



Local residents inspect TxDOT proposals to modify FM93.

TxDOT seeks comments on FM93 project

By Harvey Jackson Oss
The Belton Journal

On Thursday, July 16, Belton residents and officials met with TxDOT representatives at the Harris Community Center for an open house information session on a project to modify FM93, locally known as 2nd Avenue. The project will span from Wheat Road to SH 317, Belton’s Main Street.

Attendees were able to view schematics in large print, a series of display boards detailing project information, and a Google Earth station to access the digital version of the schematics.

The main focus of the project is to widen FM93 to accommodate future travel demands stemming from population growth. “Central Texas is growing, and so this project not only will address safety, but really handle that increased traffic volume that comes with Texas growth,” explained Public Information Officer Jake Smith of Tx-

DOT Waco District.

The section of FM93 spanning from Wheat Road to Mitchell Street is planned to be expanded from two lanes to four divided by a median, with the addition of a sidewalk and a shared use path. The section of FM93 spanning from Mitchell Street to Main Street would remain two lanes, but be widened to include a left turn lane, as well as continuing the sidewalk and shared use path.

The proposed project includes the creation of three new traffic circles at the intersections of FM93 with Wheat Road, Loop 121, and Main Street, generating mixed feelings from attendees. TxDOT materials state that traffic circles can improve safety while reducing congestion, pollution, and fuel use. “They reduce crash points, and they promote slowing down traffic to get into the circle, so we feel that it’s a safer option,” added Smith.

See **TxDOT**,
Page A8

Belton auctioneer wins recent state competition

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Kent Smith, owner of Belton-based Kent Smith Auction Group, took home the gold at the 2026 Texas Auctioneers Associate State Championship, held last week in League City.

Smith has been a licensed auctioneer since 1997, but he retired from the telecommunications business after 30 years and he now is auctioneering full time.

“I was a part-time auctioneer for many years,” he said. “My wife and I used to buy and sell antique furniture, and we kind of got addicted to furniture auctions. I decided I’d rather be on the auction side of the business. My passion for auctions came from our passion for antique collecting.”

After getting the urge to auction items, Smith attended the Dallas-based Texas Auction Academy. After 80 hours of state-approved education, he took the state auctioneer exam.

“I’ve done industrial equipment auctions, and for many years I worked for an estate auction company based in Robinson,” he said. “I sold about everything.”

Smith said he was a bit surprised to win first place at the state competition.



“There were two divisions — one with 24 auctioneers, and my division with eight,” he said. “We were judged in five categories — professionalism, salesmanship, bid calling, how we represent the industry and stage presence. I did well in all five categories.”

“This is a competition among your peers,” Smith added. “We were judged by other professional auctioneers.”

While he has conducted a wide range of auctions, he mostly does fund-raising auctions.

“The auctions help raise money for schools, churches and other non-profit organizations,” he said. “We can travel around the state, but we try to stay within an hour of Belton — Waco, Killeen, Temple,

See **AUCTION**,
Page A8

Two Flames of Knowledge scholarships awarded

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

The Ladies Auxiliary MPR VFD held its annual Scholarship Reception on Thursday, July 9, at the Garrett & Mic Hill Event Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for its 2026-2027 recipients. Established in 1975-1976, Miss Flames, aka Flame of Knowledge Sweetheart, has awarded scholarships for 51 years.

Two public service career-focused candidates were recipients of \$1,000 scholarships. Natalie Hosch, daughter of Jason and Kelly Hosch, and Amara Sanchez, daughter of Libby and Jason Dominguez, were honored with the Miss Flame of

Knowledge award for 2026-2027.

Karen Stagner, president, said, “Both seniors are invited to join the Ladies Auxiliary at Morgan’s Point Resort events. I made the remark to them, tongue-in-cheek, that I wanted to see them at the 5K run, whether they run or not, in their sashes and crowns.”

The awards are given to students who are pursuing a career in public service. Additional qualifiers were: Hosch and Sanchez had to apply in the Spring and be residents of Morgan’s Point Resort or live in the Extended Fire District. Candidates

See **FLAMES**,
Page A8



Amara Sanchez and Natalie Hosch holding their Miss Flame of Knowledge \$1,000 Scholarship Awards as the 2026-2027 recipients.

Courtesy Photo

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Obituaries.....A3

Service Directory.....A5

Lifestyles.....A6

Church Directory.....A7

Sports.....B1

Classifieds.....B3

Editorial.....B6

B-TOWN.....B7

Business Showcase.....B8

Belhouse pipeline design work about 30% complete

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Engineering design work and pipeline easement acquisition efforts are in progress for the Belhouse Drought Preparedness Project, which will pump water from Belton Lake to Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir, a Brazos River Authority official said this week.

“The engineering design level for the project as a whole is cur-

rently about 30 percent complete,” said Judi Pierce, public information officer for BRA. “The pipeline route has been selected and is essentially the same as we presented at a public meeting in 2023.”

BRA is a governmental entity responsible for developing, managing and protecting the water resources of the Brazos River Basin in Texas. Its activities include operating reservoirs and dams, managing water supplies for municipali-

ties, agriculture, and industry, and providing wastewater services.

The projected Belhouse pipeline connecting Belton Lake to Stillhouse will be approximately seven miles long and up to four feet in diameter.

According to Brad Brunett, chief operations officer for the Authority, the intake structure will be located near Dead Fish Grill and the Belton Dam. The pipeline will feed into Stillhouse between that

lake’s dam and Three Creeks Boulevard.

“We have negotiated an easement with the City of Belton for about one mile of the pipeline right-of-way, and we are currently working with the other property owners along the selected route,” Pierce said. “Construction on the Belhouse Drought Preparedness

See **PIPELINE**,
Page A5

RNC CONSTRUCTION

254-542-7622

REMODELS NEW CONSTRUCTION ADDITIONS DECKS CONCRETE AND MORE

SPECIALIZING IN VA GRANTS AND MILITARY DISCOUNTS

INFO@RNC-CONSTRUCTION.COM

TEMPLE TOWING

(254) 771-1303

Templewrecker.com

70 YEARS

SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS SINCE 1956

Tanner Roofing

2025 TOP PERFORMER

2025 EXCELLENCE

TANNERROOFING.COM 254-939-0343

Planning for Your Financial Future

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

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

GUNTER FINANCIAL SERVICES

A Partner of

OakCrest ADVISORS

Belton applying for water supply, infrastructure grant

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The City of Belton is submitting an application for a Water Supply & Infrastructure Grant for the Wheat Road Water Capacity & Redundancy Improvement Project.

The decision was made at last week’s City Council meeting, and the applications must be turned in by the end of July.

“This item provides an opportunity for Belton to apply to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for a Water Supply & Infrastructure Grant to fund a project that will increase capacity and improve redundancy within the city’s water distribu-

tion system,” said Scott Hodde, Belton’s director of public works.

Under the program, municipalities serving populations between 10,001 to 150,000 are eligible to apply for grants up to \$21 million for qualified water supply and water infrastructure projects.

According to Hodde, the program represents a unique, one-time funding opportunity established by the TWDB to assist communities in addressing critical water infrastructure needs.

“Unlike traditional financing programs, WSIG assistance is provided as a 100 percent grant, requiring no local repayment or debt service,” Hodde said.

“Following the distribution of this

initial legislative appropriation, the Texas Water Development Board has indicated that additional funding under this grant program will not be available,” he added.

“This application presents a significant opportunity for the City to secure state funding for a critical infrastructure project without creating a long-term financial obligation for the community,” Hodde continued.

The project is a parallel and looped transmission system consisting of an 18-inch transmission main from Sparta Road to Auction Barn Road and a 12-inch transmission main from Auction Barn Road to Loop 121.

Other elements include a pump station

and possible ground storage tank.

“The estimated project cost is approximately \$17.5 million, which falls within the eligible funding under the WSIG program,” Hodde said. “Securing this grant funding, whether in full or in part, would provide a substantial benefit to the community by reducing or eliminating the need for local funding.”

Should Belton receive funding, the money will be disbursed through an entity established escrow account. All Water Supply Infrastructure Grant recipients with funds closed to escrow by May 1, 2027, will have until August 31, 2031, to expend their escrowed funds, Hodde explained.

Ladies Auxiliary Donates \$23,500 to MPR Fire-Rescue

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

The Ladies Auxiliary MPR VFD held a reception to present the Morgan’s Point Resort Fire-Rescue Division with a yearlong fundraising contribution. The event held at the Garrett & Mic Hill Event Center from 6-8pm on Thursday, July 9 revealed, through community events, raised \$23,500 since last Aug.

Fire Chief Shane D. Sibley said, “The generosity of the Ladies Auxiliary equips us not only with the tools we need but also with the encouragement to continue our mission. The support we receive from our volunteer groups allows us to take advantage of op-



Courtesy Photo

Morgan’s Point Resort Fire-Rescue Division was honored with a check to help fund supplies for FIONA, the brush truck.

portunities outside of MPR and bridge those unforeseen gaps. We thank them all for making a meaningful impact and their continued support.”

Last Aug. the request to help fund supplies for FIONA, the new brush truck, was welcomed by the Ladies Auxiliary MPR VFD. The goal was to raise \$30,000 through regular community events. Fiona’s supplies, which included:

graphics, mobile radios, emergency lights, metal toolboxes, fire hoses, and nozzles, and more. FIONA is a smaller sized truck, helping the fire-rescue personnel to get into places a full-size truck cannot.

The check was presented to Captain Noel Shaver, who accepted the check for the Morgan’s Point Resort Fire-Rescue Division.

Karen Stagner, president of the auxiliary listed the yearly fundraisers, “Last year we had our chili cookoff in the fall. Then we have the Holithanksmas Sale, which is right before Thanksgiving. We do a craft, bake, and lunch sale.”

But for this year’s annual Roses for Hoses 5k

run fundraiser, she was deeply moved. She said, “Part of what we say is, “You get a rose, and you can either keep the rose or give it to a fireman to say thank you.” Well, this was the first year I actually saw people actually giving their roses to our fire chief, James Sidney.”

Stagner said that the Ladies Auxiliary is an amazing group of volunteers whose main goal is to raise funds to support the MPR Fire Department. Membership is open, and she invites people to attend their next meeting, scheduled on the third Thursday of the month. It begins with a social at 6 p.m. at the Garrett & Mic Hill Event Center.

MPR’s Four Corners stop signs not planned

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

There’s been a lot of talk in Morgan’s Point Resort recently that four-way stop signs are coming to the City’s Four Corners intersection. But Mayor Jimbo Snyder said this week a four-way-stop intersection is not currently in the works.

“Morgan’s Point Resort has not conducted any in-depth or official research into traffic control at the intersection of FM 2483 and Morgan’s Point Road (Four Corners),” Snyder said. “There has been some

conversation about possibilities and needs moving forward, but nothing formal.”

While some MPR residents have indicated their desire for increased traffic control at that location, Four Corners presents a couple of challenges.

“Morgan’s Point Resort does not own or control that part of the roadway,” Snyder said. “That intersection is controlled and maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.”

“There is a new sidewalk being installed that will cross FM 2483 at the

Four Corners intersection,” the mayor added. “This is the biggest safety concern. Talking with members of our maintenance team and police department, simply making this a four-way stop will not remove the risk for those using the sidewalk crossing. We would still have traffic that is able to turn right without the requirement to stop. These right-turn lanes currently only require drivers to yield.”

“For traffic flow, a four-way stop could result in more congestion,” he said.

TxDOT work crews

are busy constructing the \$3.8 million, 1.8 mile pathway along FM 2483 that will help students safely walk or bike from Morgan’s Point Resort to several Belton ISD schools.

The project is federally funded, and construction should be completed by early 2027.

The pathway will run from Lake Belton High to Morgan’s Point Road, then north along Morgan’s Point Road to Sobrante Road. There will be a crosswalk at the intersection of FM 2483 and Morgan’s Point Road.

Money for the 10-foot pathway is coming from the Transportation Set-Aside funding program, which qualifies for Transportation Development Credits. That means the entire \$3.8 million is being funded with federal dollars without a match from the City.

The pathway addresses the safety of students from Morgan’s Point Resort who attend Lake Belton High School, High Point Elementary, and North Belton Middle School. It will enable these students to conveniently and safely walk or bike to school.

Additionally, this project will provide Morgan’s Point Resort residents with a secure means of accessing the Crossroads Recreational

Complex on Prairie View Road.

“The project will improve pedestrian safety and mobility in the area,” said Jake Smith, public information officer for TxDOT. “There will be lane closures throughout the project.”

As sidewalk construction continues to progress down to Four Corners, MPR staff will stay tied in with TXDOT and provide Council with updates, options, and recommendations, according to Snyder.

“The safety of our visitors, residents and in particular, our kiddos who might be using the sidewalk and crosswalk, is of utmost importance and demands that we look at all options,” the mayor continued.

Coverage for Health Vision and Dental for you or your business that is affordable?

