

Belton celebrates 250 years of American independence



Left: A crowd listens to Col. Brunson with the 13th Armored Corps Sustainment Command from Fort Hood. **Right:** Members of the 1st Cavalry march in the 4th of July Parade.

By Shalee Corey-Wiebe
The Belton Journal

On July 4 at 8 a.m., a crowd gathered in front of the Bell County Courthouse and along the streets of downtown Belton to celebrate 250 years of American independence.

Scot Hrbacek, chair of the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, started off with an invocation.

The Belton High School Madrigal then led the National Anthem, and everyone recited The Pledge of Allegiance before the 13th Armored Corps Sustainment Command color guard led the presentation of the colors. Afterward, multiple community leaders spoke to the audience.

Mayor David Leigh said, “When you travel the

world, you realize that the people you sit next to at a restaurant or visit with are neither cynics or skeptics, they’re just people, and we’ve seen a whole group of people come to this nation and not discuss ideology, just being humans, and we’ve gone from cynic to skeptic to supporter, and so it’s wonderful to see so many supporters here today.”

David Blackburn, Bell County Judge, quoted Calvin Coolidge’s words, spoken on America’s 150th Independence Day, “July 4 is not merely a date on the calendar, it is the birthday of an idea, an idea that government exists to serve the people and not the other way around, that all are created equal, endowed with rights that no kind, no parliament, no earthly power can take away.”

David Blackburn concluded his portion with, “Happy birthday, America, and may God continue to bless this great nation.”

Colonel Brunson, commander of the 13th Armored

Corps Sustainment Command, honored the men who brought about this country’s freedom, and also thanked the community for their continual support for veterans and soldiers and their families.

“To our veterans, thank you for your service and your continued example each and every day. To our families, thank you for standing strong. To the young people who watch this parade today, you are our future, and we will invest in you. And to this community, thank you for the unending compassion and love you show all who are privileged to wear the nation’s cloth.”

Colonel Brunson closed with, “God bless the City of Belton. God bless our veterans. God bless our soldiers and their families, and God bless the United States of America. Happy Independence Day.”

Everyone stood for the 13th Army Corps Sustainment Command retiring of the colors before the parade began.

Belton 4th of July Parade award winners announced

Special to the Journal

The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce announced the award winners for the 4th of July Parade.

The theme was “Celebrating 250 Years of the USA” and there were 200 entries registered for the parade, ranging from individuals to large groups, elected officials, floats, musical groups, businesses, and non-profit organizations and groups. Not all entries were eligible or chose to be judged, but it was a difficult decision for the judges to select the best of the best.

“We were pleased with the quality and diversity of the parade entries this year and appreciate



Above Left: CGI - Chairman’s Choice. **Above Right:** Nolan Creek Brewery - Best of Show (For profit business)

the way our community celebrated our theme of Celebrating 150 Years of the USA,” stated Randy Pittenger, President/CEO of the Belton Area Chamber of Com-

merce. “The enthusiasm of parade participants and spectators made for a wonderful day to celebrate in Belton with a very successful parade!”

Thousands of people lined the parade route along Main Street, Central Avenue and Birdwell, cheering for their favorite parade entries as they rolled by. Spectators

began saving their favorite place on the parade route up to a week in advance, with many already in their seats before daylight on Saturday. Many families and friend groups have been in the same location for generations, watching the parade from their special vantage point.

Astound Broadband and Edward Jones were the Parade awards sponsor this year. Awards were presented in the following categories:

Chairman’s Choice: CGI, with an impressive and creative float featuring iconic images of our country.

See **WINNERS**,
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Harris High School to hold bi-annual reunion

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

The West Belton-T. B. Harris School Association is hosting its three-day bi-annual reunion, inviting the

public to celebrate the T.B. Harris Building’s 90th Anniversary.

Built as the African American school in 1936, the Harris Center from Friday, July 17 through Sunday, July 19 will be a gathering place, celebrating and remembering local African American history.

This year’s reunion theme is “It’s A Family Affair 2026,” showcasing The Harris Exhibit, local African American history.

The exhibit is free to view and does not require a reservation.

Anita Reagan, with the West Belton-T.B. Harris School Association said as an example of what people at the exhibit will learn.

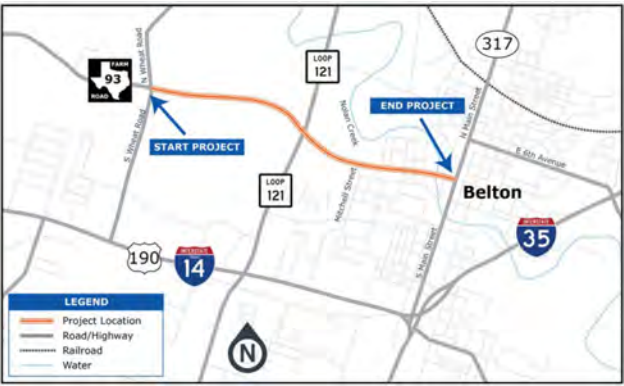


“The slave to Gerald Sam Houston, who lived to be 100 years old after emancipation, was the secretary to General Sam Houston,” said Reagan. “When historians wanted information on Sam Houston, they came to Belton and interviewed Jeff Hamilton. Jeff Hamilton is the only black man

in Texas that has two historical markers, one at his gravesite, and the other one is at UMHB campus.”

Friday evening, July 17th, at 8 p.m., there will be a talent showcase, free to attend, but reservations are required.

See **HARRIS HS**,
Page A4



Courtesy photo
Proposed reconstruction area of FM 93 between Wheat Road and Main Street in Belton.

FM 93 reconstruction meeting to take place July 16

By Harvey Jackson Oss
The Belton Journal

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to reconstruct the existing FM 93 from Wheat Road to SH 317, known in Belton as Main Street.

An open-house, in-person meeting will be held on

See **FM 93**,
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Thursday, July 16 from 5-7 p.m. at the Harris Community Center.

Attendees may come and go at their convenience. In-person attendees will be able to view the same presentation delivered in an online public meeting which will be

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Morgan’s Point Resort holds America’s 250th birthday party

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

The Mary Ruth Briggs Library of Morgan’s Point Resort (MPR) held a birthday party for America’s 250th birthday on Friday, July 3. Festivities began with a patriotic ceremony at 10 a.m.

Children dressed in red, white, and blue, sat under the shade of a tree with their families.

The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Troop 118 led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Hayden Maroney sang the national anthem. The town’s Mayor, Jimbo Snyder, dressed as Uncle Sam, read the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America.

Snyder then called the volunteers

wonderful people, having once again pulled the rabbit out of the hat.

To the crowd he said, “Welcome to the celebration of our nation’s 250th birthday. 250 years ago, our forefathers came together and drafted the Declaration of Independence. This document explains why the 13 colonies regarded themselves as independent sovereign states, no longer subject to British rule. It’s become one of the most circulated, reprinted, and influential documents in history. I would like to invite you all to have a very happy and very safe holiday.”

Pam Robinson, the chairperson of the library, led everyone in singing Happy Birthday to America. She then invited the children to play games, dance inside

the library turned Glow Room, and to have some birthday cake.

More than 30 volunteers put on the event, including Scout Troop 118, the Women’s Auxiliary, the Fire Department, the Police Department, and the library volunteers.

Robinson said, “We planned this event to be a local patriotic salute for our Country’s 250th Birthday, a family-friendly event, and a unique community get-together for all our citizens. I had so many parents come and tell me it was a wonderful event.”

The event was planned by Pam Robinson, Jimanne Durkee, and Linda Bridges. Robinson said they are already planning next year’s event. They will host it in the Garrett & Mic Hill Event Center.



BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman
MPR Mayor Jimbo Snyder, dressed as Uncle Sam, reads the Preamble to the Constitution during the 4th of July celebration held at Morgan’s Point Resort.

American-born teen moves back to Belton from Russia



Courtesy Photo
Alex Moment stands by the sign announcing his return to Belton, Texas.

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Benjamin (Ben) Moment brought his son, Alexander (Alex) Moment, who’s 15, home from Russia on May 25.

His son was born in Louisville, Kentucky, but the family moved to Sochi, Russia, in 2018, when Alex was seven years old.

His very recent move back to the United States keeps him from automatic placement in the Ukraine war.

His return home took two flights, an overnight stay at a hotel, and a three-hour drive from the Houston airport to their historic family home in Belton. The flight to Istanbul was about two hours, where he met up with his dad.

“I flew to Istanbul, and I met my dad there. We stayed in a hotel. It was great and awesome to see my dad,” Alex said.

The next day they boarded a 12-hour flight that brought them to Houston. Landing at night, they drove to

Belton.

Alex chose Domino’s pizza for dinner.

Ben said, “Alex had eaten Domino’s pizza before. You miss a lot of things in America when you’re used to being here.”

Alex is staying in touch with his friends through voice calls on Messenger.

He says Belton is awesome and that it has everything. He visited in the summer of 2024 and so knew the area before his arrival in May.

Alex said, “I do think that Belton has the best food in Texas.”

He said Schoepf’s BBQ is his favorite, enjoys Oakfire Pizza and Brewing, and the local Mexican restaurants.

Ben said his son is working on his own ChatGPT AI development. He mentioned Alex’s passion for computer support.

They’re hoping he gets into New Tech High School. With a new computer from Micro Center in Dallas, father and son are already working on their

own AI business model.

In Russia, Ben explained, education was biased toward his son because he is an American.

Being retired military, Ben has stayed informed about the war in Ukraine. He said that once a boy turns 16, which Alex will in October, they are restricted from travel until they turn 18 and are placed into the military.

Alex had to leave his bangle cat named Fluffy in Russia. However, he says it is great to be in America for its 250th birthday, calling himself patriotic.

He said, “In America, we made cars. We do architecture of engines of the best cars.”

He explained that it was in the United States of America, in the 1940s, that the first concept of AI being able to think began.

His father said his son has a deep respect for America because it represents both freedom and innovation.

Their AI business is called Wonka Wealth Factory and is at wonkawealth-factory.ai.

Area students receive P.E.O. scholarships

Special to the Journal

The P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) has been empowering, educating, and celebrating women for more than 156 years. The nonprofit organization has helped women pursue educational goals at all levels by providing approximately \$462 million in grants, scholarships, awards, and loans.

P.E.O. Chapter HC brings together women from Salado, Temple, Belton, and surrounding communities who share a commitment to supporting women’s education.

In addition to sponsoring the national P.E.O. STAR Scholarship for graduating high school seniors, Chapter HC introduced two new local scholarships this year to support young women continuing their educational journeys in Texas.

