

Belton hosts 9th Annual Bell County Comic Con



File Photo

Left: Cosplayers show off their battle skills at a previous Bell County Comic Con event. **Right:** Transformers Bumblebee impersonator offers photos with replica car.

By Harvey Jackson Oss
The Belton Journal

Over the weekend of August 1-2, the Bell County Expo Center hosted one of Belton's largest annual events, the Bell County Comic Con. The convention is centered on pop culture and featured scores of vendors, artists, food trucks, activities, and celebrity guests.

The event was first launched in 2017 by local resident Johnny Huang. Growing up in Temple and Belton helping his parents run the family restaurant Dynasty, Huang went on to have a successful career in show business. He is recognized as the longest running actor for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Michaelangelo on Vanilla Ice's I Love the 90's tour, and has worked with other prominent artists such as Wiz Khalifa, Snoop Dog, and Rick Ross.

"I got invited to my first convention about 12 years ago... friends and family back at home here in Texas messaged me and said why don't you do one of these here," explained Huang.

This year's Comic Con attracted around 40,000 attendees. Huang recalled that initially "I would talk to 10 people and only 2 people would know what Comic Con was. They'd say oh is that the thing for those nerdy comic book guys? Well it's more than just comic books." Huang expected a turnout upwards of 2,000 in 2017, and was surprised when over 17,000 attended.

"We're creating something for the community, and by doing that we discover we've built lifelong friendships with people that we may or may not have ever met or known if it wasn't for this," stated Huang

on the personal importance of the event.

Vendors at Bell County Comic Con ranged from individual part time sellers to local businesses and restaurants. A great number of artists and artisans sold their own creations such as paintings, bags, bookmarks, and stickers. Others sold merchandise from entertainment franchises well known and obscure, including costumes, prop-weapons, minifigures, and much more.

One vendor present was Rob Brandenburg of Peggy's Coffee House in Temple. Brandenburg and staff operated a Harry Potter themed booth offering Butterbeer, an iconic drink from the series. "For a local business, once we figured out how to actually monetize our booth and

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File Photo

New commercial district to include McDonald's, other businesses

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

A new commercial development on the southwest corner of the Loop 121 and the I-14 service road intersection will soon be home to McDonald's, other restaurants, office spaces and possibly an apartment complex, according to an official with Independence Commercial Real Estate.

The site is in front of the Skyview residential development that is also under construction. The neighborhood will be home to 198 residential lots.

"McDonald's is under construction," said Preston Wolfe, "and work is under way on utilities and roads inside the development. An auto parts store and a national-branded convenience store also will be going in. We are selling properties to individual businesses right now, but we may build a shopping center in the future if there are retail needs."

"We have interest from other restaurants and retailers — deals are working but no others are under contract," Wolfe said.

"I'm not sure exactly how many businesses will be located there."

Wolfe said the Skyview development will be open to a wide range of uses, including restaurants, offices, light industrial businesses and even apartments.

"There's a large tract available (more than 6 acres) for big box retail, multi-family housing, hospitality,

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BELTON JOURNAL/Shalee Corey-Wiebe
Whimsey's Art Cafe offers a rotating menu of beginner-friendly crafts to choose from.

Whimsy Art Cafe opens in Downtown Belton

By Shalee Corey-Wiebe
The Belton Journal

Whimsy Art Cafe recently opened at 203 North East Street in downtown Belton. Instead of coffee, the cafe offers a rotating menu of beginner-friendly crafts to choose from, such as drawing, painting and air dry clay. There are new projects every week, and next month, lino-cutting and gelli-printing will be

added to the list.

Erin Connell, owner of Whimsy Art Cafe, has been making art her entire life. During her twenty years of teaching, which she has since retired from, she has taught English and Art, and for almost two years now, she has also been running her custom magnet-making business, Magnetic Whimsies.

"It's always been my dream to have a shop like

this," Erin said. She thinks it's important for people to sit down and give themselves a chance to be creative and hang out with other people, regardless of whether or not they have much experience with arts and crafts. "We're just enjoying the time and whatever you create, what that represents for you and the people you're with."

In the near future, Erin hopes to pair with other

businesses and with the community to make some fun events happen. She said, "I really want to do stuff with the community, and I do have some Saturday events I'm working on, not directly related to just the cafe, but just in general, because I do think community is important." She also hopes to bring new kinds of

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Revised TxDOT plan meeting set for Thursday



By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

The Belton City Council The Belton City Council responded favorably to a revised Texas Department of Transportation plan for the Interstate 35 and Interstate 14 corridor during a workshop Tuesday, July 28.

The revised plans will be available for public review and comment during open-house

meetings from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 5-6. Wednesday's meeting is at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center, and Thursday's meeting is at the Huntington Bank Expo, formerly the Bell County Expo Center, in the Assembly Hall. Residents may attend at any time during the two-hour meeting. Project representatives will be available to discuss the proposal and answer questions.

The revised design addresses several concerns previously raised by the City, including maintaining access to both Central Avenue and Sixth Avenue, improving connections between the interstate and nearby neighborhoods, and reducing impacts on adjacent properties and businesses.

On the northbound side, the revised plan includes a new

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Kids brave heat for summer fishing

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

In Texas, August means extreme heat. But with taking a few precautions, sweltering summer months can also offer productive fishing for local anglers of all ages.

“From late June through mid-September, I encourage parents and grandparents to bring kids to area lakes,” said Bob Maindelle, owner and operator of Holding the Line Guide Service. “The summer offers a great opportunity to introduce kids to fishing while allowing them to catch high numbers of smaller fish — namely, sunfish.”

“The quality fish adults typically desire are much harder to come by in the summer, and I therefore encourage them to hold off until the fall peak in mid-October through early December,” Maindelle said. “But summer heat does bring with it some unique considerations and fish behaviors.”

“The summer is a very busy time for me, with every weekday morning booked from the day school lets out in late May until classes resume in mid-August,” he added. “The vast majority of these trips involve children, including military-connected children for whom we provide fishing trips free of charge.”

“To contend with the summer heat, I get an early start — about 20 minutes before sunrise. Adult trips last four hours and kids’ trips no more than 3.5 hours.”

“Dressing for the heat and bringing cool drinks along helps, as does any breeze we might enjoy,” Maindelle said.

Dr. Aditi Mitra, an emergency room physician at both Baylor Scott & White and McLane Children’s medical centers in Temple, agreed that staying as cool as possible is necessary in the Texas heat. She said one of the biggest health concerns around a lake is dehydration.

“When the temperature is 95 or higher, our bodies lose the ability to thermoregulate,” Dr. Mitra said. “Drink water with electrolytes to replace the electrolytes lost during the heat.”

“If you are with someone who is having heat issues, get them out of the direct sunlight,” she said. “Spray them with water and try putting ice in their armpits and their groin region. This is the best method for treating heat disease in a prehospital setting.”

Also, SPF 50 and higher sunscreen is recommended. Holding the Line maintains a strong catch-and-release ethic — we release 100 percent of the fish we catch so we have plenty for the future.”

“We have to release,” he explained, “because I take far



Courtesy Photo

The family of SFC Alonzo Gomez joined fishing guide Bob Maindelle this week for a fishing trip on Belton Lake. Gomez has been in the military for more than 16 years and is currently deployed to Jordan. Representing Gomez in Maindelle’s boat were his wife, Jil, and three kids: Keelei, Kimora and Khai.

more than my share of fish out of these lakes, and I’m not the only guide working. You have to see the big picture, and that means being responsible and putting the fish back.”

Maindelle, who lives on the south shore of Stillhouse Hollow, is in his 20th year as a Central Texas fishing guide.

“I’ve been fishing Stillhouse and Belton for about 30 years,” he said. “I occasionally have customers who want to fish Georgetown or one of the Austin-area lakes, but most of my trips are here in Bell County.”

Bob estimates that 60 to 70 percent of his excursions are on Belton Lake and most of the rest are at Stillhouse.

“The fishing here is excellent,” he said. “There’s really no reason to go anywhere else. We focus on white bass on Stillhouse, and on whites and hybrid striped bass on Belton. The hybrids are a sterile fish and can’t reproduce, so they have to be restocked. Belton is one of the lakes Texas Parks & Wildlife uses to invest their hybrid resources.”

In addition to the hybrid striped bass, Belton Lake also is known for large populations of smallmouth bass and blue

catfish.

In 2025, Holding the Line clients caught and released 15,911 fish over the course of 178 trips on Stillhouse and Belton Lake, an average of 89.39 fish per trip. This year’s numbers also are impressive.

“Thus far in July, my clients have landed 709 fish, an average of 50.6 fish per trip,” he said. Those numbers likely will skyrocket this fall.

“The two baits I am relying on right now are the MAL Dense lure used vertically, horizontally, and for sight-casting to topwater action for white bass, and punch-bait to attract blue catfish and channel catfish.”

In addition to fishing and guiding others to the perfect honey hole, Maindelle also makes and sells his own brand of fishing lures.

“My lures are available locally at the Liberty Mart, located between Belton Dam and Temple Lake Park,” he said. “Liberty Mart is at the corner of FM 2271 and West Adams Avenue.”

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creativity into her cafe and is looking into potentially having people come in to play or teach music.

She is also looking for artists who would like to submit art for her to turn into a magnet and add to her Art Vend Machine, along with a short bio. “It’s just a way for them (artists) to get noticed by other people in the community,” she said.

As of now, the cafe is closed on Sun-

day and Monday, but open on Tuesday from 11am to 8pm, Wednesday from 11am to 9pm, Thursday from 11am to 6pm, Friday from 11am to 6pm, and Saturday from 11am to 6pm.

Several other activities are scheduled from 7pm-9pm throughout the week. Wednesdays are the Creative Writing Club, Thursdays are Gal Pal Night, and Fridays are Date Night.

TxDOT - From Page A1

“jug handle” design providing dedicated access to Central and Sixth avenues. On the southbound side, a single exit would split to serve both destinations. The updated design also reduces the project’s right-of-way footprint in some locations, decreases the proposed number of express lanes from six to four, and adds or improves several local street connections.

An earlier version raised concerns because proposed exit and street changes would have limited access to Belton and affected residents, businesses and emergency responders. Councilmembers said the revised design represents significant progress and better addresses the City’s priorities.

TxDOT representatives emphasized that the project remains in the schematic and environmental phase and will continue to be

refined as the design process moves forward.

The proposed project covers approximately eight miles of I-35, extending from south of Loop 121 in Belton to Loop 363, U.S. Highway 190 and State Highway 36 in Temple. Proposed improvements include reconstructing the I-14 and I-35 interchanges, widening I-35, adding express lanes and constructing a shared-use path.

A virtual meeting containing the same information will also be available beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, through TxDOT’s project webpage. Residents, property owners and business owners are encouraged to review the proposal and provide feedback. Comments must be received or postmarked by Friday, Aug. 21, to become part of the official public meeting record.

BISD’s Golden honoredby TC

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Superintendents of Belton and Cameron school districts have been named Strategic Partners of the Year by Temple College. The awards were presented during the 2025-2026 Dual Credit Counselor Meeting on July 28.

The annual gathering brought together high school counselors and district partners from across Central Texas to celebrate the continued growth and success of dual-credit programming and to honor

individuals whose innovation and leadership have expanded opportunities for students, said Dr. Christy Ponce, Temple College president.