COMPARE THE DIFFERENCE

Traditional Health Insurance	VS	Our Health Insurance
✗ High Monthly Premiums		✓ Up to 30%-70% Savings Per Month*
✗ High Deductible Per Family Member		✓ As Low as \$2,500 Per Household
✗ Must Choose From a Specified Network of Physicians and Facilities		✓ Choose Your Physician / Facility (Not Stuck with a Network)
✗ RX Pricing		✓ Discounted Prescription Pricing
✗ Extra Telehealth Costs or Not Available		✓ Included 24/7 Telehealth - \$0 Fee
✗ Does Not Cover Migrants in the US		✓ Migrants w/ITIN Can Get Coverage

TEXT: (Healthcare) to David for more info @ 254-681-5321

Project Heartbeat delivers support

Special to the Journal

Thanks to the generosity of community partners, Belton ISD is helping ensure families have access to nutritious food throughout the summer through its Project Heartbeat initiative.

The Bell County Medical Alliance partnered with

Belton ISD to support families facing food insecurity, while Realty of America hosted a Family Fun Day food drive on May 30 at Westfield Marketplace to help collect donations for the initiative. The event featured

See **HEARTBEAT,** Page A5

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

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

Submission guidelines for The Belton Journal and related properties:

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

- You retain ownership of any submission that is your original work. Submissions sent from third parties should only be by permission of the organization or individual who owns it, who also must agree to this submission policy.
- You understand that submissions may or may not appear in the Belton Journal and its related forms of publication, now or in the future.
- By contributing a submission, you are granting to the Belton Journal unrestricted, non-exclusive right to use it now and in the future. This includes modifying the original submission to fit print requirements.
- Submissions used become a permanent part of the Belton Journal and its product offerings. By virtue of

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

- Submissions not immediately used become a permanent part of the Belton Journal’s library, with rights for possible future use.
- By contributing any submission, you are indicating you have read and understood this policy and agree to its terms.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

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

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

OBITUARIES



Taylor
Charles Gayle Taylor
May 8, 1931 ~ July 9, 2026

Charles Gayle Taylor, Ph.D., died on July 9, 2026, in Houston, Texas, at age 95. Visitation will be held from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2026, at Scott’s Funeral Home and Crematorium in Gatesville, Texas. A memorial service celebrating his life will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will feature music and readings from Chuck’s own writings. Immediately afterward, a graveside committal and interment of his cremated remains will take place at Restland Cemetery, where he will be laid to rest beside his wife, Betty Ruth Franklin Taylor.

Charles—known as Chuck to nearly everyone—was born on May 8, 1931, in Llano, Texas, to C. L. “Chink” Taylor and Fannie Rachel Clements Taylor. He graduated from San Angelo High School in 1948, where his lifelong interests in music, theatre, and performance were already evident. He participated in the Glee Club, served as its secretary, sang in the Boys Quartette, appeared in an operetta, and took part in several other student organizations.

Chuck continued his education at the University of Texas at Austin, earning Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees in drama. His education also included independent study in Germany, Spain, France, and England; further study in English at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor; graduate study at Texas A&M University; Clinical Pastoral Education at Scott & White Hospital in Temple; and Education for Ministry through the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He later earned a Ph.D.

Theatre was the central thread of Chuck’s long and varied professional life. His work included service as resident director of the Pickwick Players in New York; director and actor with the Oregon Shakespearean Festival in Ashland, Oregon; summer resident director at the Zachary Scott Theatre in Austin; guest director and publicity director at the University of Idaho; and resident director of Temple Civic Theatre. He taught drama and speech at Lon Morris College, Southwestern University, and Temple College.

His professional experience extended beyond the stage and classroom. He worked as literary head for Trans-World Broadcasting in New York, as a stage manager for NBC in Burbank, and as an editor and advertising writer in Los Angeles and Hollywood. He also served as an interpretive ranger with the National Park Service at Canyonlands National Park in Utah.

From 1972 until 1996, Chuck served at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, where he taught, directed theatre and forensics, and contributed to the artistic and educational life of the university. His work there joined teaching, scholarship, directing, performance, and original creative production. He also served as president of the Board of Directors of the Tablerock Festival of Arts in Salado.

Chuck was a prolific writer whose work crossed many forms. Four of his one-act plays were published by Dramatic Publishing Company and Performance Publishing Company. He wrote, produced, and directed the world-premiere productions of *Yellow Hair* and *Me and Mine* at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. *Yellow Hair* was

later published and produced again in Monroe, Michigan.

His other work included a published Passion Play, an original screenplay optioned in New York, film and film-strip projects, a volume of poetry, and a collection of children’s stories titled *Show and Tell*. He also wrote, directed, and performed a one-man show for the Texas Educational Theatre Association Convention in Houston.

In later life, Chuck’s work reflected an enduring engagement with Christian faith, ministry, and religious thought. Through Clinical Pastoral Education, Education for Ministry, personal study, and many years of writing, he explored questions of faith, trust, doubt, mortality, and the search for meaning. In this part of his life and work, he used the name Brother Charles Luke after his acceptance first as a novice and later as an oblate in the Episcopal Franciscan Order of the Divine Compassion.

Chuck met Betty Ruth Franklin through Temple Civic Theatre. They were married on December 27, 1969, and shared more than four decades together until her death. He will now be buried beside her at Restland Cemetery.

Chuck was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Ruth Franklin Taylor; his daughter, Alysa Gayle Taylor; his parents, C. L. “Chink” Taylor and Fannie Rachel Clements Taylor; and his brother, C. L. “Chink” Taylor Jr.

He is survived by his son, Keith Iden Taylor; his daughter, Rebecca Tracy Taylor Amstutz; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and a broad extended family connected through birth, marriage, and descent, encompassing the Taylor, Clements, Amstutz, Franklin, Stone, Fisher, Tucker, McGilvray, Allison, Sollars, Anderson, Ayres, Frattone, Reeter, Turner, Kasting, Tippit, Lovett, and related family lines. He is also remembered by nieces, nephews, cousins, former students, colleagues, friends, and others whose lives he touched.

Charles Gayle Taylor lived many lives within one lifetime: teacher, director, actor, playwright, scholar, writer, ranger, and religious thinker. Across those roles, he remained devoted to language, performance, faith, and the questions through which human beings seek meaning.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to SPCA International or to a charity of one’s choice.



Allen
Milton Graham Allen
April 6, 1948 – July 4, 2026

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Milton Graham Allen, 78, of

Austin. Milton passed away peacefully on July 4, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, generosity and kindness.

Born April 6, 1948, in Temple, Texas, he was one of four children (the “Allen Kids”) born to Charlotte Horton Allen and Carl Hudson Allen of Belton, Texas. Belton would serve as a lifelong anchor for Milton, graduating from Belton High School in 1967, where he was a proud member of the Belton High School Marching 100 Band and where many of his lifelong enduring friendships were formed.

Shortly after graduation, the Allen family moved to Austin where Milton would spend the remainder of his life, except for a brief stay in Hollywood, CA, fulfilling one of his life long dreams of living a life surrounded by movie magic and glamorous stars. His all time favorite movie was *A Summer Place*, starring his movie idol Sandra Dee.

Upon his return to Austin, his love of landscaping and design would translate to his spending his adult life employed by a number of high-end nurseries and gift shops, including Wolfe Nursery, Green Leaf, Cornerstone, and The Great Outdoors, where his knowledge and congenial nature attracted many loyal customers.

Milton was preceded in death by his parents, brother Carl Hudson Allen, Jr. (Huttie) and sister Virginia Allen (Deede), and his beloved aunts Doris Allen Mulhollan (Aunt Da) and Virginia Horton Howard (Aunt Deede), and uncles Milton Graham Horton (Uncle Mickey), Wilson Edward Allen (Uncle Dig) and Harry Baker Allen (Uncle Bro), and many dear pets whom he had cherished over the years.

Milton is survived by his devoted sister Doris Allen Drummond of Austin, four nephews Reid Whitley of Angleton, Texas, Jonathan and Justin Drummond of Austin and Caleb Allen of Kyle, Texas, two cousins Mickey Horton Gustafson (Mimi) of Naples, FL and Virginia Horton Howard (Babe or Baby Deede) of New Oxford, PA, and 12 great nieces and nephews. Also surviving Milton is his beloved dog, Maggie, who was his constant companion and a source of healing during times of loss.

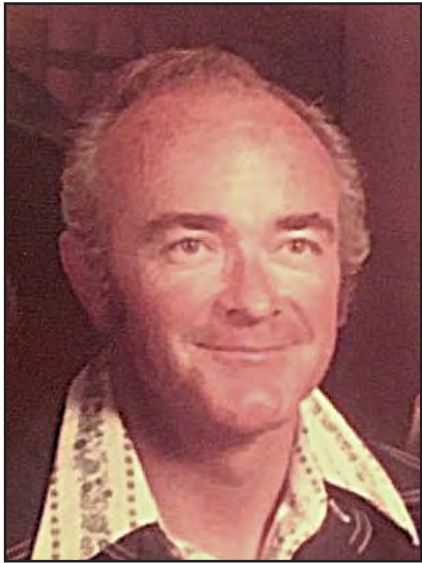
Known for his compassion and generous spirit, Milton was a true Samaritan who extended kindness to all those he encountered. He deeply loved his family and friends. He touched countless lives and leaves behind a lasting legacy of love and goodness. His memory will remain a guiding light for his family and friends, a symbol of the generous and free-spirited heart he carried throughout his years.

A celebration of Milton’s life will follow at a later date. Donations in his memory may be made to Austin Pets Alive!

Salazar

Rolando Roman Salazar
Jan. 4, 1994 ~ July 14, 2026

Rolando Roman Salazar, 32, of Belton, passed away on July 14, 2026. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. July 22 at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Temple. Services will be at 2 p.m. July 23, also at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Temple, followed by burial at Hillcrest Cemetery.



Cameron

Donald William Cameron
July 13, 1938 ~ July 13, 2026

Don Cameron of Belton, Texas passed away July 13, 2026, on his 88th birthday after suffering a stroke.

Born in Tolleson, Arizona, Don was the son of Mike and Evelyn Cameron. He was raised in Abilene.

Don pursued his education in engineering at Hardin-Simmons University and Texas Tech.

While still in Abilene he met Ann (Moody) Rutherford. He and Ann married in 1959 and later moved to Temple in 1969.

Don worked for Sylvania Electronics for several years working on the Minute Man Missiles. After that in 1972 he and Ann entered business for themselves. They purchased the Robo Car Wash on Adams Avenue in Temple, which they managed for many years and became a familiar part of the Temple community.

Don married Billie Brown in 1977 and continued to manage the Robo Car Wash. Later they sold the car wash and Don devoted himself to buying and restoring fixer-upper houses. He taught himself every facet of home repair, learning whatever he needed from “do-it-yourself” library books and hands-on experience. His resourcefulness and determination became hallmarks of his life.

Don was married to Billie Brown whom he shared 48 years of marriage until her passing in October 2024.

Don is survived by his brother, Larry Cameron, and his wife Rayna; five children: Denise (Cameron) Schmidt, Greg Cameron, and Donna (Cameron) Guthrie; Mark Brown, and Lisa Brown; nine grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

He will be deeply missed by his family and all who knew him. A graveside service will be held at the North Belton Cemetery Pavilion on Saturday, July 25th at 10:00 am.

Hewett-Arney Funeral Home

Serving families in our historic building since 1942



Did you know?
Almost everyone who prearranges with us comments before leaving, "I'd been wanting to do that for years!" Why wait? We guarantee the prices won't go up. You save your family additional emotional and financial burdens by prearranging. Give us a call.

100% Family Owned

(254)778-3200
Phones answered 24/7

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

Please don't text and drive! Call and ask for pricing. By regulation funeral home must disclose pricing by phone.

• **Direct Cremation**
\$1650 Complete
Includes crematory fee

• **Complete Funeral**
\$5550
Includes 20 ga. steel casket



COMPASSIONATE CARE AT HOME FOR THE ONES YOU LOVE

CareAge HomeCare provides trusted non-medical in-home care for seniors who want to remain safe and comfortable at home.

Our caregivers assist with:

- Personal Care
- Meal Preparation
- Medication Reminders
- Light Housekeeping
- Alzheimer's & Demential Support
- Respite Care for Family Caregivers



Call today for a **Free** Care Consultation
254-780-9864
www.careagehomecare.com



Serving Temple, Belton and surrounding communities



Auto • Home
Life • Commercial

Kenny Paysse **FARMERS**
778-7136 **INSURANCE**



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

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



**CENTRAL TEXAS
MEMORIAL COMPANY**

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



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



BELTON ISD CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2026

On May 21, 2026 Belton ISD celebrated the Class of 2026 during graduation ceremonies at the Cadence Bank Center, honoring 985 graduates from across the district’s three high schools, including 520 graduates from Lake Belton High, 387 graduates from Belton High and 78 graduates from Belton New Tech @Waskow.

Each ceremony spotlighted student accomplishments and campus traditions, with special recognition given to the valedictorians and salutatorians, respectively:

Scan here to see graduation pictures



HONORING THE TOP 10 GRADUATES ACROSS BELTON ISD

Belton ISD is proud to recognize the top 10 graduates from Belton High School, Lake Belton High School and Belton New Tech @Waskow. These students have demonstrated exceptional dedication, resilience and academic excellence throughout their high school journeys. As they prepare for the next chapter, we celebrate their hard work, honor their achievements, and look forward to the incredible impact they’ll make beyond graduation.