These scholarships recognize students who are well-rounded in leadership, academics, extracurricular involvement, and a commitment to making a positive impact in their communities.

Kay Baker of Lake Belton High School and Ariela Gutierrez of Rogers High School were selected as the inaugural recipients of Chapter HC’s \$1,000 scholarships. Baker will attend Texas A&M University this fall to study Biomedical Engineering and Gutierrez plans to attend Angelo State University to pursue a degree in Kinesiology and Exercise Science.

These scholarships were made possible through Chapter HC’s annual “fun-raising” events, including the Festival of Friends/Fall Festival and Purse BINGO in the spring. In addition to providing scholarship funding, these events increase awareness of P.E.O.’s mission and its impact on women’s education.

Landry Hart, a 2026 graduate of Troy High School, received the prestigious \$2,500 STAR Scholarship.



Courtesy Photo
Left to right: Chapter HC members Cindi Dunn, Kathleen Vinger, Scholarship recipient Kay Baker, Karissa Dolan, Marlene King, and Kerri Miller.

selor, Ms. Huber, Hart completed an interview process before being selected as Chapter HC’s nominee. She will attend Texas A&M University to study Aerospace Engineering.

The STAR Scholarship recognizes exceptional young women who demonstrate outstanding leadership, academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, community service, and strong potential for future success.

Chapter HC is currently accepting nominations for the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship for 2027 graduating high school females, with the process beginning this summer.

To nominate a deserving student, contact Cherie Flanagan at (254) 228-3254 or email PEO-HC1987@gmail.com.

For more information about P.E.O. Chapter HC or opportunities to become involved, contact Chapter President Kathleen Vinger at (956) 330-2195.

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playing on a screen, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and or consultants, and leave written comments.

The public is also invited to view an online presentation and leave comments on the project beginning July 16 at 5 p.m. The presentation will remain online for 15 days.

The virtual public meeting may be accessed at www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html.

Those without internet access may call 254-366-2315 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to ask questions and access project materials.

The proposed improvements along FM 93 from the section from Wheat Road to Mitchell Street include widening FM 93 from two undivided lanes to four divided lanes with a raised median.

Additionally, FM 93 from Mitchell Street to SH 317 proposed improvements include widening FM 93 from two lanes to three lanes, one lane in each direction with a two-way left-turn lane in the middle.

A shared-use path would be added along one side of the roadway and a sidewalk along the other side of the roadway throughout the entire corridor.

Three roundabout alternatives are also proposed at the intersections of FM 93/Wheat Road, FM 93/SH 121 and FM 93 / SH 317.

TxDOT anticipates making a de minimis determination for this use under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, involving construction in wetlands and action in

a floodplain.

Affected areas may include Harris Park, Yettie Polk Park, and the Nolan Creek Park Hike and Bike.

If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public meeting or in-person option, please contact Liza Ross, Public Involvement Consultant, at 512-626-7482 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Monday, July 13, 2026.

Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

Project materials are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the TxDOT Waco District Office, 100 S. Loop Dr., Waco, TX 76704. To make an appointment, please call 254-867-2700. Materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings.html.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to Nancy Ledbetter & Associates, Attn: FM 93, PO Box 14622, Austin, TX 78761. Written comments may also be submitted by email to LRoss-c@txdot.gov. All comments must be received on or before Friday, July 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Responses will be posted online.

For general questions, please contact Bradley Mayes, P.E. TxDOT Project Manager, at 254-366-2315 or Bradley.Mayes@txdot.gov.

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

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

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To be considered for inclusion in the Belton Journal, all submissions must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday of the week in question.
Opinions expressed (including Letters to the Editor) are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by the Belton Journal’s management, staff or advertisers. Letters to the Editor should not exceed more than 350 words. Contact us at (254) 939-5754.

OBITUARIES



Baird

Gary Lynn Baird
April 27, 1947 - June 30, 2026

Gary Lynn Baird, 79, of Belton passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 surrounded by his family. No public services are planned at this time.

Gary lived a life grounded in faith, family, and a deep sense of integrity. He was the devoted husband of Gaylyn for 58 years and a proud and loving father to their daughter, Kelli. Kelli and her husband, Roy Whiteside, brought great joy to Gary's life with their daughters, Kirsten Baird Whiteside of Kentucky and Bailey Deanne Hartmann of Belton. In recent years, Gary was especially delighted to welcome his great-grandson, Brock Norman, a new generation to cherish.

Born in Weslaco, Texas, to Glenn and Dorothy Baird, Gary was raised in Belton alongside his three brothers, Glenn, Rex, and Craig of Belton. It remained his lifelong home and the place where he built both his career and his family. He attended Belton High School where he met Gaylyn Drake - the beginning of a partnership that would span nearly six decades. After high school, he attended Temple Commercial College where he majored in architectural drafting and design. He used this skill while helping to develop Las Vegas communities with a Temple engineering firm and extensive building design for Mobil Chemical. Gary's working life reflected both determination and a natural ability with people. Alongside ranching, he spent several years with Texas International Airlines and then as National Sales Manager with American Desk before going on to found Compliance Consortium Corporation (CCC), a drug and alcohol testing company in Belton, which he led for 27 years. He was known for his ability to connect with others and his talent for sales, but even more so for his unwavering integrity. Gary was also known for his quick wit and his love of telling stories - stories that seemed to get better with each telling and made any gathering more lively.

While his professional accomplishments were many, Gary himself would have pointed to his family as his greatest success. Gaylyn often said that out of all his roles being a husband and a father to his beloved daughter, Kelli, and as Grandad to all three of his precious grandchildren were the ones he valued most and it showed in the steady and concerned way he cared for those he loved.

Gary will be deeply missed by friends and relatives. His family takes comfort in knowing that after enduring illnesses and pain, he is now at peace, home with his Heavenly Father. His granddaughter, Bailey, led the family in prayer at Gary's bedside at their home. A private family memorial will be held at Gary and Gaylyn's ranch, where from a hillside, Gary's ashes will be dedicated to God.



Long

James David Long
August 31, 1954 – July 2, 2026

The family of James "David" Long shares his passing from this earthly life to his eternal heavenly home on July 2, 2026.

Family was by his side at his home in Malakoff, Texas. David was born on August 31, 1954, and was lovingly raised by his mother and grandmother in De Queen, Arkansas.

He received his Art Degree from Southwest Arkansas University in El Dorado in 1975. David met Becky Hisaw in Lubbock, Texas, and after knowing her for two weeks, asked her to marry him. They were married for almost 50 years. They made their home in Morgan's Point in Belton, Texas,

where their two children were born. David worked many years with the Garlyn Shelton Auto Group in Central Texas.

He found his peace in fishing and was proud of the 11-pound 10-ounce largemouth bass he caught with his cousin on Lake Fork in East Texas. His passion was fine art. Wildlife was his inspiration for painting, jewelry making, and bronze sculpting. He believed the Lord guided his hands as he interpreted wildlife in their natural surroundings.

David is survived by his wife, Becky; children, Maegan Hutchison (John) and James Dayton Long; and three precious grandchildren, Ainsley, Brock, and Caylee Hutchison; his brother and sister-in-law, Byron (Skip) and Alicia Long; cousins, Mike Cade (Debbie), Sharon Davis (Larry); and special friend, Garlyn Shelton.

Graveside funeral service for David will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, July 10, 2026, at Redmen Cemetery with Becky Long officiating, under the direction of Wilkerson Funeral Home in De Queen.

You may leave a condolence online at www.wilkerson-funeralhomes.com.



Insall

Arnold DeWayne Insall
December 29, 1958 – July 4, 2026

Arnold DeWayne Insall, lovingly known as "PeeWee," of Belton, Texas, was born on December 29, 1958, in Belton, Texas, to Joe Douglas Insall and Glenda Nell Brenegar.

PeeWee was a man of God, strong in his faith and deep in his love for the Lord. Though small in stature, he stood as a giant in spirit, posture, and purpose as an evangelist for Jesus Christ. His life was marked by a sincere desire to share the Gospel and point others toward the saving grace of Jesus.

A lifelong resident of Belton, PeeWee graduated from Belton High School in 1977. He worked for Wilsonart as an operator for 15 years before medically retiring in 2014. He was a member of First Baptist Church Belton, where his faith and love for the Lord were central to his life.

PeeWee was also an avid fisherman. He especially enjoyed being involved with Cross Water Outfitters fishing ministry, where he was able to bring together two of his greatest passions: sharing the love of Jesus and fishing. Whether on the water or in conversation, PeeWee looked for opportunities to encourage others and point them toward Christ.

PeeWee married Carolyn Sue Insall on March 1, 1991, in Belton, Texas - whom he credited for bringing him to Christ. Their marriage was a meaningful part of his life, and Carolyn remained close to his heart.

He is survived by his son, William David Houghton and wife Michele of Franklin, Tennessee; his daughter, Susan Denise Coffey and husband Billy of Moffat, Texas; and his grandchildren, Elizabeth and Sarah Houghton of Franklin, Tennessee, and Ricky Gill and wife Bethany of Temple, Texas. He was also "Papaw PeeWee" to Colt and Elijah Gill. He is also survived by his brother Kirby Insall and wife Tina of Temple, Texas; his sister Kelly White and husband Judd of Abilene, Texas; as well as many beloved nieces, nephews, and other family members along with countless friends who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Carolyn Insall; his father, Joe Insall and his wife Myrna; his brothers, Leonard Insall and David Barrett; his mother, Glenda Brenegar; and his sisters, Lori Barrett and Barbara Insall.

Visitation for family and friends will be held on Thursday evening, July 9, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Dossman Funeral Home in Belton. A service honoring PeeWee's life will be held on Friday, July 10, at 10:00 AM at Dossman Funeral Home, with burial following at North Belton Cemetery. The family welcomes friends and loved ones to attend the visitation and service.

In keeping with PeeWee's faith and final wishes, the family asks that memorial donations be made to the Apple Tree Project.

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Lara
Selza (Salazar) Lara
Apr 6, 1946 — Jun 30, 2026

With deepest respect and loving remembrance, we honor the life of Selza (Salazar) Lara, affectionately known as "Mom," who passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, in Temple, Texas. Selza was born on April 6, 1946, in Taylor, Texas, and from the very beginning, she graced the world with her warmth, compassion, and wisdom.