“Trusted for generations and building for the future, Temple College remains committed to strengthening partnerships that make higher education more affordable, accessible, and attainable for students across the region,” said Dr. Ponce.

The annual Dual Credit Counselor Meeting serves as an opportunity for Temple College to collaborate with school counselors and district leaders, share pro-

Belton ISD kicks off new school year with annual Convocation

Special to the Journal

Belton ISD will officially kick off the 2026-2027 school year with its annual convocation celebration on Monday, August 10, at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor’s Mayborn Campus Center, 900 College St. in Belton. The event begins at 2 p.m., with doors opening at 1 p.m.

This year’s theme, “Rooted in Values. Inspired to Reach New Horizons,” celebrates the dedication, resilience and shared purpose of the district’s more than 2,000 employees as they prepare to welcome students back for another year of learning.

The annual event brings teachers, support staff and district leaders together to celebrate the beginning of a new school year, recognize the important role every employee plays in student success and build excitement for the months ahead.

Board President Chris Flor and Superintendent Dr. Malinda Golden will address attendees, sharing their vision and encouragement as Belton ISD begins another year of serving students and families.

Staff members are encouraged to embrace the Western theme by wearing their best boots, hats and campus spirit while enjoying an afternoon of celebration, recognition and inspiration before the first day of school.

For additional information, visit www.bisd.net/convocation.



gram updates, celebrate successes, and recognize those whose leadership continues to elevate educational opportunities across Central Texas.

This year’s recognitions included: Strategic Partner of the Year - Dr. Malinda Golden, Superintendent, Belton ISD. Golden was also named the 2025–2026 Temple College Dual Credit Strategic Partner of the Year for her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to cultivating a college-for-all culture across Belton ISD.

Her dedication to expanding educational opportunities and strengthening the partnership between Belton ISD and Temple College has created meaningful pathways that encourage students to pursue higher education with confidence and purpose.

Strategic Partner of the Year - Dr. Mistie Dakroub, Superintendent, Cameron ISD. Dakroub was honored as the 2025–2026 Temple College Dual Credit

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

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

OBITUARIES



Kennedy

T L Kennedy
February 1, 1937 – July 27, 2026

T L Kennedy, 89, passed from this life on Monday, July 27, 2026, at his home in Belton TX.

T L was born February 1, 1937, in Howard County, Texas. He was the son of George and Bessie Kennedy. T L graduated from Big Spring High School TX and married his high school sweetheart Rexie Jeane Kennedy (nee Nance) on August 5, 1956.

T L and Jeane moved to Arlington, TX in 1957 to attend Bible Baptist Seminary. In 1960, He was drafted into the U.S. Army, attended training at Ft. Hood, TX, and was stationed at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. He was honorably discharged in 1962.

T L and Jeane served in churches for 35 years. He pastored churches in Artesia NM, Edinburg TX, Port O’Connor TX, Kempner TX, and Killeen TX. He served as chaplain at Kings Daughters Hospital and Scott and White hospitals. T L also greatly enjoyed fishing, woodwork, and painting.

T L is survived by his wife, Jeane; his two children, Tom (Donna) Kennedy of Belton TX and Lane (Kimberly) Kennedy of Rogers TX; 6 grandchildren, Lindsey Kennedy PhD of Indianapolis IN, Megan (Ramsey) Mezayek of Fort Bend TX, Rebecca Kennedy of Belton TX, Allison Kennedy of Lubbock TX, Garrett (Candice) Kennedy of Bryan TX, and Jonathan Kennedy of Belton TX; and

2 great-grandchildren (Garrett and Candice), Etta and Merit.

A celebration of his life and loving marriage will be held Saturday, August 8, 2026, at Nolan Valley Baptist Church, Belton TX. A short celebration service will be held at 2 pm in the worship center, followed by fellowship for family and friends. T L will be interned at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery at a later date.

Cuthbertson

Raymond Albert “Ray” Cuthbertson
August 6, 1950 – July 31, 2026

Raymond Albert “Ray” Cuthbertson, 75, of Belton, passed away at his home on Friday, July 31, 2026, after a lengthy illness. Private services will be held at the family’s request.

Ray was born on August 6, 1950, in Worcester, Massachusetts, to Robert P. and Jean (McGee) Cuthbertson. He grew up in Millbury, Massachusetts where he attended local schools. In 1968, Ray enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served his country honorably during the Vietnam War before receiving his discharge.

Following his military service, Ray began a distinguished 32-year career with the U.S. Civil Service at Fort Hood. He retired in 2009 as Building Manager, where he was responsible for the maintenance and operation of more than 100 buildings on the installation.

Ray married Ann Colorio on December 30, 1978, in Auburn, Massachusetts, and together they shared 48 wonderful years of marriage. Ray will be remembered for his patriotism, strong work ethic, quiet strength, and unwavering devotion to his family. He especially enjoyed restoring classic cars and proudly displaying them at local car shows. Above all, he treasured the

time he spent with his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert P. and Jean (McGee) Cuthbertson, sister Alana Hoar, sister Colleen Stanford, and brother Richard Cuthbertson.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Ann Cuthbertson of Belton; his daughters, Jannell Parker and her husband, Chris, and Jennifer Branham; his grandsons, Michael Parker, Matthew Parker, and Julian Rodriguez and his extended family, Eric O’Braden and his wife, Cheri, their daughter, Emily Hohertz, and her husband, Hagen, and their son, Hollis; brother Robert Cuthbertson, sister Shelly Gannon, sister Darlene Adams, brother William Cuthbertson and brother Kevin Cuthbertson along with numerous nieces and nephews.

The family extends its sincere gratitude to all who provided Ray with care, support, and friendship throughout his illness. Dossman Funeral Home of Belton is in charge of the arrangements.

Ebert

Daisy Inez (Love) Ebert
March 3, 1938 – July 29, 2026

A memorial service for Daisy Inez (Love) Ebert, 88, of Moffat, will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 10:00 AM at Dossman Funeral Home in Belton. with Rev. Donnie Jackson officiating. Burial will follow at Cedar Valley Cemetery.

Mrs. Ebert died Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at Our Hospice House in Belton.

Mrs. Ebert was born on March 3, 1938 in San Antonio, the daughter of William Byrd and

Martha Rosezetta (Graham) Love. She was raised in Cedar Valley, attended

schools there and in Salado. She married Starr Ebert 33 years ago. She was a long time member of The Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ in Belton.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and all her siblings.

Survivors include her husband Starr Ebert, three daughters Martha Jaramillo, Daisy Joanne Goetsch, and Wanda Abbott; many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dossman Funeral Home in Belton is in charge of the arrangements.

Smith

Anthony Smith
January 13, 1975 – July 31, 2026

Funeral services for Anthony Smith, 51, of Belton, will be held at 2:00 PM, Saturday, August 8, 2026 at the Dossman Funeral Home.

Mr. Smith died Friday evening July 31, 2026 in a Temple hospital.

Mr. Smith was born January 13, 1975, in Temple, the son of Greg and Josephine (Baladez) Smith. He grew up in Belton and attended Belton High School. He was a long-time manager for Tacala Corp, eventually serving as district manager.

Mr. Smith loved life. He was quick witted or sarcastic, but always a comic. He loved the beach, movies and music. He also had a sweet tooth he loved to indulge. Mostly he loved his family including his niece and nephews and his precious Yorkies.

Survivors include his parents, Greg and Josephine Smith; his partner Sam Gillum; two brothers Michael Smith and wife Monica, and Gregory Smith Jr., niece Jennifer Smith, and nephews Christopher Smith, Anthony I. Smith and Gregory I. Smith; and his beloved Yorkies, Mila and Miley.

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or a medical facility,” he added.

Wolfe said Belton’s tremendous growth attracted Skyview’s owners — Arit Investments LLC — to the City.

According to the US Census Bureau, Belton’s population jumped from 18,216 in 2010 to 23,029 in 2020. Right now, the city’s population is well over 26,000 and growing.

The commercial site boasts proximity to In-

terstate-35, located just 1-mile to the east. Skyview sits along Loop 121 leading to the Belton Business Park and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor to the north, and Huntington Bank Expo to the south.

Many local residents are thrilled with the prospect of a new retail development on the south side of town.

“Of course we need more shopping — es-

pecially more clothing stores and maybe a new Chinese restaurant, a kids clothing store and maybe a candy shop,” said Cori Burk. “I can envision many nice things.”

Several Belton residents interviewed think the City needs grocery options for that side of town.

“A grocery store would be great,” said Mallory Ahlsmeyer. “I’d even take a Dollar

General near by.”

Kroger, Aldi’s, H-E-B, Costco and Trader Joe’s were all named as well, along with Chick-Fil-A, IHOP, Waffle House and Dairy Queen.

“We need a sporting goods store, an In & Out, Freddy’s, maybe a Toasted Yolk,” said Cindy Picklesimer. “Clothing stores, a gift shop and a bakery also would be great.”

Golden - From Page A2

Strategic Partner of the Year for her commitment to expanding access to college opportunities for Cameron ISD students and for her investment in the long-term sustainability of dual credit programming.

Through her collaborative leadership and shared vision, Cameron ISD continues to create pathways that enable students to earn college credit while still in high school, helping them accelerate their educational and career goals.

Temple College Department of the Year - Social Sciences II Department, Temple College. The Temple College Social Sciences II Department, led by Professor Chad Smith, was named the 2025–2026 Temple College Dual Credit Department of the Year. The department was recognized for its unwavering commitment to affordability, access, and student success, demonstrated through exception-

al collaboration with the Dual Credit Department and innovative approaches that support student achievement.

Professor of the Year - Lance English, Temple College. English received the 2025–2026 Professor of the Year Award for his innovation, creativity, and dedication to making dual-credit courses accessible and engaging for students.

Professor English’s redesign of Introduction to Chemistry and Brewing I and II into three-credit-hour courses has reduced educational costs for Temple College’s independent school district partners and their families while preserving the academic rigor and hands-on learning that make these courses impactful. His commitment to student-centered innovation exemplifies Temple College’s mission to prepare students for success through high-quality educational opportunities.

High School of the

Year - Temple High School. Temple High received the 2025–2026 High School of the Year Award for reimagining the dual credit enrollment process by moving college readiness upstream and engaging students before they even step onto the high school campus.

This innovative approach ensures students and families are introduced to college opportunities earlier, helping them better understand the benefits of dual credit and positioning more students for long-term academic success.

“The success of our Dual Credit program is built on the dedication of exceptional faculty and the strength of our partnerships with area school districts,” said Rosa Berreles-Acosta, Executive Director, Dual Credit and High School Partnerships.

“Each of this year’s award recipients represents an unwavering commitment to student success and a shared belief that

every student deserves access to meaningful college opportunities,” she said. “Together, we are creating pathways that transform lives and strengthen our communities.”



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Tax-free weekend starts August 7th

The Comptroller encourages all taxpayers to support Texas businesses while saving money on tax-free purchases of most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100) during the annual Tax-Free weekend. Qualifying items can be purchased tax free from a Texas store or from an online or catalog seller doing business in Texas. In most cases, you do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy qualifying items tax free.

The 2026 sales tax holiday begins Friday, Aug. 7, and goes through midnight Sunday, Aug. 9.

The sales tax exemption applies only to qualifying items you buy during the sales tax holiday. Items you buy before or after the

sales tax holiday do not qualify for exemption, and there is no tax refund available.