LAKE BELTON HIGH SCHOOL

VALEDICTORIAN

TAYLOR ROGERS

SALUTATORIAN

DHURUV BHAT

KAY BARKER

EMILY JEONG

ALEX YUEN

MIKAYLA SALAZAR

ABIGAIL HAJOVSKY

CLARA HILL

MORGAN KUKULSKI

YECHAN KWON

CLASS OF 2026 - TOP 10

Q&A WITH DR. MALINDA GOLDEN



As Belton ISD prepares for the 2026-27 school year, Superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden shared how the district is using the summer months to plan strategically, strengthen priorities and continue supporting each and every student.

Q: Summer is often a time when districts prepare behind the scenes for the future. What work will continue across Belton ISD in the months ahead?

A: Summer is an important planning season for Belton ISD. A major focus will continue to be budget work as we prepare to bring a proposed budget and tax rate to the board for adoption in August.

We are also excited about refining our new strategic plan, Destination 2031, which will help guide the district’s work and priorities over the next five years. A lot of behind-the-scenes work will happen this summer to develop strategies and action plans that reflect the priorities of our community and board.

In addition, our teachers and leaders will spend time reflecting on the past school year, celebrating successes and identifying opportunities for growth as part of our commitment to continuous improvement.

Q: Belton ISD continues to grow and evolve. How do you ensure the district stays focused on supporting each and every student?

A: One thing that stood out during the strategic planning process was how strongly our community, staff and families continue to believe in “Each and Every.” That commitment remains part of the fabric of Belton ISD and is built directly into our strategic plan. In fact, our first priority is centered on students and ensuring exceptional learning experiences that bring our Journey of a Graduate competencies to life for each and every learner.

By intentionally aligning our work to those beliefs, we can continue growing while staying focused on what matters most: students.

Q: What message would you like families to carry into summer and the next school year?

I hope our students, staff and families enjoy a wonderful summer and have time to rest and recharge before the new school year begins.

Our updated vision is “Inspiring Dreams, Empowering Futures,” and we want students and families to feel excited about being part of a district that is always working to improve and create meaningful opportunities for students.

We also remain committed to the values our community helped shape through the strategic planning process: trust, empowerment, adaptability, community and high expectations for ourselves and our students. Those values will continue guiding the work we do across Belton ISD.



BELTON HIGH SCHOOL

VALEDICTORIAN

EMMA FLORY

SALUTATORIAN

ABIGAIL IDOUX

LEAH COX

PALO MUNGATHUPARAMAK

AUBREY NEEHAN

SHREYA BHAT

SALGERUS MIRANDA

AUSTYN DISKIN

DREKEN GALLINA

HADLEY DOLLAR

CLASS OF 2026 - TOP 10

BELTON NEW TECH @WASKOW

VALEDICTORIAN

SAMANTHA MCKENZIE

SALUTATORIAN

LELAND MOORE

ANNA PAYNE

EDEN SPAIN

MACKENNA HUGHES

CLAIRE THOMAS

LAUREN URSAG

ALEXA BENAVENTE

KYLE STEPHEN

ELIETTE REED

CLASS OF 2026 - TOP 10

BELTON ISD CELEBRATES 2026 WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEE

On May 16, Belton ISD honored former Belton High School football standout Kegan Sherwood during the 2026 Wall of Honor Induction Ceremony, celebrating his lasting impact on Tiger athletics through leadership, toughness and versatility. Sherwood’s historic senior season, highlighted by dominant special teams play and key defensive performances, helped lead the Tigers to a fourth consecutive playoff appearance and earned him multiple statewide honors along with a walk-on opportunity at the University of Mississippi.

The Wall of Honor Committee conducts a careful and comprehensive selection process to identify athletes who have made extraordinary contributions to their teams, school and community.

The committee also organizes this annual event to recognize and celebrate those achievements in a meaningful way.“ Wall of Honor inductees represent generations of excellence that continue to shape the tradition and pride of Belton Tiger athletics,” said Sam Skidmore, Belton ISD athletic director. “We are excited to celebrate Kegan and the impact he made on our program, teammates and community.”



Central Texas

DON RINGLER

AUTOMOTIVE

CHEVROLET

TOYOTA

(254)774-6500 • Toll Free (800)460-3728

7777 S. General Bruce Dr, Temple EXIT 294B OFF I-35

www.DonRinglerAutos.com

BELTON

ISD

FIRST COMMUNITY TITLE

Relax ...
We'll Handle It.

Temple
254-773-7750

Harker Heights
254-699-1102

Salado
254-947-8480

Belton
254-831-9320

www.fcttx.com



We believe in a **BETTER** flooring experience.

LET US FLOOR YOU!

TILE & STONE FLOORING

LUXURY VINYL FLOORING

HARDWOOD FLOORING

CARPET FLOORING

254-933-1313 [Bellcountyflooring.Com](http://Bellcountyflooring.com)
6401 St.Hwy 317 Ste. B M-F 8-5:30 Sat: 8-3

Pipeline - From Page A1

Project likely will start in 2028, and we expect this project to be completed sometime around 2032.”

According to Brunett, the permitting and design phase for the project began in May of this year.

“Design for both the intake structure and pipeline are underway by the Walker Partners engineering team, and they are expected to be complete this year,” Brunett said.

“Coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers is also in progress — construction is expected to begin in 2028,” he added.

Engineering design work is also under way for the Williamson County Regional Raw Water Line, which transports water from Stillhouse Hollow Lake to Lake Georgetown for the cities of Round Rock and Georgetown, and the Brushy Creek Municipal Utility District.

“The project is at approximately 60 percent of the design level,” Pierce said. “When complete, the project will increase the capacity of the Williamson County Regional Raw Water Line from approximately 40 million gallons per day to about 56 million gallons per day. It is expected to be complete near the end of 2030.”

The project will provide water for drought-related needs in Austin’s booming northern suburbs.

“As populations in the Georgetown and Round Rock areas grow, there won’t be enough water for Brazos River Authority customers served by Lake Georgetown,” Brunett said.

“Lake Georgetown is small — Stillhouse is about 6 times larger than Georgetown, and Belton Lake is about 14 times larger,” he said. “During dry times, there simply is not enough water in Lake Georgetown to meet the needs.”

The Brazos River Authority has been pumping water from Stillhouse to Lake Georgetown for years, but the potential amount of water being moved will soon increase, Brunett said.

A whopping 20 billion gallons of water every year could be piped from Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir to Lake Georgetown in the next few years, and up to 9.8 billion gallons could be moved annually from Belton Lake to Stillhouse by the Belhouse pipeline.

“We first started pumping in 2006, and we added multiple pumps in 2011,” Brunett said. “We have four pumps capable of pumping 42 million gallons a day. We are replacing those with four higher-capacity pumps that can move 56 million gallons per day. There will still be one pipeline, but we will be able to move more water.”

“We are currently in the pump design phase, and it will be two or three years before they are operational,” he said. Once complete, they will have the capacity to transfer about 61,000-acre-feet — 19.88 billion gallons — from Stillhouse to Georgetown annually.

The amount of water actually transferred is related directly to ongoing drought conditions.

“The pumps don’t run constantly,” Brunett said. “It all depends on the weather and how much natural runoff goes into Lake Georgetown. In 2016, the pumps didn’t run at all. But, in 2022, they ran most of the year.”

Heartbeat - From Page A2

bounce houses, a dunking booth, local vendors and family activities, with Belton ISD volunteers joining the community effort to collect food and support local families.

Realty of America’s Family Fun Day marked its first food drive benefiting Project Heartbeat, building on the success of a spring break collection effort organized by the Bell County Medical Alliance earlier this year.

The donated food will be distributed to Belton ISD families experiencing food insecurity, helping provide additional support during the summer months when many students are away from school.

“When a community comes together like this, it sends a powerful message to our families that they are seen, valued and supported,” said Jona Sutter, Belton ISD Community Support Services Liaison and Mentor Program and Resource Center Manager. “Every donation helps remove barriers for families and reminds them they are not alone. Together, we’re providing more than food. We’re providing hope, stability and the reassurance that our community cares.”

Project Heartbeat connects Belton ISD families with resources that address basic needs so students can thrive both inside and outside the classroom. Community partnerships play a vital role in expanding the district’s ability to serve families throughout the year.

Local

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Your guide to trusted local professionals.

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

SYSTEMS & APPLIANCES

CONSTRUCTION



BEST-WAY

Carpet Services

VINYL PLANK HARDWOOD VINYL

CARPET CERAMIC TILE

GET PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

254.770.0932

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday
9:00am - 1:00pm

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

Pomykal

Heating & Cooling

Belton, Temple, Killeen

(254) 938-6290

William Pomykal Service & Repairs

Gwen Pomykal Preventative Maintenance

www.gopomykal.com TACLA22074C

Popelka

PAINT CONTRACTING, INC.

★ Interior/Exterior ★ Pressure Washing

★ Residential/Commercial ★ Tree Trimming & Removal

★ Drywall Repair ★ Small Concrete Jobs

★ Privacy Fence Repair ★ Wood/Door Replacement and Repair

★ New Build & Staining

OVER 100 YEARS IN BUSINESS

254 773-9944 Follow us on  

INSURED



Custom Draperies

by Monica

We design & fabricate in our own workroom!

Custom Draperies - Fabrics - Blinds

1305 N Main St, Belton, TX 254.939.1070

Spoonts

Home Appliance Service

Since 1970

We provide in Home Service on All Major Brands of Appliances.

791-1973

Good Neighbors

Fencing and Construction

A GOOD FENCE KEEPS A GOOD NEIGHBOR

LOCALLY OWNED

LOOKING FOR A LOCAL FENCING CONTRACTOR IN TEMPLE, TX?

(254) 346-1405

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

YARDWORK



Double T

Construction, Inc

• ROOFING

• Seamless Gutters

• Custom Cabinets

• Window Replacement

• Counter Tops

• Window Services

Free Estimates

(254) 939-1934

doubletconstruction@hotmail.com



www.DoubleTConstructionIncTX.com

All Work Warrantied and Insured
50 Years Local Experience

The Original

Ash Tree Service



• Tree Trimming

• Tree Removal

• Stump Grinding

• Tree Planting

Free Estimates

Split Firewood For Sale

254.654.6317

254.939.7007

Third Generation



FOR MARKETING AND AD PLACEMENT, CONTACT

Shanna Grote

 Marketing@BeltonJournal.com

 or text 254-654-5166



FOR PRICING AND SALES INFORMATION, CONTACT

Randa Miller

 Sales@BeltonJournal.com

 or text 254-493-2637

Brown's House Leveling & Foundation Repair

Belton Owned  Free Estimates

Est. 1960

254-228-9179

CLEANING

English Maids

We will sweep you off your feet!



Residential/Commercial Cleaning Service

FREE Estimates • Bonded • Insured • Work Comp • Locally Owned and Operated

254-231-0583

We appreciate your support of local business!



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

OUR HOSPICE HOUSE

254-500-7123
WWW.OURHOSPICEHOUSE.ORG

Relax... We'll Handle It.

FCT
FIRST COMMUNITY TITLE

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

A6
Thursday,
July 23, 2026

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Visitor passes required for civilians visiting BLORA

By Lynette Sowell-Stevens
The Belton Journal

The Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area is open to non-civilians, but Fort Hood recently announced that it has added gate guards to the entrance.

“This addition is entirely dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of all our guests, preserving the family-friendly atmosphere that makes the area so special. We want our neighbors who do not possess a Department of War identification card to know that BLORA is fully open to the general public, and getting there is easier than ever,” stated Lt. Col Matthew McMillan, III Armored Corps, Deputy Public Affairs Officer.

After a May 23 shooting incident at BLORA during a gathering and reports of disorderly conduct, the facility was closed to all non-Department of Defense/Department of War identification holders until further notice.

However, BLORA is again open to all – but all non-DoD/DoW ID holders age

18 and up in a vehicle must have an access pass, just as if they were visiting the main post.

Visitors can get an access pass online ahead of their visit to BLORA by visiting www.pass.aie.army.mil online. Visitors will receive a background check after entering their information, including a valid driver’s license or state ID. They will be notified via text if their pass is approved or denied.

Once approved, they can proceed to the Visitor Welcome Center to complete the pass process and receive their paper pass to access BLORA. For more information, call (254) 287-9909 or go to <https://home.army.mil/hood/my-fort/visitor-information>.

“We value our Central Texas neighbors and want you to continue enjoying the natural beauty and recreational opportunities we offer. We hope to see you on the water,” said McMillan.

The gate fee is \$2.50 per DAV vehicle, \$5 for authorized DoD patrons per vehicle, and \$10 for all other civilians per vehicle.



BELTON JOURNAL/Michele Weisman

Featured are the West Belton/T.B. Harris School Association 2026 officers. The association held its reunion and celebrated the 90-year-old building last weekend.

