

Belton ISD German teacher receives National Teacher of Excellence Award

Special to the Journal

National recognition highlights district's commitment to global learning

Belton ISD's commitment to preparing globally minded students has earned national recognition, as German teacher Julia Danzeiser was named one of just three recipients nationwide of the 2026 German Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award.

Presented through a partnership between the German Embassy in Washington, D.C., and the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG), the award recognizes outstanding German educators who demonstrate excellence in teaching and a commitment to growing world language programs.

Danzeiser, who teaches German I, II, III and Advanced German at Belton High School and Lake Belton High School, brings 22 years of teaching experience to the classroom, including 20 years teaching in Germany before bringing her expertise to Belton ISD two years ago. Her authentic cultural and educational background gives



Courtesy Photo

BISD German teacher Julia Danzeiser was named one of just three recipients nationwide of the 2026 German Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award.

students a unique opportunity to learn the language from a native German educator.

As part of the honor, Danzeiser attended the AATG 100 National Confer-

ence in Boston, Massachusetts, June 11-14, where she participated in professional learning workshops, networking events and recognition ceremonies. To earn the

award, applicants submitted a detailed application explaining how they would use the conference experience to

See **AWARD.**
Page A2

Considering new tax rate, possible lower tax bill

Special to the Journal

Belton is proposing a property tax rate of 56.19 cents per \$100 of taxable value for fiscal 2027, a 7.5% increase. Despite the higher rate, city estimates show the average and median Belton homestead would see lower tax bills next year because taxable homestead values have fallen.

The taxable value of the average homestead

dropped from \$306,660 to \$263,098. At the proposed rate, the city tax bill on that home would be about \$1,478, a decrease of \$124 from the current year.

The median taxable homestead value declined from \$288,837 to \$257,050. Its estimated city tax bill would be \$1,444, about \$65 less than the current year. Actual bills will vary based on individual property values and exemptions.

The proposed rate is up from the current 52.25 cents per \$100 and matches the city's calculated voter-approval tax rate. The no-new-revenue rate is 51.94 cents.

At the proposed rate, the city expects to levy about \$14.28 million in property taxes, an increase of about \$1.19 million, or 9.13%, from the previous year. Of that increase, \$286,488 would come from new property added

to the tax roll.

The proposed General Fund budget totals about \$26.4 million. Property taxes would provide about \$10.57 million, while sales taxes are expected to generate about \$7.1 million.

Even at the proposed tax rate, the city expects to use \$191,150 from accumulated General Fund reserves to balance the budget.

See **BILL.**
Page A2



\$5 adoptions during August at Bell County shelter

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

It's Clear the Shelter Month at the Bell County Animal Shelter, and that means dog and cat adoptions are only \$5 through the end of August.

The shelter is located at 2509 S Loop 121 in Belton. "We are offering \$5 adoptions and free microchipping for the entire month of August to support the Clear the Shelter campaign," said Lt. Jared Alton, director of the Bell County Animal Shelter.

"This campaign is a nationwide effort to get animals adopted from shelters," he said. "It is championed by NBC, Telemundo, and Hill's Science Diet."

"On any given day we average 80 to 85 animals in our care, although this event currently has us at 69 today (Tuesday). "Most of those animals are cats and dogs, but occasionally we have other, more exotic, animals. We have recently had some very vocal macaws and a goat who liked to go for walks on a leash."

So far this month, the shelter has had 42 adoptions, and 21 animals sent to other shelters or rescues.

"We are working with the Heart to Home Adoption Center (Temple Animal Shelter) to cross-promote this event so we can reach a larger audience through social media," Alton said. "We have also partnered with Pet Supplies Plus in Killeen, and PetCo in Temple and Harker Heights to assist with cat adoptions."

"We also have the Paws Out End of Summer adoption event at our facility, the Bell County Animal Shelter, 2509 S Loop 121, Belton, on Aug. 22 from 11am to 2 pm," he said. "We will have some fur-friendly vendors on site during the event."

Gill opens custom murals and art company

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

Emma Gill recently opened Sun Compass Studios, a local company that produces custom murals, window paintings, and canvases. Emma recently painted the windows of The Belton Journal, celebrating the 160th year of

operation. Emma works part-time for the Journal in spot duty.

"I started this business because I am incredibly passionate about art and our community, and this is my way of integrating those things. This has always been a dream of mine but seemed too far-fetched to work. One day I realized I was at a standstill with my career; I was working two jobs in the service industry, miserable and burnt out. It came to the point that I had to change something. And it just struck me that I could make something of my skills," said Emma Gill.

Physical art is becoming more in demand as people are valuing handmade and physically crafted products in the age of AI. She specializes in big canvases and has had the

opportunity to work on community murals.

"I still have a long way to go to build a successful business, but I know my goals and what I'm passionate about. I know I can truly connect with clients and their visions and bring them to life in a way that impacts the community. Art is a very communal thing; it brings people together because it speaks so many languages.

"Murals and window paintings announce a business, catch people's eye, and can express the heart of a community or a household. That's something I find so exciting about this, the potential to knit the community together with art," said Gill.

Gill was born and raised in Central Texas. She graduated from Cen-



BELTON JOURNAL/David Tuma

Emma Gill paints the windows at The Belton Journal.

tral Texas College and grew up in a military family. Both of her parents were mechanics for the Army. The pair met while being stationed in Ger-

many.

"I grew up drawing and painting; it was natural to me, and I practiced for years to build my skills. I went to commercial art

school and graduated with honors from Central Texas College," said Gill.

She can be reached at Suncompasstudios@gmail.com

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

RNC CONSTRUCTION

254-542-7622

REMODELS NEW CONSTRUCTION ADDITIONS DECKS CONCRETE AND MORE

SPECIALIZING IN VA GRANTS AND MILITARY DISCOUNTS

INFO@RNC-CONSTRUCTION.COM

TEMPLE TOWING

(254) 771-1303

Templewrecker.com

70 YEARS

SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS SINCE 1956

Tanner Roofing

2025 TOP PERFORMER

2025 EXCELLENCE

TANNERROOFING.COM 254-939-0343

Belton/Temple Clinic

1618 Canyon Creek Dr. #120

Real Skin DERMATOLOGY

Serving patients closer to home

RealSkinDerm.com

Common Skin Nail Hair Issues

Procedural Dermatology

Skin Cancer Screening

Aesthetic Services

Mohs Surgery

Schedule today!

254-265-7100

Local suicide prevention training

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

September is Suicide Awareness Month, and Randy Dixon, MScj, Program Specialist of Central Counties Services LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors) Team has several free preventive trainings for the public. As part two in this three-part series about suicide prevention, Dixon explains how to identify symptoms of suicidal thoughts and how to talk with someone experiencing them.

Dixon said that losing someone to suicide pushes the pain onto the survivors, of whom there are on average 135 people affected by one person lost to suicide.

The LOSS Team provides regular training to the public, that is also taken by the local police. Dixon said that Seattle, Washington, is the one place, if you were to have a heart attack, is the place to have one because every student there is required to take CPR training.

A vital role in identifying someone who may be thinking of suicide is knowing the symptoms. Dixon said, “Top symptoms to look for in juveniles is academic decline, irritable changes in behavior, feelings of being trapped, and engagement in risky behaviors.”