During the holiday you can buy qualifying items in-store, online, by telephone, mail, custom order, or any other means. The sale of the item must take place during the specific period. The purchase date is easy to determine when the purchase is made in-store but becomes more complicated with remote purchases. The purchaser must have given the consideration for the item during the period even if the item may not be delivered until after the period is over.

For example, if a purchaser enters their credit card information in an online shopping website on Sunday Aug. 9, 2026 at 5:00

p.m. to purchase qualifying school supplies, but the school supplies will not be shipped until Friday Aug. 14, 2026 and will not arrive until Tuesday Aug. 18, the purchase will still qualify for the exemption. However, if the charge to your credit card is declined by the payment processor at 11:00 p.m. on Sunday Aug. 9, 2026 and the purchaser does not resubmit payment until Monday Aug. 10, the purchase is taxable.

Delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges by the seller are part of the item's sales price.

Since clothing, backpacks and school supplies have to be less than \$100 to qualify, you have to look at the item's total sales price

to determine if you can buy it tax free.

For example, you buy a pair of jeans for \$95 with a \$10 delivery charge for a total price of \$105. Because the jeans' total price is more than \$100, tax is due on the entire \$105 price.

If a delivery charge is billed per item, and an invoice has both exempt and taxable items, only the qualifying exempt item's delivery charge is exempt.

If the delivery charge is a flat rate per package, and the amount charged is the same regardless of how many items are included in the package, the total charge can be attributed to any one of the items in the package.

Being punctual is also important so set those alarms!

Here are the bell schedules for our schools:

Belton Early Childhood School 7:35 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Elementary Schools 7:35 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.

Middle Schools 8:10 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Belton High School 8:50 a.m. - 4:25 p.m.

Lake Belton High School 8:50 a.m. - 4:25 p.m.

Belton New Tech @Waskow 8:40 a.m. - 4:13 p.m.

DAEP 7:40 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.

No registration is required for students to ride the bus

No registration is required for students to ride the bus. Simply verify route information online at www.bisd.net/transportation. You can also view the Bus Rider Safety Handbook online. After the first few days of school, student ID cards will be issued and used as a bus pass.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to register for the SmartTag Parent Portal. This will allow parents to be notified when their student gets on and off the bus and will also locate his or her bus during the route. Once you are registered, you can then download the free SmartTag app to your iPhone or Android device. Please refer to the Transportation Services webpage for more information.

Starting September 5th, all bus riders are required to use their SmartTag student ID to ride the bus. Failure to utilize the SmartTag ID could result in suspension of bus privileges. The consequences for noncompliance are located in the Bus Rider Safety Handbook located on the BISD website. Students that are exempt from facing consequences include students with special needs, students in foster care, students in the Heartbeat program (homeless), and students in DAEP.

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BCYC offers after school programs

BCYC’s office is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the BCYC’s After-School Program runs from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any closings or temporary change of operating hours are posted on the front door at least 24 hours prior to the modification. BCYC will be open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. most days that school is not in session (i.e., school holidays, spring break, summer vacation, etc.). On school “early out” days, BCYC hours will be 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Please contact Belton Christian Youth Center for more information.

The exceptions to this are BCYC-recognized holidays on which BCYC will be CLOSED, including: New Year’s Eve, New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day following Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and any other day as posted. BCYC reserves the right to change its hours of operation based on need and/or economic circumstances. If such changes occur, parents/guardians will be notified in advance.

The staff at BCYC are trained childcare professionals. Trained volun-

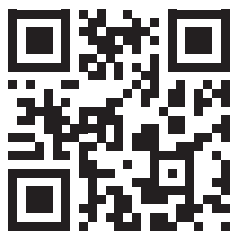
teers occasionally support our staff. A staff member and/or trained volunteer will oversee each of our designated program areas. Please take the time to remind your child of the need to follow BCYC rules and directions AT ALL TIMES whether said directions are given by a staff member or volunteer. Membership is open to youth between the ages of 5 (and in Kindergarten) and 13. An initial membership application must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian and renewed each year.

The registration fee is \$75, which is a one-time

payment added to the cost of tuition. Please check with the front office to see what the semester fees are. Annual cost will not be prorated for partial year memberships. Our membership year runs from January to

December; however, your child must be registered per semester in order to attend the program. Semesters run from August to May, and our Summer Camp is in session while BISD schools are on Summer

Vacation. Additional fees may be charged for winter and spring breaks, sports, and/or field trips for members wishing to participate. However, our goal is to always keep costs associated with BCYC membership as low as possible so as to not exclude anyone based on economic circumstances



Belton Christian Youth Center
Christ Centered • Mission Driven

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Belton

BHS & LBHS

Supply List

1 pqt. de 12 lápices de colores (map pencils)(Solo los de grados 9 al 11)

2 pqt. de lápices #2 (o lápices mecánicos)

2 pqt. de plumas (tinta azul o negra)

2 pqts. de hojas de papel (renglón ancho o colegial)

4 cuadernos de composición

1 paquete de audífonos (ear buds)

1 pqt. de papel cuadriculado

1 pqt. de pañuelos faciales

1 botella de desinfectante para manos

Otros materiales pueden ser requeridos por los maestros durante la primera semana de clases



Belton Independent School District

BHS & LBHS

Supply List

1 package 12-count map pencils (Grades 9-1 only)

2 packages of #2 pencils (or mechanical)

2 packages of pens (blue or black)

2 packages of notebook paper (wide or college ruled)

4 composition notebooks

1 package of earbuds

1 package of graph paper

1 box of facial tissue

1 Bottle hand sanitizer

Other supplies may be required by classroom teachers during the first week of school





Distrito Escolar Independiente de Belton

Lista de Útiles para Escuelas Secundarias

Audífonos que cubran las orejas (o earbuds)

6 cuadernos de composición 1 docena de lápices de colores

2 pqts. de hojas de papel

1 bolsa para lápices

1 tijeras

2 pegamentos en barra o botella de pegamento

2 docena de lápices #2

2 pqt. plumas (tinta negra)

1 docena lapices de color

1 pqt. de 4 o más subrayadores (highlighters) multicolor

1 pqt. de marcadores borrables negros para el pizarrón blanco

1 pqt. de tarjetas índices 3x5 (con renglones)

1 sacapuntas de mano

2 cajas de pañuelos faciales (de preferencia lápices mecánicos)

1 mochila / bolsa para útiles – Recomendada

1 botella de desinfectante para manos

Estudiantes de Matemáticas PAP de 7º y 8º grados: Se sugiere una calculadora Ti84 CE Plus. No se requiere

Atletismo: Se requieren zapatos tenis. Se proveerá la ropa de entrenamiento. Educación Física: Se requieren zapatos tenis. No se requiere uniforme

Estudiantes de Arte I (octavo grado): cuota de \$20.00 para materiales

• Es posible que se tengan que suplir algunos útiles durante el año y algunos maestros pueden pedir materiales adicionales.



Belton Independent School District

Middle School

Supply List

On-ear headphones or earbuds

6 composition books

2 packages of notebook paper

1 pencil bag

1 pair of scissors

2 glue sticks or bottled glue

2 dozen #2 pencils (mechanical preferred)

2 packages of pens (black)

1 dozen colored pencils

1 4-pack or larger multi-color highlight

1 4-pack black dry erase markers

1 pack of 3x5 index cards (ruled)

1 hand-held pencil sharpener

2 boxes facial tissues

1 backpack / school bag - recommended

1 bottle hand sanitizer

Grade 7 PAP Math and Grade 8 students: Suggested Ti84 CE Plus graphing calculator. Not required.

Athletics: Tennis shoes required. Workout clothes will be provided. PE: Tennis shoes required. No uniform required.

Art I (8th Grade): \$20 supply fee

• Some items may have to be replenished during the school year, and some teachers may request additional items.

Belton Independent School District

School Supply List

Pre-K

1 pkg. white construction paper - 12x18

1 pair of 5 inch kid scissors

2 plastic folders with pockets & brads

2 primary composition book

2 pkg. of markers (8 count - multicolors)

3 box of crayons (24 count)

2 pkg. of black dry erase markers (4 pack)

2 glue sticks

4 containers of playdough

2 boxes facial tissues

1 box of quart size bags

1 box gallon size bags

1 pkgs. of baby wipes

Extra set of clothing for emergency

NO NAP MAT NEEDED

KINDERGARTEN

1 pair of on-ear headphones (No bluetooth or recharging)

2 solid-colored plastic folders with pockets & brads

1 pkg. assorted colors construction paper

1 pkg. white construction paper

2 pkg. of black dry erase markers (4 pack)

2 primary composition books

2 dozen #2 pencils (pre sharpened preferred)

1 pkg. of markers (8 count)

2 boxes of crayons (24 count)

1 pair of scissors

8 glue sticks

1 ream of copy paper

1 bottle of liquid Elmer's glue

1 box of quart size bags

1 box of gallon size bags

2 boxes facial tissues

1 pkg. baby wipes

1 bottle hand sanitizer

**Extra set of clothing for your child for emergency

FIRST GRADE

1 pair of on-ear headphones

1 pkg. white construction paper 12x18

1 pkg. assorted colors construction paper 12x18

4 colored primary composition books

4 plastic pocket folders with brads (assorted solid colors)

2 dozen #2 pencils

2 boxes of crayons (24 count)

1 pair of scissors

8 glue sticks

2 pkg. of markers (8 count)

1 reams of copy paper

1 box of quart size bags

1 box of gallon size bags

2 boxes facial tissues

1 pkg baby wipes

1 bottle hand sanitizer

SECOND GRADE

1 pair of on-ear headphones

1 pkg. white construction paper 12x18

1 pkg. assorted colors construction paper 12x18

4 composition books

4 plastic pocket folders with brads (assorted solid colors)

1 pkg. notebook paper

1 rectangular pencil bag with zipper

3 dozen #2 pencils

1 pkg. colored pencils

1 pkg. of markers (8 count)

1 pkg. highlighters (2 pack)

2 boxes of Crayola crayons (24 count)

1 pair of scissors

8 glue sticks

1 ream of copy paper

2 pkgs. of black dry erase markers (4 pack)

1 bottle liquid glue

1 pkg highlighters (2-pack)

1 box of quart size bags

1 box of gallon size bags

2 boxes facial tissues

1 bottle hand sanitizer

THIRD GRADE

1 pair of on-ear headphones

1 pkg. white construction paper - 12x18

1 pkg. color construction paper - 12x18

4 composition books

4 plastic pocket folders with brads (solid colors)

1 pkg of notebook paper

1 rectangular pencil bag with zipper

3 dozen #2 pencils

1 pkg. colored pencils

1 pkg. of markers (8 count)

1 pkg. yellow highlighters (2 pack)

2 boxes of Crayola crayons (24 count)

6 glue sticks

1 pkg. pencil top erasers

2 pkgs. of black dry erase markers (4 pack)

1 ream of copy paper

2 pkg. of 3X3 post-it notes

1 box of quart size bags

1 box of gallon size bags

1 pair of scissors

2 boxes facial tissues

1 bottle hand sanitizer

FOURTH GRADE

1 pair of on-ear headphones

1 pkg. white construction paper - 12x18

1 pkg. color construction paper - 12x18

4 composition books

4 plastic pocket folders with brads (solid colors)

1 rectangular pencil bag with zipper

3 dozen #2 pencils

1 pkg. colored pencils

1 pkg. of markers (8 count)

1 pkg. highlighters (2 pack)

1 pair of scissors

1 box of crayons (24 count)

6 glue sticks

1 bottle liquid glue

2 pkgs. of black dry erase markers (4 pack)

1 ream of copy paper

1 box of plastic sandwich bags

2 pkg. of 3X3 post-it notes

2 boxes facial tissues

1 bottle hand sanitizer

FIFTH GRADE

1 pair of on-ear headphones

1 pkg. color construction paper - 12x18

1 pkg. white construction paper - 12x18

5 composition books

2 spiral notebooks

4 plastic pocket folders with brads (assorted solid colors)

2 pkgs. of notebook paper

1 hand held pencil sharpener

1 rectangular pencil bag with zipper

3 dozen #2 pencils

1 pkg. colored pencils

1 pkg. highlighters (4 pack multicolored)

1 pair of scissors

4 glue sticks

1 ream of copy paper

2 pkg. of 3X3 post-it notes

1 pkg. of markers (8 count)

1 pkg. pencil top erasers

2 pkgs. of black dry erase markers (4 pack)

2 boxes facial tissues

1 bottle hand sanitizer

A backpack is recommended for all students for transporting materials and important papers.

