
*The Belton Journal*

The Morgan’s Point Resort City Council had a regular session on June 10.

Michele Weisman spoke during the citizen comment period of the meeting.

“MPR needs a four-way stop at Morgan’s Point Road and Tanyard Rd./2483, also known as the four corners. I am here as a concerned citizen to say please put in a four-way stop. It would be so simple. It’s worth the life it may save,” said Weisman.

There were presentations for the city departments’ quarterly briefings from procurement, admin services, fire, public works, police, and public utilities. First quarter covers January 1 through March 31. The procurement department also covers special projects, grants, and communications.

“For procurement, the purchasing module went to beta stage and kicked off March 3 and is currently up and running. For special projects, there were two RFQs for an investment advisor and storm water engineering. Additional projects that were incumbered were the MPR comprehensive plan and ground storage tank completion,” said Nayda Santana, MPR Government Relations & Procurement Director.

For grants, there is a reimbursement pending from FEMA and TDEM in the amount of \$674,481.87 pending as of March. Another big grant, AFA, the sidewalk agree-

ment, was signed.

“For communications, a city website search showed sales and use tax had the most website search hits. The most looked at social media post was the weather delay on January 20 followed by Roses for Hoses,” said Santana.

There may be a “Turning of the Valve” event for the ground storage tank completion in the future, upon project completion.

The administrative services department covers utilities, permits and the marina.

“Billing activity and account management remained steady. Bills issued for the first quarter were \$6,321. 579 accounts had penalties assessed. Permit activity remained steady. Mike Reeves did 90 inspections for the quarter. For the marina, it remains active with ongoing slip rentals and continued customer support,” said Katrice Jackson.

Fire Chief Taran Vaszocz gave the first quarter update.

“We have 16 commissioned firefighters. 162 education service hours were tracked by ISO standards. MPR has a robust volunteer engagement with 1,000 volunteer hours. There is a vacancy for a sixth firefighter. Response time is five minutes and six seconds within the city limits,” said Vaszocz.

“Public Works is still doing brush pickup. We are working on mowing and daily work orders. There was a quarterly clean up in January and the next one will be next month. 31 daily work orders were turned into city hall,” said BJ Scheible, public works director.

“We issued 235 warnings and 114 citations. We’ve had 24 offenses reported to us. We made 20 arrests, 15 were for offenses, and five were for warrants. Our response time was 4.5 minutes. We patrolled 18,947 miles across the city. We conducted 289 house watches. Park area checks were conducted where crime might be ramping up. There were 666 business and city facility checks. We have ‘animal services’ since animal control sounds a little bit harsh,” said Matthew Schuetze, Chief of Police.

The trend for calls is upward for the year. For the dive team, they had five deployments. One was a body recovery, three were vehicle recovery, and one was another request. The dive team is assisting the fire team with their trainings.

“Wastewater is measured daily, monthly, weekly, and quarterly. Total water taken in from Temple was more than 31 million,” said Steven Pitts, the department head for public utilities. Pitts recently took over as director in March. Some reports were not complete because he had limited data for water consumption and wastewater.

For resolutions, there was a revision for the catalytic converter grant adding Dennis Baldwin’s name as City Manager and Mary Tolman as Finance Director.

“For ordinances, it was discussed and considered to adopt a 2021 addition of the international fire code. It was previously adopted as a resolution and now needs to be an ordinance to make it a law,” said Mayor Jim “Jimbo” Snyder.

# City Council approves resolution for possible Emergency Services District No. 3

*Special to the Journal*

The Belton City Council approved a resolution to a petition from the Nolanville Fire Department for the creation of Bell County Emergency Services District No. 3, which includes an area in Belton’s ETJ.

An Emergency Services District (ESD) is a political subdivision established under the Texas Health and Safety Code. ESD’s are designed to support or provide local emergency services.

To fund these essential services, an ESD has the authority to levy both sales and property taxes. The sales tax rate for an ESD can range from one-eighth of one percent to two percent. The property tax rate is capped at ten cents per \$100 of property valuation. The tax rates must be approved by the residents.

The Nolanville Fire Department has formally petitioned the Bell County Commissioners Court to establish an ESD encompassing the

current response areas of Sparta Volunteer, Central Bell Volunteer, and Nolanville Fire Departments. A portion of this proposal includes areas in the City of Belton’s ETJ that need approval from the Belton Council.

The development of this ESD does not change the current emergency service delivery boundaries, and there is no initial financial impact on the City of Belton.

An ESD is created to provide fire protection, not EMS. Operates independently of city governments and is overseen by a board of commissioners. If passed by voters, the ESD is created. Killeen, Temple, and Harker Heights are also affected and have asked for consent.

Belton City Council approved Texas Materials Group, Inc.’s contract for annual street maintenance in the amount of \$1,368,526. Streets on this list are Tanglewood Circle, South Canyon Heights, Bower Court, East Grove Way, Grove Court, and Capitol Way.



## Applications being accepted for Bell County Historical Commission grants through July 31

*Special to the Journal*

The Bell County Historical Commission is offering small grants for projects that preserve and promote Bell County history.

The grants are available to non-profit organizations and institutions in Bell County. Individuals and for-profit businesses are ineligible.

Funding is given for work to be done within the fiscal year, which is October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026. The application period is June 15, 2025

until July 31, 2025.


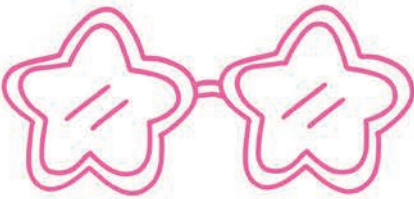

Funds available for the annual grants are limited to the aggregate funds budged by the Commission each year for the grants program and as funded by the Bell County Commissioners Court for fiscal year 2026.

Grant applications and guidelines can be obtained on-line at the Bell County Historical Commission website: [hist.comm@bellcounty.texas.gov](mailto:hist.comm@bellcounty.texas.gov) or at the office on the first floor, room 117 of the historic courthouse, 101 East Central Ave, Belton Texas.

# Summer Safety Fair

Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>  
from 11am-2pm

Join us for the Summer Safety Fair and discover essential tips on car safety, fire prevention, bike safety, and so much more. It's a fun, family-friendly event where learning to stay safe has never been easier!





**BELTON JOURNAL/DAVID TUMA**

Morgan’s Point Resort is known for the wildlife that live in the community. Pictured are twins that were born this month. The doe often leaves the fawns to forage and then comes back.



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# EDITORIAL

## Random Thoughts

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

The word “squeegee” is a fun word, and at times fun to use. Although it sounds like the use of said squeegee should be a lot more entertaining. Perhaps I will just try to work that into all my conversations.

Have you ever noticed that if there is a spoon in the sink and you turn on the water it will find that spoon and make a fountain? If you have several spoons in the sink you could actually wash your face like a shower with all that random water spraying up at you. You don’t have that problem with a fork, why are spoons so special?

It seems very strange that some of the largest animals on the planet eat some of the smallest food items. The ocean is filled with a variety of sizes. The whales eat tiny little things. You would think it would be easier to snatch some medium size fish and not have to eat a million krill. It would certainly be easy to locate a tuna and enjoy a leisurely lunch.

Do baby porcupines have spines? If so, doesn’t that make it quite hard on the mother? And honestly how do porcupines ever get together for a bit of intimacy?

Now that I think about it, if a porcupine starts down a hollow log he is committed, there is no backing out.

Did you ever wonder why the settlers in our country picked the areas they landed in? I mean who was satisfied with North Dakota after that first winter? Perhaps a farmer thought the plains were a good place to grow crops because there were no trees, then they realized that all the trees probably had been blown away. We have German and Czech

communities here. Did they get tired of the cold winters in the old country and say to heck with it and just settle here in the middle of Texas? What about Arizona, who thought no water and cactus would make a good place to homestead?

I think a prerequisite to being a mountain man is the ability to grow a big bushy beard. If I was ever lost in the woods I would look for the guy with the wildest beard because you know he has to have some tricks up his sleeve and probably knows the nearest road and how to avoid it.