He said, “People who suffer from mental health disorders, like depression, anxiety, and diagnosed bipolar disorder, have a significantly increased risk.”

He mentioned that people who abuse substances can exacerbate feelings of hopelessness and impaired judgment. And people who have experienced trauma or abuse. And people have a 50% increased chance when there is a family history of suicide.

Military and first responders are at high risk as well.

The AS+K class, Ask About Suicide To Save a Life, gives examples of warning signs. If someone says, “I feel hopeless...it’s

not worth living. I’ve been thinking about suicide. I wish I was dead. I want to kill myself.”

Those are defined as direct examples, but indirect examples are just as significant, such as, “I can’t live like this anymore. People would be better off without me. Sometimes I just want to go to sleep and not wake up. This pain is unbearable; I can’t go on.” Relationships, financial, legal, medical, public shame, and the loss of a loved one or animal can create these stressors.

Dixon says mortality is hard to talk about, but gives advice to ask if you suspect someone is having thoughts of suicide. He advises that these conversations need to be one on one and ongoing. To express concern in conversations as it builds a connection. Dixon’s top two questions he asks are, “Have you thought about suicide?” and “Do you want to kill yourself?”

Dixon said, “It’s important to use active listen-



Courtesy Photo

Healing Hope, the LOSS Team hosts a weekly suicide grief support meeting.

ing.” He also warns to not leave them alone, not raise your voice, to not restrict their movement, and to not get hostile. But he also cautions that your safety comes first if they are going to harm you or others call 911. To get help for the individual, call 988 (press #2 for Spanish) a suicide and crisis lifeline, or 911.

Dixon said that over 50% of all suicide deaths are accomplished by firearms. He advised that locking them up can give the extra minutes needed for the person to change their thoughts.

LOSS Team - Central Counties Services training events are listed on www.EventBrite.com, or contact

Randy Dixon by phone at 254.298.7038 or email at Randy.Dixon@CCS1967.org.

Aug. 21, Sept. 18, and Oct. 23 are the AS+K Prevention trainings. Sept. 4 is the Safety Planning-Calm Training, and Oct. 9 is Safety Planning/ Columbia CSSRS training.

Show Time! Theater spotlights to shine on BISD’s three high schools

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

Little Women, *All Shook Up* and *MacBeth* are just three of the shows that will be performed by Belton ISD high school students in the upcoming school year.

Nearly 300 students from Belton High, Lake Belton High and New Tech participate in the theater programs at their respective schools. Many more audition for roles in theater productions although they aren’t actively involved in the theater program.

Here’s a look at some of the shows that will be presented at the three high schools during the 2026-27 school year:

BELTON HIGH SCHOOL

Mellisa Stuhff, head director of theater at Belton High School is in her 16th year at Belton ISD and her 10th year at Belton High.

“We have a lot of kids in our theater department,” Stuhff said. “We usually have around 175-200 students — we have a large group of freshmen coming in.”

Belton High’s first show will be

Oct. 23, 24 and 25, but Stuhff isn’t yet sure what the production will be.

“It’s been a hard year,” she said with a smile. “I’ve narrowed it to three scripts. The show we pick will be performed in our 890-seat Performing Arts Center. Tickets will be \$5 across the board — students and adults.”

BHS theater students will attend the Texas Thespian State Festival on Nov. 18 for four days of competitions, workshops with industry professionals and college auditions.

“This is the largest Thespian festival in the nation,” Stuhff said. “One of

our students — Olivia McRae — is a state officer and helps plan the festival. About 9,000 students will be attending. It’s all theater and lots of fun.”

Also in November, students will begin preparing for the annual musical, which will be the first weekend in February.

“It’s going to be *All Shook Up* — an Elvis juke box show — and I have no clue who will be starring in it,” she said.

The BHS junior varsity theater group will do a show for young Bel-

See **SHOW TIME**,
Page A3

Bill - From Page A1

City officials said the budget was particularly difficult to develop because taxable property values increased only 1.5%, health insurance premiums are expected to rise at least 20%, and the city has experienced employee turnover tied in part to pay.

Staff already removed about \$730,000 from the preliminary budget. The reductions include eliminating participation in the HOME housing program, ending mowing of state highway rights of way, deferring the Sparta Road shared-use path contribution, and cutting one-time Police and Fire Department expenses. No new full-time positions are proposed.

Finance officials told the council that adopting a lower tax rate would require additional reductions. A budget funded at the no-new-revenue rate would require approximately \$880,000 in additional cuts, while keeping the current 52.25-cent rate would require about \$816,000 more in reductions.

The city’s overall fiscal 2027 proposal includes about \$55.9 million in resources and \$52.9 million in expenditures across all funds. Much of the year-over-year spending increase is associated with the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Fund rather than ongoing General Fund operations.

Belton’s proposed fiscal 2027 budget would eliminate the city’s participation in a housing program for low-income residents, stop mowing state highway rights of way, and defer a shared-use path project.

Finance Director Mike Rodgers told the Belton City Council Tuesday that about \$730,000 was removed from the preliminary budget as officials worked to keep the proposed property tax rate from exceeding the voter-approval rate.

Rodgers said the cuts were necessary as the city faces slower growth in property values, rising health insurance costs and employee turnover while trying to preserve funding for street maintenance.

Among the proposed changes is elimination of the city’s participation in the HOME Program for fiscal 2027. Belton has participated in the state-administered program for more than two decades, helping replace more than 40 deteriorated homes for qualifying

Award - From Page A1

strengthen their programs, along with letters of recommendation.

For Danzeiser, the recognition is about more than personal achievement. It reflects the growth of Belton ISD’s German program and the opportunities it creates for students.

“My biggest wish is to grow the program and provide my students with great learning opportunities,” Danzeiser said. “The conference gave me so many new ideas and insights through the workshops I attended. Everything I learned will come back to my classroom so my students benefit from those experiences.”

Danzeiser believes learning a language opens the door to a broader understanding of the world.

“Language learning is about much more than vocabulary,” she said. “It helps students understand other cultures, see different perspectives and better understand how people think. That kind of understanding builds connections and creates a more peaceful world.”

Belton High School Principal Claudia Knox said the national recognition reflects both Danzeiser’s impact and the strength of Belton ISD’s commitment to preparing students for success in an increasingly con-

low-income residents.

“We’ve built over 40 homes for people using that money,” Rodgers told the Council. “To keep us below voter approval rate, we have eliminated that for FY27.”

The city also would stop mowing Texas Department of Transportation rights of way, including areas along Interstate 35.

A \$175,000 city contribution toward the proposed Sparta Road shared-use path also has been deferred to a future fiscal year. Staff additionally removed about \$85,000 in one-time Police and Fire Department expenses.

The city would transfer one maintenance technician position from the General Fund’s Streets Division to the Drainage Fund and shift the full cost of the tourism coordinator position to the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund. No new full-time positions are proposed.

The General Fund also includes no capital outlay for fiscal 2027, compared with \$150,000 budgeted this year.

“That’s problematic over time, but that’s where we are,” Rodgers said.