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Belton

Lista de útiles para Escuelas Primarias

PRE-KINDER

1 pqt. de papel de construcción blanco -12x18

1 par de tijeras de 5 pulgadas para niños

2 carpetas de plástico con bolsillos y broches (colores sólidos)

2 cuadernos de composición primaria

2 pqts. de 8 marcadores (multicolores)

3 cajas de crayones de 24 colores

2 pqt. de 4 marcadores para borrar en seco **negro** (dry erase)

2 barras de pegamento

2 4 oz. botellas de pegamento

4 contenedores de plastilina

2 cajas de pañuelos faciales

1 caja de bolsas de un cuarto

1 bolsas tamaño caja de un galón

4 pqts. de toallitas húmedas desechables

Favor de enviar un cambio completo de ropa en caso de emergencia

NO SE NECESITA TAPETE PARA LA SIESTA

KINDER

1 par de auriculares de la oreja

2 carpetas de plástico de color liso con broches y bolsillos

1 pqt. de papel cartulina de colores -12X18

1 pqt. de papel cartulina blanco -12X18

2 pqts. de marcadores negros borrables para pizarra blanca (4)

2 cuadernos de composición primaria

2 docenas de lápices #2

1 paquete de marcadores (8 unidades)

2 caja de crayones (24 unidades)

1 par de tijeras

8 barras de pegamento

1 paquete de papel para impresora

1 botella de pegamento líquido Elmer's

1 caja de bolsas de un cuarto

1 caja de bolsas de un galón

2 cajas de pañuelos faciales

1 paquete de toallas húmedas

1 botella de desinfectante para manos

cambio completo de ropa para su hijo en caso de emergencia

PRIMER

1 par de auriculares de la oreja

1 pqt. de papel cartulina blanco -12X18

1 pqt. de papel cartulina de colores -12X18

4 cuadernos de composición primaria de colores

4 carpetas de plástico con bolsillos y broches (colores sólidos)

2 docena de lápices #2

2 cajas de crayones (24 unidades)

1 par de tijeras

8 barras de pegamento

1 botella de pegamento

2 paquetes de marcadores (8 unidades)

2 pqts. de marcadores negros borrables para pizarra blanca (4)

1 paquete de papel para impresora

1 caja de bolsas de un cuarto

1 caja de bolsas de un galón

2 cajas de pañuelos faciales

1 paquete de toallas húmedas

1 botella de desinfectante para manos

SEGUNDO GRADO

1 par de auriculares de la oreja

1 pqt. de papel cartulina blanco -12X18

1 pqt. de papel cartulina de colores -12X18

4 cuadernos de composición

4 carpetas de plástico con bolsillos y broches (colores sólidos)

1 pqt. de hojas de papel de cuaderno

1 bolsa con cierre para lápices

3 docena de lápices #2

1 paquete de lápices de colores

1 paquete de marcadores (8 unidades)

2 cajas de crayones Crayola (24 unidades)

1 par de tijeras

8 barras de pegamento

1 pqt. de papel para impresora

2 pqts. de marcadores negros borrables para pizarra blanca (4)

1 botella de pegamento líquido

1 paquete de resaltadores (paquete de 2)

1 caja de bolsas de un cuarto

1 bolsas tamaño caja de un galón

2 cajas de pañuelos faciales

1 botella de desinfectante para manos

TERCER GRADO

1 par de auriculares de la oreja

1 pqt. de papel cartulina blanco -12x18

1 pqt. de papel cartulina de colores -12x18

4 cuadernos de composición

4 carpetas de plástico con bolsillos y broches (colores sólidos)

1 paquete de hojas de papel de cuaderno

1 bolsa con cierre para lápices

3 docenas de lápices #2 pencils

1 paquete de lápices de colores

1 paquete de marcadores (8 unidades)

1 paquete resaltadores amarillos (paquete de 2)

2 cajas de crayones Crayola (24 unidades)

6 barras de pegamento

1 pkg borradores para lápiz

2 pqts. de marcadores negros borrables para pizarra blanca (4)

1 paquete de papel para impresora

2 paquetes notas post-it 3x3

1 caja de bolsas de un cuarto

1 caja de bolsas de un galón

1 par de tijeras

2 cajas de pañuelos faciales

1 botella de desinfectante para manos

CUARTO GRADO

1 par de auriculares en la oreja

1 pqt. de papel cartulina de colores -12x18

1 pqt. de papel cartulina blanco -12x18

5 cuadernos de composición

2 libreta de espiral

4 carpetas de plástico con bolsillos y broches (colores sólidos)

2 pqts. de hojas de papel de cuaderno

1 sacapuntas de mano

1 estuche rectangular con cremallera

3 docena de lápices #2 pencils

1 paquete de lápices de colores

1 paquete resaltadores (4 paquete)

1 par de tijeras

4 pegante de barra

1 paquete de papel para impresora

2 paquetes notas post-it 3x3

1 paquete borradores de lápiz

2 paquetes de marcadores de borrado en seco (4)

2 cajas de panuelos faciales

1 botella de desinfectante para manos

QUINTO GRADO

1 par de auriculares en la oreja

1 pqt. de papel cartulina de colores -12x18

1 pqt. de papel cartulina blanco -12x18

5 cuadernos de composición

2 libreta de espiral

4 carpetas de plástico con bolsillos y broches (colores sólidos)

2 pqts. de hojas de papel de cuaderno

1 sacapuntas de mano

1 estuche rectangular con cremallera

3 docena de lápices #2 pencils

1 paquete de lápices de colores

1 paquete resaltadores (4 paquete)

1 par de tijeras

4 pegante de barra

1 paquete de papel para impresora

2 paquetes notas post-it 3x3

1 paquete borradores de lápiz

2 paquetes de marcadores de borrado en seco (4)

2 cajas de panuelos faciales

1 botella de desinfectante para manos

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Belton native participates in world’s largest international maritime warfare exercise



Courtesy Photo
Mass Communication Specialist
1st Class Patricia Elkins
Lance Cpl. Charles Weaks, a native of Belton, Texas, serves with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and is participating in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise in and around the Hawaiian Islands.

By Specialist John Osborne
Special to the Journal

Lance Cpl. Charles Weaks, a native of Belton, Texas, serves with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, a Marine air-ground task force out of Camp

Pendleton, California, participating in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise in and around the Hawaiian Islands.

Weaks graduated from Belton New Tech High School in 2018. The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Belton. “People in my hometown told me to get out and see the world, so here I am doing just that,” Weaks said.

Weaks joined the Navy 18 months ago. “I always wanted to join the military, but not necessarily the Marine Corps,” Weaks said. “It’s kind of funny actually. I walked into the wrong office, and they convinced me the Corps was for me. They were right, I have no regrets.

“As the world’s largest international maritime exercise, 31 nations, approximately 40 surface ships, five submarines, 14 national land forces, over 140 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel will participate in RIMPAC 2026. This exercise provides a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain cooperative rela-

tionships that are critical to ensuring safety at sea and security on the world’s oceans. RIMPAC 2026 marks the 30th exercise in a series that began in 1971.

The theme of RIMPAC 2026 is “Partners: Integrated and Prepared.” The participating nations and forces exercise a wide range of capabilities and demonstrate the inherent flexibility of maritime forces. These capabilities range from disaster relief and maritime security operations to sea control and complex warfighting. The relevant, realistic training program includes gunnery, missile, anti-submarine and air defense exercises, as well as amphibious, counter-piracy, mine clearance operations, explosive ordnance disposal and diving and salvage operations.

It is fitting that the world’s premier maritime exercise occurs as the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary. For 250 years, the United States has built relationships with international partners based on trust, cooperation, and shared values. RIMPAC is where that trust is put into practice,

strengthening the people-to-people relationships that are the bedrock of all the nations’ collective security.

Weaks plays an important role in the exercise. “RIMPAC is a great exercise that gives us a chance to work with our allies, and I’m happy to be doing my part assisting with the issuing of ammunition to our partner nations,” Weaks said.

Weaks serves a military that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation’s prosperity and security. “Serving in the Marine Corps means a lot to me because it allows me to experience so many new things and meet so many amazing people,” Weaks said.

Weaks is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible. “I would like to thank my mom, April, and my dad, Brian, for their never-ending support,” added Weaks. “I also want to thank my girlfriend, Gabby, for all of her support and for listening to my rants about work after a hard day.”

Hosted by Commander, U.S.

Pacific Fleet, RIMPAC 2026 will be led by Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, Rear Adm. Richard Meyer, who will serve as Combined Task Force (CTF) commander. Chile will fill the role of deputy commander of the CTF, and Japan will fill the role of vice commander. The Republic of Korea will command the maritime component, and Canada will command the air component.

During RIMPAC, a network of capable, adaptive partners train and operate together in order to strengthen their collective forces and promote a free and open Indo-Pacific. RIMPAC 2026 contributes to the increased interoperability, resiliency and agility needed by the Joint and Combined Force to deter and defeat aggression by major powers across all domains and levels of conflict.

More information about RIMPAC is available at: <https://www.cpf.navy.mil/RIMPAC/>.

Specialist John Osborne is a Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist for the Navy Office of Community Outreach.

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Morgans Point Library continues summer reading program

By **Harvey Jackson Oss**
The Belton Journal

On Saturday, August 1, the Morgan’s Point Resort Library hosted the third session of their annual summer reading program. This year’s program is titled “Our 4-Legged Friends” and features live animals at each meeting. Saturday’s event was visited by Sit Means Sit dog training, who brought with them a small dog for the children to interact with.

“I have a great library board, and we just bounced ideas off of each other, and somebody mentioned animals. There’s so much you can do with them, four-legged, we could have gone anywhere, and we’ll probably use that theme again,” stated Pam Robinson, Library Committee Chairperson.

Previous meetings featured police and fire dogs, and therapy horses. Next week’s event on August 8 will be centered on goats. “We’ve had such a great response to those programs, and everybody has seemed to enjoy them... it’s been going very well,” remarked Robinson.

“The primary goal is to get kids to continue reading over the summer. Don’t just look at your iPad, don’t just watch TV, don’t just sleep. Keep your

brain cells alive,” explained Robinson.

Reading program participants track their reading minutes on a weekly sheet signed off by parents. At the end of the four week program the minutes are tallied up and one child per grade group who logged the most minutes receives a special backpack full of supplies. “We give all of the kids a backpack, but the ones who have got the most reading minutes, they win a special one, which has almost everything,” said Robinson.