That above thought just proves that Tarzan was probably not real. I mean how could someone be raised in the jungle and be clean shaven? You certainly don’t see well groomed chimps.

Have you noticed that when the batteries in whatever

remote control you are using start to decline you tend to push harder on the buttons? I mean if there is any juice left pushing on the little rubber keys really hard should make that last dying energy squirt out to the device and change the channel. And we are willing to try several times before we give up and walk over and do it manually. Actually on the new TVs I am not sure how to change the channel without a remote. The buttons, the few that are on the TV itself are tucked away so you have to search for them. Then you just have to play with them for a few minutes to decipher what they do. And the funny thing is that the remote for the new TVs have a power button and some circular button that does everything command for every setting on the TV. I had a console TV some years ago that

had a remote the size of a small laptop with more buttons that I could ever count, once you set that TV up you used just three buttons.

If we know what the speed of light is and measure certain things by that standard, does the speed of darkness also have a value? I mean the speeds of light and darkness should essentially be the same.

Why do toasters have a setting of 10? I mean who cooks a slice of bread to the consistency of a shingle? Is there some item you might put into a toaster that would require the maximum setting? I guess if you had a small steak you could drop it down in there and set it to max and get a perfectly grilled steak. I might have to try that. Just not while I am taking a bath, that could be dangerous.

Have a thought filled week.

## Fresh eyes

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

Sometimes it’s fun to watch home improvement shows, especially ones where people are getting their houses ready to put on the market.

One thing I’ve noticed when watching those shows is how people often can’t see what’s right under their noses. They’re so attached to their current home that they can’t or won’t make the effort to make some simple improvements to better their chances of selling. Honey, if your house has been on the market for six months, it’s either overpriced or needs some spit ‘n polish, heavy on the polish. That’s my armchair real estate agent opinion.

Homeowners are aghast when someone comes through their house and says, “Wow, it’s really dark in here.” Or they might say, “What purpose does this room have? It’s hard to tell with all the clutter.”

Not their house. But by the end of the show they realize that most of the comments were right on, that it took an outsider’s view to make some subtle (or not-so-subtle, if we’re talking about removing 1970’s wallpaper) improvements.

I think we get so busy with our routines that we think things are fine just the way they are, and we’re quick to use the “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” motto and apply it to our house, our yard, our vehicles, or jobs, our town, our relationships.

Worse, we get defensive if someone suggests ways we can improve. If you’ve watched those real estate shows, you see homeowners in denial about changes that really should be made to their home in order for it to sell. The house might be perfect for their personal style, but for someone else coming in, it’s a deal breaker.

How many deal breakers do we go through with our city? Do we ever believe someone else’s opinion doesn’t matter because they’re an outsider?

“Well, you’re not from around here, so you just don’t understand the way things are done.”

One of the strengths of our area is its diversity. We’re shooting ourselves in the foot if we disregard someone coming in with fresh eyes.

What opportunities we miss.

Maybe they’ll have solutions and ideas we haven’t considered.

Maybe it’s a good idea to swallow our pride and entertain another point of view once in a while.

Maybe it’s time to play “let’s pretend” and look at things from the viewpoint of an outsider. We might be surprised at what we see.

### Belton’s sales tax check for the month up from June 2024

**By Lynette Sowell**  
*The Belton Journal*

The office of Texas State Comptroller Glenn Hegar’s office released its monthly sales tax revenue report for June.

This month, the City of Belton will receive \$755,238.16 in sales tax disbursements, up 3.86 percent compared to last June.

Overall, for the calendar year 2025, the city of Belton’s sales tax revenue continues its upward trend, with the city receiving 3.52 percent more in sales tax revenue than it did for 2024. The total for 2025 to date is \$4,747,007.07.

Statewide disbursements to Texas cities are up 4.3 percent compared to 2024.

The June sales tax report is for sales made in April 2025 by businesses that report tax monthly.

The city of Temple is receiving \$2,992,966.49, down 4.01 percent

compared to June 2024.

Morgan’s Point Resort will receive \$34,770.40, up 17.45 percent compared to last June.

Troy will receive \$88,898.36, down 1.10 percent compared to last June.

Over in Nolanville, sales tax revenue increase is up by 9.26 percent compared to last June, with Nolanville to receive \$136,236.23. Nolanville’s sales tax revenue is down 11.71 percent for 2025 so far. Holland’s revenue check is \$10,699.43 this month, down 27.23 percent compared to June 2024.

Salado sees an increase of 21.73 percent this month and will receive \$81,575.06.

Harker Heights sees an increase of 10.17 percent for June 2025 and will receive \$890,732.94.

The city of Killeen’s sales tax revenue is up 6.84 percent at \$2,881,855.13, an increase of 3.86 overall for 2025.

June 2025 sales tax payments to area cities

Belton	\$755,238.16	up	3.86%
Harker Heights	\$890,732.94	up	10.17%
Holland	\$10,699.43	down	27.23%
Killeen	\$2,881,855.13	up	6.84%
Morgan’s Point Resort	\$34,770.40	up	17.45%
Nolanville	\$136,236.23	up	9.26%
Salado	\$81,575.06	up	21.73%
Temple	\$2,992,966.49	down	4.01%
Troy	\$88,898.36	down	1.10%

Percentages reflect a monthly increase or decrease compared to June 2024



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A8  
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# LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

## Nationally Acclaimed Photographer unveils Juneteenth exhibit at Grace Art Gallery

By Michelle Rodriguez  
The Belton Journal

Don Russell, a fine-art photographer unveiled his Juneteenth exhibit “Cowboys of Color” at Grace Gallery.

Friday night there was an exclusive pre-celebration at Crow and Cactus Company where guests caught a glimpse of his art and met Don Russell in person.

“My favorite piece is Jason Griffin, bronc rider, because of his eyes,” said Don Russell.

He self-published an art book that had his favorite piece on the cover of the book. All 700 copies were sold, and he plans on creating a second edition. Don Russell shared the story of another piece called bull rider and fan.

“A woman walked by and wanted to be photographed with a real cowboy. The bull rider said, ‘don’t put the picture in the book because my wife will kill me,’” said Don Russell.

The whole project took two years to complete. Russell uses photoshop for his photographs.

“‘Cowboys of Color’ was exhibited at the Stark Museum of Art in Orange, Texas and at The Autry Museum in Los Angeles.

“I use a Nikon Z7 camera. I went to art school in the 70’s. I had formal training in photography from the University of Kentucky and the Maryland Institute College of Art,” said Russell. “My Bachelor’s of Science is in Electrical Engineering.”

Some of Russell’s art like the shadow man that represents him, the photographer, is available for purchase at Crow and Cactus Company. Some of his art has been there for one year.

“Film to digital happened very fast. I bought my first digital camera in 2005 when everything changed to digital. I learned to use photoshop to create high quality prints,” added Russell.

He’s working on a book called Twelve Blues about the stages of life.

“It starts with child-



Working cowboy Jason Griffin is one of the subjects of photographer Don Russell’s exhibit at Grace Gallery, “Cowboys of Color.”



Courtesy photo

hood, adolescence, the road, and settling down. It’s 12 little books with 12 to 40 images each. It’s not autobiographical, but its personal. I write poetry. It’s psychological, metaphorical. The shadow man is a psychological representative of alter egos,” said Russell.

His website is don-russellphoto.com. He resides in North Texas with his wife and daughter. He

and his wife met in college.

“The first time I saw him he had a camera around his neck. He studied art first, then engineering. He was retired and did his artwork. He’s always been creative,” said Joan Russell.

Russell is known for his portraits of African American, Latino, and Native American cowboys. His work has been

featured in *Black and White Magazine* and *Color Magazine*.

At the pre-celebration, the co-owners of Ruby Team Room, Kristi Whites and Chef Sarah Nevarez, joined with Amy Morter, owner of Crow and Cactus Company. They served their ruby red lemonade, earl grey iced tea, charcuterie (olives, cheese, grapes, and strawberries

on skewers served in teacups), and cream cheese topped with jalapeno candy served with crackers.