At the same time, the budget preserves \$1.15 million for contracted street maintenance, an increase of about \$55,000. The city also plans about \$170,000 in targeted paygrade and step adjustments for positions experiencing turnover.

Staff said employees, particularly in Police and Public Works, have been leaving for higher-paying jobs. Health insurance premiums are budgeted to increase 20%, although the city’s consultant has cautioned that the increase could ultimately range from 20% to 30%.

The proposed General Fund budget totals about \$26.4 million and would use \$191,150 in accumulated reserves to balance revenues and expenses.

The budget reductions come as Belton’s taxable property value grew just 1.5% this year, far below the roughly 10% average annual growth Belton has experienced during the past decade.

Public hearings on the budget and tax rate are scheduled for Sept. 8, with final consideration scheduled for Sept. 15.

nected world.

“To have one of only three teachers in the nation receive this award is an incredible honor,” Knox said. “In just two years, Julia has grown excitement around our German program and inspired more students to explore a new language and culture. Her authentic experience, passion for teaching and dedication to students have made a tremendous impact, and this national recognition confirms what we see every day.”

Looking ahead, Danzeiser hopes to continue expanding the program while encouraging greater family involvement.

“I’d love to see more parents engaged in our program,” she said. “Parents are such an important part of building and sustaining a strong language program, and I want them to be part of that journey alongside their students.”

Belton ISD offers a variety of world language opportunities that prepare students to become confident communicators, critical thinkers and globally minded citizens. Danzeiser’s national recognition reflects the district’s commitment to providing engaging, high-quality learning experiences that extend far beyond the classroom.

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

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

Submission guidelines for

The Belton Journal and related properties:

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

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

submission policy.

- You understand that submissions may or may not appear in the Belton Journal and its related forms of publication, now or in the future.
- By contributing a submission, you are granting to the Belton Journal unrestricted, non-exclusive right to use it now and in the future. This includes modifying the original submission to fit print requirements.
- Submissions used become a permanent part of the Belton Journal and its product offerings. By virtue of

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

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

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

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

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

Fort Hood identifies Apache pilots lost in mishap



Above: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Deontre T. Huey. **Right:** Warrant Officer Seth L. Olmstead

Special to the Journal

A Fort Hood AH-64E Apache attack helicopter experienced a mishap at approximately 1:40 p.m. Aug. 12 near Salado during a maintenance test flight, resulting in the loss of two Soldiers assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

The pilots have been identified as Chief Warrant Officer 2 Deontre T. Huey and Warrant Officer

Seth L. Olmstead. Huey, 34, whose home of record is listed as Killeen, Texas, entered the U.S. Army in February 2014 as a motor transport operator, and was assigned to the unit since February 2022.

Olmstead, 25, whose home of record is listed as Belton, Texas, entered the U.S. Army in January 2023, as a warrant officer candidate, and was assigned to the unit since October 2025.

“Our hearts and

deepest condolences are with the families of the Soldiers we lost Wednesday,” said Lt. Gen. Kevin D. Admiral, III Armored Corps and Fort Hood commanding general. “The Army is a family, and a tragedy like this is felt throughout our formations and our community.”

Fort Hood leadership has made chaplains and other support personnel and resources available to those impacted.

“In the difficult days

ahead, our priority is to ensure these families and our Soldiers have the care and support they need,” Admiral said. “We are making all appropriate resources available to those affected by this loss.”

Fort Hood personnel remain on scene working in coordination with local law enforcement and U.S. Army investigative agencies.

A safety investigation team from the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center in Fort Rucker,

OBITUARIES

Vaca

Juaquin Vaca
August 16, 1930 – Aug 15, 2026

Juaquin Vaca passed away August 15, 2026. Visitation will be held at 12:30 p.m. Friday, August 21, at Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Belton, with funeral services at 2 p.m. Burial will follow at North Belton Cemetery.

Prewitt III

Thomas Kirby Prewitt III
November 11, 1963 – August 10, 2026

Thomas Kirby Prewitt III, 62, of Temple, died Monday, August 10, 2026, at his home in Temple. He was born November 11, 1963, in Belton, Texas, to T.K. Prewitt Jr. and Delores Jean Brooks Prewitt. He attended Belton High School and Salado High School. He spent a large part of his adulthood in Austin, Texas, where he continued his love of music as a singer-songwriter and performed with Richard Head and Three Pot Offy. He is survived by his sisters, Cindy Belinsky and Debi Handley.

Visitation will be held at 12:15 a.m. Saturday, August 22, 2026, at the Chalice Church Fellowship Hall. A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 22, 2026, at Chalice Church (First Christian Church), 300 North 5th Street, Temple, Texas.

Show time - From Page A2

ton ISD students Dec. 10 and 11, but the date could change pending fall sports.

While the school’s larger shows will be in the Performing Arts Center, smaller theater events will be in the 100-seat Black Box, which was constructed last year.

Stuhff said the Austin-based Heller Awards expanded into Bell County last year, and she expects several BHS students to be recognized. Last year, the school had six nominees and Malichi Santana was named Best Lead Performer.

Belton High also will have an Improv Club that will be performing at various times during the upcoming school year.

Belton will host the district One-Act-Play competition in March.

one of the coolest things we do.”

NEW TECH HIGH SCHOOL

Stephen Scallorn is starting his fifth year as theater director at New Tech. Until 2021, New Tech students travelled to Belton High to participate in their theater program, but now up to 80 students call New Tech and the Pittenger Fine Arts Center their theater home.

“We usually have between 40 and 80 students in our theater program, but many other New Tech students audition to be in our productions,” Scallorn said.

The New Tech theater program will kick off its 2026-27 season with *MacBeth*, the popular William Shakespeare creation. The production will be at the Pittenger Fine Arts Center (400 N Wall) on Oct. 15, 16 and 17. Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for students with IDs.

“We will have about 25 students in the cast, and another 10 or so in the crew,” Scallorn said. “The show will be at the Pittenger, which holds around 600 people.”

“We are still a small program,” he said. “I don’t have an assistant — it’s just me.”

Scallorn said he is currently trying to select a One-Act-Play for this year.

“I’ve narrowed it to two, and they are battling back and forth,” he said. “The District 18-3A competition is March 6 in Leander.”

While a date hasn’t been set, the New Tech team will perform a longer

version of its One-Act-Play selection for local residents.

“It will be related to the One-Act-Play we select, but it will be an extended version,” Scallorn said.

LAKE BELTON HIGH SCHOOL

Nicholas Gonzales in his first year as director of the Lake Belton High School theater department, but he plans to kick off the 2026-27 season in a big way with a production of *Little Women*.

“I’m going to have about 25 varsity theater students and a junior varsity team, plus I expect to have other students audition for roles as well,” Gonzales said.

“Our first show of the year will be *Little Women*, and it will be on October 23, 24 and 25,” he said. “It’s a small cast — we will have 11 characters and about 10 people on our crew.”

Little Women will be performed in the Lake Belton Performing Arts Center, which seats roughly 500.

Like Belton High, Lake Belton also has a Black Box theater, although the LBHS version is smaller. It seats about 70.