Participants also receive prizes each week for returning their completed reading log sheet. At the weekly meeting, two books are read aloud. “We get their attention, they sit on the rug, and they just listen intently, and it shows them that reading is so enjoyable and you can do it anytime,” added Robinson.

Robinson commented on what makes the program important to her. “The hugs I get from the kids at the end, even at the beginning, they bring us little notes. They love coming and getting stickers. And the look on their faces when they get those, when the program’s over, when we have a good program like we did last week, and they were just enthralled”

The program is entirely run by volunteers, including library board members.



BELTON JOURNAL/Harvey Jackson Oss
Morgan’s Point children listen intently to reading of ‘The Dog’ with visitor from Sit Means Sit.

The Perfect Day Getaway Tours starting in Belton



Courtesy Photo
The Perfect Day Getaway bus, ready for its next tour, in front of Bell County courthouse

By **Michele Weisman**
The Belton Journal

A bus ride with The Perfect Day Getaway Tours starts with theme-stamped passports and gift bags. Each trip, curated by owners Jeff and Angela Waggoner, is designed to be fun for their customers and themselves. They opened the business in May 2025. Jeff Waggoner is the bus driver because he loves to drive, and Angela Waggoner enjoys planning the trips.

Angela Waggoner said, “I used to work as an event planner for Girl Scouts. Texas has all these really cool themed things to do, and the small towns we go to have the friendliest people.”

Jeff Waggoner said,

“There wasn’t a lot to do for the retired, semi-retired individual in this area, and we’re like, what do we want to do? Let’s go travel and take some people with us. So, we found the most unique bus. We have met some of the most awesome people, both on the tour and during the tour. It’s just fun. If you do what you love, you won’t work a day in your life. It’s true.”

Some adventures on their website are: Once Upon a Castle goes to the location where the Forged and Fire series was filmed to see a medieval-style castle. A Royal Taste of Texas takes riders to LAGRANGE where a former Buckingham Palace chef, who served the royal family, prepares a meal in front of them before they eat it.

Angela Waggoner said, “People ask if there is alcohol on the bus. We might do a wine trail, but it’s not like people are drinking on the bus.”

They take lots of potty breaks, stop at DQs frequently, and are known to take requested stops along the way.

Driving to small towns in Texas, they vet each experience to plan the trips. Some bus tour experiences have gone as far as Brownwood, Belville, and the Houston area without visiting large cities.

“We have had people with wheelchairs, fold them up and put them in the very back. They have to be ambulatory to be able to get on the bus. We got three steps to walk up, so we have a ramp.”

Angela Waggoner said, “One of the comments a customer made, I built a trip around. She said, ‘I tell my grandkids this is my field trip I’m going on.’ I built The Best Little Field Trip in Texas around that”

Jeff Waggoner said, “Our recidivism rate is very high for people coming back on the tour. They say we should have done this months ago.”

Angela Waggoner said, “We’re interested in collaborating with local businesses to do like a coffee adventure and some different things. Maybe do some coffee tastings or tea tastings or something along that line.”

Private tours are available for up to eleven riders. Call or text Sunday through Saturday between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. You can book your ride by phone or line. The website www.theperfectdaygetaway.com is and their contact information is (254) 818-9009 contact@theperfectdaygetaway.com

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When Grace Grows Larger



John C. Perry

Last night, my daughter Mandy let me know that I had become a great-grandfather for the second time in the same month! Little Brewer was born to my granddaughter Landry and husband Kobe. Mother and baby are doing fine.

A couple of weeks ago I wrote about my great-grand-

daughter Dottie entering this world, and now a second precious baby has arrived. To say I am overwhelmed would be an understatement. But greater than that, God has blessed us so abundantly once again!

It makes me ask: why? I am a wretched sinner, but God throughout my life has forgiven me so many times I could never count, and then turned right around and blessed me. What an amazing God!

I have lived to see six generations in one family, just another reason to marvel at God's many blessings. Generations of God-loving, Jesus-believing family members, what a profound blessing!

My prayer for these two precious babies is that they will

grow up in a spiritually filled home, just like their parents and the generations that preceded them. I pray that this little boy and little girl will grow up strong, wise, and full of faith to tackle a secular world with many challenges, that they will be Godly people who always want to share the Good News with a world in desperate need of hearing it. Lord, that is my prayer to You; May You bless these dear children for all of their days!

And yet, for all I hope for them, I know I haven't always lived up to it myself. Trust me, I have a lot to overcome, so many mistakes and errors of judgment. But thanks to God's grace, I am forgiven!

Who do we have to thank for that? Our Lord and Savior,

Jesus Christ! Romans 3:24 says we "...are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." That verse tells us that grace is free, justification is a gift, and Christ is our redemption.

What about your life? We are all sinners, but we can all be forgiven through Christ! Do you think your sin is too large to be forgiven? Think again! Paul tells us in Romans 5:20-21 that "...where sin increased, grace increased all the more... so that grace might reign... through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Think about that: Grace increases all the more as you need it! Jesus died for our sins; He died because He wants to share eternal life with you. Yes, you! He took away your sins and

shortcomings so you can join Him in paradise.

My dear friends, while this column comes straight from my heart, the lesson is for every one of us. No matter the depth of your sin, God's grace is deeper still. It is never too late to ask for forgiveness, never too late to receive the loving grace of God through His Son.

My prayer for anyone reading this is simple: that you will take hold of the forgiveness Christ freely offers, and let His grace reshape your life. Jesus wants you to be with Him in heaven, and so do I!

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.

Temporary street closure scheduled

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

On Tuesday and Wednesday, August 4-5, part of Connell Street was temporarily closed to allow a contractor to install a steel encased waterline across the road.

The closure was to occur near the Loop 121 intersection and was scheduled from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday and from 7 a.m. to noon on Wednesday. Tuesday's work included crossing the roadway and placing flowable fill into the ditch line and adding steel plates. Wednesday's work was placing the asphalt. Traffic that enters Connell from the TxDOT offices or Expo Quick Stop will still be allowed to travel northbound, but a

southbound detour will be set up at Huey Road for through-traffic.

This closure was scheduled a few weeks ago, but the project was delayed due to rain.



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Comic Con - From Page A1

not just have a presence at this convention, we probably make about a month's worth of sales in two days," explained Brandenburg. Brandenburg praised the local nature of the convention, contrasting it with similar corporate organized events that do little to benefit the local economy.

One of the major draws of Comic Con is the presence of celebrity guests such as actors, voice actors, animators, and authors. Celebrity guests are available for autographs, photo-ops, and fan questions. One such guest was Patrick Warburton, known for roles such as David Puddy on Seinfeld and voicing Joe Swanson on Family Guy. "I love it, everybody here is wonderful, it's awesome to be back here in Texas," stated Warburton in a panel interview.

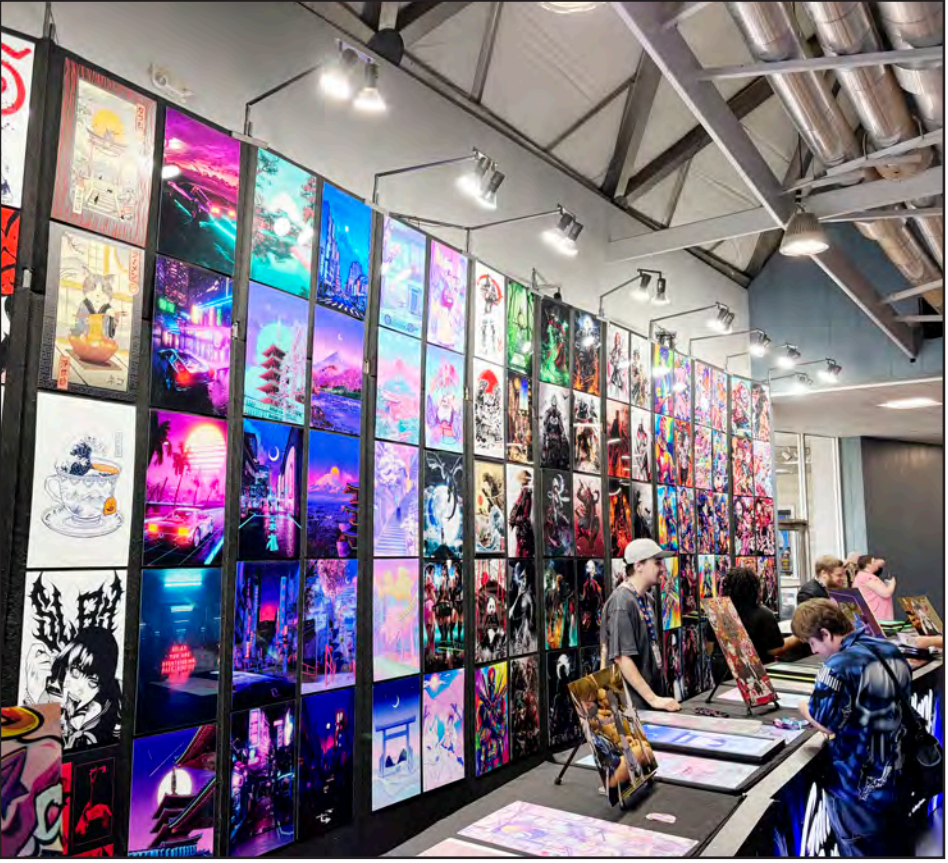
Warburton shared anecdotes from his acting career, including his Catholic parent's long running opposition to his role on Family Guy. "My mother did at one point ask me to sign a petition to get Family Guy off the air," remarked Warburton. Ironically, part of Warburton's financial contributions to his parents were spent towards the Parent's Television Council's campaign to cancel Family Guy. Following remarks, attendees lined

up to ask Warburton their own questions.

Many attendees at Comic Con choose to go dressed as their favorite fictional characters, a practice known as cosplaying. "I like cosplaying and communicating with people, taking pictures with people. Taking pictures with people is great, it's my favorite part of the entire thing," explained Jerry Brooks, a Belton local who has attended Comic Con for six years, cosplaying on and off. This year Brooks dressed as Hatsune Miku, a mascot for Yamaha's Vocaloid synthesizer software.

Each year attendees have the opportunity to enter into a cosplay contest, where their outfits are judged. "You go up on the stage for a bit, and they interview you on the cosplay, especially if you made it yourself, the process of making it by hand. It's generally a very fun process and all the people are very professional about it," stated Brooks, who competed as Choso from Jiu Jitsu Kaisen in a previous year.

Organizer Johnny Huang hopes to expand the convention from a two day to a three day schedule in the future. "We do have a good problem, and the problem is we need more space, more days, and we're trying to solve that," said Huang.



Top: Vendor at Comic Con sells posters depicting Japanese pop culture.
Above: Vendors and customers pack crowded halls of Expo Center.

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Tigers open practice with sights set on the present

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Typically, head coaches walk into their first days of practice with a long term goal in mind. Joshua Mann, however, is not concerned with the future.

After months of offseason, the University Interscholastic League allowed practices to begin across the state for all Class 1A through Class 4A programs Monday. Despite residing in Class 5A, the Tigers were also permitted to start working out because they did not conduct spring practices due to former head coach Brett Sniffin retiring from the position.

As a result, Mann inherited the role, and without the benefit of spring conditioning, he entered the opening day of practice without much sense of his squad's capabilities.