T.B. Harris School, the perfect setting for a weekend of celebrations

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

The West Belton/T.B. Harris School Association held its bi-annual school reunion from July 17 through the 19 to celebrate 90 years of the T.B. Harris building, constructed in 1936. Fires destroyed three previous schools with the first school built in 1882, 144 years ago. One of the celebratory events, held

on Saturday, July 18, was a Praise and Prayer Breakfast that began at 10 a.m. Graduates of the T.B. Harris School, family, friends, and the community attended the catered event.

Dr. Lela Butler, recording secretary, was the Master of Ceremonies opened by leading the hymn, Oh, How I Love

See HARRIS,
Page A8

More improvements coming to Belton’s Heritage Park

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

The addition of a new events venue and pavilion at Heritage Park will soon be home to outdoor weddings, festivals and live music in the park, all along the scenic Leon River.

According to James Grant, executive director of Belton Parks & Recreation, Heritage Park is the most popular park in the City, and it has plenty of space for expansion.

“It’s the most popular park by a lot,” Grant said earlier this week. “Our recently completed Parks Master Plan answered that very question, showing us Heritage is by far the most visited park in Belton, beating out Chisholm Trail Park by more than 10 percent.”

“The land to expand Heritage Park was purchased in 2018 while the City was looking to expand our parks system to meet the demand for recreational space for our growing community,” he said. “When a portion of Old Leon Valley Golf Course

came up for sale, our City Council took the opportunity to invest in our parks system. They purchased 85 acres of the golf course.”

“The existing Heritage Park was 65 acres and with the added 85 acres, it is now 150 acres,” Grant said. “It’s our largest city park.”

Grant said Phase I Improvements began in late 2022 and were completed a little over a year later in early 2024. Phase 2 should be completed by fall 2027, and no further expansion of Heritage Park is planned at this time.

Covey Planning & Landscape Architects did the planning and design of both Phase I and Phase 2 of Heritage Park.

In Phase 1, Park Avenue was extended through Heritage Park, connecting to East 24th Avenue, and a new Multi-Use Recreational Field was built at the soccer complex. One of the most popular additions during Phase 1 was the permanent Dog Park. It quickly became very popular with residents and their pups, and the “Bark Park” will be updated during Phase 2.

Also in Phase 1, much-needed parking was added, and a new concession building complete with a pavilion and restrooms was built. An additional restroom was added at the other end of the park in preparation of the Phase 2 amenities coming to that side of the park.

A Fish Camp with a dock, pier and kayak ramp were built during Phase 1.

These were great additions, but many more are in the works for the next phase of the park expansion project.

“This is our wish list, but final determination of the elements that will be included in Phase 2 has yet to be finalized,” Grant continued.

But, there are some additions that likely will be included in the expansion:

A lighted Hike & Bike trail will connect 13th Avenue to East 24th Avenue.

The Open-Air Family Pavilion and Playground Area. This includes a large courtyard with additional picnic tables, a rainwater catchment system for landscape irrigation, and a large, shaded playground.

Development of the Pecan Grove Outdoor Event Venue and a Family Pavilion along the Leon River within the Pecan Grove area.

Improvements to the popular Disc Golf Course, including new signage and tee pads.

Improvements to the Dog Park, including new lighting and a dog-washing station.

Additional baseball/softball practice fields.

Establishment of fishing ponds.

Completion of the remaining Musco lighting on the new multi-purpose field.

Musco Lighting is a global leader in the design and manufacture of advanced sports, transportation, and large-area floodlighting systems. Based in Oskaloosa, Iowa, their systems are used everywhere from Little League fields to professional stadiums, and they serve as the official lighting provider for the LA28 Olympic Games.

No indoor recreation facility, which was discussed during the creation of the

Parks Master Plan, will be built during Phase 2.

Phase 2 is being funded through the City’s Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone fund, Capital Improvement Fund money and — if approved — a \$750,000 Texas Parks & Recreation grant.

Many Belton residents are especially proud of the Dog Park and are excited it is getting new lighting and the dog-washing station.

“The (Heritage Park) Dog Park is a great place — I go there every day,” said Belton resident John Kinney. “If it had lights, I’d go at night as well.”

Phillip Anderson, also of Belton, is a big fan of the bark park.

“I use it often — I like the size of the park,” he said.

According to Grant the City put up a temporary dog park back in 2019 to see if the community would use it. It became an immediate hit with local pups and their owners.

“We were trying to decide if we wanted to spend the money and build a permanent one, but we didn’t want

to build something our community didn’t want or use,” Grant said.

“It was so successful that we decided to extend the temporary fence rental for several more months while we planned a permanent dog park.”

The temporary park — it was called Pop-Pup Dog Park by the City — was divided into two areas, one for large dogs and the other for smaller canines. The park was small — about a quarter-acre in size.

Today’s park also has two sections, but the overall size is now 1.5 acres.

“We kept it at the same location because everyone loved the shade trees, and it worked well with parking, walking trails and the nearby park playground,” Grant said.

Now called Heritage Park Dog Park, money to build the puppy playground was part of a \$750,000 Texas Parks & Wildlife grant awarded a few years ago.

“The park is very popular with pet owners and their furry best friends,” Grant said.

Forest Service announces first purchase wildland firefighting aircraft

Special to the Journal

Texas A&M Forest Service is building a state-managed fleet of wildland firefighting aircraft, beginning with the purchase of two SUBARU Bell 412EPX helicopters.

The first aircraft is expected to be delivered in December 2027, with the second anticipated to follow three to

six months later.

“Texas families and communities depend on strong protection from wildfires,” said Governor Greg Abbott. “This investment in a dedicated fleet of firefighting aircraft gives our responders faster response times and greater strength to contain fires. Texas can now better respond when disaster strikes.”

The primary objective is

simple: get aircraft on a fire sooner. The sooner firefighters can attack a wildfire from the air, the greater the opportunity to contain it before it grows into a larger, more destructive incident.

In 2025, Texas A&M Forest Service and local fire departments responded to 6,304 wildfires that burned 132,366 acres across the state. During those responses,

wildfire suppression aircraft flew 1,589 hours and made 1,345 drops, delivering more than 1 million gallons of water and fire retardant.

“Preparing for the next wildfire season begins long before the first fire starts,” said Robert L. Albritton, chairman of The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. “This investment gives Texas A&M Forest Service dedicated resources that will improve readiness, strengthen response capabilities and better protect Texans and their communities.”

For decades, Texas has relied on federal resource-sharing agreements and a partnership with the Texas Military Department for aerial wildfire suppression. Those partnerships will continue as Texas builds a dedicated, state-managed fleet that provides dependable aviation resources and greater operational flexibility during periods of high wildfire activity.

ity.

“Texas is growing, and so is the risk of catastrophic wildfire,” Chancellor Glenn Hegar said. “These aircraft will give Texas A&M Forest Service another critical tool to respond quickly, support firefighters on the ground and help protect lives, property and natural resources across our state. This investment strengthens Texas’ ability to respond when every minute counts.”

The new helicopters will provide firefighters with precision water drops, enhanced structure protection, improved access to rugged terrain and the ability to quickly return for additional water, allowing crews to remain engaged throughout suppression operations. The aircraft also establish the foundation of a permanent, state-managed aerial firefighting capability that can be expanded as Texas’ needs continue to grow.

The 89th Texas Legislature appropriated \$257 million to Texas A&M Forest Service for the purchase, operation and maintenance of wildfire suppression aircraft. The helicopter purchase represents the first phase of a planned expansion over the next two years that includes additional aircraft, including multimission fixed-wing aircraft and large tankers.

“The Legislature made a commitment to strengthen Texas’ wildfire preparedness, and today’s announcement puts that investment to work,” said state Rep. Ken King. “These aircraft will help ensure firefighters have the resources they need to protect lives, property and our rural communities.”

Texas A&M Forest Service fire managers select aircraft based on each incident’s size, location, fuel conditions and potential threats to

See TA&M,
Page A8

PATTI POWELL
Creative Consultant

254.624.5197
patti@uccpromos.com
www.uccpromos.com

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

MONTEITH Abstract & Title Co.
Home Owned Since 1876
Frank Turner, Jr. & Employees
106 South East St. • 939-5791

Bell INC.
Air Conditioning
LENNOX
Jerry Graves TACLA21562E
310 E. Central Ave. • 254-877-2628

Air/Control
TRANE Financing & Trade-Ins Available
5515 TAYLORS VALLEY RD. TEMPLE - 254-933-8030
7604 WOODWAY DR. WACO - 254-772-8042
Texas State License: TACLA13736C (Temple) & TACLA23614C (Waco) **www.airctrl.com**

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

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

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

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

BEST-WAY Carpet Services
VINYL PLANK HARDWOOD VINYL
CARPET CERAMIC TILE
GET PROFESSIONAL SERVICE 254.770.0932
Feel free to write us, info@bestwaycarpets.net
3206 Airport Rd, Temple, TX 76504

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

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

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

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

STAAS PLUMBING COMPANY, INC.
REPUTATION BUILT ON SERVICE
778-2575
KEN STAAS
2101 W. AVENUE M • TEMPLE, TEXAS 76504
M-12173

Extraco Banks. Let's Build Some Dreams™
774.5500 | Belton | extracobanks.com

BELTON/MORGAN'S POINT RESORT

Agape Christian Center
321 N. Penelope ~ 254.939.WORD

Anchor of Hope Fellowship
5700 F.M. 439 ~ 254.831.1035

Belton Christian Church
9425 W FM ~ 436 254.939.1172

Belton Church of Christ
3003 N. Main ~ 254.939.1816

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

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

Belton Lighthouse
1001 NE Loop 121 ~ 254.654.7278

Belton Nazarene Church
1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404

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

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

Christ Bible Baptist Church
1590 Jack Rabbit Rd ~ 254.939.9247

Christ the King Catholic Church
310 E. 24th Ave. ~ 254.939.0806

Christian Tabernacle Church Apostolic UPC
1010 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.3464

Cornerstone Community Church
5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250

Crossroads Church
500 South I-35 ~ 254.939.2122

Dominion Life Chapel
105 Green Briar St. ~ 254.563.0472

Elm Grove Baptist Church
6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127

Family Gospel Church
2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707

Fellowship Baptist Church
2025 Morgan's Point Rd ~ 254.780.2388

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

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

First Presbyterian Church of Belton
2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115

First United Methodist Church
205 E. 3rd Ave. ~ 254.939.5703

Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus
1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201

Freedom Bible Fellowship
3087 W. Ave. D ~ 254.933-3310

Holy Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith
519 S. Pearl St. ~ 254.613.4591

Hope Community Church
507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222

Hope Tabernacle
202 E. 1st Ave. ~ 254.933.8222

Iglesia de Cristo
3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910

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

Lakeview Baptist Church
7717 N Hwy. 317 ~ 254.780.1884

Liberty Church
302 E. Central Ave. ~ 254.933.7107

Liberty in Christ Church
2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337

Miller Heights Baptist Church
1400 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.1835

Ministerios Vida
2020 S. IH-35 ~ 254.624.8015

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

New Life Fellowship
706 E. 4th. ~ 254.939.8011

Nolan Valley Baptist Church
13206 W. FM 93~ 254.721.5998

Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ
117 N. Birdwell St. ~ 254.939.0822

Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church
2378 FM 1670 ~ 818.519.9855

Tapestry Community Church of Belton
1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.218.4008

Temple Vision de lo Alto
4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231

Trinity Full Gospel
810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bell County
1726 Morgan's Point Rd. ~ 254.778.8034

~ TEMPLE ~

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

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

Christian Life Church
4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626

Covenant Lutheran Church
4202 Hickory Rd. ~ 254.733.7718

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

First Baptist Church Temple
8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866

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

First Presbyterian Church Temple
12 West French ~ 254.773.3407

Foundation Church
10751 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673

Grace Baptist Church
740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401

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

Grace Presbyterian Church
2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134

Harvest Church
2501 General Bruce Dr. ~ 254.780.3566

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898

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

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

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

St. Francis Episcopal Church & School
5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255

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

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

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

Temple Bible Church
3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233

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

Unity Church of Temple
318 N. 2nd ~ 254.770.0070

Vineyard Christian Fellowship
7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802

Vista Community Church
7051 Stonehollow Dr. ~ 254.774.7992

Wildwood Baptist Church
5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

Some names carry more than letters



John C. Perry

I am so very happy as my first greatgrandchild was born last week. It is a joy unlike any I have ever known. When I heard her name for the first time, I was humbled to my core. They named this beautiful little girl **Dorothy Jane**. Both my mother and her maternal grandmother carried the name Dorothy, and both were pillars in my life. I can almost picture them now,

two faithful, hardworking women, looking down from Heaven and beaming with pride that this precious child bears their name.

They will call the newborn "Dottie," and that nickname carries its own sweetness. My dad always called my mom "Dottie," and hearing it again brings back memories of their quiet tenderness. I pray that little Dottie will grow into the same kind of amazing woman as the two Dorothys in Heaven, women who didn't just talk the talk but walked in their Christian faith. Their lives were sermons long before I ever preached one.

Ever thought about what's in a name? In Scripture, names carry immense weight and spiritual destiny. God changes Abram to Abraham. Jacob becomes Israel.