Throughout her long and fulfilling life, Selza was truly the matriarch and the precious thread that held her family together. She found joy and purpose in the time she spent with her loved ones, always ensuring no moment together was taken for granted. Her gentle presence provided a shoulder to lean on, her listening ear was ever ready to comfort, and her boundless wisdom was a guiding force for those privileged to know her. Being the heart of her family was her proudest achievement, and it is in these cherished roles that her legacy will live on.

She is survived by her two sons: Roy (Danica) Lara, Ray (Yolanda) Lara; one daughter, Irene (Sirildo) Lara-Castillo ; eleven grandchildren, Stephanie Martinez, Robbie (Carrie) Lara, Frankie (Marissa) Lara, Gilbert (Sabrina) Lara, Rebeckah Lara, Veronica (Abel Jr.) Cortines, Lee (Sharon) Lara, Terre (Frank) Lara, Chris (Crystal) Lara, Steven Lara, Sandi (Christian) Lara- Yglecias; twenty-two great grandchildren, Alazea, Kensley, Emma, Jace, Abel Jr., Xavian, Xander, Adalyn, Jonah, Drake, Delilah, C.J., Alonna, Kade, Corbin, Baby Lara, Anabelle, Natalia, Brayden, Adrik, Marilyn, Madeline, Matthew; two great great grandchildren, Ila, and Kaizen; great niece, Alyssa Crum and great nephew, Gabriel Sanchez.

Selza endured profound loss in her journey. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 53 years, Steven Lara; father, Raymond Salazar; her devoted mother, Juanita Salazar; her dear brother, Raymond Salazar; sisters, Basilia Reyes, Dominga Salazar, Bene Lara, Rosemary Salazar, Rosa Vasquez, Lupe Tijerina; and her beloved son, Robert Lara. The memory of her unwavering love and the light she shared with all who entered her life endure in the hearts she has touched.

As we reflect upon Selza's remarkable life, we are grateful for her grace, her unwavering devotion to family, and the deep reservoir of care she offered so freely. Every moment spent in her company was a lasting gift.

Family, friends, and all whose lives were touched by Selza were invited to pay their respects and celebrate her abiding legacy during the following services: A visitation was held on Monday, July 6, 2026, from 4-8 p.m. at Young's Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center, located at 4235 E. US Hwy 190, Temple. During this time, a Testimony Hour was offered from 6:30-8 p.m. at the same location. A Celebration of Life service was scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 10 a.m. also at Young's Daughters Funeral Home & Bereavement Center. Burial followed at Edwin Hardy Hernandez Cemetery, 302 FM 1600, Cameron, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

As we gather to remember Selza Lara, let us hold fast to the memories she created and the love she so freely gave. Her spirit continues to inspire, and her absence will be deeply felt by all who knew her. May she rest in peace, joined again in the embrace of those who went before her, and may her memory remain an enduring blessing.

A special thank you to the staff at Baylor Scott and White Hospital for their compassionate care.

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

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Eagle Scout Court of Honor

held for three new Eagle Scouts

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Troop 117 and Troop 122 gathered at the Parker Academic Center of the University of Mary - Harding Baylor on Sunday, July 5.

William Graham of Troop 117, Gabriel Jones and Andy Thomas, both of Troop 122, were amongst troop members, family, and friends for their Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

Noah Thomas, the master of ceremonies, welcomed everyone, asking them to rise for the opening ceremony. Miles Magyar led the Pledge of Allegiance. Magyar then led the Scouts in The Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

Ryan Wurman led the invocation, saying, “Through You and the experience these young men have gained through scouting, they have impacted many lives, and with your help, we pray that they remain strong leaders in their communities and continue to impact those around them.”

Jason Tonikinson then called the Court to order. He said that the Eagle Scout rank was established in 1911, and that this is achieved by about 4% of all scouts. He then asked all Eagle Scouts present to stand and be recognized. At least twelve Eagle Scouts were in attendance.

Luke Cowan presented the Voice of the Eagle as Andrew Harding lit eight candles, one for each stage of a scout who reaches Eagle Scout. These included having honor, be-



BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman
Troop 117 and Troop 122 take a photo before the Eagle Scout Court of Honor begins.

ing gracious, and being a compassionate leader.

Michael Jones presented The Eagle Charge, and Noah Thomas presented The Eagle Promise. Melissa Jones, mother of Gabriel Jones, presented the Reading of The Eagle’s Flight. Chris McClean, Jason Tonikinson, and Robert Holt presented Special Presentations.

The Eagle Scouts were presented, from State Representative Hillary Hickland’s office, a flag flown at the state capitol in their honor. They were also awarded a cord they will wear at their high school graduation.

The Texas Republic Citizens, represented by Rob Holt, gave the Eagle Scouts a certificate for their accomplishment representing strength, freedom, leadership, and courage.

For the Eagle Badge pins, William Graham, Gabriel Jones, and Andy Thomas escorted their grandparents to the stage to be pinned by them. The newly pinned Eagle Scouts then pinned their grandparents with the grandparent Eagle Scout pin. The scouts brought their parents to the stage and pinned them with the parent Eagle Scout pin.

The three honored Eagle Scouts next gave prepared remarks on their scouting challenges, the fun they’ve had within their Troop, and gratitude for their family support. There was also thanks to God given.

The closing benediction, given by Ryan Wurman and the color guard returned the colors to their post.

William Graham’s Eagle Project at Tapestry Community Church, with the help of 27 volunteers, refurbished porches, a playground set, and made two new benches.

Gabriel Jones’ Eagle Project at Feed My Sheep Farm, with fundraising and volunteers, improved their sustainability by capturing rainwater for irrigation.

Andy Thomas’ Eagle Project at Lakewood Elementary, with community contributions, constructed a Snoopy-themed Little Free Library with a park bench and seasonal Woodstocks.

Library helps families beat the heat with Toddler Time



BELTON JOURNAL/Shalee Corey-Wiebe
Lauren Gommert holds a copy of “Mouse’s First Summer”, a title read to children during Toddler Time at the Lena Armstrong Public Library.

By Shalee Corey-Wiebe
The Belton Journal

On June 17, the Lena Armstrong Library had its weekly Toddler Time.

Kids age one to three listened to the reading of “Mouse’s First Summer,” and followed along to songs before breaking away to check out books with their families.

Lauren Gommert, leader of Toddler Time on Wednesdays, said, “What we’re trying to do is get children used to the idea that words are formed by different sounds that are made by letters.”

She also talked about how rhyme and rhythm prepare kids for reading.

“Technically, they’re called pre-literacy skills. There’s a number of them you have to meet to become a good reader later in life, so we’re really focused on those ideas,” said Gommert. “Their brains are just on fire at this age, and they are just ready to absorb all this information.

“What we’re trying to do is build the framework for them to become literate later in life. Once you have these skills, you’re much more likely to learn how to read quicker, more efficiently, and become a literate member of society.”

Songs at Toddler Time teach kids basic concepts like colors, numbers, and days of the week. A lot of these concepts are repeated to cement the kids’ learning and to give the kids something they can expect.

“About half the songs I sing are songs I sing every week, and the toddlers really like that, and I can see them light up. They like to know what’s going to happen.”

A major reason for having Toddler Time is to give kids a positive experience when it comes to learning.

“A lot of it also is just associating books, and reading, and the library with fun, so they don’t have a negative connotation of reading. They want to read, they enjoy it, they think the library is a fun place.”

Parents can also benefit from attending Toddler time.

“I have seen a lot of friendships blossom between families. It’s really nice to be able to talk to someone who has a kid at the same stage in life.” Gommert thinks the environment is a great place for families to “build relationships.”

The Lena Armstrong Library also offers Baby Time at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Preschool Storytime at 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

Harris HS - From Page A1

On Saturday, July 18, at 10 a.m. there is a Praise Prayer Brunch which costs \$20 to attend. The historical exhibit will be open again from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and a banquet follows at 7 p.m. for a cost of \$50. However, there is a reunion social hour that begins at 6 p.m. the brunch and banquet both require reservations.

Sunday, July 19 at 3 p.m., the three-day reunion comes to a close with a free memorial program remembering those who have died since their previous bi-annual reunion. The Harris Exhibit will be open until 5 p.m. Reagan said the minister for the memorial service is Reverend Doctor Martin Harrison, who is an active-duty Air Force Chap-

lain, is the son of George Harrison Senior, and nephew of Roscoe Harrison. He will preside over the remembrance of 32 people they have lost since the last reunion.

The goals of the association is to preserve the history and legacy of the school, through involvement by former students, teachers, administrators, and surviving fam-

ily members. They work to keep African American culture and heritage known.

Contact Anita Reagan at 254-458-4438 or by email at westbelton.tbharris@yahoo.com to reserve seating for any of the events. You can also make donations to the West Belton-T.B. Harris Scholarship Fund.

Winners - From Page A1

Best of Show (For Profit Business): Nolan Creek Brewery, with an impressive patriotic float.

Best of Show (Non-Profit Organization): Scottish American Military Society Post 1298, with a patriotic and historical theme.

Best Use of Theme (For Profit Business): Belltec Industries with an impressive display of equipment featuring US flags.

Best Use of Theme (Non-Profit Organization): Bell County Master Gardeners with a beautifully decorated patriotic floral display.

Most Patriotic (For Profit Business): Eleven10 Roofing & Construction with a beautiful AyrBalloons decorated float.

Most Patriotic (Non-Profit Organization): Foster Love Bell County with a festive patriotic Christmas in July theme.

Most Original: Eldred’s Nursery Foundation, with a fun float filled with people celebrating.

Best Youth Organization: Cub Scout Pack 117.

Best Equestrian Unit: Cen-Tex Saddle Club.

Best Walking or Marching Group: The Belton High School Marching 100.

Best Vehicle: Central Texas Antique Tractor Collectors.

“Our parade committee, volunteers, and City of Belton staff did a great job of planning and coordinating a massive logistics challenge to provide such a safe and enjoyable pa-

rade for participants and spectators alike,” added Pittenger. “We appreciate KWTX Channel 10 doing an excellent job of live broadcasting the parade for those unable to attend in person and also streaming it so people around the world can experience a Belton style celebration of the 4th of July.”

Parade sponsors were KWTX Channel 10, CGI, Pro-Star Rental, Cefco, H-E-B Helping Here, Astound Broadband, Edward Jones, Baylor Scott & White, Belton Christian Youth Center, Jack Hilliard Distributing, Oncor Electric Delivery, Temple College, Temple Technology Services, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, and the City of Belton.

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



Courtesy Photos

Left to Right/Top to Bottom: Foster Love - Most Patriotic (non-profit organization). Bell County Master Gardeners - Best Use of Theme (non-profit organization). Belltec Industries - Best Use of theme (for profit business). Eleven10 Roofing & Construction - Most Patriotic (for profit business).