The LBHS Black Box is used by different fine arts departments. It’s a lab theatre and provides alternative rehearsal space. The Black Box also is home to The Laughing Pointe, LBHS’s improvisational comedy troupe. The 20-person troupe will hold monthly performances during the 2026-27 year.

“The troupe helps stu-

dents develop their improvisational skills,” Gonzales said.

The junior varsity theater team will present a children’s show on Nov. 12-13, although the production had not been selected as of last week.

In December, theater students will begin focusing on a musical theater production that will be performed in January.

“Once the musical is completed, we will switch our focus to One-Act-Play,” Gonzales said. “We haven’t selected the play just yet, but the district competition is March 13 in Midway. We will have a local presentation of our One-Act-Play, but we haven’t set a date for that yet.”

The junior varsity also will have a spring production, but again the show has not been selected.

Auto • Home
Life • Commercial

Kenny Paysse

778-7136

FARMERS
INSURANCE

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

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

**CENTRAL TEXAS
MEMORIAL COMPANY**

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

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

Hewett-Arney Funeral Home

Serving families in our historic building since 1942

100% Family Owned

(254)778-3200
Phones answered 24/7
14 W. Barton Ave. • Temple • www.hewettarney.com
Please don't text and drive!

Insurance or prearrangement?
Both offer monthly payments. But insurance doesn't guarantee prices like prearranging. Prearrangement includes insurance in the payment. And for fewer payments than an insurance policy. Call us to find out more.

• Direct Cremation \$1650 Includes crematory fee	• Complete Funeral \$5550 Includes 20 ga. steel casket
--	--

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

Give a gift of Local News FREE 3 Month Trial Subscription

THE BELTON JOURNAL
Since 1866

COMPASSIONATE CARE AT HOME FOR THE ONES YOU LOVE

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

Our caregivers assist with:

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

Serving Temple, Belton and surrounding communities

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

UMHB Holds Fall 2026 Convocation



Left: Mason Brisbane, student body president, waves the Texas flag. **Middle:** Jessie Norvell, Miss MHB, shares a scripture passage. **Right:** Dr. Jude Austin speaks at the 2026 UMHB Convocation.

Special to the Journal

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) celebrated the beginning of the school year and welcomed more than 700 new freshmen to campus during its 181st Fall Convocation service on Aug. 12. This year, the student body consists of more than 3,200 students.

After UMHB faculty processed into the Frank and Sue Mayborn Campus Center arena, there was a parade of flags representing each of the 31 countries and territories around the globe and 34 states around the nation from which UMHB students have journeyed to campus this year. UMHB accounting major and reigning Miss MHB, Jessie Norvell, shared a passage of scripture from Psalm 27:1-6.

In opening remarks, UMHB President Dr. Randy O’Rear said that Convocation, which marks the official beginning of a new academic year, has been observed since 1845, when the college began in Independence. That year, there were just 24 students attending classes. He shared, “You’ll look back at these times you’re in right now as some of the best times of your life. The faculty and staff are here to help you and support you, and we look forward to watching you grow and develop the relationships that will be so meaningful for the rest of your lives. Thank you for choosing Mary Hardin-Baylor. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this journey. We couldn’t be prouder that

you’re here, and we’re looking forward to a great year.”

UMHB welcomed alum and associate professor in the Master of Arts in Counseling program, Dr. Jude Austin, as the event’s keynote speaker. In his address, Austin shared a powerful message about facing the unknown with the courage to be formed by God. “The moment you have in front of you right now is all we have promised. Somewhere along the way, every single one of us will encounter moments that expose us. They aren’t interruptions to our education. Those moments are our education. And not because God delights in our confusion or struggle or fear, but because God so often meets us at the intersection of fear and formation,” Austin explained.

He went on to remind students of Adam’s encounter with God in Genesis 3 and connected it to their current season. “Fear changes our posture. What feels vulnerable and threatening, we distance ourselves from. Fear, vulnerability, distance. Adam doesn’t simply hide behind a tree; he hides from the one he was created to walk with. And thousands of years later, today, we’re still finding places to hide. Whether it’s behind achievement, perfectionism, humor, busyness, or carefully curated versions of ourselves on social media, fear has a remarkable ability to distort our reality. But scripture keeps telling us something else.”

After sharing more Biblical truths about walking through fear or the unknown, Austin ended with encouraging words. “So this year, when fear finds you, because it

will, meet it with courage, humility, and a teachable heart.”

In addition to his role as a UMHB professor, Austin serves as coordinator of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program. He is an elder at the Vista Community Church and an award-winning educator, keynote speaker, and author. His research focuses on counselor education pedagogy, particularly helping counseling students develop therapeutic presence in clinical practice. Austin is the co-author of several counseling texts, including the recent ACA publication ‘Mind Your Business: Merging Financial Wisdom with Meaningful Work.’

To end the ceremony, Dr. Tim Crawford, dean of the College of Christian Studies, offered a blessing in Hebrew. He explained, “In 1978, archaeologists discovered a burial site in Jerusalem at a place called Ketef Hinnom. The site was remarkable because it was undisturbed since it was used in the days of the prophet Jeremiah around 600 BC. Among the findings in that cave were two tiny rolled-up sheets of silver. After they were carefully unrolled, they were discovered to be covered with writing. The writing was difficult to make out, but the researcher noticed that the name of God appeared three times in the few lines. It is the oldest piece of the Bible found to date and is sometimes called the ‘priestly blessing’ found in Numbers 6:24-26. This morning, I want to ask this blessing over us as we begin our new academic year.”

BBQ and cornhole to highlight CTSF opening

By David Stone
The Belton Journal

About 20 barbecue cook-off teams and 60 cornhole squads will compete for Bell County bragging rights and a wad of cash on Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Huntington Bank Expo in Belton.

The Go Texan BBQ Cook-Off & Cornhole Tournament is expected to raise more than \$50,000 to provide scholarships to local high school seniors. The event opens the Central Texas State Fair.

“We provide a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior from every high school in Bell County,” said Peanut Campbell, chairman of the county’s Go Texan committee. “We also provide ag mechanic scholarships as well. All the money stays right here in Bell County.”

According to Campbell, cook-off teams will compete in six categories: Bloody Mary, beans, chicken, pork, ribs and brisket.

“The winning Bell County team will advance to the Go Texas World Championship at the Houston Livestock Show,” he said.

“We will crown a grand champion, a reserve grand champion and winners of each category,” Campbell added.

The Cornhole Tournament will be held inside the Expo’s Assembly Hall. There’s \$1,500 in payouts, but Campbell said more money could be added.

“This is the third year we’ve held the Cornhole Tournament, the eighth year we’ve hosted the cook-off,” he said.

The entry-fee for the cook-off is \$150, and the event is sanctioned by Champions Barbecue Alliance.

The Central Texas State Fair returns Sept. 3-6, celebrating Texas traditions, music, agriculture, food and family fun.

According to CTSF Marketing Director Jennifer Weir, more than 40,000 guests attend the fair each year. It serves as one of the largest family entertainment events in Central Texas, and it supports youth agriculture and local businesses throughout the region.