Guests received gifts for attending the event: a commemorative light up cup from the Maples from Grace Gallery, a sample of scones from Ruby Tea Room, and popcorn samples from Popcorn Friday.

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## Scout breaks ground on story-walk project

By Harvey Jackson Oss  
The Belton Journal



**BELTON JOURNAL/  
HARVEY JACKSON OSS**  
Landon Casperson stands beside one of the metal story-walk frames that are part of his Eagle Scout project in Yettie Polk Park.

On Friday, June 13, the two-day construction process began on the new story-walk in Yettie Polk Park.

The project was conceived by Landon Casperson, a member of local Boy Scouts of America Troop 122.

The new walk will count towards his ascension to the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the BSA. The story-walk consists of 21 metal sign cases along the sidewalk

in the park that will encase short stories or other reading material to be rotated periodically. The new permanent story-walk succeeds an older and troubled temporary version that consisted of plastic yard signs.

The project aims to promote childhood literacy by incorporating reading material into children’s outdoor excursions.

Casperson was inspired by his love of reading to pursue the story-walk idea. The walk was designed in conjunction with Belton Recreation Superintendent Adam Trujillo, with planning in the works for the past year.

Eagle Scout projects typically take around three to six months to be fully completed, however Casperson met multiple delays due to staffing turnover and funding issues.

The material for the project ultimately cost about \$5,600, with labor contributed by scouts and community volunteers.

Scouts are typically required to fundraise their own projects, and Casperson succeeded in this goal. About 86.74

percent of the required funds came from just four donors.

“Scouting is all about giving back to the community,” explained Troop 122 Committee Chairman Chris McLean, who was present to assist with the construction process.

Eagle Scout candidates are required to create a project that permanently serves the community, both in order to do good for local residents and to give them experience with leading others in a constructive way.

Eagle Scout projects also help keep the community aware of the opportunities provided by the BSA – “it lets the community know that scouting is still out here”.

Scouting gives boys a chance to build character and leadership skills that can serve them throughout life and make them more productive citizens. A parkgoer passing by shared his gratitude to Casperson and McLean for the build.

Casperson is a junior at Lake Belton High School. He plans on pursuing anesthesiology at Texas A&M University and also aspires to be a professional golfer.



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Answer: United Arab Emirates



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# Small renovations that make a big impact

Homeowners may think they have to tear down walls or build room extensions to transform their homes with renovation projects. But small projects can yield impressive results, and that's something homeowners working with limited budgets can keep in mind.

There's no shortage of small projects that can change the look and feel of a home. Many of these undertakings can be achieved with a modest investment.

- Front door replacement: A new front door instantly improves curb appeal and can make a home more secure and energy-efficient. Painting the existing front door is an even smaller project that still offers appeal.
- Lighting addition: Whether a homeowner enlarges a window or adds skylights, natural light can produce incredible results. Investing in new lighting can feel like expanding a space without pushing out walls.
- Kitchen and bath fixture upgrades: Faucets and door pulls are used every day. Swapping existing fixtures for something a little more modern can unify spaces and provide subtle changes that enhance these



popular spaces.

- Wood floor restoration: Scuffing and scratches can adversely affect the pristine look of a natural wood floor. Homeowners can polish a floor to restore its shine. A professional service will sand down and refinish older floors at a fraction of the cost of a new floor installation.
- Exterior lighting: Lighting isn't just important inside. A welcoming glow in the yard is awe-inspiring. There are many energy-efficient lighting options, including ones that do not need to be hard-wired to

the circuitry inside the home.

- Staircase renovation: Coordinate the staircase to the style in the home with a decorative carpet runner. A secure runner is attractive and can help reduce slipping down the stairs. Tighten shaky railings or replace them while upgrading the stair treads.
- Interior paint: Change the color of walls, doors, cabinets, or even furniture with paint. All homeowners need is a paint color that inspires them and a little bit of time.
- Replace outlet covers: Upgrade outlet covers with screwless options. Screwless plates for outlets and light switches can make walls look more sleek.
- Entry organizer installation: Banish clutter from the home by catching it at the door. An entry organizer with spaces for shoes, coats, backpacks, and shopping bags can be eye-catching and functional.
- Carpets cleaning: Soiled carpets can look drab and dingy. Homeowners can rent carpet-cleaning machines or hire services to revitalize carpets with a deep cleaning.

Small changes around a home can create a big impact without breaking the bank.





# BHS Ex-students association holds tri-annual reunion

By Michelle Rodriguez  
The Belton Journal

Belton High School Ex-students Association held their tri-annual reunion on June 14 at the BHS commons.

The event is a fundraiser for scholarships for the Belton Education Foundation while former classmates reconnect and catch up.

“This year the BEF gave teacher grants and scholarships in the amount of \$375,000 to 174 graduating seniors and para-professionals,” said Kim Pimento, executive director of BEF.

BEF is an independent, community-based, non-profit organization that supports BISD student achievement and success through grant funding to teachers, scholarships to BISD graduates, and assistance for district projects.

“Every day I walk into these halls to experience a legacy

of excellence you all help built. I truly believe anyone that walks in feels the pride. Your presence here reminds us that once a tiger always a tiger,” said BHS principal Claudia Knox.

BEF was established in 1992 and has impacted students by awarding more than 2.9 million dollars to some 2,700 graduating seniors. Scholarships for students allow them to pursue further education after high school. More than 400 grants to teachers, totaling over \$750,000, have allowed them to implement innovative educational strategies.

“In my 35-year career I’ve worked in five different school districts, I’ve never felt the pride at the sidelines at a game from students and the community like with Belton,” said BISD superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden.

“We want to empower each and every learner to pursue their dreams. The 2025 class accumulated thousands of hours

of community service. They will enrich whatever community they will be in,” said Dr. Golden.

Jack Davis from the graduating class of 1966 and President of the Ex-student Association gave an award to Gilbert Gerstenberg for the oldest graduate in attendance of the reunion from the graduating class of 1947.

Most graduates in attendance were from the 1950’s and 1960’s. The youngest graduate in attendance of the reunion was Kevin Stone from the graduating class of 2002. The longest commute award went to a graduate from the class of 1988 who travelled more than 300 miles from Alabama to attend the reunion.

Entertainment was provided by the Marching 100 alumni band.

The next meeting will be June 12, 2027.

# Council begins budget season discussions

Special to the Journal

The Belton City Council held its first work session on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget on June 3, with discussions centered on the General Fund and Debt Service Fund.

This session marked the beginning of a series of meetings leading to the adoption of the city’s budget and tax rate later this year.

Finance Director Mike Rodgers presented preliminary figures, noting that the FY 2026 budget is designed to be lean, with no new General Fund positions and limited merit-based pay increases capped at 3%. The City has typically offered up to 5% merit raises.

While it is too early to calculate precisely, a modest increase to the property tax rate from the current 52.25 cents to

around 53 cents per \$100 of taxable value may be considered to maintain service levels and meet policy goals.

However, final rates will be determined in late July after the certified tax roll is received from the Tax Appraisal District of Bell County. Rodgers explained that while property valuations have grown 9% over the previous year, the City seeks to balance revenue growth against taxpayer impacts.

Sales tax revenue growth has slowed compared to pandemic-era highs, with projections for FY 2025 falling short of initial estimates. The FY 2026 budget anticipates modest 4% growth in sales tax collections, based on state economic forecasts and historical trends.

In terms of expenditures, personnel costs account for 58% of the General Fund budget. The proposed budget reflects a 2.5% increase in overall General Fund spending, primarily due

to inflation and IT infrastructure needs.

On the Debt Service Fund, expenditures will rise by about \$300,000 due to new debt issued for the recent purchase of a ladder truck for the Fire Department and the former Miller Heights Elementary School property for a public safety center. Debt payments are structured to maintain the City’s strong AA bond rating without significantly impacting reserves.

The Council continued budget discussions on June 10, focusing on the Water & Sewer Fund and Drainage Fund.

A proposed budget will be presented in July, with adoption targeted for September 9.

Residents are encouraged to stay engaged throughout the budget process. Public hearings and opportunities for input will be announced as the budget process progresses.