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Belton ISD student-athletes serve the community

Special to the Journal

Belton ISD student-athletes are making an impact far beyond the scoreboard. During the 2025-2026 school year, Belton ISD Athletics student-athletes contributed nearly 3,000 hours of service, logging 2,760 volunteer hours through projects that strengthened schools, supported local organizations and improved the communities they proudly represent.

From maintaining local parks and stocking food pantries to hosting youth camps, participating in career days, greeting students on campuses and reading in elementary classrooms, Belton ISD student-athletes are demonstrating that leadership extends far beyond the field, court or track.

Their commitment to service reflects a culture intentionally built within Belton ISD Athletics, where giving back is viewed as an essential part of developing well-rounded students and future leaders.

“Community service is a cornerstone of our athletics program because it teaches our students that leadership extends beyond competition,” said Sam Skidmore, Belton ISD Director of Athletics. “We want our student-athletes to understand that they have a responsibility to give back to the community that supports them. These experiences help shape young people into compassionate leaders who recognize the value of serving others.”

One of the athletics program’s signature service initiatives is its ongoing partnership with the City of Belton to maintain and improve Chisholm Trail Park.

Led by Coach Oscar Bersosa, student-athletes have spent the past four years participating in cleanup and beautification projects that include collecting litter, shoveling sand and mulch, painting boulders and clearing brush along pathways leading to Sparta Elementary School.

The initiative goes beyond beautification. It encourages student-athletes to take ownership of a community space they regularly use while building a lasting partnership with the City of Belton.

“As an objective for Belton ISD Athletics, every program is required to complete at least two community service projects each year,” Coach Oscar Bersosa said. “I started scheduling projects for all of our sports teams in the fall, winter and spring, ensuring that every student-athlete has the opportunity to contribute. Our athletes use Chisholm Trail Park regularly, so it makes sense for them to take pride in maintaining and improving it.”

While the park projects have become a hallmark of the athletics program, they represent just one piece of a much broader commitment to service.

Courtesy Photo

Belton High School athletic programs, including baseball and football, regularly partner with the Texas Ramp Project to build free wheelchair ramps for elderly and disabled residents throughout Central Texas.

See **RAMP**,
Page A8



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A6
Thursday,
July 9, 2026

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Human Animal Support Coalition launches self-service microchip scanner

By **Harvey Jackson Oss**
The Belton Journal

The Human Animal Support Coalition, a local animal welfare nonprofit, unveiled the City of Temple's first self-service microchip station at their clinic on Friday, June 27.

To celebrate the achievement, the clinic provided free microchipping for pets that morning from 9-11 a.m.

Additionally, more than \$2,000 worth of cat litter was donated by Dr. Elsey's. The event also featured a lemonade stand hosted by junior volunteers.

The new microchip scanner at the HASC clinic is actually one of four in the organization's possession. The remaining three will be distributed elsewhere in the Temple community.

"I'm going to offer one to the Temple Animal Shelter, I'm hoping that they will be receptive and want

to join us," said Amy Dixon, who founded the HASC in 2004 and volunteers at the Temple Animal Shelter, among other places.

Temple's live release rate is currently only 65%, but easy access to microchip scanners could reunite pets with their owners faster, raising the odds of survival.

Dixon was saddened by the excessive amount of pet surrenders she encountered in her role and was inspired to do something about it.

"It was really heartbreaking to watch pet parents come in and surrender the pet that they loved, that they considered a family member... people were surrendering pets for reasons that in my mind were preventable," stated Dixon.

The HASC clinic at 1506 Paseo Del Plata, Suite 100 was established in 2025, following a generous \$100,000 donation from a private donor. Since opening its doors, the clinic has sterilized more than 850 pets and vaccinated well

over 1,000.

"We found the number one thing that people struggled with and a resource that we needed and didn't have available was low cost spay and neuter," added Dixon. The clinic is not a full service veterinarian, and is primarily a location for affordable sterilization, as well as vaccination. Microchipping services are now available at the clinic for \$15. The clinic also hosts a twice monthly pet food pantry.

The clinic hosts regular surgery days where pets can be spayed and neutered at a low price. "Our veterinarians are specifically spay and neuter veterinarians, so they're doing thousands and thousands of these surgeries every year. So just because we're low cost, I don't want people to think they're not getting the same quality," added Dixon. Upcoming surgery dates include July, 6, 7, 8, 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27 and 29.



Courtesy Photo
Local residents can utilize new self-service pet microchip scanner at the HASC clinic in Temple.

Parks and Recreation hosts Sunrise Kayaking event



BELTON JOURNAL/Harvey Jackson Oss
Belton kayakers push off at dawn with Parks and Recreation Department at Heritage Park.

By **Harvey Jackson Oss**
The Belton Journal

The Belton Parks and Recreation Department hosted their Sunrise Kayaking event on the Leon River on Friday, June 26. Kayakers pushed off at the

Heritage Park dock at 6:14 AM, shortly before the sun rose that morning.

Parks and Recreation provided eight of their own kayaks for use in the event. "This is just kind of a little bit of a sample run of what we actually do have. We have upwards of fifteen kay-

aks," noted Belton Recreation Coordinator Adam Wells. "But we always encourage people to bring their own gear if they have it."

Wells and two other department representatives led three enthusiastic participants North about a mile up the river before returning to the same spot at Heritage Park. Paddlers were equipped with safety whistles to catch attention if in need of help. Parks and Recreation seeks to increase turnout for future events.

The event took place just five days after the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. The sunrise occurred at 6:24 AM. "We figured if we can get on the water by 6:00 AM, by the time we're really into our paddle, the sun will be coming up, and we can kind of enjoy all of nature's surroundings and all of the things coming to life for the day," stated Wells.

"If you don't like the morning, maybe in the future we'll be hosting a

sunset event that will be a little bit later in the evening," added Wells.

Wells commented on the importance of the event to the community. "It brings togetherness. Also it really kind of showcases our parks, and shows the community we have these available for them to use at no cost."

Wells has had experience kayaking since his youth. "Anything that has to do with water, I'm all about it. And if there's a way to give back to the community, I'm all for it," said Wells.

Kayaking events have been hosted by Belton Parks and Recreation previously, including during recurring family camp out events in November and Parks and Recreation month in July. The next chance to kayak with the department will be at the Sounds of Community event on July 31 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the same location, with the Leon River Band present performing. "If someone missed this event, they can always catch that one," commented Wells.

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Rodgers PC Repair



BELTON JOURNAL/Shalee Corey-Wiebe
Joshua Rodgers, owner of Rodgers PC Services, provides in-house computer repair.

By **Shalee Corey-Wiebe**
The Belton Journal

Rodgers PC Services, now located at 511 Lake Road, offers new and refurbished desktops, laptops, and monitors, as well as other related supplies. They do repairs, all in-house, and are a faith-based, family-owned business, with Bibles and other faith-related resources available for free near the front.

Joshua Rodgers, owner of Rodgers PC Services, said. "If it has a power but-

ton, we can probably fix it." He said, "Our core services include diagnostics, PC tune-ups, virus removal, data backup and recovery, laptop screen replacement, custom gaming PC builds, battery and power jack replacement, and solid state drive upgrades. We also handle gaming console repairs like broken HDMI ports, and advanced board-level micro-soldering for damaged ports and power circuits"

Joshua mentioned his

past experience working as a technician before originally starting his own business as a side-project in 2021 out of a garage. "I spent years working inside local homes as a cable and internet technician, seeing firsthand how often customers were left frustrated, oversold, or talked down to by big corporate providers."

Joshua said, "We talk to people in plain English. There are no sales scripts, no corporate pressure, and no surprise fees."

Rodgers PC has built up trust in the community over the past several years as the business has grown. "We believe in sharing knowledge instead of hiding it." Joshua said, "We built the RodgersPC Help Hub as a free troubleshooting resource for the community, and RodgersPC Labs as a free learning platform to help local residents understand computer parts and test their skills."

Rodgers PC Services is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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Seeing America Through New Eyes



John C. Perry

I'm writing this before July 4th, though you'll be reading it after the holiday. I hope your celebration of America's 250th birthday was full of fireworks, family, and good old-fashioned BBQ.

I'll admit it, I'm not much of a soccer fan. But I'm glad the

World Cup is here because it's given us something priceless: millions of visitors seeing America with fresh eyes.

Many arrived nervous, shaped by media that paints our country as dangerous or divided. Yet over and over, I've watched them discover something very different, a beautiful land, friendly people, and a way of life they quickly fall in love with.

They rave about Texas BBQ, air conditioning, Buc-ee's, ranch dressing, Costco, and our stadiums. But more than anything, they're surprised by the kindness of everyday Americans.

Watching their reactions has reminded me of something

important: sometimes we get so used to our own blessings that we stop noticing them. We rush through our routines, grumble about the news, and forget that the very things we take for granted, safety, opportunity, friendliness, convenience, are extraordinary to much of the world. It often takes an outsider to point out what we've stopped seeing.

Bill Maher put it well: "We live in the United States of America, not the United States of Utopia." We have problems, of course, every nation does. But compared to most places in the world, we are blessed beyond measure.

Their reactions have made me think about how I view my

own country. It's easy to focus on what's wrong. Between the crime, the poverty, and the politics, the news media never lets us forget." But step back for a moment. We enjoy freedoms many people only dream of: speech, worship, opportunity, and the ability to build a life limited more by our effort than by our circumstances.

I consider it God's grace that I was born here and not in a place where freedom is scarce or hope is fragile. Yes, America has drifted from what God desires, but His blessings on this nation, and on each of us, are still evident. We are far from perfect, yet we remain a land where faith can flourish, families can thrive, and dreams can still be chased.

So, the next time the headlines drag you down and politics wear you thin, pause for a moment and look around. Ask yourself, "Where else could I go and live the life I have?"

We are a nation stretched from sea to shining sea, filled with remarkable people, especially people here in Texas, and held together by the simple truth that we are one nation under God.

America isn't perfect, but it is profoundly blessed. And so are we!

John C. Perry is the Lay Leader Emeritus with New Life Methodist Church. They meet every Sunday at 9 a.m. (Bible Study) and 10 a.m. (Worship Service) at 1245 Williams Road in Salado.

Ramp - From Page A5

Throughout the year, Belton ISD Athletics teams volunteered with local food pantries, Helping Hands Ministry of Belton and CASA, participated in Christmas toy drives, supported community festivals and served on elementary campuses through youth camps, career days, morning greetings and classroom book readings.