“Every year, the Central Texas State Fair gives us the opportunity to bring our community together for four days of fun, entertainment, and tradition,” Weir said. “We are thrilled about this year’s lineup of concerts, special events, the PBR (Pabst Blue Ribbon) Challenger Series, Twisted Metal Mayhem Demo Derby, carnival midway, and youth livestock competitions.”

This year’s concert lineup features William Clark Green on Thursday, Sept. 3; La Energia Nortena on Friday, Sept. 4; Aaron Watson on Saturday, Sept. 5; and Dos Borrachos featuring Roger Creager and Kevin Fowler on Sunday, Sept. 6.

The Twisted Metal Mayhem Demolition Derby will be Friday, Sept. 4.

“Get ready for high-octane action as drivers crash, smash, and compete in one of the fair’s most exciting and crowd-pleasing events,” Weir said. “The Twisted Metal Mayhem Demo Derby promises thrilling entertainment and nonstop excitement.”

The Carnival Midway will be open Sept. 3-6 and will offer fun and excitement for guests of all ages with thrilling rides, family attractions, games and classic fair food favorites.

The PBR Challenger Series will be Sept. 5 and 6, she said.

“Get ready for two action-packed days of professional bull riding as the PBR Challenger Series returns to the Central Texas State Fair.”

“Watch some of the sport’s top riders take on powerful bucking bulls while competing for championship points in one of the most exciting events of the week-

1ST ANNUAL COMPETITION

BBQ

CENTRAL TEXAS STATE FAIR

BBQ

COOK-OFF

& CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 29TH

AT THE

Huntington Bank

EXPO

301 West Loop 121
Belton, Texas 76513

BELL COUNTY AREA

GO TEXAN

SERVING THE YOUTH OF BELL COUNTY

ENTRY FEE \$150

BEANS, CHICKEN, RIBS, BRISKET

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
PEANUT CAMPBELL
(254) 721-2676
BELLCOUNTYGOTEXAN@GMAIL.COM

PAYOUT \$3,500 CASH & PRIZES

JACKPOT \$10/ENTRY BLOODY MARY'S & BUTCH OVER DESSERTS

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

IN-DOOR EVENT

BRING YOUR OWN PARTNER

\$1,500 GUARANTEED PAYOUT

2 PLAYERS PER TEAM

BUY-IN: \$50 PER TEAM

BOARDS & BAGS PROVIDED

GREAT BBQ

FRIENDLY COMPETITION

STRONGER COMMUNITY

end,” Weir said. “Fans won’t want to miss the crowd-favorite Mutton Bustin’ competition, where young cowboys and cowgirls showcase their riding skills in front of a cheering crowd.”

The Central Texas State Fair Livestock Shows will be Sept 4-6.

“Supporting youth agriculture remains a cornerstone of the Central Texas State Fair,” Weir explained.

Livestock competitions will take place Friday through Sunday and feature exhibitors from across the region competing in a variety of livestock divisions.

City of Belton works on road maintenance during summer heat

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

During the summer months, the City of Belton has been working with Bennett Paving Inc. on street maintenance. Bennett Paving was awarded a \$1,136,353 contract to provide the annual maintenance on public streets. Over 47,000 square yards of mill overlay, 29 concrete collars for manholes, and 250 linear feet of curb and gutter were just a part of the overall project.

The project has a completion date of October 1 of this year. The biggest expense was the \$730,000 of 2-inch HMA Type D overlay with tack coat.

“We spend around 1.1 million a year on street maintenance. Around a 5%

increase each year due to growth. This allows us to cover what our needs are. Overlay is usually the best way to go for residential streets. We have a large master list we work off of,” said Freddy Robles, assistant director, Public Works.

Work crews drive the streets when customers call in. “The streets that did not make it this year will get pushed out to the next year. The lifespan of a street, if you provide maintenance, is 20 years.

There are close to 125 miles of streets in the City of Belton. They try to complete maintenance on around 4 miles a year. “We try to do as much work as we can in-house, to save money,” said Robles. “Please slow down when you see crews working”

JOHN R. HOLMES SR.

Financial Advisor

john.holmessr@raymondjames.com

2010 Birdcreek Drive, Suite 100 // Temple, TX 76502

T 254.314.8867

Services offered

Investments • Financial & Retirement Planning Estate, Charitable Giving & Trust • Educational Savings

RAYMOND JAMES

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. © 2021 Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. 21-BRAUW06-0002 TA 4/21

DON'T LET FACEBOOK BE YOUR NEWS SOURCE.

ALIENS IN BELTON?

CITY HALL BANNED COFFEE?

TIGERS TO THE NFL?

THE BRIDGE IS CLOSED FOREVER?

Because "I saw it on Facebook" isn't always journalism.

Get 3 MONTHS FREE!

FREE 3 MONTHS!

SCAN HERE

STAY INFORMED WITH:

☒ Local News

☒ Community Events

☒ School & Sports Coverage

☒ Hometown Stories

☒ Breaking Local Updates

★ Get the facts before the comments section does. 😊 ★



We believe in a BETTER flooring experience.

LET US FLOOR YOU!



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

MPR cancels Flock Safety, Inc. camera technology

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

The City of Morgan's Point Resort passed a resolution to close out citations over 2 years old. Some of these citations were 10 years old and were not collectible. There are an estimated 365 citations after June 1st, 2024, which are collectible.

They plan to develop a new policy on the collection of citations moving forward. They approved TX Health Benefits Risk Pool for employee benefits is for the fiscal year 2026-27 with a 14% increase in cost over the previous year.

In the first year, these cameras helped locate 15 stolen vehicles. In the following years, they were less effective. The City will retain one camera on the speed tracker trailer. These cameras take pictures of vehicles after they pass.

Dr. Samuel Pallin was authorized to represent the City as a member of the Bell County Public Health District Board.

Mayor James Snyder was appointed to be the City's representative for the Central Texas Council of Governments.

Council is working on the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning

October 1, 2026.

The FY 2027 proposed budget includes total appropriations across all funds of \$8,904,089, compared to total proposed revenues of \$9,012,954 — a net addition to fund balance of approximately \$108,865. Of the \$9,012,954 in total appropriations, approximately \$8,904,089 is for maintenance and operations (including transfers and contributions), \$456,444 is for capital projects (Capital Improvement Fund, funded by a General Fund transfer), and \$142,090 is for debt service (Interest & Sinking Fund).

Compared to the adopted FY 2026 budget, total proposed revenues increased by \$106,691 while total proposed expenditure decreased by \$46,540. This budget includes a 3% COLA, as well as the addition of one FTE. During this past fiscal year, a vacant position was reallocated to Development Services; this new FTE will serve in an administrative capacity.



Central Texas IPM Meeting August 26th

Special to the Journal

Seaton Star Hall, 10842 Hwy-53, Temple, TX, will be the location of the Central Texas IPM Meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 26th. Registration will begin at 4:30 pm, with the program to begin at 5:00 pm. The program will conclude at 7:30 pm. Over the past month, the Bell County Extension Office, along with numerous other County Extension Offices all over Central Texas, have received an abundance of calls and emails about Pasture Mealybugs and New World Screwworms. While Bell County is under no direct threat of New World Screwworms at this time, AgriLife Extension is still helping livestock producers mitigate their risk and plan ahead. A pest that is having a devastating impact on Bell County producers and all over Central Texas is the Pasture Mealybug.