So, while Mann could blindly set his sights on earning a playoff appearance or celebrating a district championship in his debut, he prefers to keep the present in perspective.

"I am just focusing on each practice," Mann said. "It sounds cliché to say you only focus on one practice or one game at a time, but it is going to go by so fast, especially for these seniors. So, my message coming in is just to not waste today on worrying about tomorrow."

"Tomorrow is going to come, and you can't change yesterday, so we just need to make each practice the best one possible."



Along with all other teams, Belton will practice without pads until Saturday, when contact is allowed by the UIL. Then, just days later on Aug. 13, the Tigers take part in their first of two scrimmages.

Belton travels to Round Rock Stony Point for its initial preseason encounter before hosting Killeen Shoemaker on Aug. 20.

Then, the Tigers open the season against visiting Pflugerville Hendrickson on Aug. 28.

While Mann is refusing to look far into the future, he certainly acknowledges the past is pertinent to the program's potential.

"With us not having spring ball," Mann said, "the kids' offseason conditioning habits means everything. I can tell the difference between the guys who have been coming to strength and conditioning sessions all

summer versus the ones who were not as dedicated, and it is not just conditioning wise.

"The UIL allows us an hour to go over football skills, and if you take advantage of that, you can enter Day 1 talking about higher level schemes instead of basics."

Regardless of where they start, the Tigers need to be in prime form by Week 7, when District 8-5A, Division II play begins at home against Bryan Rudder (Oct. 9).

Belton will also sandwich trips to Waco (Oct. 16) and Brenham (Nov. 6) around home contests versus Killeen Ellison (Oct. 23) and Waco University (Oct. 29) as it attempts to advance into the playoffs for a sixth consecutive season.

Surviving the schedule while simultaneously transforming into Mann's vision for the team will undoubtedly be a challenge, but he is not concerned with the future.

"Everybody is fired up and ready to go on Day 1," Mann said, "but by Day 3, they will be complaining that we are not in full pads and hitting each other. Then, after we have our first scrimmage, they will be wanting to play the first game, and in a blink, it will be Week 10."

"So, we just want to have the best Day 1 we can have, and then, we will evaluate things and have the best Day 2 we can. Hopefully, we can stack a few of those up as we go along."

Lady Broncos begin practice with new-look roster

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Every year when practices begin for various sports, inevitably, the first day will be compared to opening a gift on Christmas Day. Allison Garner does not view the start of a season a present, though, she sees it as a puzzle.

Since inheriting the position as Lady Broncos head coach, Garner consistently managed to manipulate her team into a cohesive unit, and the result is a trio of district championships.

Lake Belton returned to the court Saturday, when the University Interscholastic League began letting teams work out for the upcoming season, and while there was a cast of new faces on the floor, Garner did not simply view the group as a finished product.

She would rather receive a work in progress.

"I graduated seven seniors," Garner said, "and they were all great leaders, examples and contributors. So, that leaves a big hole, but we also have a lot of returning players who were on varsity last year or are varsity ready, and I

think they are ready to fill those voids.

"I'm excited to see them all develop their own personality while also trying to fit them into roles that others have left."

Despite the enthusiasm, Garner has a daunting task ahead of her.

Among the players departed from the roster are outside hitter Kaitlyn Hutchins, setter Madison Bingham, setter Natalia Partida and libero Keileigh Krueger. Hutchins was the 16-5A All-District Most Valuable Player, Bingham was the league's setter of the year, and Partida and Krueger were first-team selections.

Talent, however, remains.

Kruz Smith, a defensive specialist, and middle blocker Ava Wood are each coming off appearances on the first team as juniors, while teammates Madilyn Jackman, a junior outside hitter, and senior middle blocker Makinzi Johnson were placed on the second team. Additionally, junior outside hitter/defensive specialist Abbi Jones and junior libero Haylee Kasner were honorable mentions.

"We will probably carry a few more players on varsity this season and have a lot of depth," Garner said. "There will be lots of opportunities for people to contribute, and things are going to look a little different. Some roles will change for sure."

"I think it is going to be a good thing, though, especially going into Class 6A."

Along with their personnel changes, the Lady Broncos find themselves competing in the state's largest division after the UIL elevated the program during its biennial realignment process. Lake Belton now belongs in District 12-6A with Bryan, Copperas Cove, Killeen Chaparral, Killeen Harker Heights, Temple and Waco Midway.

Although practices began less than a week ago, the time to prepare is already almost over.

The Lady Broncos open their regular-season schedule with back-to-back matches against visiting Pflugerville Weiss and Georgetown East View on Monday and Tuesday, respectively. Then, they travel to Austin Westwood



on Aug. 13 for their first three-day tournament of the campaign.

League play starts Sept. 8, when the Lady Knights come to town.

"We're excited to be in Class 6A," Garner said. "There is going to be some great competition, and there will be a little less pressure to have such good teams on our nondistrict schedule because our schedule is already packed. That should set us up well."

"None of the teams in the district are going to go down without a fight, so I'm excited to see how the girls rise up to that challenge."

Tigers volleyball tryouts launch 2026 season with intense three day competition

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers volleyball program kicked off its 2026 season the way most programs do, with a multib day tryout process designed to separate the roster before a single set is ever played in a real match. Over three days, from August 1st through August 4th, dozens of hopefuls across all four grade levels worked to earn a spot on this year's squad.

Day one set the tone. The morning began with an early 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. session dedi-



cated exclusively to incoming ninth graders, giving the coaching staff a focused, uninterrupted look at the newest additions to the program before the rest of the roster took the floor.

From there, the tryout window shifted to the upperclassmen, with 10th through 12th graders taking their turn from 10 a.m. to noon. The day wasn't finished, though all grade levels, freshmen through seniors, returned for a second session that afternoon from 3:30 to 6 p.m. That evening session carried extra significance beyond just tryouts: it marked the first day teams across the state were permitted to begin official workouts, meaning day one effectively doubled as both an evaluation period and the unofficial start of the Tigers' training calendar.

August 3rd brought day two of tryouts, and with it, the first round of roster cuts following that day's second session. For the players still in contention, the stakes sharpened considerably heading into the final day.

The tryout process wrapped up on August 4th with final cuts, but not before one last chance for players to make their case, an intrasquad scrimmage that doubled as the last evaluation tool for the coaching staff. The scrimmage was split by classification, starting with the freshman squad from

3:30 to 4:45 p.m., followed immediately by the JV and varsity scrimmage from 4:45 to 6 p.m. Scrimmages like this often reveal more than straight drill work ever could, how players communicate under live match pressure, how they respond after a mistake, and who steps up when the lights come on.

With final rosters now set, the Tigers turn their attention to building chemistry and installing systems ahead of the regular season. Try outs may be over, but for the players who earned a spot, the real work is just getting started.

Lake Belton Broncos hit the ground running at Fall Camp

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

While most of Belton is still asleep, Lake Belton's football program is already several hours into its day. Fall camp opened Monday, August 3rd, and for the next two plus weeks, Broncos at every level, varsity, JV, and freshman are putting in the kind of early morning work that doesn't show up on a stat sheet but shapes everything that happens once the season actually starts.

The tone was set from day one. Varsity's locker

room doors swing open at 5 a.m., with meetings, weights, and practice running from 5:30 all the way to 11:15 that first morning, a marathon session designed to get the fundamentals installed before the heat of the Texas summer anything it needs to be. The JV and freshman squads followed close behind, reporting between 7:15 and 7:45 for their own two hour block of meetings, weights, and prac-



tice, with freshmen wrapping day one with concussion baseline testing to ensure player safety heading into contact work later in camp.

The week that followed settled into a rhythm, but not a light one. Tuesday brought a slightly shorter varsity morning session, from 5:30 to 9 a.m., paired with an early afternoon position meeting block from 1 to 2 p.m., dedicated time for position coaches to dig into scheme detail with smaller groups rather than the whole roster at once. Wednesday extended the varsity

See **LAKE BELTON,**
Page B2



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Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The tennis season is already in full swing. After opening their schedule at Groesbeck on Tuesday, the Broncos and Lady Broncos return to the courts Friday, hosting Little River-Academy.

New Tech played its first match against Waco University on Wednesday, and Belton begins its season Friday at Robinson. Competition is set to begin at 8 a.m.

The Tigers and Lady Tigers then travel to Waco High School on Saturday for neutral-site matches against Little River-Academy (8 a.m.) and Groesbeck (1 p.m.), and they play Lake Belton at home Aug. 14 at 4:30 p.m.

One week later on Aug. 15, Belton welcomes Lampasas (8 a.m.) and Franklin (2 p.m.) before playing their first District 16-5A match at Liberty Hill on Aug. 18 at 4:30 p.m.

Lake Belton travels to China Spring (8 a.m.) and Robinson (1 p.m.) on Saturday, and the Broncos and Lady Broncos play at Pflugerville Weiss (9 a.m.) on Monday before facing Belton.

Lake Belton starts District 12-6A play against visiting Waco Midway on Aug. 18.

Playing at Mary Hardin-Baylor, New Tech hosts Cameron Yoe on Tuesday at 9 a.m.



GOLF

The Lady Tigers play the first round of their season-opening tournament today, traveling to Pottsboro for the Region II-5A preview.

The two-day tournament, concluding Friday, will be held at Tanglewood Golf Course.

Should the Lady Tigers advance to regionals in the spring, they would return to the venue in mid April with an opportunity to qualify for the state tournament.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Broncos and Lady Broncos are approximately a week away from competing in their first meet. They take part in the Temple Invitational on Aug. 14 at Lions Park.

Lake Belton returns to action Aug. 21, when it travels for the Cedar Park Vista Ridge Invitational.

Belton will be in attendance at the Vern’s No Frills 5K at Georgetown’s Berry Springs Park on Aug. 15 as a tuneup for the Belton Invitational on Aug. 21. New Tech will also be in attendance.

FOOTBALL

The Tigers will hold an intrasquad scrimmage and youth football clinic Saturday.

Also coming up, Tiger Moms Camp and media day is set for 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.

The Broncos will hold a community pep rally (6:30 p.m.) ahead of the annual Bronco Bash (7 p.m.) on Aug. 21. Decals with Dads/Guardians will be held Aug. 22 at 1 p.m.

Lake Belton plays host to Cedar Park Vista Ridge on Aug. 27 to open the regular season.

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.



Simple budgeting tips that fit real life

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

To help you feel more in control of your money, consider a simple budgeting plan.

An easy starting point is the 50/30/20 rule. Allocate about 50% of your income to needs such as housing and groceries, 30% to wants — like dining out and streaming services and 20% to saving or paying down debt. It’s a framework you can adjust as your life changes.

If you’re not sure where your money goes, just observe for a few months. Check your accounts without judgment, noting money coming in and going out.

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

Then, take small steps. Even 15 minutes a week reviewing your spending can make the process feel less daunting.

Budgeting apps can help, whether you prefer automatic tracking or a more hands-on approach.

To stay on track, substituting or reducing expenses, creating more income as needed or adding a small cushion for unexpected expenses can help.

Simple steps can make budgeting feel more manageable, and you can better align your money with what really matters.