Belton High School athletic programs, including baseball and football, also regularly partner with the Texas Ramp Project to build free wheelchair ramps for elderly and disabled residents throughout Central Texas. Each experience reinforces the values of teamwork, responsibility and servant leadership while creating mean-

ingful connections throughout the community.

“We hear from the City of Belton and Fort Hood that they appreciate seeing students involved in these efforts,” Coach Oscar Bersozza said. “Our athletes get to see the direct impact of their hard work. The community supports us at games and events, so it’s a privilege to give back.”

Skidmore believes those experiences help prepare students for success long after their athletic careers have ended.

“The most rewarding part of this initiative is seeing our students take ownership of their community,” Skidmore said. “We want to create servant leaders who rec-

ognize the value of giving back. This program is helping shape not just great athletes, but great citizens.”

The nearly 3,000 hours of service completed this year reflect Belton ISD Athletics’ commitment to developing the whole student through experiences that build character, leadership and civic responsibility.

By encouraging students to serve others, Belton ISD is helping shape leaders who understand that success is measured not only by what they accomplish, but by the positive impact they make on their schools, their community and the lives of those around them.



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THE BELTON JOURNAL




Cross country squads on verge of starting practice

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Central Texas' summer heat is reaching its annual peak, and once again, area harriers are competing with it as they attempt to find their form before the cross country season opens in approximately a month.

The Broncos and Lady Broncos return to running Monday for the team's first practice, meeting at 7 a.m. for their initial bout with the morning temperatures, and the process repeats itself for the following three days to conclude their opening week.

If all goes according to plan, the final results will be worth any discomfort as Lake Belton looks to collect another girls district championship, but the Lady Broncos cannot repeat.

After dominating the District 16-5A meet last year with seven standouts placing among the field's top 10 runners, Lake Belton was elevated into District 12-6A during the University Interscholastic League's biennial reclassification and realignment.

In order to claim the league's title, Lake Belton must contend with Bryan, Copperas Cove, Killeen Chaparral, Killeen Harker Heights, Temple and Waco Midway, but the Lady Broncos are poised to provide a challenge.

Keira Dzenowski, a sophomore, became the first in program history to qualify for state during her debut last year, capturing the individual district gold medal along the way by breaking the team's three-mile re-



cord with a winning time of 19 minutes, 31 seconds.

She should be surrounded by familiar faces as well.

The remainder of the Lady Broncos' roster from a season ago is also eligible to return. Jenna Benedick, Madelyn Rivas and Sarah Gray are seniors, while Lucy Loa, Alayna Fulton and Elizabeth Sandlin are juniors.

The Broncos are in a similar position with a wealth of talent set to compete again.

Wyatt Potts led Lake Belton to the regional meet as a junior last year, placing sixth at the district meet, and he was complemented by teammate Jack McCullagh, who is also entering his senior season.

Along with incoming seniors Josiah Briggs and Austin Adams, juniors Cooper Schels and Tyler Adkins-Beltran and sophomore Drew Houston rounded

out last year's squad.

With the Broncos and Lady Broncos departing for a new district, Belton is now part of a new-look District 16-5A, sharing the league with Killeen, Killeen Ellison, Killeen Shoemaker, Liberty Hill, Liberty Hill Legacy Ranch, Waco and Waco University.

The Eagles remain among the favorites to repeat as district after producing a perfect winning score of 15 at last year's meet by placing all five of their scoring runners atop the 42-person field, and only one graduated.

The Tigers will need someone to fill the void left by Palu Maringathuparambil, who led the squad prior to graduating, but they have several candidates in seniors Jose Perez-Diaz, Ezra Kahler and Hayden Brown and sophomores Ethan Trevino and Luke Roberts.

For the Lady Tigers, who finished second to Lake Belton at last year's district race, junior Isabella Warner will be critical to the team's success. She was the league runner-up to Dzenowski in 2025, helping Belton edge out the Lady Bobcats by eight points for second place in the final standings.

With practices on the verge of beginning, athletes will only have approximately a month to prepare before the season-opener arrives.

Lake Belton starts its schedule Aug. 14 at the Temple Invitational and hosts the Bronco Invitational along the way to its district meet in October. The Tigers and Lady Tigers begin at home on Aug. 21 with the Belton Invitational.

Lake Belton volleyball camps spark excitement and growth this summer

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The future of Lake Belton volleyball is already taking shape this summer, as the Broncos program hosted the first part of its annual youth volleyball camps this week, welcoming a wave of young athletes from across the community onto the court for a week of skill building, competition, and Bronco pride.

Day one of the camp series kicked off Monday with the 3rd and 4th grade session, and the turnout made an immediate statement about the growing interest in the program. More than 45 campers packed the gym for the opening session, running from 12:00-2:30 p.m., as coaches and current Lake Belton players worked with the youngest group of campers on the fundamentals of the

game like passing, setting, and serving, all while introducing them to the culture and energy that defines Bronco volleyball.

That same day, the 5th-6th grade group took the court for their own session from 2:30-5:00 p.m., closing out a full day of volleyball at Lake Belton High School. The coaching staff didn't just run drills, they made sure to recognize the effort on display, giving a shoutout to the 5th and 6th grade campers for their energy and hustle throughout the session, a small gesture that goes a long way in building excitement for the sport at a young age.

Adding to the fun, the program kept up its tradition of recognizing standout effort with a Camper of the Day post,

spotlighting one young athlete who left an impression on coaches with their hustle,

attitude, or improvement over the course of the day. It's a simple touch, but one that resonates with campers and families alike, a reminder that the camp isn't just about drills and reps, it's about building confidence and connection to the program from the ground up.

The camps will continue to run in phases throughout July, giving athletes from 3rd grade all the way up to incoming 9th graders a chance to work with

the Lake Belton coaching staff. The 7th grade camp and 8th-9th grade camp are set to follow July 13-15, running the same 12:00-2:30 p.m. and 2:30-5:00 p.m. windows, respectively.

For a program that has quickly built a reputation for developing talent since Lake Belton High School opened its doors, camps like these are a critical piece of the pipeline. Getting young athletes into the gym early, in front of the coaching staff and current players, lays the groundwork for the next generation of Broncos volleyball, and if day one of camp is any indication, that pipeline is only getting stronger.

With two more camp sessions still ahead this month, Lake Belton volleyball is off to a fast start this summer, and the energy in the gym shows no signs of slowing down.



Ellis eager to inherit Lady Broncos softball program



By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Taylor Ellis did not want to leave her hometown, until the Lady Broncos convinced her to.

After growing up in Waco and earning all-state recognition at Midway, the standout infielder attended Baylor, where she amassed 177 hits, 102 RBI and 13 home runs during her tenure. Then, Ellis returned to the Pantherettes, spending four years as an assistant coach and celebrating a state championship in 2025.

Obviously, the city treated her well, but she wanted more, and Lake Belton provided it.

Ellis was recently named the Lady Broncos head coach, and while Waco will always be special, she is ready to begin a new legacy at Lake Belton.

"I just felt like now is the right time to start my head coaching career and this was the right place for me," Ellis said. "One of the things that was really enticing to me about the job was that the program is already a well oiled machine. Now, I have to continue that.

"That really made it an easier decision for me though, because I know this is something I can take, continue, carry on and build upon."

Matching her predecessor's achievements, however, will be difficult.

During her three seasons overseeing the program, Kelsie McEachern, who departed to accept the head coaching role at Klein, experienced a wealth of success, winning 107 of 124 contests and going undefeated en route to a trio of district championships. Additionally, the Lady Broncos advanced to at least the third round of the playoffs each season, including a trip to the Class 5A state semifinals in 2024.

In the same span, Ellis helped Midway accomplish even more as the Pantherettes appeared in the state tournament all three years, following their Class 6A, Division I title as the state runner-up last season. They were 101-15-1 overall and produced a perfect 36-0 record in district.

One of the two powerhouse programs, however, will have its league dominance derailed this spring.

The University Interscholastic League elevated Lake Belton to Class 6A during its biennial realignment, and it now resides in District 12 along with Bryan, Copperas Cove, Killeen Chaparral, Killeen Harker Heights, Temple and Midway.

Ending the Pantherettes' reign atop the district will not be easy, but Ellis believes the Lady Broncos are prepared for the challenge.

"I'm familiar with this district," she said. "I know the teams, I've coached against the other coaches, and in our world, we all know each other. So, this is just a comfortable fit for me, and it is going to be fun.

"I'm excited for the competition. We've got some girls with big personalities who want to win, and that is what I came here to do."

The UIL does not permit teams to begin practicing for the upcoming season until Jan. 15, but Ellis has already begun building relationships with her players, and soon, she will start forging bonds within the city.

The Lady Broncos will host their annual summer camp for area players at the end of the month, allowing Ellis the opportunity to work with incoming third-through ninth-graders for several days, and while her desire is to win immediately, she also intends to win consistently.

"I'm really excited to see some of our future Broncos," Ellis said. "Some of these kids that are in elementary school now will be leading the team one day. So, I just really want to get immersed in the community."



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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The volleyball season is less than a month away from beginning, and the Lady Tigers are counting down the days.

Belton recently released its schedule for tryouts, which begin Aug. 1 — the first day the University Interscholastic League allows teams to start workouts.

Freshmen will check in at 7 a.m. with their first session of the day following from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Sophomores, juniors and seniors will check in at 9:30 a.m. and workout from 10 a.m. to noon.

Then, all four grade levels will combine for a session from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

All participants will work out next on Aug. 3 from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The first round of cuts will follow.

A freshman intrasquad scrimmage will take place Aug. 4 at 3:30 p.m. with final cuts following. A junior varsity intrasquad scrimmage will be conducted at 4:45 p.m. with final cuts following.

The week concludes with practices and team pictures before the season's opening scrimmage is held at home on Aug. 7. A scrimmage at Round Rock Cedar Ridge will be held Aug. 8 at 9 a.m., and the regular season schedule begins Aug. 11 at Round Rock McNeil.

A current physical and all necessary paperwork must be submitted prior to participating in tryouts.

All participants need to wear a T-shirt with school colors, appropriate shoes and shorts, knee pads and bring water to the gym for each day of tryouts.



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

The Lady Broncos are also preparing for the upcoming campaign with a preseason parent meeting set for July 29 at 6 p.m.

FOOTBALL

The Tigers will hold a mandatory parent meeting July 30 at 6 p.m. before the first practice is conducted Aug. 3. On Aug. 6, a group fundraiser will start, and an intrasquad scrimmage and youth football clinic is set for Aug. 8.