Since spring 2025, Texas pasture and hay producers have been reporting problems in their fields. These fields show grass patches becoming brown or necrotic, or patches that are completely dead. There have been extreme cases where entire fields show symptoms of grass desiccation. Last year, Bell and surrounding counties were not fighting this pest like our neighbors to the east were. This summer has been an entirely different story. They are here and they are a real problem.

The main questions I have been getting from clientele are: what do I do if I get them and how do I get rid of them? Treatment options remain limited, and until recently, there were no labeled pasture insecticides proven effective against the pest. Texas recently received an emergency Section 18 label for Courier SC insecticide. The product is an insect growth regulator that primarily targets immature nymphs. While this provides some relief, Texas forage and livestock producers need more going into 2027 and need answers on how to plan. Tyler Mays, AgriLife Extension IPM Specialist, aims to answer these questions and provide education on this new pest, along with a familiar pest we often fight this time of year: Fall Armyworms. That, along with an update and overview of the New World Screwworm response throughout Texas from Dr. Sonja Swiger, AgriLife Extension Livestock Entomologist.

This program is free to the public and also offers 2 IPM CEU hours for licensed pesticide applicators. Please call 254-933-5305 and let us know if you are planning to attend. Pre-registration is important to accommodate adequate seating and to ensure we have enough printed material. The RSVP deadline will be Monday, August 24, 2026.

Local SERVICE DIRECTORY

Your guide to trusted local professionals.

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

SYSTEMS & APPLIANCES

CONSTRUCTION



BEST-WAY Carpet Services

VINYL PLANK HARDWOOD VINYL

CARPET CERAMIC TILE

GET PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

254.770.0932

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

Saturday
9:00am - 1:00pm

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



Pomykal Heating & Cooling

Belton, Temple, Killeen

(254) 938-6290

William Pomykal Service & Repairs
Gwen Pomykal Preventative Maintenance

www.gopomykal.com TACLA22074C



AMERICA ROOFING

Wind & Hail Specialist

Free Estimates

"America Still Keeps Quality On Top"

LEVELING | CONCRETE | REMODELING

Toll Free
(800) 523-7284

Temple, Texas
(254) 773-7111



Custom Draperies

We design & fabricate in our own workroom!
Custom Draperies - Fabrics - Blinds

1305 N Main St, Belton, TX 254.760.2784



Spoonts

Home Appliance Service
Since 1970

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

791-1973



Popelka PAINT CONTRACTING, INC.

Interior/Exterior
Residential/Commercial
Drywall Repair
Privacy Fence Repair
New Build & Staining

OVER 100 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Pressure Washing
Tree Trimming & Removal
Small Concrete Jobs
Wood/Door Replacement and Repair

254 773-9944 Follow us on  

INSURED



Double T Construction, Inc

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

Free Estimates

(254) 939-1934
doubletconstruction@hotmail.com

www.DoubleTConstructionincTX.com

All Work Warranted and Insured
50 Years Local Experience



The Original Ash Tree Service

• Tree Trimming
• Tree Removal
• Stump Grinding
• Tree Planting

Free Estimates

Split Firewood For Sale

Third Generation

254.654.6317
254.939.7007



English Maids

We will sweep you all your feet!

Residential/Commercial Cleaning Service

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

254-231-0583



Good Neighbors Fencing and Construction

A GOOD FENCE KEEPS A GOOD NEIGHBOR

LOCALLY OWNED

LOOKING FOR A LOCAL FENCING CONTRACTOR IN TEMPLE, TX?

(254) 346-1405



Brown's House Leveling & Foundation Repair

Belton Owned Free Estimates

Est. 1960

254-228-9179



FOR MARKETING AND AD PLACEMENT, CONTACT Shanna Grote

Marketing@BeltonJournal.com

or text **254-654-5166**



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

OUR HOSPICE HOUSE

254-500-7123
WWW.OURHOSPICEHOUSE.ORG

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

A6
Thursday,
August 13, 2026

LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

Lena Armstrong Library joins national network

By Harvey Jackson Oss
The Belton Journal

On Wednesday, August 12, the Lena Armstrong Public Library held an open house event for a new early learning space, having recently joined the Family Place Libraries national network. Attendees including parents and community leaders learned about the new affiliation of the library while enjoying refreshments, before participating in toddler time in the new space.

Family Place Libraries is a national model for library services designed to meet the needs of children aged zero to five years. “In the library world, once children are reading we really meet those needs, we can help them quite a bit. But what do we do before that to get our children’s brains wired up and ready to read?” remarked Director of Library Services Amanda Hairston. Hairston explained that early literacy skills are tied to play, making the library an obvious environment to reinforce them.

Hairston previously implemented the Family Place Library model in Harker Heights in 2016 during her tenure as Children’s Librarian. “When I came on as director, it was something I wanted to bring to Belton,” explained Hairston. The transition was made possible by a \$10,000 grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission covering training and learning materials.

Among the new programs Belton residents can look forward to at the library is the parent caregiver workshop. Spanning five weeks, the workshop introduces families to experts in areas such as nutrition, speech, and hearing. The event provides an informal space where parents can



BELTON JOURNAL/Harvey Jackson Oss

Belton families and leaders celebrate an open house event for the new early learning space at Lena Armstrong Public Library.

ask questions without booking an appointment with a doctor. “We’re going to be implementing that workshop in the spring, I’m very excited,” stated Hairston.

Hairston and Children’s Librarian Lauren Gommert underwent a one week intensive training covering brain development, developmental needs, literacy promoting toys, and running the workshop. “We did that intensive training, and then we bring that back to our staff... and train them from what we learned,” explained Hairston.

“It helps us foster that village in the community where parents can come to a trusted source. They can engage with us, and it really just helps build that sense of community for those families,” said Hairston on the utility of the national model.

“I’m probably most excited to see children’s and parent’s reactions to the space. We kind of did a soft launch last week, and from the very beginning it’s been a hit,” commented Hairston.

8th annual Rockin’ for Youth fundraiser

By Michele Weisman
The Belton Journal

Clements Boys & Girls Clubs and the Belton Tiger Athletic Booster Club announce its 8th annual tribute band fundraiser, set for Saturday, Sept. 12 at 5 p.m. held at Johnny’s Steaks & BBQ in Salado. The event is

expected to bring back faithful fans and welcome new ones.

The lineup for 2026 is Infinite Journey, Little Queen, and Scratch. Infinite Journey is a Journey tribute band, Little Queen is a Heart tribute band, and Scratch 3 is a local band who plays popular music from the 80s and

90s.

Darren Perkins, the event facilitator and owner of Red’s Custom Tee’s, says, “Every year, somebody will tell me the event exceeds people’s expectations when they see these bands for the first time.”

Perkins has planned for violinists from the Belton Lake Orchestra to perform with Little Queen, in a hat tip to a 2012 performance at the Kennedy Center Honors of Stairway to Heaven. He said, “They’re going to try to recreate probably the most iconic Kennedy Honors Center performance of all time.”

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Texas is over 60 years old, and this event helps to cover the costs of their mission.