Saul becomes Paul. A name often marked a turning point or a blessing. Today, names seem to follow trends in our secular culture. The most popular girl names in the U.S. right now are Olivia, Sophia, Amelia, Charlotte, and Emma. Beautiful names but chosen more for style than story.

My parents named me and my two brothers after apostles: John, James, and Thomas. That was common in the 1950s, but it also reflected something deeper, a desire to anchor children to faith and to a spiritual heritage.

The name Dorothy translates to "Gift of God." And that is exactly what the original Dorothys were to their families. They were gifts of strength, faith, and perseverance. Now, little Dottie Jane arrives as a

fresh reminder of God's ongoing faithfulness to our family across five generations.

Her birth has made me reflect on how meaningful it is to name a child after a family member. It is more than sentiment. It is a way of saying, "Your story didn't start today." In a sense, each of us is the sum of those who prayed for us before we were born. When we name our newborns after someone who came before, we honor our ancestors and acknowledge the foundation we stand on. It is gratitude to God for the legacy He has woven through our family.

Names matter because God weaves His story through people, not just moments. The Dorothys who came before lived lives of faith, courage, and quiet strength, and

now their name rests on a child who will carry that legacy into a world they never saw. That is the miracle of family: God uses the faith of one generation to bless the next.

As we welcome little Dottie Jane, we are doing more than celebrating a birth. We are celebrating the continuation of a spiritual heritage that began long before any of us arrived. My prayer is that she will grow to know the One who knew her first, the God who calls every child His own.

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.

Harris - From Page A6

Jesus.

Pastor Patrick Russell gave the invocation, saying, “Thank you for this 90th reunion coming together. Thank you for those behind the scenes that make this event possible.”

Minister Leroy Butler provided the musical selection, leading everyone in the hymn, I Need Thee.

Mayor of Belton, David K Leigh read a Proclamation from the Office of the Mayor that read in part, “the annual T.B. Harris School Reunion, now celebrating its historic 144th milestone, to honor a legacy that no fire could extinguish.”

Manuel Alcozer, the president of the Belton ISD School Board of Trustees, spoke, saying, “We’re here to celebrate and gather with all of your friends and family, descendants of this great place.”

Weldon Cook, WB-HH, leadership and membership, was sick, but his prayer was read. It said, “Thank you for bringing us together today to celebrate, to reconnect, and to walk through the beautiful memories of our youth. We’re grateful for the friendships, the teachers, and the mentors who helped shape us.”

Randy Pittenger, invited up to pray over the Bell County community, said, “God, we ask that you would open our eyes to opportunities to be community to others.”

For the local, state, and federal gov-

ernment prayer, Pastor Russell prayed, “As we commemorate 250 years of our country’s history, we are grateful for the gift of liberty and freedom, and we remember with thanksgiving the significance of June-teenth.”

Eddie Stowers led a prayer over the military and service members saying, “Protect them day and night, give them courage when they face danger, strengthen them when they feel tired, grant their families peace and comfort while they wait for their safe return.”

Kristina Kelley led a prayer of blessing over education, schools, and students. She said, “Children are still very much influenced by their parents. They are still the biggest role models.” Evelyn Butler then led a prayer over healthcare and healthcare workers. There was a prayer for law enforcement and first responders. And Bobbie Kettles offered a prayer for black businesses and entrepreneurs.

Ora Jean Butler, class of 1960 and president then spoke. She said, “I graduated from this school, right down the hall there, where they have all these city council meetings. That was our auditorium, and we walked across that stage proudly to get our diplomas.”

The weekend continued with a banquet that evening and a memorial service on Sunday, for all those who have passed since their last biannual reunion.

Flames - From Page A1

must be in their Senior year. The expectation is that they have excellent character and moral judgment. They needed to be in the top fifty percent of their class, involved in campus activities, in their church or community activities, or both, and have honors and awards. They had to write an essay explaining why they deserved the scholarship award.

Stagner said, “We’re so proud of our scholarship recipients every year. We love helping the future of these young ladies, and they’re

going to make such a difference in the world.”

Monthly Auxiliary meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. starting with a social, and at 6:30 p.m. at the Garrett & Mic Hill Event Center. You can follow them on Facebook at Ladies Auxiliary M P R VFD.

TA&M - From Page A6

lives and property to ensure the most effective aviation resources are used for every wildfire.

The helicopter purchase followed the State of Texas procurement process administered by the Texas Comptroller’s Statewide Procurement Division. Texas A&M Forest Service consulted an Aviation Task Force representing 12 partner organizations, issued a Request for Information to identify operational requirements, and later issued a Request for Proposals through the Electronic State Business Daily. Following evaluation of the submitted proposals, the contract was awarded to Bell Textron Inc.

“This is a force multiplier for our state’s wildfire preparedness,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief Jared Karns. “Aviation resources provide tremendous support to firefighters on the ground, including life- and property-saving intelligence for fire managers, access to otherwise inaccessible areas, the ability to deliver large volumes of water and fire retardant to slow the spread and reduce the intensity of wildfires, and rapid turnaround times that keep aircraft engaged in the fight.”

For more information about the Texas A&M Forest Service aerial wildland firefighting program, visit tfsweb.tamu.edu/topics/aviation.

TxDOT - From Page A1

Potential areas of displacement or ‘damage-outs’ related to the project include the Speedy Mart gas station at 2nd & Main, which would require the removal of gas pumps to accommodate the traffic circle, as well as a private residence at 2nd & Boyles. A retaining wall along the residential stretch of FM93 is under consideration to protect adjacent properties.

The project is anticipated to begin bidding to contractors in 2031, following a lengthy process of design refinements, funding identification, environmental consideration, and right-of-way acquisition. The construction cost of the project is estimated to be \$15 million. A public hearing is projected for early 2027.

Those who did not attend the meeting on Thursday may still access the same meeting information online at txdot.gov on the FM93 page. Comments sent by July 31 will be included in the official public meeting summary, and may be submitted online at the project webpage, by mail to P.O. Box 14622 in Austin 78761, by email to LRoss-c@txdot.gov, or by voicemail to 254-566-9193.

Auction - From Page A1

Gatesville areas. We recently held an auction to raise money for a family with a baby suffering from leukemia.”

Smith and his wife grew up in Graham, Texas, but they have lived in Belton for the past 24 years.

“This is our home,” he said. “We feel like Beltonians now.”

Having spent nearly three decades in the profession, Smith knows exactly what it takes to succeed. He explained that every auction is “a real-time price discovery,” meaning an item’s value is determined by what buyers are willing to pay in that moment. As bidders compete against one another, the market value is established almost instantly, and once the bidding begins, everything moves incredibly fast.

At the state championship, however, there was no catching Kent Smith. His talent, experience, and professionalism earned him the top honor, bringing home the gold and adding another impressive achievement to his already distinguished career.

People may think an auctioneer’s work begins and ends at the auction, but days, weeks or even months beforehand, they’re curating items and helping clients plan a successful event.

What may seem like a rambling call is really the result of a specific formula, and auctioneers must consider everything from how they enter the stage to how they walk.

Professional presentation is the name of the game, and the auctioneers were judged against each other in the senior division of the 2026 Texas Auctioneer Association State Championship.

“It’s quite an honor,” he said of winning the age 50 and up division.



YOU'RE INVITED!

I-14 Extension Project (Segment 1)

Public Meetings

Temple

Aug. 5, 2026

5-7 p.m.

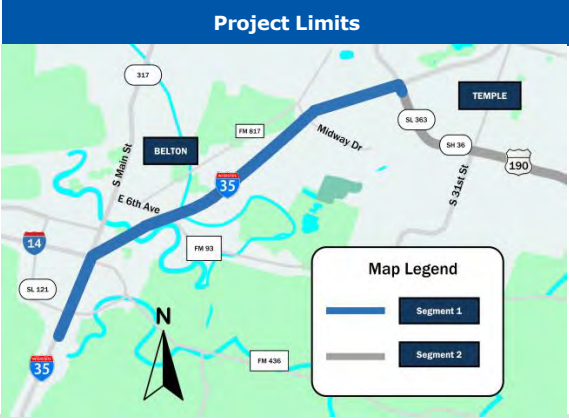
Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center, Main Hall
3303 N. 3rd Street
Temple, TX 76501

Belton

Aug. 6, 2026

5-7 p.m.

Huntington Bank Expo (Cadence Bank Center),
Assembly Hall
301 W. Loop 121
Belton, TX 76513



The Texas Department of Transportation is hosting a virtual public meeting with in-person options to gather feedback on proposed I-35 improvements from south of Loop 121 in Belton to Loop 363/US 190/SH 36 in Temple, also referred to as Segment 1. Project staff will be available to answer questions. No formal presentation is planned. Attendees may come and go at their convenience.

The improvements aim to enhance mobility, connectivity and safety along I-35. Materials will be available online by 5 p.m., Aug. 5, 2026, at [TxDOT.gov](https://txdot.gov) (search “I-14 Extension,” refer to Segment 1). Feedback may be submitted in-person, via email or by mail by Friday, Aug. 21, 2026, to be included in the official public meeting summary.

TxDOT.gov | Keywords: “I-14 Extension” and refer to Segment 1

Questions or Comments

 Megan Neal

 254-279-4733

 mneal-c@txdot.gov

Scan the QR code to learn more about Segment 1 of the I-14 Extension Project.



HORIZON BANK

Local lenders. Familiar faces.

Get full-service banking from a team with over 110 years of combined Central Texas experience.

Visit us in Belton, Salado, and Holland. And keep an eye out for our brand-new downtown Temple branch opening soon.



Faron Phinney
EVP Bell County



Rodney Morales
SVP Commercial Lending



Ashley Marshall
VP Commercial Lending



Matthew Calhoun
VP Commercial Lending

Member FDIC





Courtesy Photo

Legacy Elite players and coaches pose with their trophy and medals after winning their bracket at the Road to Nationals tournament in San Antonio.

Legacy Elite win bracket at Road to Nationals tournament

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Legacy Elite is more than a basketball team. It is an opportunity.

Founded approximately a year ago, the organization provides local players a unique avenue to develop their skills in a highly competitive environment constructed around trips to an array of prestigious tournaments.

Addressing on-court abilities, however, is only part of the process.

Under the guidance of founders and directors Jory and Rosmery Stauffer, Legacy Elite is equally concerned with providing a solid moral foundation for all of its players, utilizing community service projects as a method of infusing the two worlds within the young men.

Almost immediately, the approach is admittedly paying dividends.

“We wanted this to be about more than

basketball,” Jory Stauffer said. “We wanted to give back to the community by building future leaders. Along with the practices, film sessions and competing like any team does, our boys donate their time to autistic kids and teach them skills.

“It has positive benefits for the kids, and every single player on our team has taken part.”

Legacy Elite has conducted several such clinics, helping shape the priorities of its players, who are all members of the Class of 2029 and primarily attend either Belton or Lake Belton, and while it is perhaps the organization’s most commendable cause, the team is pretty successful on its own.

The 12-man roster has garnered national attention for its performances, including recently winning its bracket at the Road to Nationals tournament in San Antonio.

All things considered, the accolades

were not necessarily foreseen.

“The development of their cohesion is phenomenal,” Jory Stauffer said. “I knew with the boys we had that we would be able to at least compete and maybe win a couple tournaments. Just getting a strong development was truly the goal for this first season, though.

“We had to bring the coaches together and bring the players together, but we’ve won three quarters of our tournaments outright, and that is amazing. I never expected this, but it is due to the hard work the boys put in and the coaches for understanding the talents we have and utilizing them.”

Al Maxwell serves as the team’s head coach, and he is complemented by assistants Jason Gomez, O’neal Robinson and Jeramie Simpson. The team is made up of Israel Cardona, Jaiden Gomez, Tucker Harlow, Christian Hernandez, Marcus Lillie, Tiger Maxwell, Jay Mitchell, Jakobe Robinson, Kameron Simpson, Bentley

Stauffer, Kelan Tallant and Noah Williams.

Currently, the squad has its attention focused on the final tournament of its inaugural campaign, traveling to Round Rock on Aug. 1.

Regardless of how things unfold at the two-day event, this appears to be only the beginning for the organization.

“Everything has been working out for us so far,” Jory Stauffer said. “We’ve been getting a lot of interest, and we are going to be holding tryouts later in August and September so we can have an additional team. We want to add at least one girls team for the upcoming season and maybe another boys team if the demand is there.

“We might even consider an elementary age team, because a lot of parents and kids want to join the team. We just have to feel it out and make sure all the conditions are right before biting off more than we can chew.”

Broncos head baseball coach reflects on all-star experience

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Chris Peacock is invested in the High Plains Shootout.

After another successful season responsible for yielding the Broncos a sixth consecutive district championship and back-to-back appearances in the third round of the Class 5A, Division I playoffs, Lake Belton’s head coach recently spent part of his summer in Oklahoma.

The trip to Enid was the result of being selected to serve as an assistant coach for the Texas Navy squad constructed of elite players selected from across the state to participate in the three-day, six-team tournament.

With more than two decades of experience, the veteran is fortunate to be previously picked for similar roles, and each was special, but admittedly, Peacock’s involvement with the High Plains Shootout was consuming.