Tiger Moms Camp and media day follow on Aug. 15, and Dads/Guardians and Decals will take place Aug. 22.

The regular-season schedule opens Aug. 28 with a home game against Pflugerville Hendrickson.

SUMMER CAMPS

Lake Belton has a few sports camps remaining for area youth before the summer concludes.

The Lady Broncos will conduct a pair of three-day volleyball camps beginning Monday. Incoming seventh graders will attend from noon to 2:30 p.m. each day, while eighth and ninth graders will attend from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

The school completes its summer camp schedule with a softball camp and football camp from July 27-29.

The softball camp is open to third through ninth graders and will run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day, while the football camp is available to all kids from kindergarten to ninth grade. It will run from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. each day.

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

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Belton's and Lake Belton's summer strength and conditioning programs are currently open to all middle school and high school athletes.

At Belton, on the available dates throughout July, high school boys begin two-hour sessions at 8 a.m., while middle school boys start at 7 a.m.

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

For more information, visit Belton-Tigers.com.

Lake Belton's sessions begin with football players attending from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. before being joined by all other boy and girl athletes until 10 a.m.

Then, middle school boys and girls will work out from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

All of Lake Belton's sessions will run from Monday to Thursday.

For more information, visit Lake-BeltonAthletics.com.

RUNNING

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

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

The event will begin and end at the Lions Pavilion.

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

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Lake Belton adds veteran safeties coach

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

When Kirk Rogers took over as head coach of the Lake Belton Broncos, one of his first priorities was assembling a staff capable of building on the program’s foundation. Among the new additions is Brandon Phillips, who joins the Broncos as the team’s new safeties coach, bringing with him a coaching résumé built across some of the most competitive programs in Texas high school football.

Phillips arrives at Lake Belton after coaching stops at Palestine, Navasota, A&M Consolidated and Caldwell. A career path that has taken him through a variety of programs and district classifications, giving him a broad perspective on what it takes to develop defensive backs at every level of competition. That experience is now being funneled into the Broncos’ secondary as Rogers works to reshape the program’s identity heading into his first season at the helm.

Before he was coaching safeties, Phillips was playing the Defensive back himself. A product out of Harker Heights, Phillips earned all-district honors during his high

part of a broader coaching overhaul at Lake Belton as Rogers assembles his first staff since being hired away from Westlake, where he served as offensive coordinator. Building



school tenure, establishing himself as one of the more accomplished defensive backs to come through the program. That standout high school career opened the door to college football at Hardin-Simmons University, where Phillips continued his playing days and made a name for himself on special teams.

Phillips’ arrival is a coaching staff is one of the most consequential tasks facing any new head coach, and the hires made in these first few months will shape the culture and identity of the program for years to come. Adding a coach with Phillips’ résumé and his own playing pedigree signals Rogers’ intent to bring in staff who understand the game

at every level, from Friday night lights to the film room.

For Lake Belton’s defensive backs, Phillips represents both a new voice and a new standard. His time at Palestine, Navasota, A&M Consolidated and Caldwell means he’s coached in different systems, against different styles of offense, and alongside different coaching philosophies which should pay dividends as he works to develop the Broncos’ secondary into a strength of the defense.

As fall camp approaches, Phillips will begin the process of installing his techniques and building relationships with his new players, another key piece in Rogers’ broader vision for the program.



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Debunking five common Social Security myths

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

Social Security is often a cornerstone of retirement income, but it’s often misunderstood, leading to confusion, worry and poor planning decisions. Here’s the truth behind five of the most common misconceptions.

First, it’s not going broke: if no action is taken, benefits could drop around 2032, but policymakers have options to strengthen it. Second, it won’t replace everything. It covers roughly 40% of your income, so retirement savings are still critical. Third, claiming early and working won’t permanently reduce benefits; payments are later increased for re-

ductions that occurred before full retirement age. Fourth, if an ex-spouse claims benefits based on your earnings record it doesn’t reduce your benefit. And fifth, benefits are still taxable if your combined income exceeds certain thresholds, though some temporary deductions exist. The more you understand Social Security, the more control you have over your retirement outcome. Grounding your decisions in facts rather than assumptions can make a meaningful difference in your long-term financial security.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
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Western District of Texas

Nationstar Mortgage, LLC)

Plaintiff)
v.)
Jordan Isaiah Escamilla Brown, et al.)

Defendant)

Civil Action No. **6:25-cv-00469**

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: Jordan Isaiah Escamilla Brown and Lizett Laguna

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 28 days after the issuance of this summons, you (and each of you) must appear before the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Waco Division, at the Courthouse being located at U.S. District Clerk's Office, 800 Franklin Ave., Room 380, Waco Texas 76701, by filing a written answer, or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on or before the first Monday next after the expiration of twenty-eight days from the date of the issuance of this citation, the date for answer being Monday, _____, to Plaintiff's Original Complaint filed in said court, on October 10, 2025 as Civil Action number 6:25-cv-00469 and styled Nationstar Mortgage LLC v. Jordan Isaiah Escamilla Brown, Lizett Laguna, and United States of America, on behalf of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The answer or motion must be served on the Plaintiff or Plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
Attn: Bradley Conway
16415 Addison Road, Suite 725
Addison, Texas 75001

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows:

This proceeding is seeking judicial foreclosure of the real property located at 301 N. 7th St., Nolanville, TX 76559 and more particularly described in Exhibit A attached to the Deed of Trust that is recorded as instrument number 2022034951 in the real property records of Bell County, Texas.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.

CLERK OF COURT



Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

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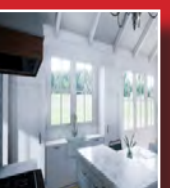
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LEGALS

Cure Dental announced on Monday that a recent cyberattack may have compromised the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of up to 878 current and former patients. According to the practice’s compliance staff, the unauthorized intrusion was detected on June 25, 2025.

An intial investigation revealed that the practice’s cybersecurity platform detected and effectively stopped movement of malicious activity across the network. In response, the network was immediately locked down and any external connections were terminated. Also, all accounts with access to remote desktop web access were disabled and an office-wide password reset was forced. Through the investigation, it was determined that certain personal information of patients associated with the practice might have been accessed. The affected data may have included names, addresses, dates of birth, social security numbers, and driver’s license numbers. However, the incident did not affect any patient Protected Health Information (PHI) such as treatment and payment information.

“We deeply regret this incident and sincerely apologize for any concern it may cause our community,” said Dr. Tejas Patel, Cure Dental practice owner. “In the aftermath of this incident, we worked diligently with our cybersecurity experts to prevent this from ever happening again.”

The practice confirmed that affected patients were notified via email or mail with detailed instructions on how to enroll in free credit monitoring services to protect against identity theft, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) was notified of the breach. Additionally, the practice has established a dedicated toll-free helpline at 1-888-766-1488 for patients who have questions about this matter. Patients are also encouraged to visit the Texas Attorney General website below to find information regarding protection against identity theft:

https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/identity-theft/help-prevent-identity-theft
06.25,07.02PD

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Guardianship for the Estate of MARI M. MEYER, An Incapacitated Person, were issued on May 1, 2026, in Cause No. 25CPB00074, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: LESLIE G. GREEN.

All persons having claims against this Estate

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

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LEGALS

which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. LESLIE G. GREEN, Guardian of the person and estate of Mari M. Meyer, 145 Middlesex Rd., Buffalo, NY 14216 DATED the 29th day of June, 2026. J. ERIC STOEBNER, State Bar No.: 24046919, 2106 Bird Creek Drive, Temple, TX 76502, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: ERIC@templelawoffice.co 07.02

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

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

The file number of said suit being No. 26DCV361378. The names of the parties in said suit are: FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION VSSHIANCA LATOSHA TAYLOR, BONNIE TAYLOR JR., DIANA TURNER-ROBERT, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF ALICE CRUMLEY, DECEASED AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF WILLIAM THOMAS CRUMLEY SR., DECEASED The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:

This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 2402 Lake Rd., Killeen, TX 76543, and more particularly described as LOT 10, BLOCK 9, KIRBY CREEK VILLAGE, SECTION IV, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 97120, PAGE 256, MAP RECORDS OF DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS.

This was issued at the request of attorney: TENIA OUELLETTE TROMBERG MILLER MORRIS & PARTNERS 6080 TENNYSON PKWY STE 100 PLANO TX 75024.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a 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 25, 2026. Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road ,P.O. Box 909, Belton, Texas 76513 By: M Cortez ,Deputy Clerk 07.02,09,16,23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of CANDY L. HARRIS, Deceased, were issued on July 1, 2026, in Cause No. 25CPB00628, pending

LEGALS

in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: MELISSA JO WILSON. 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: ESTATE OF CANDY L. HARRIS, MELISSA JO WILSON, 1106 Hackberry Drive, Apt. 1, Marshall, MN 56258 DATED the 1st day of July 2026. J. ERIC STOEBNER, State Bar No.: 24046919, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: eric@templelawoffice.com 07.09

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE
WITH THE
TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
COMMISSION

for the Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer’s Permit (BG) by FMG14 Restaurant Inc dba El Green Chile to be located at 12217 FM 2305 Belton Tx 76513 in Bell County Texas. Officer of said Corporation is Maria Luna (President and Secretary) 07.09,07.16pd

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00413

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS CHRISTOPHER JOHN INGRAM, Applicant, on June 30, 2026, filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Independent administration in a proceeding styled: AARON WAYNE INGRAM, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00413 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 July 09, 2026 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it. Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: Stephen E. Blythe, PO BOX 2088, 319 N. Third St., 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 July 01, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480 ,1201 Huey By: Andrea Marks Deputy 07.09

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00306

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS JOCELYN MARIE NELSON, Applicant, on June 30, 2026, filed an application to determine heirship in a proceeding styled: WILLIAM RUSSELL NELSON, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00306 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 July 09, 2026, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

LEGALS

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: JAMES O. CURE ,2584 BLUE MEADOW 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 30, 2026. Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513 By: Erika DeCasas Deputy 07.09

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ELISABETH C. DUNIVAN, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary were issued on June 26, 2026, in a proceeding styled Estate of Elisabeth C. Dunivan aka Elisabeth Charlotte Dunivan, aka Elisabeth C. Dunivan, Deceased in Cause Number 26CPB00326, pending in the County Court At Law #1 of Bell County, Texas. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor, addressed as follows: William R. Dunivan, Jr. Independent Executor of the Estate of Elisabeth C. Dunivan, Deceased, c/o Burk Roberts, Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., 2501 East Elms Rd., Ste. A, Killeen, Texas 76542-3023 All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Signed on June 29, 2026. Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., Attorneys for William R. Dunivan, Jr. By :Burk Roberts 07.09

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of CLIFFORD POWDERS, JR., Deceased, were issued on June 26, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00054, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: NEDRA POWDERS. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the under-

LEGALS

signed within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. ESTATE OF CLIFFORD POWDERS, JR. c/o: NEDRA POWDERS ,735 Foucher Street, New Orleans, LA 70115 DATED June 30, 2026. KAREN M. VILLANUEVA, State Bar No.: 24102608 ,Telephone: (254) 771-1855 ,Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, E-mail: karen@templelawoffice.com 07.09

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION - CIVIL CAUSE NO. 26DCV362075

To THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SAMUEL T HIGHTS AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF DEBORAH LANELL ROBERTSON Greetings: You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the plaintiff’s original petition at or before 10 o’clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o’clock AM, before the Honorable 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL PETITION was filed in said court on May 29, 2026. The file number of said suit being No. 26DCV362075. The names of the parties in said suit are: FELICITAS ORTIZ VS. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SAMUEL T. HIGHTS AND UNKNOWN HEIRS OF DEBORAH LANELL ROBERTSON The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit: A civil action seeking to quiet title to real property has been filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, in Cause No. 26DCV362075, styled Felicitas Ortiz vs. Unknown Heirs of Samuel T. Hights and Unknown Heirs of Deborah Lanell Robertson.