# Three Belton ISD campuses named 2024-25 PLTW Distinguished Schools

Special to the Journal

Belton ISD is proud to announce that Lakewood Elementary, Belton High School, and Lake Belton High School have been named 2024-25 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished Schools—an honor awarded to campuses demonstrating a strong commitment to empowering students with real-world, in-demand skills through high-quality STEM education.

This prestigious recognition is awarded to a select group of schools across the country that are delivering exceptional Project Lead The Way programs. Schools must meet rigorous criteria, including expanding access to STEM curriculum, demonstrating sustained student engagement and fostering academic success through hands-on, project-based learning.

“Being named a PLTW Distinguished School is a reflection of the hard work and innovation happening across our campuses,” said Belton ISD Superintendent Dr. Ma-

linda Golden. “It reflects the dedication of our educators in providing high quality STEM experiences and the enthusiasm of our students as they explore, problem-solve and prepare for future careers.”

Lakewood Elementary was recognized as a PLTW Distinguished Launch School, an honor that celebrates elementary campuses for providing early exposure to STEM concepts and nurturing curiosity in young learners. Belton High School and Lake Belton High School were recognized for their outstanding implementation of PLTW’s high school programs, which include career pathways in engineering, biomedical science and computer science.

“This recognition is a reflection of the passion our students bring to learning and the commitment our educators have to preparing them for life beyond high school,” said Steele Hantgin, principal of Lake Belton High School. “Through PLTW, our Broncos are developing the skills, confidence and curiosity to lead in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math—and we couldn’t be

prouder.”

Project Lead The Way is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for PreK–12 students and teachers across the U.S. Through its pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, PLTW empowers students to develop the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in life and career.

Each campus will receive a Distinguished School banner to commemorate the achievement and will be included in the national list of recognized schools on the PLTW website. The district remains committed to providing high-quality learning experiences that inspire students and prepare them for success in an evolving world, and this recognition reflects the dedication of the students, staff and leadership teams at all three campuses.

For more information about Project Lead The Way or to view the full list of 2024-25 Distinguished Schools, visit [www.pltw.org](http://www.pltw.org).

# State law simplifies process for metal license plates

Special to the Journal

Texans will soon experience a more streamlined process for receiving metal license plates when they purchase a car from a dealer—thanks to a new state law. Under House Bill 718, passed by the 88th Legislature in 2023, motor vehicle dealers will begin issuing metal license plates directly to buyers of new and used vehicles starting July 1, 2025.

“Bell County Vehicle Registration has been working closely with our over 200 Bell County auto dealers since HB 718 was passed in 2023 to prepare for all the changes,” said Bell County Tax Assessor-

Collector Shay Luedeke.

- **Buying from a Dealer:** Consumers purchasing a vehicle from a Texas dealer will receive metal license plates instead of paper temporary tags, driving off the lot with their plates already in place. Until their registration sticker arrives from their county office, customers must keep their buyer’s plate receipt in the vehicle to be able to verify the purchase and pending registration to law enforcement.
- **Trading in a Vehicle:** When consumers sell or trade in a vehicle with general issue plates, dealers may transfer the plates to another vehicle sold within 10 days if the plates match the appropriate vehicle type,

per Senate Bill 1902, passed by the 89th Legislature this year. Consumers with specialty license plates will keep their plates.

- **Buying/Selling a Vehicle in a Private Sale:** The private party sales process remains unchanged:
  - o Sellers should remove their license plates and registration stickers from the vehicle when they deliver the vehicle to the buyer.
  - o Sellers can request to transfer the plates to another vehicle they own—if appropriate for the vehicle type—by visiting their county tax assessor-collector’s office.
  - o Sellers should submit a Vehicle Transfer Notification to the Texas Depart-

ment of Motor Vehicles within 30 days of the sale of the vehicle.

- o Buyers must submit a title and registration application at their county tax assessor-collector’s office and obtain new plates to register the vehicle in their name within 30 days of purchase.

“For consumers, the most notable change will be when they drive their new car off the lot, they will have their permanent metal plate already installed,” Luedeke said.

To learn more about these changes and their impact on consumers, dealers, tax assessor-collectors, and law enforcement, visit [www.TxDMV.gov/HB718](http://www.TxDMV.gov/HB718).



Courtesy Photos/Jason Beckman

An estimated 600-800 individuals gathered on Saturday morning outside the Bell County Courthouse in Belton in what volunteers called a show of “peaceful protest and free speech.” The gathering on June 14 was planned and permitted before the recent wave of ICE-related protests nationwide. The Bell County Democratic Women coordinated with local law enforcement, trained volunteers in de-escalation, and communicated their expectations for peaceful participation. Similar events were held across the country for what was called “No Kings Day.” The rally was held in protest against what organizers called “authoritarian overreach” of President Donald Trump. “While a few of the people on opposing sides shouted profanities at each other, it’s worth noting that the event was 100 percent peaceful,” said local photographer Jason Deckman, who attended and captured photos of the two-hour event. “Do not let the news convince you that every protest is a violent riot. There was music and singing, hugging and laughter, and lots of patriotic unity.”





Dr. Jack Welch  
From the Bleachers

Family or Favoritism? A Closer Look at Coaching Success and Leadership

Have you noticed how many successful coaches have worked alongside their relatives? Take John and Jim Harbaugh, after serving together, both became head coaches in the NFL, who famously faced each other in a Super Bowl. Or Rex and Rob Ryan, who coached under their father, the legendary Buddy Ryan, with the Arizona Cardinals. Then there's Bob Stoops, who built a national powerhouse at Oklahoma while coaching alongside his brothers, Mark and Mike.

These stories are not exceptions, they're examples of how family ties, when grounded in competence and leadership, can strengthen a team. The success of these families wasn't about nepotism, it was about talent, preparation, and results. Each individual earned their position and proved their value. Whether coaching together or independently, these professionals demonstrated that shared values, trust, and vision, often strongest within families, can be key ingredients in building high-performing teams.

Ironically, many organizations preach the benefits of creating a "family culture," encouraging leaders to build environments rooted in trust, collaboration, and shared purpose. But when actual family members seek to work together, those same organizations often balk. Nepotism policies are enacted, prohibiting relatives from working in the same department, or sometimes in the same organization altogether.

The reasoning behind these policies isn't entirely without merit. They aim to prevent favoritism, conflicts of interest, or the appearance of bias. The intent is to ensure fairness and professionalism. Too often, these policies punish the majority for the missteps of a few. Instead of addressing poor leadership when it occurs, some organizations write rules that preemptively disqualify qualified individuals based solely on their family ties.

Here's the truth: This isn't a nepotism problem, it's a leadership problem. When a supervisor lacks integrity, consistency, or

See **WELCH**,  
Page B3



Belton Softball holds successful summer camp

By Tony Adams  
Belton Journal

It was hot. It was wet. But it was held. Last Monday through Wednesday at Belton High School, campers from incoming third to incoming ninth gathered at Lady Tiger Field, Belton High School's Tiger Gym and commons to participate in the Tigers annual camp.

With the weather cooperating on Monday, the campers spent the day on Lady Tiger Field. The players worked on fielding, hitting, pitching, and sliding, as well as knowledge of the game of softball.

Tuesday and Wednesday weather was not as accommodating, with thunderstorms, rain, and flooding which made the field unable to be used.

The staff shifted the camp indoors and found plenty of great opportunities to work on



batting stances and batting practice in the auxiliary gym.

"In softball, there is always an opportunity to learn, rain or shine," Belton head coach Morgan Birkel said. "Our current Tigers worked hard with the players. Our campers had a great time and saw great improvement over the three

days."

Belton Softball Summer Camp program is one of the popular summer camps every year. There have been plenty of past campers that have participated in the camp and, a few years later, returned to play for the Tigers and return the lessons learned to future campers.

BHS Annual girls basketball camp draws large crowd

By Aries Ramos  
The Belton Journal

The Belton High School girls basketball program hosted its annual summer camp this past week, giving nearly 40 incoming 3rd through 9th graders the chance to learn, grow, and connect with the Tigers community, both on the court and beyond.