“There is no doubt that it is certainly an honor to be asked to do this,” he said, “and I think what is unique about this event is that it is not just one game. We played five games, so you really get a lot more time around the kids and getting to see them perform. You get to see them do good things, you get to see them struggle, and you get to see them react.

“Then, you also get to represent Texas against other states, so it is not just playing a game, because there is something riding on it — state pride.”

And his commitment to the contests is just beginning.

Peacock will serve on the staff for each of the next two years as well with the intention of emerging with an unblemished record before the tenure is complete, but it will not be easy.

Two teams from Texas, two from Oklahoma and two from Kansas converge at the David Allen Memorial Ballpark for a round-robin style tournament in front of stands full of family, friends and numerous collegiate scouts hunting for talent.

Peacock’s roster produced a 2-3 record, while Texas Red finished 3-2 thanks in part to the efforts of Broncos senior Logan Winkler, who was selected to represent the state from a pool of more than 500 nominees.

The first baseman delivered a .325 batting average highlighted by 29 RBIs and three home runs during last regular season, earning a spot on the 16-5A All-District First Team in the process.

“On the last day we were there,” Peacock said, “we got to play the Red team,

See **COACH**,
Page B2

Lady Tigers hosting soccer camp for community

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Belton Lady Tigers soccer program is currently hosting its summer camp this week, welcoming young athletes from across the community for three days of instruction, competition, and fun. The camp began July 20th and runs through July 22nd, giving campers a full week’s worth of touches on the ball packed into a condensed, high energy stretch.

The camp is structured around two age groups, both of which are taking the field at the same time and in the same location throughout the three day event. The younger group, a kids camp, is open to athletes from second through sixth grade, giving elementary aged players an early introduction to the sport and the Tigers program. Running alongside them is a middle school camp for athletes in seventh through ninth grade, offering more advanced training for players closer to entering the high school ranks.

Hosting both groups together allows the Tigers coaching staff and current players to create a camp envi-

ronment where younger campers can see older players in action, while older campers get the chance to take on more of a mentorship role. The setup mirrors a common thread across Belton ISD’s summer camp offerings this year, using shared time and space to build connections between different age levels within the same program.

Advertised as three days of skill development, competition, and fun, the camp is designed to cover more than just technical instruction. While ball handling, passing, and defensive fundamentals remain central to the sessions, the competitive elements built into each day give campers a chance to apply what they’re learning in a game like setting. The fun component rounds things out, keeping the atmosphere energetic and encouraging for campers who may be picking up a soccer ball in an organized setting for the first time.

For the older campers heading into middle school tryouts, the camp offers valuable reps and exposure to the pace and structure of organized

See **CAMP**,
Page B2



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





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

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

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

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

Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Tigers football team will host a benefit car wash Aug. 1 with proceeds providing funds for the upcoming season.

The event will be held at the Tejas Hoa Management parking lot located at 105 Lake Rd, and it will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

BASEBALL
Former Broncos stand-



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

out Clint Beck recently committed to continue his collegiate career at Gonzaga.

After spending the past two seasons at Weatherford, Beck, a pitcher, is set to join the Bulldogs, who will be members of the PAC-12 following a 30-year stint as members of the West Coast Conference.

Gonzaga finished last season with an overall record of 35-19 and was 22-5 showing in league play.

Beck was an all-district first-team third baseman as a senior at Lake Belton in 2024 before producing 23 strikeouts in 26.2 innings with the Coyotes.

VOLLEYBALL

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 Wednesday 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 two sports camps remaining for area youth before the summer concludes, offering a softball camp and football camp starting Monday.

The three-day 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 three-day 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.

SOCCER

The Lady Broncos are searching for an assistant soccer coach to join the successful program.

Lake Belton is the defending district champion, accounting for its fourth league title, and it has qualified for the playoffs six times.

The candidate would also coach a second sport.

To apply, visit BISD.net or contact Lady Broncos head coach Jamie Tibbetts at Jamie.Tibbetts@BISD.net for more information.

RUNNING

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

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

The event will begin and end at the Lions Pavilion.

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

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

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

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



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

Camp - From Page B1

play before the school year begins. For the younger group, it’s an opportunity to build a foundation of basic skills while getting a taste of what the sport looks like at higher

levels within the Belton ISD pipeline.

With the camp running through Wednesday, the Tigers coaching staff will spend the final two days

continuing to build on the fundamentals established on day one, closing out the week with additional competitive scrimmages and skill stations for both groups.

Coach - From Page B1

and that was really cool. It was a lot of fun, because I was coaching first base a couple times while he was out there. Then, sometimes I got to hang out in the dugout with him during the games that I wasn’t coaching.

“It was neat to see him from that aspect.”

Soon, the perspective will shift as the Broncos return to the diamond with their sights set on another league title and deep postseason run, but regardless of how things unfold, Peacock knows trips back to the High Plains Shootout are scheduled for the next two summers.

And he does not even have to worry about accommodations.

“Fortunately,” Peacock said, “the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association takes care of all of that for us. All I have to do is show up and coach.”

“I just have to make my way to Enid and get rolling.”

SUMMER SPECIALS
50% off Wash, Dry, & Fold



Scan our code to receive special offers, order ready notifications, and communicate with us direct!



116 S. Main, Downtown Temple
254-778-2408

2703 S. 37th, Temple
254-770-0355

175 E. Lake, Belton (Behind CVS)
254-613-5638

Now Offering 24 Hour Dropbox at 37th Street Location



Johnnies “Se Habla Español”
CLEANING & TAILORING

FREE 3 Month Trial Subscription

ESTABLISHED IN 1866

THE BELTON JOURNAL



Proud supporters of the



ATHLETICS

2025 OWENS CORNING PLATINUM EXCELLENCE PRODUCT

2025 OWENS CORNING PLATINUM TOP PERFORMER GROWTH



Tanner Roofing

(254) 939-0343 TannerRoofing.com

Smith Brothers Drive-In
Tiger Car Wash & Speed Wash

GO BIG RED

921 E. 6th • Belton
939-2471



BELTON TIGER ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

@ BELTON TIGERS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB



Harper-Talasek FUNERAL HOMES
Belton • Killeen • Temple

We make it personal.®

254.939.2411 • 503 N. Main Street
www.harpertalasek.com
2”x1.7” HT.SportsSponsorship’21



H-E-B plus!

2509 N. Main Street
Belton



Extraco Banks

Let’s Build Some Dreams™

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

Go Tigers!

We’re with you all the way!

BELTON HIGH SCHOOL
600 Lake Rd. 215-2200



Designers & Manufacturers of Quality Library Furniture

Classroom, Auditorium Library and Science Furniture

indecO sales
939-5742 • 1-800-892-4256
805 E. 4th Ave. • Belton



WAGNER ORTHODONTICS

WE GO THE EXTRA SMILE

WagnerOrthodontics.com • Multiple Locations

SIT MEANS SIT DOG TRAINING

(254) 541-3343



centraltexas.sitmeanssit.com

CENTRAL TEXAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

LIONS

Now Enrolling



Book A Tour Today!

www.ctcslions.com | 254-939-5700



R.K. BASS ELECTRIC, INC.

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



NEED A ROOF?

LOCALLY OWNED

Residential, Commercial, General Construction
SERVICES

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



EMPLOYMENT

MCGUIRE TIRE

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

LEGALS

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,

LEGALS

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

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

LEGALS

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.
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 STOEBNER &

Expert, Affordable Auto Repairs
& Maintenance

DARREL &
STEVEN
GREEN



254-770-0666 | www.DarrelGreensAutoTX.com



YOUR MANAGED SERVICES PROVIDER

We Make IT Simple.



WE CAN HELP ...

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

templetechnology.net

Kutula
SALON

118 East 6th Ave, Belton, TX

BOOTH
RENTALS
AVAILABLE!

GROW YOUR BUSINESS.
LOVE WHERE YOU WORK.

\$ \$160
WEEKLY

BACK BAR
PROVIDED

Ideal For:

- HAIR STYLISTS
- NAIL TECHNICIANS
- BARBERS
- OTHER LICENSED
BEAUTY PROFESSIONALS

Contact
HEATHER LEMMONS
254-933-7755

Let's build your
beautiful future!

KUTULA SALON
118 East 6th Ave, Belton, TX



Norman
Building
Materials
FAMILY OWNED &
OPERATED SINCE 1945

WE MAKE SURE YOU EXPERIENCE THE BEST & FASTEST SERVICE.



Building
Materials



Millwork



Hardware



Plumbing



Tools

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

LEGALS

LEGALS

LEGALS

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

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

for an original Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer’s Off-Premise Permit (BQ) for RAKESH & RITA, LLC. dba EVEREST MART to be located at 908 TERRACE RD, KILLEEN, BELL COUNTY, Texas 76541. RAKESH KC – MANAGER

07.16,07.23PD

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 24CPB00717

To: UNKNOWN HEIRS JONATHAN THOMPSON, Applicant, on July 14, 2026, filed a second amended application to determine heirship in a proceeding styled: JIM ED SIMS, Deceased, and bearing the number 24CPB00717 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 23, 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: DAN CORBIN, CORBIN & CLAPPER PC, 603 N 8TH ,KILLEEN, TX 76541

The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the 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 15, 2026.

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

By Erika DeCasas Deputy

07.23

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF WILBURN LEE ELLISOR, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary were issued on July 15, 2026 in a proceeding styled Estate of Wilburn Lee Ellisor. Deceased, in Cause Number 26CPB00341, pending in the County Court At Law #1 of Bell County, Texas.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executrix, addressed as follows: Susan K. Julien Independent Executrix of the Estate of Wilburn Lee Ellisor, 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 July 15, 2026.

Roberts & Roberts, L.L.P., Attorneys for Susan K. Julien

By: Burk Roberts

07.23

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DONNA MERLE PIERCE

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Donna Merle Pierce, Deceased, were issued on July 8, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00244, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1, Bell County, Texas, to: Barton Lee Pierce.

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: BARBARA SCHWARZ YOUNG, 2313 Birdcreek Terrace, Temple, Texas 76502

DATED the 14th day of July 2026.

Barbara Schwarz Young Attorney for Barton Lee Pierce, State Bar No.: 22171800, 2313 Birdcreek Terrace, Temple, Texas 76502, Telephone: (254) 774-1996, Facsimile: (254) 774-1997, E-mail: bsy@bsyounglaw.com

07.23

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 26CPB00439

MICHELLE RENEE MOBLEY, Applicant, on July 10, 2026, filed an application to determine heirship in a proceeding styled: DREWFORD ALAN BARNETT, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00439 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 23, 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: TERESA SCHILLER ,2106 Bird Creek Drive, Temple, TX 76502

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on July 13, 2026.

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

By: Erika DeCasas Deputy

07.23

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 26CPB00437

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS DAVID CHANCE CARSON, Applicant, on July 10, 2026, filed an application to declare heirship and for inestate independent administration by agreement and for issuance of letters of independent administration in a proceeding styled: LARRY WAYNE CARSON, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00437 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 23, 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: BURK ROBERTS, 2501 E ELMS RD SUITE A, KILLEEN, TX 76542

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 13, 2026.

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

By: Erika DeCasas Deputy

07.23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of DR. SHIRLEY WILLIAMS aka SHIRLEY J. WILLIAMS, Deceased, were issued on February 25, 2026, in Cause No. 23CPB00339, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: Jerry Lee Hudley.

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: Ashley Clapper Attorney at Law 603 North 8th Street Killeen, TX 76541

SIGNED On 7/20/76

CORBIN & CLAPPER, PC, 603 North 8th Street ,Killeen, TX 76541, Tel: (254) 526-4523, Fax: (254) 526-6711 By: ASHLEY CLAPPER, DANIEL A. CORBIN, State Bar No. 04814300 ,ASHLEY CLAPPER, State Bar No. 24076317, Legal@CorbinLegalTeam.com Attorney for JERRY LEE HUDLEY

07.23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CHARLES WENDELL MUNSON, Deceased, were issued on July 17, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00384, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: PATRICIA MUNSON RODRIGUEZ.

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: PATRICIA MUNSON RODRIGUEZ, 1104 Boulder Run, Harker Heights, Texas 76548

SIGNED on July 20, 2026.

/s/James O. Cure, James O. Cure Attorney for PATRICIA MUNSON RODRIGUEZ, State Bar No.: 05252800, 2584 Blue Meadow Dr., Temple, TX 76502, Telephone: (254) 778-8934, Facsimile: (254) 773-2477, Email: jocure@cureandfrancis.net

07.23

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

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.

Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC to Amend Its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Fryers Creek Switch to Hartrick Switch to Salado Switch 138 kV Transmission Line Project in Bell County, Texas

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS DOCKET NO. 59932

This notice is to inform you that Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (“Oncor”) has applied to amend its certificate of convenience and necessity (“CCN”) to construct, own, and operate a new 138 kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line between Oncor’s Fryers Creek Switch, Hartrick Switch, and Salado Switch, located within Bell County, Texas. The existing Fryers Creek Switch is located approximately 1 mile northwest of the intersection of State Highway 95 and Farm-to-Market Road (“FM”) 93 in Bell County, Texas. The planned Hartrick Switch is located approximately 1.9 miles south of the intersection of FM 1741 and FM 93 in Bell County, Texas. The existing Salado Switch is located approximately 1.2 miles northeast of the intersection of Interstate Highway 35 and FM 2484 in Bell County, Texas.