LEGALS

The subject of the suit is a quiet title action, where Plaintiff seeks a judicial determination of her ownership in the real property, located in Bell County, commonly known as 411 n. 16TH St., Temple, Bell County, Texas, and legally described as Lot Number Eight (8), in Block Number Eleven (11) of McCelvey’s Addition to the City of Temple, Bell County, Texas. Plaintiff alleges that title has vested in Plaintiff through adverse possession under applicable statutes, based on her possession of the Property for the statutory period. Plaintiff requests the Court declare Plaintiff the lawful owner of the property, remove cloud on title, and bar Defendants and all persons claiming under them from asserting any right, title, or interest adverse to Plaintiff. This was issued at the request of attorney: RICHARD D. WILSON, HARRELL STOEBSNER & VILLANUEVA PC, 2106 BIRD CREEK DRIVE, TEMPLE TX 76502. 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 30, 2026. Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, Texas 76513 By: M Cortez Deputy Clerk 07.09,07.16,07.23,07.30

LOCAL DENTAL OFFICE REPORTS BREACH POTENTIALLY EXPOSING DATA OF 878 PATIENTS

BELTON, TX — Cure Dental announced on Monday that a recent cyberattack may have compromised the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of up to 878 current and former patients. According to the practice’s compliance staff, the unauthorized intrusion was detected on June 25, 2025.

An intial investigation revealed that the practice’s cybersecurity platform detected and effectively stopped movement of malicious activity across the network. In response, the network was immediately locked down and any external connections were terminated. Also, all accounts with access to remote desktop web access were disabled and an office-wide password reset was forced. Through the investigation, it was determined that certain personal information of patients associated with the practice might have been accessed. The affected data may have included names, addresses, dates of birth, social security numbers, and driver’s license numbers. However, the incident did not affect any patient Protected Health Information (PHI) such as treatment and payment information.

"We deeply regret this incident and sincerely apologize for any concern it may cause our community," said Dr. Tejas Patel, Cure Dental practice owner. "In the aftermath of this incident, we worked diligently with our cybersecurity experts to prevent this from ever happening again."

The practice confirmed that affected patients were notified via email or mail with detailed instructions on how to enroll in free credit monitoring services to protect against identity theft, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) was notified of the breach. Additionally, the practice has established a dedicated toll-free helpline at 1-888-766-1488 for patients who have questions about this matter. Patients are also encouraged to visit the Texas Attorney General website below to find information regarding protection against identity theft:

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/identity-theft/help-prevent-identity-theft>

RETAIL SUPPORT WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- AUTHENTIC
- BOUTIQUE
- BUSINESS
- COMMUNITY
- ECONOMY
- ENTREPRENEUR
- GROWTH
- HANDMADE
- LOCAL
- LOYALTY
- MARKET
- NICHE
- OWNERSHIP
- PASSION
- PERSONAL
- QUALITY
- SELECTION
- SERVICE
- SHOP
- SMALL
- STORE
- SUPPORT
- UNIQUE
- VARIETY

EDITORIAL

We are all (not) fine here

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

Businesses and organizations can benefit from good public relations.

I’ve encountered a number of PR reps over the years, and most of them have been good to work with.

There’s the old saying that’s very true, and I’ve used it before in a column: You catch more flies with honey than vinegar. Or, it’s not what you say, it’s how you say it.

Even in the course of writing the first 50 words of this column, I typed one word, then reconsidered it. It wasn’t a bad word or a rude word, but in the sentence context, it didn’t have a 100% nice connotation. So, I deleted it and substituted another word which still gets my point across. There’s nothing wrong with being nice.

Businesses and organizations have public relations people to funnel information out about what they’re doing. Good public relations people make my job a lot easier. First, I have a go-to person if I need information. Where government is concerned, if that entity has a good website, I can go right to that site and find the information I need. For example, I visit the City

of Copperas Cove website nearly every day. I can find budgets from 10 years ago, if I want to. Good public relations makes information easy to find. But it’s more than releasing information.

PR people also work hard to maintain a good image for their organization or company.

However, for an organization or governmental entity to portray that nothing ever goes wrong and no one ever does wrong among their ranks is dysfunctional.

The unwritten rule of a dysfunctional family is, “We’re all fine here.” Dysfunctional organizations are the same way. To confront or acknowledge problems is messy and often not easy. “What will people think?”

Even though things happen that aren’t the greatest or “positive”, if they go against policy, or are even illegal, sometimes organizations and government will do what they can to nudge the public look the other way.

In the case of illegality, not that the authorities are not notified, but the offense and/or allegation is handled in such a way that it makes the public footprint of what happened nearly impossible to track unless you know the signs to follow.

Does the public deserve to know about employees behaving badly (or illegally)? I have had reports come back from the Attorney General’s Office, siding with entities that because no one was convicted of a crime, the issue/information was not newsworthy.

Maybe in the end, it’s not. But is it a fair representation of a group to say, “we’re all fine here,” when nothing is ever 100% “fine”? What if it’s simply to point out – “we can do better.”

Even corporations are reluctant to admit when their employees/staff are in the wrong. A poor customer service experience, in the case of a restaurant, can easily be remedied with a simple, “This is not how we want our customers to be served. Let’s compensate you with a free dessert, or we will give you a meal free.”

“Let us ignore the very idea that there is a problem, and therefore, it doesn’t exist.” This breeds discontent, at the very least, or at the worst – toxicity that if the bully that you don’t expect gets free rein behind closed doors, it starts affecting the very customers a company serves.

Entertainment 101: Summer Rerun Season

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

For those of you out there who are on a bit of the younger side, try to imagine for a moment that streaming media platforms and on-demand programming services don’t exist. You also don’t have access to a digital video recorder or any other sort of video recording technologies. Now imagine that you’ve just missed an episode of your favorite scripted television show. How, do you think, you’d be able to catch that episode you missed? Does it seem like the episode would just be gone without it?

In the days before anything digital existed and most folks were struggling just to figure out how to program their VHS cassette recorder, the answer to that question would have been “wait for the summer reruns”.

In some countries, the term “television season” is rather literal. For example, over in Japan every new season – spring, summer, fall, winter – is a new television season, with most scripted TV shows getting episode orders that are generally some multiple of 13, give or take an episode. After all, 52 weeks in a year divided by 4 seasons equals 13 episodes. A show is broadcast, then if you want to watch it again you have to either catch it on digital or buy / rent a copy on physical media. Rebroadcasts of any kind, let alone reruns as we know them, are rare.

In contrast, the United States’ television season goes all year long. It typically starts in late August or early September (same as the academic year), and goes until early to mid August of the next year. Further, for most scripted series, such as prime-time dramas and kids’ programming, it’s unusual for new episodes to air all year long. Instead, the bulk of the season’s new episodes air between September and early December.

There will be few weeks’ break for the holidays, then any final new episodes will start airing in late January; generally speaking, most new episodes will have finished broadcasting some time in May.

Well, anyone familiar with the calendar will realize that this leaves June, July, and August... the very same months that most people are on vacation, or at least are presumed to be on vacation by quite a few companies and entities. Thus, before the advent of what we today call “reality TV”, the general mindset was basically “why put out new programming when nobody’s going to be around to watch it?”. Yes, you’ll have live sports programming, news programs, and seasonal specials as they happen, but that’s about it for new content.

Instead, when it comes to most scripted series, the networks will rebroadcast episodes, usually the episodes from that very

season. The networks “win” in that they’re able to wring more advertising money from the same set of episodes, helping to pad their finances while also conserving resources.

The cast & crew “win” because they have built-in vacation time. The viewers “win” in that they won’t miss much if they do go anywhere and if they don’t they can potentially catch any episodes they missed.

If it tells you anything, one year broadcaster NBC actually had the “It’s New To You” ad campaign encouraging people *to* watch their summer re-runs for any episodes they missed; “If you haven’t seen it, it’s new to you” was the slogan.

Note that for several decades now the average TV station has used re-runs to fill time year-round; it’s how many a classic show such as the original “Star Trek” found new life. This is on top of the usual summer reruns.

An Empty Page

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

We start our lives as an empty page. For several years we write nothing, we can’t, we just exist and someone else writes on that page for us.

Soon you begin to write your own pages, but it is still a little part of what is already written. For a while it seems like the pages fly by. You grow and learn, through parents and school, and even your friends.

You read as you are writing. You experience things that are new and exciting.

My experiences were outdoors and full of interesting things to me. A lot was based on how I was being raised, what my father enjoyed, still other parts were influenced by TV shows that gave me a base for some of my fantasies. Living the outdoor life and being a cowboy was a big dream for a lot of young boys of a few generations ago.

Of course these experiences turn more serious as you get older. You write more pages and it starts to change from youthful content to more mature writings on those pages. Page after page you write, things in your life, friends that come and go, high school and beyond. Soon you are writing pages that you never thought you would or could write. You make decisions, buy things that once seemed out of reach, start a career, the things that once were so far away.

Perhaps you dreamed of doing these things but as they got closer you weren’t as sure. However those pages were

written anyway, good or bad. When the next decision came along you flipped back a few pages and read about the mistake you made on that page and then proceeded to write a new page.