For Head Coach Anne Zuillhof, the camp's mission was about more than just basketball. "As simply put, I want the kids that attend our camp to leave and want to come back next year, and the next, and then eventually as a freshman into our high school program," she said. "The best way to achieve that is to make sure the kids build relationships, go home with progress in their skills and confidence."

The three-day camp totaled nine hours and was packed with drills focused on footwork, effective passing, and shooting form. While skill development remained a core priority, Zuillhof also emphasized character and leadership elements she believes are just as critical to building a successful athlete and program.

One unique aspect of this year's camp was the inclusion of short "chalk talks," brief sessions that touched on topics such as being a good teammate, holding oneself accountable, and playing with effort and heart. "Hearing the kids talk to their parents not just about the skills they learned but more about the 'chalk talks' was a highlight," Zuillhof said. "Those are the lessons that stick."

Campers weren't the only ones learning. A number of current varsity

and sub-varsity players also participated—not as players, but as assistant coaches. Their involvement not only supported the younger athletes but also reinforced their own understanding of the game. "If you can teach it, you know it," Zuillhof noted. "It was an awesome opportunity to build relationships with the future of our organization."

Despite the camp's short time frame, Zuillhof said it ran smoother than ever. "It's the best it's run since I've been working at Belton," she said, praising the leadership and teamwork shown by coaches, players, and campers alike.

The camp also served as a valuable tool for long-term development. Zuillhof explained that the fundamentals and character-building concepts introduced during camp are consis-

tent with what the team will focus on throughout the season. "Fundamentals will always be a part of training, as will character development," she said.

As the Tigers look ahead to another season, Zuillhof expressed excitement about continuing the summer tradition. "We will have this camp every summer and try to learn from each year to make it better and more impactful," she said. One key takeaway from this year: letting the older players take a lead role. "They did a great job and I think they learned as much as the campers."

For families wanting to stay involved, Zuillhof offered a simple invitation: "Come to games! We absolutely LOVE seeing our campers during the year."

More than 100 attend volleyball camp at Belton High

By Aries Ramos  
The Belton Journal

The Belton High School volleyball program hosted its annual summer camp June 16–18, welcoming over 100 young athletes to the gym for three days of skill development, teamwork, and fun. The camp, held on campus, served as an opportunity to build fundamentals and connect younger players with the high school volleyball culture.

The camp was divided into two sessions each day, tailored to different age groups. Athletes in

grades 3–6 attended the morning session from 10 a.m. to noon, while players in grades 7–9 participated in the afternoon session from 1 to 3 p.m. This format allowed coaches to focus on age-appropriate instruction and provide each group with more personalized attention.

Day 1 of the camp saw more than 100 campers walk through the doors, setting the tone for an energetic and impactful week. Young players spent time working on core volleyball skills including passing, serving, setting, and hitting all while developing communication, footwork, and teamwork.

Each drill was designed to be both educational and engaging, creating an encouraging atmosphere for beginners and experienced players alike.

In addition to the Belton coaching staff, current high school volleyball players were also on hand to help run stations, demonstrate drills, and encourage the next generation of Tigers. Their involvement helped campers not only learn skills but also gain insight into what it means to be part of the Belton volleyball program. The presence of the high school athletes added energy and created

meaningful mentorship moments for younger players.

The camp was more than just a summer activity it was a glimpse into the future of Belton volleyball. With such a strong turnout, the program continues to grow its footprint in the community and build enthusiasm for the upcoming fall season.


The coaching staff hopes the campers walked away not only with improved skills, but also with greater confidence, new friendships, and a lasting connection to the Belton volleyball family.



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Ferguson selected as new Belton High swim coach

By: Aries Ramos  
The Belton Journal

Lake Belton High School has named Jaynie Ferguson as its new head swim coach, marking a homecoming for the former Belton High standout and collegiate athlete.

Ferguson, a lifelong swimmer and Belton native, brings a wealth of experience, energy, and passion to the program as she steps into her first head coaching role.

Ferguson was a four-year varsity swimmer at

Belton High School before taking her talents to Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, where she competed at the NCAA Division II level.

During her collegiate career, Ferguson made her mark as a butterfly and freestyle specialist. Notable performances include a first-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly against Hendrix College during the 2023–24 season and a season-best time of 1:01.04 in the 100 fly at the DSU Christmas Invitational. She also logged impressive

swims in the 200-yard freestyle and 200-yard butterfly at the 2023 NSISC Championships.

Now a graduate of Henderson State University with a degree in Elementary Education, Ferguson successfully balanced her academics and athletics while also building a strong foundation in coaching and water safety. She is certified in lifeguarding, CPR, and AED through the American Red Cross and is a registered swim coach with USA Swimming.

Over the past five sum-

mers, Ferguson has taught swim lessons across Central Texas, working with a wide range of ages and skill levels. In addition to foundational instruction, she has helped competitive swimmers refine their technique, build endurance, and grow their confidence in the water.

Ferguson’s appointment is expected to bring renewed energy to the Broncos swim team. With her competitive background, technical knowledge, and heart for teaching, Lake Belton is poised

to take the next step in building a strong and supportive swim culture.

As the new season approaches, Ferguson will focus on developing her swimmers’ fundamentals, increasing team unity, and fostering a competitive mindset that mirrors her own journey—from Central Texas pools to collegiate competition and now back again as a leader and mentor.

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Cory Smith promoted to Tiger Tennis coach

By: Aries Ramos  
The Belton Journal

Belton High School has officially promoted longtime assistant coach Cory Smith to head coach of the Belton Tigers tennis program for the upcoming 2025–26 school year.

A familiar and respected presence within the Belton athletic department, Smith brings over a decade of coaching experience and a strong connection to the school and community.

in College Station, where he earned a degree in Kinesiology with a focus on Motor Behavior.

This academic background, paired with years of practical coaching experience, allows Smith to approach the game with a comprehensive understanding of athletic development, movement, and performance.

Known for his strong work ethic and team-first mentality, Smith has earned the trust and respect of students, staff, and the community. His ability to connect with athletes and encourage their growth both as players and individuals has been a consistent strength throughout his career.

As he steps into the head coaching role, Smith will look to continue building a program rooted in hard work, discipline, and consistency.

With his leadership, the Belton Tigers tennis program is positioned to grow both in terms of competitiveness and culture, providing athletes with the tools and support they need to succeed on and off the court.

His promotion marks a new chapter for Belton tennis, one led by a coach who has long been a part of the program’s foundation and is now ready to lead it forward with the same commitment and pride that has defined his career.



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By making careful moves, you can keep moving toward your own Financial Independence Day — and that’s an occasion worth celebrating.

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

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**FISHING REPORT**

**Belton Lake**

FAIR. Water stained; 77 degrees; 2.31 feet below pool. Big changes were brought on this past week with unseasonably hot days and nights bringing the water temperature up quickly and nudging us toward summer patterns. The water is warming rapidly and the fishing is getting tricky. There is a definite transition underway in which the white bass are making use of the bottom less and less and are beginning to suspend routinely. There are two drivers for this: stratification of the water by temperature which will eventually lead to the creation of the thermocline by mid-June, and the increasing presence of young-of-the-year shad making their way into open water. When fish are suspended, I rely heavily on my 2-D sonar, traditional sonar or colored sonar, as the three-dimensional cone it makes use of extends the echo signature of the fish into long arches which are larger and much more easily seen on a screen than the shorter rice grain signatures seen on side-imaging and down-imaging. The MAL Heavy with silver blade and chartreuse tail has been a consistent lure for the past three weeks. It shows up remarkably well on forward-facing sonar and 2-D sonar. Drop below the suspended fish and crank it up at a steady cadence at least two cranks above the fish showing highest in the water column. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are good. Anglers can find blue catfish around points and sand flats in 10-20 feet of water. Larger fresh cut baits have been effective for trophy size fish. Eater fish under 10 pounds are active and slow drifting with small cut shad along sand flats will produce. Channel catfish are good and can be caught on punch bait in 10-25 feet of water. Flatheads are excellent on live bait in shallow water around river mouths. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing. As we enjoy a weekend of fishing we salute and honor our Nation’s heroes this Memorial Day.