Tiana Quick is the Boys and Girls Club CEO and has been with the organization for 18 years. She said, “I absolutely fell in love with the mission. Aside from kids having a safe place to be, after school and anytime school is in break we only charge \$25 a month for our kiddos. What better way than to have an event where you are supporting such a great cause, but you’re also having a good time?”

Stephen Morton, the Belton Tiger Athletic Booster Club president, said, “We support all of our athletic programs at Belton High School. That encompasses the athletes and their coaches.”

Morton explained that the club helps sup-



Courtesy Photos

Johnny’s Steaks and Bar-Be-Que, a perfect venue for returning and new tribute bands for the 8th Annual Rockin’ For Youth fundraiser.

port the silent auction items. He said, “It’s going to be a fun night. I’m looking forward to a new band this year, Little Queen.”

Mike Cooper, bass player for Infinite Journey, says the annual event is one night of classic rock. He shared what it means to return for this annual youth fundraiser, “It’s just a nice event. We feel like family when we go because we’ve played there so many years. Some of the fans,

we know their names. It’s always a thrill to play for first-timers and gain new fans. It’s really a good time and we’re doing it for a good cause too.”

A sponsor of the event is Indeco.

Tickets are on sale at <https://outhousetickets.com/events/rockin-for-youth-2026/tickets>. You can follow the tribute bands on their social media feeds. Infinite Journey is at www.facebook.com/infinitejourneyband. Little Queen

www.facebook.com/littlequeenband. Scratch 3 is at www.facebook.com/Scratch.3.rocks. Follow the Clements Boys and Girls Clubs at www.facebook.com/ClementsBGC and the Belton Tiger Athletic Booster Club at www.facebook.com/BHSABC. Johnny’s Steaks and BBQ is located at 301 Thomas Arnold Rd in Salado. Their Facebook page is www.facebook.com/johnnyssteaksandbbq.

September 12th, 2026
4PM to 10PM
Downtown Copperas Cove
(Main St. and Ave E)
www.covedc.com/oktoberfest

Bell County Museum

**Journey Into the Past:
A Native American Celebration**

Join us to celebrate and learn more about Native American culture and traditions with fun activities, flintknapping demonstrations, and a real tepee.

Date: Sept 12, 2026
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
The event is completely FREE for all ages.

201 N. Main St. Belton
BellCountyMuseum.Org

FREE 3 Month Trial Subscription

ESTABLISHED IN 1866

THE BELTON JOURNAL

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

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

Bell INC.
Air Conditioning
LENNOX
Jerry Graves TACLA21562E
310 E. Central Ave. • 939-1141

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BELTON/MORGAN'S
POINT RESORT**

Agape Christian Center
321 N. Penelope ~ 254.939.WORD

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

Belton Christian Church
9425 W FM ~ 436 254.939.1172

Belton Church of Christ
3003 N. Main ~ 254.939.1816

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

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

Belton Lighthouse
1001 NE Loop 121 ~ 254.654.7278

Belton Nazarene Church
1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404

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

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

Christ Bible Baptist Church
1590 Jack Rabbit Rd ~ 254.939.9247

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

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

Cornerstone Community Church
5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250

Crossroads Church
500 South I-35 ~ 254.939.2122

Dominion Life Chapel
105 Green Briar St. ~ 254.563.0472

Elm Grove Baptist Church
6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127

Family Gospel Church
2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707

Fellowship Baptist Church
2025 Morgan's Point Rd ~ 254.780.2388

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

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

First Presbyterian Church of Belton
2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115

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

Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus
1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201

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

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

Hope Community Church
507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222

Hope Tabernacle
202 E. 1st Ave. ~ 254.933.8222

Iglesia de Cristo
3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910

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

Lakeview Baptist Church
7717 N Hwy. 317 ~ 254.780.1884

Liberty Church
302 E. Central Ave. ~ 254.933.7107

Liberty in Christ Church
2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337

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

Ministerios Vida
2020 S. IH-35 ~ 254.624.8015

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

New Life Fellowship
706 E. 4th. ~ 254.939.8011

Nolan Valley Baptist Church
13206 W. FM 93~ 254.721.5998

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

Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church
2378 FM 1670 ~ 818.519.9855

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

Temple Vision de lo Alto
4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231

Trinity Full Gospel
810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673

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

~ TEMPLE ~

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

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

Christian Life Church
4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626

Covenant Lutheran Church
4202 Hickory Rd. ~ 254.733.7718

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

First Baptist Church Temple
8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866

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

First Presbyterian Church Temple
12 West French ~ 254.773.3407

Foundation Church
10751 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673

Grace Baptist Church
740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401

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

Grace Presbyterian Church
2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134

Harvest Church
2501 General Bruce Dr. ~ 254.780.3566

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898

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

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

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

St. Francis Episcopal Church & School
5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255

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

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

Taylors Valley Baptist Church
2497 W. FM 93 ~ 254.939.0503

Temple Bible Church
3205 Oakview Drive ~ 254.778.3233

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

Unity Church of Temple
318 N. 2nd ~ 254.770.0070

Vineyard Christian Fellowship
7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802

Vista Community Church
7051 Stonehollow Dr. ~ 254.774.7992

Wildwood Baptist Church
5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

Heaven On Earth



John C. Perry

The other day I was discussing with a friend what happens when we die. His response was typical of what many of us American Christians seem to believe: if we are followers of Christ, our ultimate goal is for Saint Peter to let us through the pearly gates, where we will dwell with God forever. Since childhood, I was taught

the same thing. I went to Southern Baptist Sunday School with my mom and Methodist worship services with my dad. Both traditions gave me a strong foundation of faith. But the more I study Scripture, the more my understanding of "heaven" has grown.

Did you know the Bible never actually calls heaven our final destination? "What?" you might ask. "Is there a heaven?" Yes, absolutely. But it is not, in the end where Scripture teaches we will ultimately dwell.

I hope this isn't too controversial. I'm simply sharing what I've found in my own study about where Christians will spend eternity with our Father and our Savior. Think about the Lord's Prayer: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in

heaven." Jesus teaches us to pray not for escape from earth, but for God's reign to **come here**.

Many Christians picture eternity as living forever in heaven. But the Bible's final chapters describe something far more remarkable: God renewing creation and coming to dwell with His people. In Revelation 21:1-3, John sees the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, "coming down out of heaven from God," and a voice proclaims, "God's dwelling place is now among the people." The New Jerusalem doesn't take us away from earth; it comes **down** to earth. Our hope is not escape, but restoration.

This means my Christian hope is not leaving Earth behind, but God coming to dwell with us on a restored Earth, making

all things new. Peter says believers "look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13).

Does this mean I don't believe in heaven? Of course not. Heaven is real. Paul, contemplating his own death, said he looked forward to being with Christ. But Scripture presents that as an **intermediate** state, a temporary home while we await the day Jesus returns and restores creation.

What is that intermediate state like? I simply don't know. But I am assured we will be in the presence of the Lord and His Son. Just don't think of it as your final destination. In Genesis, God gave humanity a perfect world, but we broke it. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God began the work

of restoring His kingdom, and He will finish that work when Christ returns.

I don't have the blueprints of eternity, but Scripture gives us the ultimate promise: God's presence with His people, and His grace making all things new.