Some of your pages were nothing except black ink. Those were the times when something sorrowful happened. There are other pages in bright colors, the days when wonderful things took place and you were so happy.

You look back on both, not really wanting to relive the dark pages, and hoping you could revisit the colored pages. Sadly you can’t, however since it is a page in your book of life you still have those and get to read them in your mind whenever you want. Over time the dark pages seem to fade a bit, the loss not as hard, knowing that those things happen, perhaps even using your experience to help a friend going through the same page in their lives at a point in time. That would be one way of making your black pages lighten to gray, making another person’s black page a little less dark.

Sometimes we let someone else write a page in our book. It might be a good page, often it is not. They take our writing instrument and snatch our book and write a page without our control. Of course we look back and realize it was foolish to let someone write in our life, especially a bad experience.

There are the times when a good friend might write

a page and it is a wonderful page, maybe even a chapter. We enjoy those because we have someone to share it with, maybe even having the same pages in both our book and theirs. We might write a page about a trip, we add to that by picking up a souvenir or some memento that we can hold as a physical reminder of the time. For me it is often a photo, well, more like a few hundred photos.

Those “pictures” tell a story to everyone that sees them, but to me they speak a lot more. I feel the cold of the snow or the smell of the trees, remember the foods and all the strange yet interesting things that surrounded that image. In reality my book is probably just a picture book, maybe not a lot of writing, but a lot of things to see.

As we travel through our lives our hope is to have happy pages to share later on, a lot more than the black pages in our book. If we write in someone’s book we need to make sure it is a colorful and happy page. We want to share all of our pages at some point, because there comes a time when our book is closed and never opened again. That time may be a black page in a loved one’s book.

My hope is to have shared enough of my pages to make their book worth sharing later on. I have pages in my book from a long time ago, because someone shared and I took note. I hope your new pages are filled with superlatives this week.

Frog in the Loo

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

Through the years, I’ve hosted countless guests in my home, both human and otherwise. I’ve found a mouse in my washing machine, birds in my chimney, and even bopped a squirrel on the nose as he chased me down for snacks. I’ve watched an armadillo amble across my yard, mere feet from me, as I worked on the patio. I even had a near-death experience when a chicken snake fell off my porch ceiling, inches from my chair. (I know chicken snakes aren’t poisonous, but they can still induce heart failure.) These experiences and others have shaped my responses in such a way that very little surprises me.

That’s why, when I lifted my toilet lid last week to find a tree frog, happy as you please, clinging to the inside of the bowl, I didn’t scream. I didn’t even jump. I just said, “Oh, hello. Sorry to disturb.” Then I gently lowered the lid and went in search of Superman. We have an unspoken agreement that I’m the one

who welcomes guests, and he’s the one who kicks them out.

Me: Sweetheart, your help is needed in the bathroom.

Him: (lifts eyebrows)

Me: Get your mind out of the toilet. On second thought, keep it there.

Him: What do you need. (It was said without the question mark.)

Me: There’s a frog in the toilet.

Him: (Moment of silence.) (Deep belly laugh.)

When I returned, the frog was gone. “He was right here. I promise.”

Superman looked skeptical, but he reached over and flushed. Sure enough, the little guy had crawled up under the rim. He came sliding out as if he were enjoying a ride at Schlitterbahn.

Moments later, my beloved had the little guy scooped into a wad of toilet paper and car-

ried him to the back door. Before Rick could toss him out on his tiny little bum, the interloper used all the force in his springy back legs and arched into a pole vault of Olympic proportions, without the pole. Not a goodbye, not a thank you for hosting me, nothing.

It’s not often that I get to compare myself to Jesus (at least not in a good way), but I’m reminded that Christ welcomes us all. No matter what we’ve done in the past, what kind of baggage we carry, or how many warts we have, He loves us. He likes us. He sees us the way He created us, in His image, and He wants good things for us. When we show up at His doorstep, He opens His arms and says, “Oh, hello. I’m so glad you’re here. Come on in.” Unlike me, Christ doesn’t look for someone to do the dirty work and kick us out. His love for us is genuine and enduring.

We humans, on the other hand, can be prejudiced and exclusive. We like those who

look like us, think like us, and act like us. Our tendency is to push out anyone who doesn’t fit our vision of loveliness. I don’t like that about myself. I want to be more like Christ.

Loving others doesn’t mean we have to love all their behaviors. It’s knowing that love, not criticism, heals. Love tears down defensiveness and causes people to want to be better. That’s what Christ did for me. That’s what He’ll do for you. And that’s how He wants to change the world—through us. When we allow His love to flow through us, others feel accepted, valued, and respected. Soon, the little seeds of love sprout into beautiful, life-giving blooms.

I know I’m a frog. I’m glad Christ decided to kiss me anyway, as He continues to transform me into His image.

“No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is made complete in us.” 1 John 4:12



Local Activities & Events

Newcomers Club Activities

"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."

Benefit for RaRa - July 11

Community benefit in support of a very special child, “RaRa,” and her parents, Karina Mateo and Kenneth Salley, both of whom are proud veterans. This event aims to provide meaningful support to their family during a difficult time. BBQ plates, live auction, and car meet. The benefit will be held on July 1, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at VFW Post 4008, 426 S main St in Belton.

Bell County Master Gardener - July 16

If you thought Spring was your only chance to garden, think again- Central Texas has a second growing season! Don’t put away your gardening gloves just yet, join Master Gardener Zendi Carmona for a special seminar that will help you make the most of our Fall gardening season. This session will have easy-to-follow advice that will especially benefit the beginner gardener. July 16, 2026, 6:00 p.m to 7:30 p.m. Bell County Extension Office- Learning Center, 1605 N. Main Street, Belton This seminar is free to the public.

MPR Summer Reading Program 2026 - July 18

Join us for a fun time each week for games, crafts and food! All programs will have live animals in attendance and give you the opportunity to learn all about them! Mary Ruth Briggs Library located in Morgan’s Point Resort proudly presents our annual Summer Reading Program. Our program this year is titled “Our 4-legged Friends” and will include:
Saturday, July 18: Firehouse Dogs and Police Dogs. Nayla and Sadie will appear with their handlers.
Saturday, July 25: Therapy Horses
Saturday, Aug.1: Sit Means Sit
Saturday, Aug 8: Goats
Time: 10 AM until Noon
Mary Ruth Briggs Library, 8 Morgan’s Point Blvd, MPR Texas 76513, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Free of charge for children pre-K through 5th grade! Free backpacks on the last day filled with school supplies! Sign up at City Hall with paper applications in the Lobby OR online at morganspointresorttx.com

Bell County Master Gardeners- July 18

Join us for Propagation: Seed Collecting, Saving and Planting. Master Gardener Dave Slaughter will present sexual reproduction in the garden. He will help us develop the skills to properly harvest, handle, store and then test your seeds. Learn to plant using the correct temperature to maximize the seed starting process. July 18th, Thursday, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., at Bell County Extension Office- Learning Center, 1605 N. Main Street. No registration needed.

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

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

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

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 aspen-healthcare.net or call 512-856-5668 for more information.

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

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

The Bell County Genealogical Society meets the fourth Saturday of each month. The group offers free Genealogy Guidance.

Members of the Bell County Genealogical Society will be present to help those with questions about researching their family trees. General meetings are held in the Bell County Museum, 201 North Main St., Belton, TX. All meetings are open to the public. You do not have to be from Bell County or have ancestors from Bell County to participate. For additional information please visit our web-site at <https://txbcgs.org/home/events/>

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

Bell Fine Arts Visitors welcome Wednesday’s from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 306 E 5th Ave in Belton. If you have a desire to meet, learn, and work together with those of similar interests or just curious, come visit with us and see what we are about. Mah Jong games are available every Monday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come join the fun and meet new folks. For more information text Jeanne at 409-313-0611 or just come by.

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

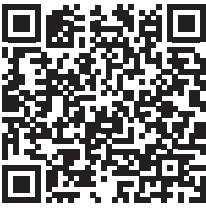
Bell County Texas Democratic Women holds their monthly meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Belton AgriLife Center, 1605 N Main in Belton. Join us to hear from local and state candidates and about important issues and events. This is open to the public.

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

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

Community Information

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.scottisitalianice.com

Scotti’s Italian Ice ships gourmet New York-style Italian ice for Belton residents to enjoy. Owner and retired veteran Ann Scotti, inspired by her daughter’s fond memories of Italian ice when visiting family in Jersey, has faithful customers less than one year after opening.

People who don’t know about Jersey Shore Italian ice come expecting an icy treat and leave with a creamy ice with multiple flavor options ready for enjoying. Scotti and her daughters, Mikayla Devins and Danielle Devins, enjoy the customer excitement over the newfound dessert in Belton, Texas.

“What we have is a cream base and also a water base,” said Scotti.

Proud of their flavor selection, including U.S.A. Rainbow, Cotton Candy, and Pina Colada, they also sell Italian soda, iced espresso, and, in multiple flavors, fresh squeezed lemonade.

Easy to spot in the teal trailer parked at local events, first located last summer in a rented space behind the Gin, is now sought out for community events and for contractual events.

Talking about their start, in June 2025, Scotti said, “Luamae’s Cajun Cuisine showed the way and helped us.”

Scotti’s Italian Ice, hosted by the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, invites you to their ribbon cutting, Thursday, June 4 at 4 pm at 7546 Prairie View Rd Ste 130 in Temple. At this location, they plan to have more of what their customers have asked for, including soft serve and more flavors.

The location in Temple, “came about, and we thought, let’s take the leap of faith and just go for it,” Scotti said.

Events coming up that Scotti’s Italian Ice will be at: The 46th annual Rabbit Fest in Copperas Cove on Thursday, May 14 through Sunday the 17, the Belton Downtown Street Party 4th of July celebration, the Liberty Park Belton celebration at noon, Bell County Comic Con at the Cadence Bank Center Saturday, Aug 1 and 2, and Oktoberfest in Copperas Cove on Saturday, Sept 12.

Scotti’s Italian Ice gives a 10% military discount. Read their full menu at scottisitalianice.com and consider booking Scotti’s Italian Ice for school activities, company events, birthdays, or a wedding.

Bell County Museum
Summer Fun for Early Learners!

Kids 6 years and younger are invited to the museum with their families to explore the engaging interactive exhibits and participate in fun activities and crafts.

Date: July 07 - July 10, 2026
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Tuesday - Railroads
Wednesday - Exploring Museums
Thursday - Inventions
Friday - Force & Motion

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