Edward Jones

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

How a well-rounded education benefits students

Academic environments have undergone quite a change over the last several decades. Technological advancements have changed the way educators teach and how students learn, but there’s also been a notable shift in what students are learning.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) has become a point of emphasis in twenty-first century classrooms, and for good reason. The U.S. National Science Foundation notes that a workforce educated in STEM is vital to a country’s prosperity and security. Opportunities in STEM fields are on the rise as well, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates STEM occupations will grow by roughly 11 percent between 2022 and 2032.

The value of STEM is undeniable. However, students and parents also should recognize the many ways a well-rounded education that includes math and science but also the humanities and social sciences facilitates strong academic performance.

Critical thinking skills

A well-rounded education can instill important and useful critical thinking skills in students. When students direct the bulk of their attention to a single subject or category of subjects, they’re less likely to understand how interconnected coursework, and indeed the world, can be. A well-rounded education can instill in students a more nuanced way of looking at problems and potential solutions. That ability can positively affect students’ personal lives and ultimately their professional lives when their formal schooling ends, as

See **STEM**,
Page B3

Lake Belton - From Page B1

morning session back out to nearly four and a half hours, again followed by afternoon position meetings. Wednesday also marked a milestone moment for the program: picture day, with varsity, JV, and freshman all reporting that evening in staggered waves to get suited up for team and individual photos, a small but meaningful reminder that behind every rep in camp is a real roster about to represent Lake Belton this fall.

Starting Thursday, the mornings get noticeably shorter. Varsity’s sessions run just an hour and forty five minutes, and JV/freshman wrap up in about an hour. Friday closes the first week much like it began, with a longer varsity session and afternoon position meetings rounding out the group’s preparation before the week’s biggest test.

That test comes Saturday, August 8th, in the form of an intrasquad scrimmage split across all three lev-

els. Varsity kicked things off at 7 a.m., followed by JV at 8:15 and the freshman squad at 9:30, giving coaches their first real look at how a week’s worth of installation translates into live, competitive reps against their own teammates.

The second week of camp carries that same early morning intensity into Monday and Tuesday before a slightly adjusted Wednesday schedule eased the team toward the finish line. That finish line arrives August 13th with another scrimmage and the team’s first day back to school.

Two weeks of 5 a.m. wake up calls, install periods, and scrimmages all build toward one goal, making sure that when the lights come on for real, Lake Belton is ready. For the latest updates on Broncos football as the season approaches, visit the athletics website.

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Bell County Museum Unveils New “Up the Chisholm Trail” Outdoor Interpretive Exhibit

Special to the Journal

The Bell County Museum is proud to announce the opening of its newest outdoor interpretive exhibit, “Up the Chisholm Trail,” a permanent installation that tells the story of one of Central Texas’ most significant historical routes.

The exhibit interprets the remarkable bronze sculpture created by Salado artist Troy Kelley, whose work depicts the story of the Chisholm Trail through 17 bas-relief bronze panels wrapped around a towering central column. Five new interpretive panels provide visitors with historical context about the cattle drives, cowboys, trail bosses, and the vital role Bell County played in the development of the great Texas cattle trails.

Developed over the past year by the Bell County Museum, the project creates an engaging outdoor experience that is accessible to visitors year-round. The exhibit enhances the museum’s iconic public artwork while offering a deeper understanding of the people, landscapes, and traditions that shaped Texas history.

“The interpretive panels add another dimension to our visitor experience. Our goal was to create an exhibit that not only celebrates Troy Kelley’s incredible



sculpture but also helps visitors understand why this story remains such an important part of our heritage,” said Executive Director Coleman Hampton.

The Bell County Museum extends its appreciation to the Bell County Commissioners Court, the Museum’s Board of Trustees, Bell County Facilities Maintenance Department, dedicated volunteers, and the many individuals whose collaboration made the project possible.

The outdoor exhibit is free to visit and is located on the grounds of the Bell County Museum, 201 North Main Street in downtown Belton. Visitors are encouraged to explore the exhibit at any time as part of their visit to the museum.

For more information about the Bell County Museum, upcoming exhibitions, and public programs, visit the museum’s website or call (254) 933-5243.

STEM - From Page B2

they will be in position to better assess situations.

Comprehension

Tests are designed to gauge students’ grasp of material. Students’ ability to comprehend lessons taught in the classroom is a big part of that, and a well-rounded education fosters strong comprehension skills. A 2018 report from the New York State Education Department noted that research has found that students are better readers after they have been exposed to the language and vocabulary of the natural world, the sciences and social studies.

Crossover benefits

A well-rounded education can help students perform better in all of

their subjects. In 2021, a University of Buffalo academic and researcher studying children and dyslexia made a startling discovery regarding the value of reading and how it affects performance in subjects like math. The research found that reading proficiency crosses academic domains and

actually guides how students approach various tasks and solve problems. That means a well-rounded education that includes reading-heavy subjects, like those in the humanities and social sciences, could actually improve how students perform in STEM classes.

A well-rounded edu-

cation pays a number of dividends for students. Recognition of those benefits might compel parents to support a curriculum that includes a wide array of subjects and academic disciplines.



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For additional information about the 2026 Bell County Senior Expo, please contact David Tuma at The Belton Journal, 254-939-5754.



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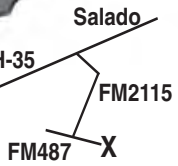
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PENDLETON WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Pendleton Water Supply Corporation will hold two public hearings for the purpose of receiving public comments regarding the proposed Land Use Assumptions, Capital Improvements Plan, and Impact Fees.

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026,Time: 5:00 p.m., Location: Pendleton Water Supply Corporation, 9675 Spur 1237, Pendleton, Texas 76564

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026, Time: 5:00 p.m., Location: Pendleton Water Supply Corporation, 9675 Spur 1237, Pendleton, Texas 76564 The purpose of these Public Hearings is to receive public comments concerning the proposed Land Use Assumptions, Capital Improvements Plan, and Impact Fees, as recommended by the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard.

Copies of the proposed Land Use Assumptions, Capital Improvements Plan, and supporting documents are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Pendleton Water Supply Corporation Office, 9675 Spur 1237, Pendleton, Texas 76564. For additional information, please contact Pendleton Water Supply Corporation at (254) 773-5876 or via email at office@pendletonwsc.com 08.06

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters of Guardianship for the person and estate of TERRIL KEITH WILLIAMS were issued on July 23, 2026, in cause number 25CPB00527, pending in the County Court At Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to TERRIL ANTHONY WILLIAMS.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law,

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and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o TERRIL ANTHONY WILLIAMS, 7012 Gilbert Drive Killeen, Texas 76549 Dated: July 31, 2026 R. TALMADGE HAMMOCK, W/PERMISSION, BRETT H. PRITCHARD, Attorney for TERRIL ANTHONY WILLIAMS 08.06

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00460

To: Unknown Heirs JEREMY SMITH, Applicant, on July 29, 2026, filed an Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration in a proceeding styled: ROBERT LYNN GARRETT, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00460 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 August 06, 2026 in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.

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

The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: ASHLEY S CLAPPER, CORBIN & CLAPPER PC 603 N 8TH ST KILLEEN TX 76541 The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the 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 30, 2026.

Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road Belton, TX 76513 By: Andrea Marks Deputy 08.06

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION-PARENT AND CHILD

To: Marquis Blanchard, any Unknown Father and All Whom It May Concern, Respondents, in the hereinafter-styled and -numbered cause:

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The Original Petition of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, on January 22, 2026, against Arielle Wright, Marquis Blanchard, Christian Harris, Respondent(s), numbered 26DFAM359038, and entitled “In the Interest of MALIAH WRIGHT, et al., minor children.” The suit requests to terminate the parent-child relationships and/or to appoint a managing conservator of the children. The date and place of birth of the children who are the subject of the suit are: MALIAH WRIGHT, DOB: February 21, 2019, Place of birth: Texas CAIRO HARRIS, DOB: May 15, 2025, Place of birth: Texas

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

LEGALS

of a conservator with authority to consent to the child’s adoption.

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the 30th day of July 2026

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

By: C. Rodriguez Deputy. 08.06

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
CASE NUMBER 26CPB00459

To: Unknown Heirs LARRY JARMA, JR, Applicant, on July 29, 2026, filed an Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration in a proceeding styled: KEVIN DEAN KLECKA, Deceased, and bearing the number 26CPB00459 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 August 06, 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: GARRETT L. BEACH, 3501 W WACO DR, WACO TX 76710

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 30, 2026.

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

By: Andrea Marks Deputy 08.06

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KAREN LOU FORBES, Deceased, were issued on July 16, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00356, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: KELLY WAYNE ANDERSON.

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: TERESA SCHILLER, HARRELL, STOEBNER & VILLANUEVA, P.C., 2106 BIRD CREEK DRIVE, TEMPLE, TX 76502 SIGNED on July 28, 2026.

/s/ Teresa Schiller, TERESA SCHILLER Attorney for KELLY ANDERSON ,State Bar No.: 24102467, HARRELL, STOEBNER & VILLANUEVA, P.C., 2106 BIRD CREEK DRIVE, TEMPLE, TX 76502, Telephone: (254) 771-1855, Facsimile: (254) 771-2082, Email: Teresa@TempleLawOffice.com 08.06

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of GEORGE ATHAL HALE were issued on June 23, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00087, pending in

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I am an actor and musician born in California on August 28, 1969. I attended UCLA with fellow actor Tim Robbins, and we were in a theater troupe. I’ve had a very successful movie and music career, and was once nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor for my role as a substitute teacher teaching rock.

Answer: Jack Black

LEGALS

the County Court at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to KATHLEEN ELLEN HALE LINN (“KATHI”).

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o BRETT H. PRITCHARD, 1201 S. W.S. Young Dr., Ste C ,Killeen, TX 76543,

DATED: JUL 28 2026

BRETT H. PRITCHARD attorney for KATHLEEN ELLEN HALE LINN (“KATHI”)

08.06

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MAY BIRD, deceased were issued on June 22, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00187, pending in the County Court at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to ROBIN LYNN HAMM.

All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o BRETT H. PRITCHARD ,1201 S. W.S. Young Dr., Ste C Killeen, TX 76543,

Dated: JUL 28 2026.

LEGALS

BRETT H. PRITCHARD Attorney for ROBIN L. HAMM, 08.06

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of NINA MAE HOLLAND RASBERRY, Deceased, were issued on July 13, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00357,

pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: JO ANN RASBERRY GALINSKY.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Jeffrey A. Thigpen Attorney at Law, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503

SIGNED on July 21, 2026.

Jeffrey A. Thigpen Attorney for Q ANN RASBERRY GALINSKY, State Bar No.: 24099990 ,PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503, Telephone: (254) 773-1663, Facsimile: (254) 773-2574, Email: jeff@linzythigpen.com

08.06

License no. 17939

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notification is given that Extraco Banks®, 3615 S 31st St., Temple, Texas 76502, has filed an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on July 23, 2026, as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to establish a branch office that will provide consumer, commercial, wealth & trust management, private bank, mortgage, and insurance services at 8303 West Adams Ave., Temple, Texas 76502.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for Licensing, Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219 or at LicensingPublicComments@occ.treas.gov within 30 days of the date of this publication. To request a copy of the public portion of the filing, contact the Director for Licensing, Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219, or email Licensing@occ.treas.gov.

All comments should be sent by September 5, 2026. You can call Extraco toll free at 1-866-EXTRACO (398-7226) if you have any questions about your account or future banking needs.

07-28-2026

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ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

☿ ☾ ☿ ✱ ☿ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨

Solve the code to discover words related to fairs.