The Project will be approximately 11 miles long, will be constructed within Oncor’s existing right-of-way, and has an estimated cost of approximately \$31,988,000.

If you have questions about the Project, you may contact Kevin Ray of Oncor at (214) 486-5835.

A detailed routing map may be reviewed at the following locations:

Display Locations	Address
Bell County Courthouse	101 E Central Ave, Belton, TX 76513

All routes and route segments included in this notice are available for selection and approval by the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Any combination of route segments may be approved.

The preferred method for you to file your request for intervention is electronically. If you decide to file a request for intervention electronically, you will be required to serve the request on all other parties by email. Therefore, please include your own email address on the intervention form. Instructions for electronic filing via the “PUC Filer” on the PUC’s website can be found here: <https://interchange.puc.texas.gov/filer>. Instructions for using the PUC Filer are available at: https://ftp.puc.texas.gov/public/puct-info/industry/filings/E-Filing_Instructions.pdf. For assistance with your electronic filing, please contact the PUC’s Help Desk at (512) 936-7100 or itservicedesk@puc.texas.gov. You can review materials filed in this docket on the PUC Interchange at: <https://interchange.puc.texas.gov>.

While the preferred method for submitting a request for intervention is electronically, you may file your request for intervention by mailing a hard copy of your request to the PUC. Any request must be received by the intervention deadline of **August 17, 2026**. If you are not filing your request for intervention electronically, mail the request for intervention and 10 copies of the request to:

Public Utility Commission of Texas
Central Records
Attn: Filing Clerk
1701 N. Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

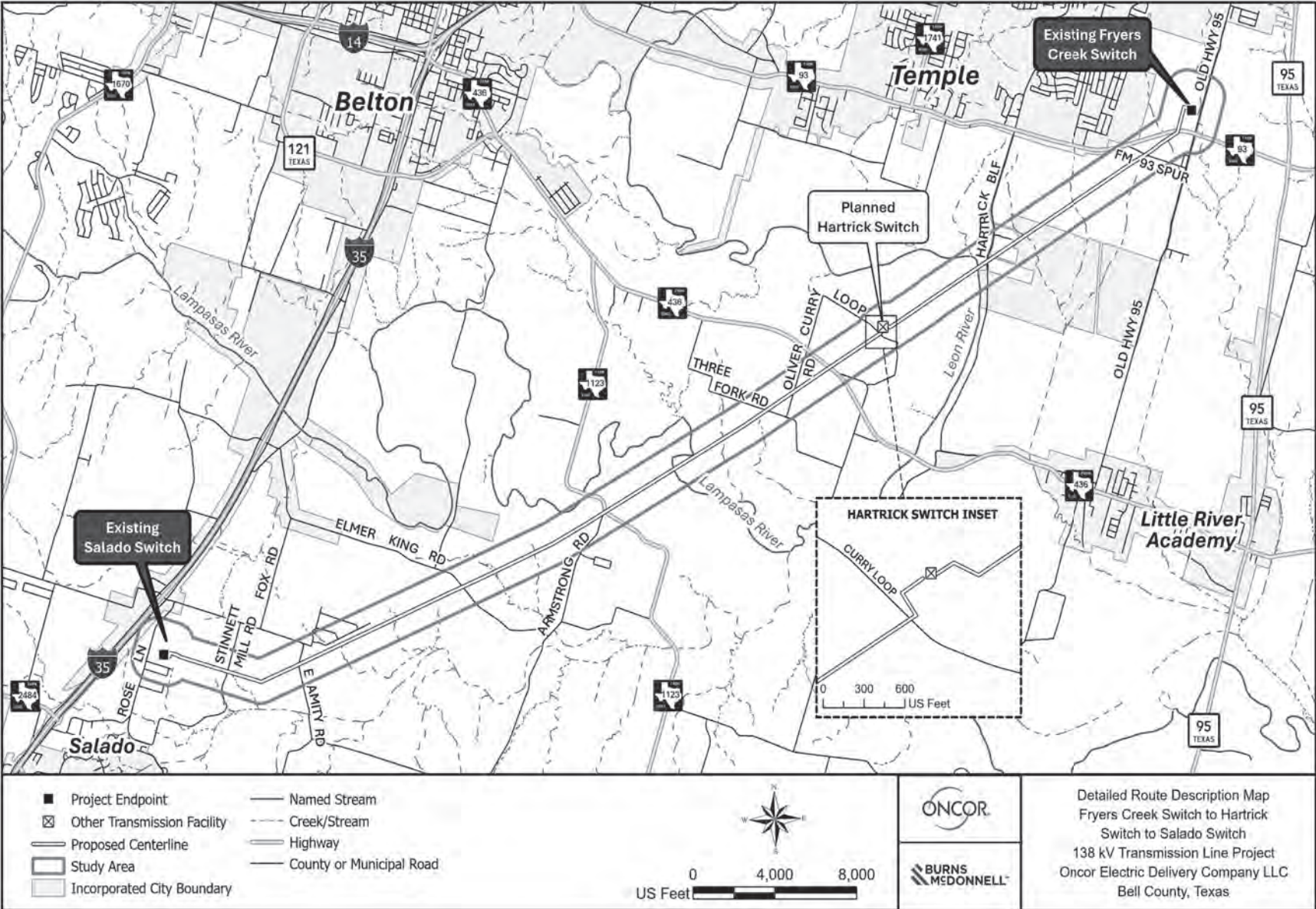
Persons who wish to intervene in the docket must also email or mail a copy of their request for intervention to all parties in the docket and all persons that have pending motions to intervene, at or before the time the request for intervention is electronically filed with, or mailed to, the PUC. ***The only way to fully participate in this proceeding is to intervene in this docket. It is important for an affected person to intervene because the utility is not obligated to keep affected persons informed of the PUC’s proceedings and cannot predict which route may or may not be approved by the PUC.***

The deadline for intervention in the docket is **August 17, 2026**, and the PUC must receive your request to intervene by that date if you choose to do so.

The PUC has a brochure titled “Landowners and Transmission Line Cases at the PUC.” Copies of the brochure may be requested by contacting Kevin Ray of Oncor at (214) 486-5835, or may be downloaded from the PUC’s website at www.puc.state.tx.us. To obtain additional information about this docket, you may contact the PUC’s Customer Assistance Hotline at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals may contact the Commission through Relay Texas at 1-800-735-2989. In addition to the intervention deadline, other important deadlines may exist that affect your participation in this docket. As such, you should review the orders and other filings made in the docket.

Fryers Creek Switch to Hartrick Switch to Salado Switch 138 kV Transmission Line Project Route Description

The proposed route begins at the Fryers Creek Switch, located approximately 1 mile northwest of the intersection of State Highway (SH) 95 and Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 93 in Bell County, Texas. The route exits the west side of the Fryers Creek Switch and proceeds in a westerly direction for approximately 333 feet to an angle point. The route then proceeds in a southerly direction for approximately 1,191 feet to an angle point, crossing FM 93. From this point, the route proceeds in a southwesterly direction for approximately 17,051 feet to enter the planned Hartrick Switch, which is located approximately 1.9 miles south of the intersection of FM 1741 and FM 93 in Bell County. This segment parallels Oncor’s existing lattice tower structures wholly within Oncor’s existing right-of-way (ROW) and crosses an unnamed stream, FM 93 Spur, two unnamed streams, the Leon River, and Hartrick BLF. Exiting the southwest side of the planned Hartrick Switch, the route then heads southwest for approximately 183 feet to an angle point. The route then proceeds in a southerly direction for approximately 183 feet to an angle point. From this point, the route proceeds in a southwesterly direction for approximately 34,280 feet to an angle point, paralleling Oncor’s existing lattice tower structures wholly within Oncor’s existing ROW. This segment crosses Curry Loop, FM 436, Oliver Road, Three Fork Road, two unnamed streams, the Lampasas River, FM 1123, Armstrong Road, two unnamed streams, Elmer King Road, two unnamed streams and E Amity Road before reaching the angle point. From this point, the route proceeds in a westerly direction for approximately 5,089 feet to the Salado Switch, paralleling Oncor’s existing lattice tower structures wholly within Oncor’s existing ROW and crossing an unnamed stream and Stinnett Mill Road. The Salado Switch is located approximately 1.2 miles northeast of the intersection of Interstate Highway (IH) 35 and FM 2484 in Bell County.



Willful Blindness

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

There is a fable called “The Emperor’s New Clothes” in which a young child stated the obvious that everyone else was ignoring: “Mommy, the Emperor is naked!” I won’t repeat the story, because I believe most everyone knows it.

I’m a big fan of TED talks and one of my favorites is about willful blindness. Willful blindness occurs gradually. We know something isn’t quite right about a situation, but we don’t want to bother to look at it, because it either makes us uncomfortable or deep down we just really don’t want to deal with it.

Because, dealing with something that needs fixing leads to confrontation, or what some people call “drama,” even if it occurs in the proper context.

Such is the case whenever we evaluate ourselves, an endeavor that we care deeply about, or anything else, for that matter.

For writers, one of the hardest things to learn sometimes is how to accept a critique. Critiques can be valuable, because a good critique partner will gently point out what that we can improve upon, whether

it be grammar, punctuation, misused or overused words, overuse of adverbs and/or weak verbs. The list is endless for a writer.

Unfortunately, some writers are not receptive to any critique whatsoever. They only want to hear the good things, what they’re doing right. Close friends and family will often tell us what we are doing right, sometimes to a fault!

We see this sometimes as children grow up, that often it seems that you can’t tell a child what they can improve on because we don’t want anyone to feel bad.

We don’t want anyone to think whatever they have done is substandard. Hence, the “everyone gets a trophy” because they showed up mentality we sometimes see.

Where did we get the idea that making suggestions for improvement is a personal attack, or an overall devaluation of someone’s effort?

True, a critique can have a nicer impact, depending on the tone with which it’s delivered.

Having the right tone can make a big difference in how a critique is received.

In the past, I’ve received critiques that made me defensive. That initial emotional reaction is natural. We don’t want to hear where we can improve. It’s far easier to coast along. But without striving, that coasting turns into slowing down.

When we receive a critique or bit of advice we don’t like, it helps to take a deep breath and a step back.

If the message was delivered harshly, a little lip-biting can be in order, followed by taking a deep breath. If there’s a grain of truth in a harsh critique, it may take a little sifting to find that grain of truth.

As former critique partners and I would say to each other, “Take what you can use, then throw out the rest.”

To me, learning to accept a critique or a suggestion for improvement is far better than continuing to stumble along in willful blindness.

Autism 101: Stress

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

Long-time readers will recall that a bit back I did a column noting that I had somehow completely blanked on the word “balcony”. As I noted, whenever I was under enough stress my language center would sometimes begin to shut down. It could be that I would forget a word. It could be that various muscles would seize, leaving me temporarily unable to talk. Either way, communication would be temporarily impaired until whatever stress-related short-circuit in my brain cleared itself and so I needed people to please be patient with me accordingly.

I got to thinking about this after a recent round of issues, such as my car being down for repairs again, left me in a situation to where I started once again losing my ability to speak.

As I’ve noted before, I have high-functioning autism. It’s not Hollywood autism, where writers try to pass off “oh so quirky!” or “anti-social know-it-all” as autism. It’s “my brain and central

nervous system are wired differently”. Neurodivergence, the catch-all term for people with autism, ADD, ADHD, and other such conditions, is deliberately broad, however the various conditions generally have a given basket of symptoms and triggers which trained professionals and those who have these conditions come to understand.

With autism, stress load is indeed a critical consideration. You see, many people who have autism have a lower threshold for stress, a greater difficulty when it comes to operating under stress, and a greater need for down time after stress. With some individuals, it’s because they’re fairly sensitive to both environmental changes and changes within themselves; once the stress load starts to increase their system immediately begins throwing up red flags. With others, however, it’s because that person is already running pretty close to the red line metaphorically speaking; just as a car that’s about to red-line can’t take

too much more acceleration, so a person who’s close to red-lining can’t take too much more stress.

In the case of the former, a counselor, therapist, or other trained, certified individual can help the person work to develop more of a tolerance and generally get them to expand their comfort zone. However, in the case of the latter, stress management training is necessary. However, even with the help of a trusted and competent third party, stress loads can be such that a person may eventually feel the need to take a step back or even break away for a while. This gives them an opportunity to collect themselves, sort through their present emotions, activate their personal pressure release valve (music, hobbies, solitude, sleep, et cetera), and then strategize from there how they’ll be handling matters. This ability to break away is especially important if they have a cardiovascular health condition, an intestinal / digestive issue, or another such problem

that can be aggravated by stress.

And if someone can’t break away? This can lead to autistic burnout, which not only mirrors depression but which can turn into depression. That “gifted kid burnout bingo card” meme from a few years ago becomes a lot less funny when you realize that many people who were labeled “gifted” when they were younger were individuals with undiagnosed high-functioning autism and that far too many of them broke due to the combination of unrealistically high expectations & no effective coping mechanisms.