**Stillhouse**

GOOD. Water stained; 77 degrees; 3.42 feet below pool. Big changes were brought on this past week with unseasonably hot days and nights bringing the water temperature up quickly and nudging us toward summer patterns. The water is warming rapidly and the fishing is getting tricky. There is a definite transition underway in which the white bass are making use of the bottom less and less and are beginning to suspend routinely. There are two drivers for this: stratification of the water by temperature which will eventually lead to the creation of the thermocline by mid-June, and the increasing presence of young-of-the-year shad making their way into open water. When fish are suspended, I rely heavily on my 2-D sonar, traditional sonar or colored sonar, as the three-dimensional cone it makes use of extends the echo signature of the fish into long arches which are larger and much more easily seen on a screen than the shorter rice grain signatures seen on side-imaging and down-imaging. The MAL Heavy with silver blade and chartreuse tail has been a consistent lure for the past three weeks. It shows up remarkably well on forward-facing sonar and 2-D sonar. Drop below the suspended fish and crank it up at a steady cadence at least two cranks above the fish showing highest in the water column. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. As we enjoy a weekend of fishing we salute and honor our Nation’s heroes this Memorial Day. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic this weekend.

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## Welch - From Page B1

courage to lead fairly, it doesn't matter whether the employee is a relative or not. That's a failure of leadership, not lineage. No policy can make up for weak leadership.

I've experienced this firsthand. As a college head coach, I had two brothers on my staff. Tracy served with me for 29 years and earned National Assistant Coach of the Year honors. He later became a head coach and holds the highest winning percentage in Lake Worth ISD history. Gary was instrumental in our program turn around and was later asked by the college president to launch a new academic initiative. Their performance wasn't

hindered by our relationship, it was strengthened by mutual accountability, trust, and a shared vision. That's exactly what every organization should want in its employees.

Throughout my career in athletics and education, I've worked with family members who were hired not because they were related to me, but because they were the best candidates. They were qualified, capable, and committed. That's what hiring should be about, choosing the right person for the role.

Blanket policies that ban family members from working together often miss the point. A strong nepotism policy doesn't

have to forbid family, it should provide clear expectations, checks and balances, and ensure all hires are based on merit. The real issue isn't family connections. It's whether leaders are doing their jobs.

Leadership is about responsibility. Rather than writing restrictive rules to protect against bad leadership, we should demand better leadership. We should expect leaders to act with fairness, courage, and wisdom, because great teams and organizations, whether related by blood or not, are always built on trust, accountability, and excellence.

Thought for the

week, "Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you." H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Dr. Jack Welch serves as Special Teams and Tight Ends Coach

with the San Antonio Brahmas of the United Football League. He is also the Director of the Coaches Academy and an Adjunct Professor at East Texas A&M University. With a career spanning professional sports, public education, and rural community development, he brings a servant-leader mindset and a passion for building trust-driven cultures that empower people to thrive on the field, in the classroom, and in life.

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**A.      18   24   1   1   22**

*Clue: Velocity*

**B.      2   1   14   25   2   26**

*Clue: How tall*

**C.      26   6   11   3   23   18**

*Clue: Rails*

**D.      11   4   9   18   1   4   1   5   26**

*Clue: Diversion*

Answers: A. speed B. height C. tracks D. amusement





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# Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.


**B E B   N D A   L W O F**

---

Answer: Ebb and flow



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# EDITORIAL

## The Key to Happiness

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

We humans are an odd sort. It only takes an hour in an airport to see a full spectrum of strangeness, from wardrobe choice and hairstyles to some of the weirdest behavior you could imagine. But perhaps the thing that takes the trophy for bizarre habits is something we all have in common. Every last one of us.

Why do we give more weight to negative events than positive ones? Everybody does it. It's in our nature. Experts say for experiences, it takes three positives for every negative one for us to feel pretty good about it. So if you have fun 75% of the time when you play golf, you'll keep doing it. But if it's 50%, you'll probably quit.

When it comes to relationships, the ratio is 5 to 1. If my math is correct (and it may not be... I teach English), that means we need to feel good about our interactions with someone 85% of the time to have positive feelings about the relationship. And that's for the *average* person... some of us need that ratio to be even higher. Good thing I have amazing, loving people in my life who put up with my quirky, super-sensitive, cry-at-Disney-movies nature and love me anyway.

But no matter how great our experiences or how awesome our relationships, our personal wellness comes down to *us*. No one can make us happy. It's an attitude we choose. We can dwell on the bad things in our lives and be miserable, or we can focus on the positives. One practice that makes all the difference is the discipline of gratitude.

### What is Gratitude?

Gratitude is a humble recognition of the good things in our lives, along with awareness that they came from something outside ourselves. It fosters a feeling of connection to others, to nature, and to God. A growing body of research shows that gratitude improves our health, both mentally and physically. In the past decade, many studies have shown that people who make a conscious effort to think about things they're grateful for tend to be happier and have less depression and anxiety. These studies point to better immune function, reduced pain, lower stress levels, and improved blood pressure and heart health, all from a thankful attitude.

### How Does Gratitude Help?

According to Amy E. Keller, PsyD, "Experiencing gratitude activates neurotransmitters like dopamine, which we associate with pleasure, and serotonin, which regulates our mood. It also causes the brain to release oxytocin, a hormone which induces feelings like trust and generosity which promotes social bonding and feeling connected."

Why does gratitude work so well? According to experts, a grateful attitude helps us appreciate what we already have instead of focusing on what we don't have, or how we wish things were. Including a daily practice of gratitude may feel forced at first, but consistent focus on what we have instead of what we don't have has been proven to increase overall happiness and wellbe-

ing in most people. The effects last for months beyond the last gratitude exercise. The key is *not to stop being grateful*, so you won't lose the benefits.

### Here are some ideas to help you exercise an attitude of gratitude:

#### Write thank-you notes.

An old-fashioned, hand-written note is great, but emails and texts are also appreciated.

#### Make a phone call.

Tell someone how much you appreciate something they did or the influence they had on your life.

#### Visit someone.

Drop by or schedule an appointment to connect with someone you're grateful for. Use the time to tell them, face to face, what you appreciate about them.

#### Send a mental thank you.

Perhaps the person you want to thank has passed on. Maybe you want to thank the stranger who let you go in front of them in line, but you have no idea how to reach them. Send a mental thank-you. It will make you feel better and help you focus on something positive.

#### Keep a gratitude journal.

Write daily or weekly letters to yourself or simply keep a running list of things you're thankful for. One cool thing about writing things down is that you can go back and re-read your entries at any time.

#### Pray.

Set aside a specific time to focus on things you're grateful for and thank God for them. Consider the sunset, the cool breeze through your hair, and the gift of a child's belly laugh.

#### Be mindful.

Mindfulness refers to focusing on right here, right now without judgment. Spend time thinking about what you're grateful for each day, no matter how insignificant. Be thankful for the shoes you're wearing, the roof over your head, your job, or even the bird singing outside your window.

#### Walk.

Exercise helps our bodies *and* our spirits. As you move your body, consider things you see that you're grateful for, such as the trees, the weather, or a friendly face.

#### Create a family practice.

If you live with others, consider starting a daily or weekly tradition of sharing things you're grateful for. Making gratitude a habit helps normalize this positive thought process and retrains our brains to focus less on the negative.

These are just a few ideas for how to make gratitude a normal, everyday process. The practice of gratitude can impact your health, your happiness, and every aspect of your life for the better.

*"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

## Jim Bob

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

As I've mentioned before, most Saturdays I try to listen to a syndicated radio show called "Hard Drive With Lou Brutus". Lou, the host, focuses on the newest in hard rock and heavy metal, with most of the songs on the show being no more than 6 – 12 months old. It's rare for him to go back more than 2 years or so unless it's a special episode.

At one point, virtually every episode featured the song "Jim Bob"; I think he said that it was by an act named Hardy, but I'm usually busy while listening and so I'm not 100 percent sure.