Each number corresponds to a letter.

(Hint: 15 = R)

A. 10 3 14 15

Clue: Fun outdoor gathering

B. 5 3 15 23 14 22 3 8

Clue: Event with rides and attractions

C. 15 14 17 7

Clue: Amusement

D. 22 7 23 17 1 15

Clue: Sells something

Answers: A. fair B. carnival C. ride D. vendor

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fairs.

E K C I T T

Answer: Ticket

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.

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

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

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

CLERK OF COURT

Date: 06/24/2026

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk



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THE BELTON JOURNAL

TEXAS TREASURE HISTORIC BUSINESS



EDITORIAL

Top ‘o the mind to ya

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

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

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

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

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

People buy when they are ready.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Blowing Carbon

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

If you drive a vehicle that has an internal combustion engine, and that engine runs on traditional gasoline, then you’re almost inevitably going to get carbon buildup in your engine. As your mechanic can explain, carbon buildup in an engine (et al) can cause a number of problems. After a while, this buildup needs to be taken care of to keep your engine running properly.

The main car I drive was recently down for about a month or so. What initially appeared to be a minor problem with the brakes turned out to be a major problem in that the master cylinder, a key component for the braking system, was leaking and in the process of failing completely. Problem is, I drive a 2004 sedan whose entire family was discontinued so long ago that new master cylinders are no longer being produced. This

meant attempting to adapt a “near enough” master cylinder, a process that took a bit of trial and error. As a consequence, aside from the occasional test drive, my car basically sat for a few weeks while the cylinder was being mounted and adjusted.

Since I got it back, I’ve mostly been doing around-the-town errands and deliveries. It’s gotten the engine working again, but that’s about it. Sure enough, while doing one set of errands, I noticed that the engine was running a touch rough, like it used to do the last time I had a carbon buildup.

For those of you who aren’t native to Texas, we have a little something here called the Farm-To-Market Road, or FM. These are numbered roads that serve as connectors, linking rural areas with larger towns that can serve as markets. They’re 2 – 3 lanes, often

winding, and as they’re legally considered to be main roads they typically have speed limits more in keeping with regular highways.

My dad is an ASE-certified mechanic. Whenever he finds himself dealing with an engine that’s got a lot of carbon, he recommends that the vehicle be taken out to one of these FMs and driven at the full speed limit, a process that can blow the carbon out of the system. After some text messages back and forth, he agreed that I was indeed most likely dealing with carbon buildup, so I picked him up and together we did a run down one such FM. It was a short run, just a few miles each way, but the distinctive scent we started smelling along the way coupled with the smoother operation of the car confirmed that the trip was enough to blow a significant chunk of the carbon out. This should keep

the car running right, at least until the next time I need to blow the carbon out.

Well folks, our minds sometimes need a good hard run as well, however short it may be, to get rid of whatever we might have gumming them up. Whenever we get bogged down mentally, it’s often a good idea to get up, break out of our routine a little, do something different, and push through. We don’t have to push the pedal to the floor so to speak, but we do need to get ourselves revved up and going. That’s another part of why I keep encouraging everyone to go out, try new things, meet new people, and so forth. I’ve even had to tell people that as a writer I just sometimes need to leave the house, even if I have no destination in mind; it’s the moving that counts.

Ramblings for this Week

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

What a great time to live. It used to be that you had to be part mechanic to steal a car, you needed to “hotwire” a car with a few tools. Now it seems that you have to be fairly computer savvy to do this, actually needing some programming skills to get into the system to complete the heist. I am sure that there are a lot of “old school” car thieves that are out of work, or resorting to stealing bicycles for a living. Of course this new technology is better for the owner as well, some cars just require you to be near the car to open a door, no need to fumble with a key any longer.

Speaking of technology, I have downloaded a new “keyboard” for my fruit phone. And by keyboard I mean it is just an app that is different from the standard keyboard that comes with the phone. It is a bit easier to use than the original one, it offers suggestions so you don’t actually have to type the complete word out, and it corrects your spelling. Hence my issue with the keyboard. I am a professional, I can type well, even on a near microscopic set of keys. I usually will type out the complete word and not use the suggestions, I can’t imagine being in such a hurry to text or write someone that I can’t actually write out the complete word or use the neanderthal abbreviations that some folks use. I am quite proficient at spelling as well, although I probably would get my derriere kicked in a spelling bee by a sixth grader. However I don’t need this keyboard app

trying to tell me how to spell. It has a serious time offering spellings for some names or proper case words. There are common abbreviations that it will not accept regardless, almost resulting in me throwing my expensive phone in the trash because it thinks it knows how to spell better than I do. On the flip side, I was in the back of a very rough riding truck the other day attempting to type something out. I was doing a horrible job, and yet the app seemed to know what I was thinking and corrected every word perfectly, even though some words didn’t contain one single correct letter.

Have you ever received a text on your phone from someone you know that speaks well and usually communicates clearly, yet there is no way you can make out what they wrote? I have had a few of those, I try a combination of words or even entire phrases to replace their gibberish and there is no way it will ever make sense. I have just given up on a few of those, somehow it is just lost in the vast text waste land. This is complicated by the “speech to text” function, eating, driving and dictating a text at the same time is not going to turn out well.

Back to automobiles, it is amazing that we have music that is broadcast down to Earth from outer space. I know that satellites are not new at all, however it still intrigues me as to how the satellite follows my truck all around keeping my music flowing uninterrupted. And

for the most part I can find music that I like, even if I have eclectic musical tastes. The one drawback is that it tends to vanish when you get underneath something or go through a tunnel, much like old AM radio did. Of course this just challenges my ability to continue to sing the song, out loud, until the radio joins back in. I have to say that I am extremely accurate and am rarely off from the original song.

When was the last time that you had a set of batteries go bad inside of a flashlight? How often do you need a flashlight for a power outage? With the reliability of the power grid these days the times of regular power outages are no more. It is good because we rely so much on electricity these days, I mean you can’t even get online without electrical current flowing through your modem. The flashlights of today don’t really use much energy, and the rechargeable battery will last several years. I have the appropriately placed flashlights throughout the house, yet it is rare that I need one. Usually when I do it is because I drop something and it rolls under a chair.

There are a lot of good and bad things these days. Like a phone that follows you wherever you are and you are always in touch, that is both, depending on the day. Enjoy the week and see what is positive that was not here when your grandparents were your age.

The Plain Truth

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

Rick and I are planning a mountain vacation soon. Every chance we find to get out of the Texas heat, we take it. Rick enjoys the mountains for the hiking adventures. I’m just in it for the view. As I’ve prepared the packing list for our upcoming trip, I’ve thought about the peaks and valleys of my life—and there have been a lot. But I’ve also realized those don’t make up most of my memories.

You’ve probably heard life compared to a series of hills and valleys. We struggle and climb, and we live for the mountaintop moments when we’re on top of the world. We dread the valleys, where it seems we’ll be crushed by an avalanche or swept away by the flood. But what about the plains?

For me, the hardest struggle isn’t

the climb to the summit. And though the valleys can be awful, I often find great strength at my lowest points. The most difficult part of my journey is in the flat parts—the long stretches when nothing much seems to happen.

The plains of my life are the times when everything’s going okay. Not awful. Not great. I wake up, work, pay bills, go to bed. Wake up, work, pay bills, go to bed.

I’ve wondered why the easiest stretches of my life can be the most challenging. Shouldn’t those be the best of times? It seems like, in those places, my joy would be full, my cup overflowing. But that’s not how it happens. For me, the joy comes in the hills and valleys.

The plains bring the blahs and the blues.

When I’m in the valley, I feel close to God. I seek Him with all that’s in me. I feel His presence, and I cling to Him with every speck of strength.

On the summit, He’s there. With every breath, His presence sings. With every mountaintop view, His essence soaks me.

Why does He feel so close at the extremities but so far in the middle? Where does He go?

That’s when I realized . . . He doesn’t go anywhere. He loves me just as passionately on the prairie as on the peak, just as deliberately in the grassland as in the gorge. The difference is me.

Forget clinging. I don’t even look for Him on the moor.

I get caught up in the hamster-wheel

journey, and I forget to talk to Him.

I forget to thank Him.

I’m so busy living the dream, I forget to breathe in His essence.

The reason I get depressed on the plains of my life is because I’m lonely for my Father. But it doesn’t have to be that way. He provides the meadows so I can rest with Him, not escape from Him.

Today, I will call out to my Creator, not because anything bad is happening. I’ll look for Him simply because I love Him. I’ll invite Him for coffee; we can be workout buddies on the treadmill of time. And I’ll thank Him for those sweet savannah stretches of serenity.

“And He said, ‘My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest,’ Exodus 33:14.



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."

MPR Summer Reading Program 2026 - Aug 8

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, Aug 8: Goats
Time: 10 AM until Noon
Mary Ruth Briggs Library, 8 Morgan’s Point Blvd, MPR Texas 76513, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Free of charge for children pre-K through 5th grade! Free backpacks on the last day filled with school supplies! Sign up at City Hall with paper applications in the Lobby OR online at morganspointresorttx.com.

Bell County Master Gardeners - Aug 8

Fall is an ideal time to grow a second vegetable garden in Texas. With fewer pests and shorter days that tend to make vegetables sweeter, it is a rewarding season for any gardener. This class, given by Master Gardener Dave Slaughter, will cover tips for surviving the August heat when starting your garden and methods for extending the season through December for a final harvest. Saturday Aug 8, 10:00 to noon at Temple Library, 100 W Adams Ave #310, Temple. This event is free and open to the public.

Bacon, Blues & Brews Festival - Sept 25-26

Belton’s Bacon, Blues & Brews Festival is a celebration of great food, live music, and community spirit in the heart of downtown Belton. This festival brings together the smoky aroma of bacon-inspired creations, the soulful sounds of blues music, and a wide selection of craft brews and beverages for a day packed with flavor and fun. Enjoy performances from talented musicians, explore unique vendors, sample bacon-themed dishes, and experience the welcoming atmosphere that makes Belton special. Whether you’re a blues enthusiast, a foodie, a craft beer fan, or simply looking for a great day out with family and friends, Bacon, Blues & Brews offers something for everyone. For more information visit beltontexas.gov

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet both on TUESDAY, Aug. 11th and Aug. 25th at 6:30pm at the Temple VA Hospital. Use the entrance on the Valet parking side of the hospital and take the elevator to the 5th floor -Conference Room 5G31. Both care-givers, supporters and those suffering from mental illness are welcome to join us for mutual support and sharing of information. For more information, call 254-771-3638.

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. 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.

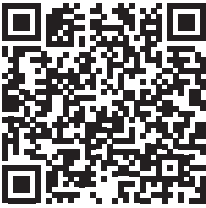
Bell County Texas Democratic Women holds their monthly meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Belton AgriLife Center, 1605 N Main in Belton. Join us to hear from local and state candidates and about important issues and events. This is open to the public.

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

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SCHOOL YEAR WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ASSIGNMENT
- BACKPACK
- BLACKBOARD
- CALCULATOR
- CHAIR
- CHALK
- CLASSROOM
- DESK
- EXAM
- GRADE
- HIGHLIGHTER
- HOMEWORK
- LESSON
- LIBRARY
- MARKER
- NOTEBOOK
- PRINCIPAL
- RECESS
- RULER
- SCHEDULE
- STUDENT
- TEACHER
- TEXTBOOK
- WHITEBOARD

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