Folks, if you’re under stress, and you’re having trouble coping, seek professional help. If you know someone who is crumbling under their own stress load, reach out to them. Even people who aren’t autistic need that bit of assistance.

Randomness for the Week

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Have you ever seen a warning about some action and thought, who would be so dumb as to do that, then realized that there is a warning because someone was that dumb and did try it.

Much like the insulated drink cup you purchase at the store, with nothing in it, yet there is a warning that the contents may be hot. OK, if I fill it with something hot and spill it on myself then I deserve that. What if I never fill it with anything hot? What if I only use it for cold drinks? Then the cup is like the boy that cried wolf, always falsely warning me of hot contents.

How come when you grab the cord to open or close the blinds, no matter which end of the cord you grab it goes the opposite direction than what you were wanting. Statistically you have a 50/50 chance of getting the correct cord, yet more often you get the opposite of your desired direction!

Have you ever considered how many straws are wasted every year by not being used. Being an adult I don’t need a straw to drink my beverage in a restaurant yet I get a straw every time. Getting a straw for a fast food soft drink is good, especially if you are driving. I don’t really need one the size of a water pipe though.

Why is it called “corn on the cob”? It is naturally on the cob. The canned corn is the odd version, so it should be called corn off the cob. Need more

proof, drive into a farming community and find a corn field with with a farmer nearby, ask the simple question; what is that? He will reply; “corn”. I rest my case.

I see some cop shows and they chase a car thief, then recover the car for the “owner”. No thanks. I don’t really want my car back if someone hopped in and “drove it like they stole it”.

So if anyone steals my truck, here is what you do; drive it like you stole it (which you did), blow the engine, shift into neutral and let it slam into a brick wall, and when you get out stuff a lit cigarette (because I know you smoked in my truck) into the gas tank so the truck blows up and burns to the ground. That way I don’t get an abused truck back and my insurance company has to buy me a new truck, for the umpteen years of premiums that I have paid in with no claims.

Have you been driving along and it starts to rain, lightly, so you hit the manual wiper for a single stroke, then it rains a little harder, so you flip to the intermittent wipers, and inch a little faster as the rain picks up, then finally it rains hard enough that you finally give in and switch the ON position for the wipers, and a couple of swipes, the rains quits and your blades are growling across a dry window? (how is that for a run-on question/sentence/paragraph)

Who watches golf or fishing on TV. I can

almost see watching golf, I mean guys not even breaking a sweat and earning millions. And there is some suspense in golf. For a fishing show there is not much drama. You cast a lot and finally get a fish, after the editors cut out the multiple casts that turned up empty. There is never a chance of catching something exciting like a killer whale or great white shark. How come it is that if you are on land you cast your bait as far out as you can, and if you are in a boat you cast back into shore? Why don’t you just find the place along the bank of the lake where the fish are close and fish there, that way you don’t have to buy a boat.

Why do smoke alarm batteries fail only in the middle of the night? And if we don’t change our clocks anymore, how will we know to change the smoke detector batteries? That is important, so make a note to do that.

There is a saying: eat like a bird. That was supposed to mean eating light. The birds in my yard eat all the time, that is all they do, eat, fly to the tree, come back and eat. All of the birds, any type, they just eat. I would think that I should have sparrows the size of a chicken with how often they are eating! I guess the flying back to the tree after each sunflower seed is more than enough exercise to keep them trim.

Have a thought filled week.

Bad Boy

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

When I was a teenager, one of my jobs was to mow the lawn. It was my brother’s job first, but when he joined the Air Force, his sergeant wouldn’t let him come home for the weekly chore, so it fell to me. I didn’t mind it much. It was a great way to get some Vitamin D.

Besides, we lived in a Leave-It-to-Beaver subdivision, in a tiny cracker-box house, so the yard took less than an hour to mow. When I first inherited the task, I treated the lawn like a giant canvas, and the mower was the paintbrush. I made all sorts of fun patterns before mowing them down. I did this until my dad pointed out all the little missed spots and taught me it was more efficient (and more aesthetically pleasing) to mow in rows. After that, I tried to make straight, even rows.

But more often than not, my ADHD led to wonky, curved lines. Dad

never complained, as long as the job got done. I did see him, on occasion, studying my handiwork with a half-smile and a shake of his head.

All of that took place when I was a city girl living on Houston’s north side. Now I’m a country girl, and if I tried to mow our current acreage with a push mower, it would take days. Rick mows it with one of those handy riding machines, and he seems to enjoy the task, so I’ve not mowed anything for decades.

Until this summer.

Our mower’s deck had gone crooked after years of use, leaving an uneven lawn. And since Rick is a landscape perfectionist, he decided it was time for a new mower. He researched brands, read reviews, and compared prices before deciding on the Bad Boy Elite. And since I helped pay for it, I figured I should learn to drive it.

We’ve marked out a square patch of lawn, away from public viewing, where I practice each mowing day. There’s no steering wheel—it has two sticks. You push the left one forward to turn right, the right one forward to turn left, and hold them evenly to go straight. And it has some pick up! At full speed, Rick can mow our place in record time. And I’m getting faster with my little square, too. One of these days, I hope to carry my share of the mowing weight. For old time’s sake.

Grass is kind of like hair. No matter how many times you cut it, it grows back. A bad haircut, or a wonky mowing, is temporary. There’s always a fresh start in store, sooner than you think.

God’s mercy is the same way. No matter how many mess-ups we make today, there’s always tomorrow. Each morning, we’re given a fresh pal-

let. Each day, we have a new chance to make a difference. To do the right thing. To serve others. To love.

Sometimes our mistakes leave scars—deep grooves in our lives that seem impossible to cover up. But with time, even those divots grow less noticeable. The more we take advantage of God’s grace by spreading His kindness to others, the quicker the healing happens.

I love that our new mower is called the Bad Boy. Driving it makes me feel edgy and rugged. But it also reminds me that no matter how “bad” I’ve been, God’s love is stronger. It covers over all my mistakes, wiping my slate clean and giving me fresh chances to get it right.

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23



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."

Summer Block Party - July 25

Enjoy a meal, pick up fresh produce, connect with local organizations and celebrate Summer with us. Helping Hands Ministry 2210 Holland Rd, Belton. July 25, 10:00 to noon. We can't wait to see you there!

MPR Summer Reading Program 2026 - July 25

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 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

SPJST State Youth Showcase- July 25

Discover the remarkable talents of tomorrow's leaders at the SPJST State Youth Showcase Saturday, July 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center in Temple. This family-friendly event features exhibits and live performances from talented SPJST youth, ages 4 to 18. Admission and parking are free, and everyone is welcome.

MPR Explorers @ The Point - July 30

Join us for a relaxed MPR Explorers Social featuring Chief of Police Todd Hodge. This daytime community conversation will cover everyday topics in Morgan's Point Resort, including policing, emergency response, animal control, and code enforcement. Sponsored by the Mary Ruth Briggs Library, this social offers a welcoming space to learn, connect, and enjoy time with neighbors. Light snacks will be provided. July 30, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Garrett & Mic Hill Event Center, 60 Morgan's Point Blvd, Morgan's Point Resort.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Bell County Genealogical Society meets the fourth Saturday of each month. The group offers free Genealogy Guidance. Members of the Bell County Genealogical Society will be present to help those with questions about researching their family trees. General meetings are held in the Bell County Museum, 201 North Main St., Belton, TX. All meetings are open to the public. You do not have to be from Bell County or have ancestors from Bell County to participate. For additional information please visit our website at https://txbcgs.org/home/events/

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

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

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

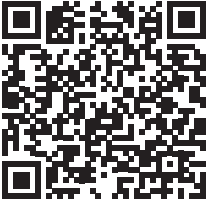
Bell County Texas Democratic Women holds their monthly meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Belton AgriLife Center, 1605 N Main in Belton. Join us to hear from local and state candidates and about important issues and events. This is open to the public.

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

Engage & Empower with 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

STAY CONNECTED: STAY INFORMED

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

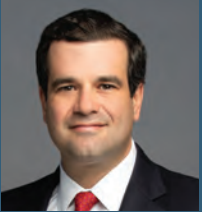
EMAIL DETAILS TO:
NEWS@BELTONJOURNAL.COM
OR CALL (254) 939-5754

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

Committed to defending property rights

Barron, Adler, Clough & Oddo, PLLC exclusively represents landowners in eminent domain and condemnation cases throughout the state of Texas, helping to protect the right to just compensation for more than 40 years.

Call us at (512) 478-4995 if your property may be impacted by the LCRA/Oncor Bell County East to Big Hill 765 kV Transmission Line Project



Christopher M. Clough



Christopher J. Oddo



Nicholas P. Laurent



Roy R. Brandys



Andrew F. York



Blaire A. Knox



James A. Muela



Glorieni M. Azeredo

www.barronadler.com

BARRON, ADLER CLOUGH & ODDO

PLLC

TEXAS EMINENT DOMAIN ATTORNEYS

Looking for a Job?



3rd ANNUAL REGIONAL HIRING EVENT

July 29, 2026 10AM - 2PM

Copperas Cove Civic Center 1206 W. Ave B

*Free Professional Headshots

*Chance to win a laptop

*Regional Employers

<https://coveedc.com/regional-hiring-event>

Sponsored by:

American Veterans Mission HEB





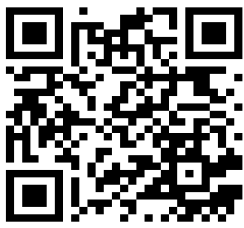
City of Copperas Cove ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION



WORKFORCE





BUSINESS SHOWCASE



Bell County Museum: Exhibits and upcoming events

BELL COUNTY MUSEUM

CELEBRATE FREEDOM

AMERICA'S 250TH

SATURDAY • AUGUST 8, 2026

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

FUN CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES!

CONFETTI SHOOTERS • AMERICAN FLAG ART • AND MORE!

COMPLETELY FREE ALL AGES



201 N. MAIN ST. • BELTON

BELLCOUNTYMUSEUM.ORG



The Bell County Museum's mission is "to engage and educate the community by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the prehistoric and historic heritage of Bell County." Entry is free and they welcome you to view the past through permanent and current exhibits.

Part of that welcome into the past is from thousands of years ago, through archaeological work depicting revealed human life at the Gault Site. The display shows the objects discovered, how the people used them and how they lived. There are interactive displays for children of all ages.

Discover Bell County is a library experience of Bell County History called the 1904 Historic Carnegie Library. The themes of the display are the land, agriculture and ranching, transportation and industry, and education and culture. There are historical photos and interactive displays for all ages. Little River Log Cabin, built in the 1850s displays original logs and stones, seen in a smaller version of the original. Come in and imagine what life must have been like in the reconstructed cabin that originates from the Little River/Academy area. Another permanent collection showcases the largest mustache teacup display in the United States. Popular in the second half of the 1800s so mustache tea drinkers wouldn't have a damp upper lip. Stop by and find the left-handed teacup.

Upcoming events at the museum are *Historic Escape Games* on March 6, *Tiny Thinkers* on March 11, *Spring Break at the Museum* on March 17 through the 19, *Sensory Friendly Morning* on April 11, and a Day on the Texas frontier on April 25. The times of each event are on their website.

The museum also has an in-house only research library. See staff for assistance. Research materials cover topic such as the Chisholm Trail, Bell County family and genealogy, historic map reproductions, Salado history, Sanctified Sisters of Belton, Bell County cemeteries.

The Bell County Museum was founded on April 25, 1988 by the Bell County Commissioners Court is part of the county government. The museum is housed in the beautifully restored 1905 Belton Carnegie Library building, which is a recorded Texas Historical Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historical Places. Prior to the museum being opened to the public in 1991, the county and museum board

Stop by and visit the museum located at 201 N. Main Street in Belton. For more information or to find out about volunteer opportunities, please call (254) 933-5243 or visit the museum website at bellcountymuseum.org.



New York-style Italian ice, imported directly from NYC

Blazing The Jersey Shore To Texas

Catering & Events:

AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND FOR BIRTHDAYS, CORPORATE EVENTS, SCHOOL FUNCTIONS, WEDDINGS, AND MORE.

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

www.scottisitalianice.com

SHOP UNIQUE.



Texas Vintage Addiction

Antique Shop and Estate Sales

Home of the affordable unique antiques



UNIQUE FINDS FROM YESTERYEAR

Giving old treasures a new home.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND:

★ Antiques & Collectibles

★ Furniture & Home Décor

★ Vintage Finds

★ Estate Sales & More



(254) 856-3765

206 E 6th Ave, Belton TX

Tuesday-Sat 10am-5pm

Follow us on Facebook for new arrivals and estate sales!

English Maids

We will sweep you off your feet!

Kay English Owner

info@englishmaids.biz

Lauren English-Thurman Director of Operations

lauren@englishmaids.biz

254-231-0583



Residential/Commercial • Cleaning Service

FREE Estimates • Bonded • Insured • Work Comp • Locally Owned and Operated

Cash

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

(254) 939-6700

Budget WRENCH A PART

Self Service Auto Parts

"Bring your own tools"

Open 7 Days a Week

4497 W. Hwy. 190 • Belton