The song is about Jim Bob, a rather unfortunate soul. Somewhere along the way, Jim Bob suffered a life-altering injury in an on-the-job accident. As if this wasn't bad enough, Jim Bob became addicted to the painkillers he was given as part of the treatment.

Between his injury and his addiction, Jim Bob has developed a very nihilistic, if not fa-

talistic, viewpoint. He believes it's only a matter of time before he dies, so he wants to spend what time he has left deriving what he regards as pleasure from life. The problem is that Jim Bob defines "pleasure" as "smoking, drinking, popping pills, and shooting his pistol at random targets", all reckless or even self-destructive acts. He's getting a check each month for disability, and so he's got just enough coming in to pay for his bills and support his vices. But he's barely caring for himself, and he's clearly not caring for the dogs he has given how flea-bitten they are.

Even though Jim Bob only goes into town when he has to, everyone around none-the-less knows who he is, what he's going through, and how he lives his life. Now, you're thinking that someone, somewhere would help him, right? That they'd show compassion, try to intervene, and help him break the cycle he's in?

Nope. Best case scenario is that he gets

lectured about how he needs to give it all up, get another job, and start going to church. Worst case scenario is that people scream at him about how he's sick, disturbed, ignorant, backwards, or even demonic before trying to chase him off. The song is silent about anyone even trying to visit him or law enforcement, welfare services, or animal control checking up on him. There he sits, wallowing in his self-destruction, while the whole town goes "Tsk tsk" and congratulates themselves for being better than he is.

Folks, is there a Jim Bob in your town? Is there a person who needs the help but isn't getting it? Is there someone that people are writing off when they could be reaching out instead?

Now, there are individuals who truly need

professional assistance. These individuals may or may not be in a way that only a trained professional should even be approaching them, let alone trying to help them. It's tragic, but some people are in such a state.

However, there are people who are dealing with social isolation, poor mental health, or various other troubles that we could be reaching out to and trying to pull up from their situation. Far too often, society looks at what this person is facing and use that to justify not reaching out or even blame the person for being how they are. Never underestimate what a little bit of care, a little bit of positive attention, can do for someone or how it can potentially change their life.



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at or before 10 o'clock AM, before the  
Honorable 146th 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  
21, 2025.

The file number of said suit being No.  
25DCV353315. The names of the parties in  
said suit are:

TH MSR HOLDINGS, LLC VS. DEBORAH  
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The nature of said suit being substantially as  
follows, to wit:



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LEGALS

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This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 3554 Centennial Dr., Belton, TX 76513, and more particularly described as Being Lot 6, of Centennial Subdivision, Section Two, an Addition to the City of Belton, Bell County, Texas, according to the Plat of record In Cabinet A, Slide 3-C, of the Plat Records of Bell County, Texas.

This was issued at the request of attorney: PETER K. KNAPP MILLER GEORGE & SUGGS 6080 TENNYSON PKWYSTE 100 PLANO TX 75024.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty- two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a 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 June 03, 2025.

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

By: M Cortez Deputy Clerk  
06.12,06.19,06.26,07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION-PARENT AND CHILD

To: Zorri Spearman, any Unknown Father and All Whom It May Concern, Respondents, in the hereinafter-styled and - numbered cause: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The Motion to Modify of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, on May 14, 2024, against Tracy Spearman and Zorri Spearman, Respondent(s), numbered 22DFAM330842, and entitled “In the Interest of TRA’ZON SPEARMAN, minor child.” The suit requests to modify the parent-child relationships and to appoint a managing conservator of the child. The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit is: TRA’ZON SPEARMAN, DOB: January 31, 2015, Place of birth: Texas

The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child’s interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child’s adoption.

The name and address of the attorney for plaintiff is Ryan Smith, Bell County Attorney’s Office, P.O. Box 1127, Belton, TX 76513

Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025

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

By C. Rodriguez Deputy  
06.19

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00376

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

TICEE KOBYLANSKI, Applicant, on June 12, 2025, filed an application for independent administration and letters of administration and application to determine heirship in a proceeding styled: PAUL WILLIAM KOBYLANSKI, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00376 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 19, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

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

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: STEPHEN T. BRISCHKE, 15 NORTH MAIN STREET, TEMPLE TX 76501

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 13, 2025.

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

By : Sophia Nieto Deputy  
06.19

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00373

TO: ANTHONY P. SIMONETTI

LISA M. SIMONETTI AND VINCENT SIMONETTI, Applicants, on June 12, 2025, filed an application of permanent co-guardians of the person with full authority in a proceeding styled:, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00373 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 19, 2025 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

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

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: MARY LINDLEY-WILEY , 100 W CENTEX EXPWY STE 302, HARKER HEIGHTS TX 76548

The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on June 12, 2025.

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

By: Anna M Morse Deputy  
06.19

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DIANA HINTON Deceased, were issued on May 12, 2025, in Cause No. 24CPB00691 pending in the County Court at Law No. 1, Bell County, Texas, to: JASMINE JUANICE KISER.

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: Mary Wiley Attorney at Law, 100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 306, Harker Heights, Texas 76548

DATED the 11th day of June 2025.

MARY WILEY Attorney for JASMINE JUANICE KISER, State Bar No.: 24032669 ,100 W. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 306, Harker Heights, Texas

76548, Telephone: (254) 634-6969, Facsimile: (254) 634-6587, E-mail: mary@lindleylawoffices.com  
06.19

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00231

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

BRYCETON TRENT URBANTKE, Applicant, on April 03, 2025, filed an application to determine heirship and for letters of administration - intestate in a proceeding styled: TRENTON CARL URBANTKE, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00231 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 19, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

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

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: ANDREW THOMPSON, 206 LAKE ROAD, BELTON TX 76513

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 12, 2025.

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

By: Sophia Nieto Deputy  
06.19

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00372

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS

RICHARD DEAN SILER, Applicant, on June 11, 2025, filed an application for determination of heirship and for letters of independent administration without bond in a proceeding styled: PAULINE JOSEPHINE SILER, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00372 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 19, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

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

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: David J. Wilburn, II 2340 E Trinity Mills Road Suite 300, Carrollton TX 75006

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 11, 2025.

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

By: Sophia Nieto Deputy06.19



LEGALS

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00371**

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS  
CHERY F. STORY and DANA MICHELLE STORY, Applicants, on June 10, 2025, filed an , in a proceeding styled: SYLVIA FAYE STORY-HOLT aka SYLVIA HOLT aka SYLVIA FAYE HOLT, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00371 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 19, 2025 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.  
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.  
Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.  
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: CHRISTIE E SANTANA, 1101 SATELLITE VIEW SUITE 605, ROUND ROCK TX 78665  
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 11, 2025.  
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513  
By :Sophia Nieto Deputy  
06.19

LEGALS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JIMMY LEROY JAMES, Deceased, were issued on June 3, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00078, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: Debra Ann James.  
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Jeffrey Thigpen Attorney at Law, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503  
DATED the 10th day of June, 2025.  
Jeffrey Thigpen Attorney for Debra Ann/ James, State Bar No.: 24099990, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503, Telephone: (254) 773-1663, Facsimile: (254) 773-2574 ,Email: jeff@linzythigpen.com  
06.19

LEGALS

**THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CASE NUMBER 25CPB00371**

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS  
LARRY COX, Applicant, on June 16, 2025, filed an Application for Declaration of Heirship and Issuance of Letters of Dependent Administration in a proceeding styled: WILLIAM CHAPMAN CHAMBERLAIN, Deceased, and bearing the number 25CPB00377 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 19, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.  
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.  
Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk,

Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.  
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: 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 16, 2025.  
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513  
By: Lillian Phillips Deputy  
06.19

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of David Vernon Kinsey, Deceased, were issued on June 9, 2025, in Case No. 25CPB0000233, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 in Bell County, Texas, to: Clara Gail Oglesby Kinsey, aka Clara Gail Oglesby ,The address of the Independent Executor is in Bell County, Texas: Clara Gail Oglesby Kinsey akd Clara Gail Oglesby c/o William T. Wilson, P. O. Box 427, Temple, TX 76503  
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
DATED the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.  
Respectfully submitted,  
WILLIAM T. WILSON ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW, LTD., P. O. Box 427, Temple, Texas 76503-0427, (254) 771-5885 Telephone, (254) 771-5887 Facsimile, ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE. WILLIAM T. WILSON, State Bar No. 21734000  
06.19



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	3	7	16
1		4	5
9	8	20	





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

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1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404

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401 S. Davis St. ~ 254.939.6090

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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 Christian Church of Belton**  
306 E. Fifth Ave. ~ 254.654.5096

**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**  
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**Hope Tabernacle**  
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**Iglesia de Cristo**  
3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910

**Immanuel Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.0824

**Keys Valley Baptist Church**  
4393 W. US Hwy. 190 ~ 254.939.1650

**Lakeview Baptist Church**  
7717 N Hwy. 317 ~ 254.780.1884

**Liberty Church**  
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**Liberty in Christ Church**  
2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337

**Miller Heights Baptist Church**  
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**Ministerios Vida**  
2020 S. IH-35 ~ 254.624.8015

**Mt. Zion United Methodist Church**  
218 Alexander St. ~ 254.939.5621

**New Life Fellowship**  
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**Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church**  
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**Trinity Full Gospel**  
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**Christian Life Church**  
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**Covenant Lutheran Church**  
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**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 Christian Church of Temple**  
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**First Methodist Church Temple, GMC**  
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**First Presbyterian Church Temple**  
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**Foundation Church**  
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**Grace Baptist Church**  
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**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**  
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**Wildwood Baptist Church**  
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**Celebrating 15 Years of Healing, Hope, and Grace**



**John C. Perry**

This month, the Body of Christ Community Clinic, Inc. marks its 15th anniversary, a milestone that reflects the dedication of its volunteers, the grace of God, and the countless lives changed through His love.

Thirteen years ago, my church asked me to serve on the Clinic Board. At the time, I had never even heard of this ministry. Having served on various nonprofit boards in my business career, I assumed this would be another opportunity to fulfill a civic duty, a term of service and then I'd move on. But God had other plans.

Now 13 years later, I am still here, not just as a board member, but as a deeply committed volunteer. I have served as Board Chair and continue to serve on the Board, Executive, Marketing, and Budget Committees. Why? Because the moment I stepped into this ministry, I saw the presence of Christ's love in every aspect of its work. As long as they'll

have me, I will do whatever I can to support this mission.

The Body of Christ Community Clinic provides free medical and dental care to underserved residents of east Bell County. But its impact goes beyond physical healing, it nourishes souls. Every patient who walks through its doors is met not only with expert care but with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Volunteers pray with those in need, offer words of encouragement, and provide a pathway to salvation for those seeking faith.

This ministry thrives through the unwavering support of fifteen area churches of different denominations, as well as caring individuals and businesses. The Clinic accepts no government funding, allowing it the freedom to share the Gospel without restriction.

It is an operation of faith, staffed primarily by volunteers alongside a few dedicated employees. In 2024, the Clinic recorded over 3,300 patient visits, served by more than 180 volunteers who collectively gave nearly 11,000 hours of their time. Their efforts bring healing, hope, and renewal to those who need it most.

This place captured my heart long ago. I have seen firsthand the desperation of people with nowhere else to turn, patients weighed down

by pain and uncertainty, only to be greeted with kindness, treated with dignity, and embraced with compassion. I have watched hopelessness give way to faith and despair transform into renewed strength. The kindness of strangers brings comfort, and the love of Christ restores lives.

Serving at the Clinic has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. I thank God for the privilege of witnessing His love in both those receiving care and those providing it. This Clinic is more than a medical or dental facility, it is a sanctuary, a living testament to His love in action. Every healed body, every restored smile, every uplifted spirit echoes God's grace.

As we celebrate 15 years of this incredible ministry, my heart is full. I am humbled to walk alongside so many dedicated souls, offering hope, healing, and the promise of Christ to those in need. May this mission continue to shine His light for many years to come.

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



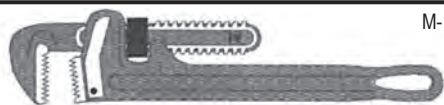
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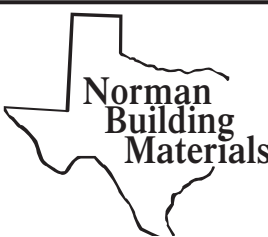
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## World FACT:

Burj Khalifa is the tallest skyscraper in the world. It is 2,722 feet tall and can be found in this country.

Answer: United Arab Emirates

## How they say that in...

- English:** Elevator
- Spanish:** Ascensor
- Italian:** Ascensore
- French:** Ascenseur
- German:** Fahrstuhl

## What’s the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Boat in water 2. Extra antenna on building 3. Missing C&C from building sign 4. Left building is taller

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



- 1848:** A photograph of the June Days uprising becomes the first known representation of photojournalism.
- 1947:** “The Diary of a Young Girl” is published.
- 1997:** The National Hockey League approves expansion franchises for four cities.

## NEW WORD

### HIGH-RISE

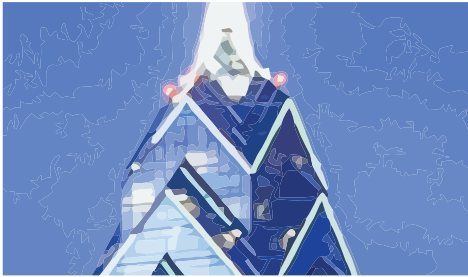
a building with occupied floors more than 75 feet above street level

## Did You Know?

Chicago’s Home Insurance Building is widely considered the world’s first skyscraper. Skyscrapers enable more offices or homes to be built in urban areas.



## Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Skyscraper top

## STAR SPANGLED WORD SEARCH

A	N	S	T	E	K	C	O	R	G	A	R	P	U	B	B	P	L	F	L
C	D	P	L	M	B	U	G	D	E	L	G	N	A	P	S	Y	U	D	U
O	M	Y	I	T	A	P	E	S	S	S	S	B	G	O	P	N	R	C	K
G	D	K	W	F	C	O	F	T	Y	U	S	P	S	O	I	L	A	R	R
T	P	A	R	F	K	O	T	N	A	W	M	T	Y	T	F	G	T	N	N
S	S	C	F	T	Y	L	F	W	I	R	T	M	E	A	P	G	S	N	G
S	B	E	G	K	A	N	K	O	I	I	B	D	E	C	D	U	K	A	H
U	H	U	T	D	R	E	E	C	O	N	W	E	M	R	U	I	T	R	K
O	A	U	I	S	D	N	E	W	R	D	W	P	L	L	H	H	L	W	O
P	I	N	C	R	I	C	G	Y	O	E	U	D	O	E	E	S	A	O	S
R	L	W	F	D	R	N	P	T	R	P	T	B	D	R	C	E	T	T	H
E	M	O	T	E	I	U	R	D	E	E	U	R	I	Y	K	S	S	S	C
G	F	Y	A	L	L	E	A	N	E	N	K	N	U	L	W	E	Y	D	S
R	L	M	L	H	S	C	I	G	D	D	G	E	E	F	U	R	O	K	P
U	M	I	Y	S	T	H	I	F	A	E	L	H	E	G	K	M	Y	H	G
B	R	K	E	W	S	A	S	E	N	N	G	T	T	S	O	N	C	E	I
G	I	D	B	N	U	G	G	W	O	C	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	Y	E
P	F	A	U	L	W	A	S	S	M	E	C	A	S	M	U	F	R	R	N
O	M	S	L	E	L	W	W	T	E	U	T	B	W	U	G	O	Y	A	F
H	B	S	I	F	R	B	G	L	L	A	N	D	D	Y	U	R	F	B	W

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

## WORDS

- AMERICA
- BACKYARD
- BURGER
- CELEBRATE
- DESSERT
- FLAG
- FOURTH
- FRANKFURTER
- GATHERING
- GRILLING
- GUESTS
- HOLIDAY
- ICE CREAM
- INDEPENDENCE
- LEMONADE
- POOL
- ROCKETS
- SKY
- SPANGLED
- STAR
- SUMMER
- SUNSHINE
- UNITED
- WARM