The Bible's story doesn't end with us escaping earth, it ends with God restoring it. The final movement of Scripture is not humanity going up, but God coming down. The New Jerusalem descends, creation is renewed, and God dwells with His people forever, **here!**

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.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL

= BIG BRANDING OPPORTUNITIES!

GET YOUR LOGO SEEN THIS SCHOOL SEASON!

Parents, teachers, students, and sports fans are everywhere—and your brand can be, too!

Branded apparel and promotional products keep your logo in front of your community long after a traditional ad is forgotten.



BRANDED APPAREL



PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS



SCHOOL SPIRIT ITEMS



GIVEAWAYS & INCENTIVES



CUSTOMERS, EMPLOYEES & COMMUNITY EVENTS

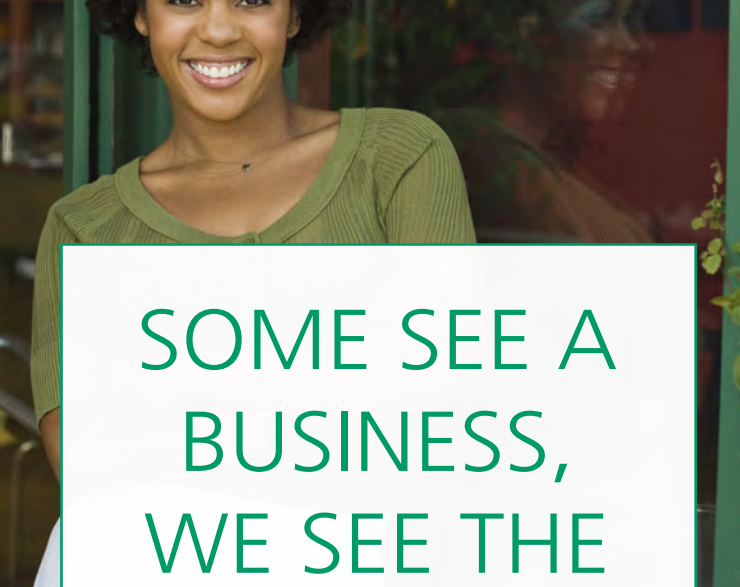


DON'T WAIT!
Order now to make sure your branded items arrive in time for all the back-to-school excitement!



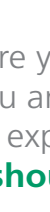
Universal Creative Concepts
Be seen. Get noticed.

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



**SOME SEE A
BUSINESS,
WE SEE THE
PERSON
BEHIND IT**

Your business is unique, and so are your needs.
At Extraco, we like to treat you and your
business to a personal banking experience,
like a community bank should.

-  **Commercial Lending**
-  **Business Bonus Banking**
-  **Commercial Insurance**

**Extraco
Banks.**

Let's Build
Some Dreams™

Extraco Banks is a Member FDIC.
INSURANCE PRODUCTS ARE NOT DEPOSITS, NOT INSURED BY THE FDIC OR ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY, NOT GUARANTEED BY
EXTRACO BANKS OR ITS AFFILIATES, AND MAY GO DOWN IN VALUE.

To see how Extraco can help your business, contact a commercial banker at 254.774.5500 or visit extracobanks.com.

ON THE ROAD

WORD SEARCH



WORDS

- AMBULANCE
- BOTTLENECK
- BOULEVARD
- COMMUTER
- CONGESTION
- CONSTRUCTION
- CROSSWALK
- GRIDLOCK
- HIGHWAY
- INTERSECTION
- MOTORCYCLE
- OVERPASS
- PEDESTRIAN
- POLICE
- ROUNDABOUT
- RUSH HOUR
- SPEEDING
- STOP SIGN
- TAILGATING
- TRAFFIC LIGHT
- TURN
- VEHICLES

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

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

BHS, New Tech open seasons at home Friday; Lake excels in first meet

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Belton and Belton New Tech each begin their campaigns Friday, when the Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area (BLORA) hosts the annual Belton Invitational.

Due to the University Interscholastic League's new wet bulb policies, however, alterations to the schedule were required.

The Class 5A-6A varsity girls race will begin at 7:30 a.m., while the following race will combine all Class 1A-6A varsity boys together, and the event concludes with a Class 1A-4A girls race including both varsity and junior varsity runners and an ensuing junior varsity boys race.

Each race will be three miles except the Class 1A-4A varsity and junior varsity girls race. The course will be two miles long.

More than 30 schools are expected to attend.

Lake Belton, however, will not be among them.

The Broncos and Lady Broncos are traveling to the Cedar Park Vista Ridge Invitational, where they intend to build on last week's strong season opener.

Competing at the Temple Wildcat Invitational, Lake Belton

won the girls Class 5A-6A division and placed second in the boys race as each squad produced a bronze medalist in the process.

Racing along a three-mile course at Temple's Lions Park, the Lady Broncos placed all five of their scoring runners among the field's top 20 en route to easily claiming the team title with 45 points.

Keira Dzenowski, a sophomore, led the quintet with a third-place time of 19 minutes, 32.35 seconds, and her outing was complemented by seniors Jenna Benedick (11th, 21:15.98) and Sarah Gray (14th, 21:26.39), junior Lucy Loa (16th, 21:38.33) and sophomore Demi Fisher (18th, 21:42.34).

Additionally, five more girls placed in the top 30, but their times did not count toward the team total.

Finishing within 14 seconds of one another was senior Madelyn Rivas (22nd, 22:04.99), junior Alayna Fulton (23rd, 22:11.33), freshman Amara Bodeman (24th, 22:14.28), sophomore Sophia Garza (25th, 22:15.07) and junior Elizabeth Sandlin (27th, 22:18.28).

Behind individual champion Morgan Nelsen, a senior, who finished in 18:08.11, Pflugerville Hendrickson was second (70) in the

standings, while senior Elizabeth Tucker (2nd, 19:20.97) emerged with the silver medal as she helped Austin Anderson finish third (107).

Temple (4th, 116) and Austin Champions homeschool (5th, 116) completed the top five.

Hendrickson (1st, 57) edged out the Broncos (2nd, 75) for the boys championship despite senior Wyatt Potts' third-place time of 16:31.25.

Lake Belton's score was rounded out by seniors Josiah Briggs (16th, 17:16.05), Jack McCullagh (20th, 17:32.95) and Austin Adams (27th, 18:11.51) and junior Tyler Adkins-Beltran (21st, 17:34.28).

Furthermore, junior Cooper Schels (28th, 18:12.25), sophomore Drew Houston (39th, 18:42.00), senior Adrian Rentas-Quiles (51st, 19:24.51) and junior Anthony Garza (65th, 20:11.00) represented the Broncos.

Killeen senior Emiliano Quintero won the race in 16:14.42, while junior Blake Zimmerman (2nd, 16:28.98) guided Killeen Harker Heights to third place with 99 points.

Anderson was fourth (112) followed by Round Rock Stony Point (5th, 153).



Lady Broncos continue whirlwind start at Pflugerville tournament



By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

At some point, the Lady Broncos' fast-and-furious start to the season will slow, but it is not happening yet.

After playing 11 matches within the first 16 days of the regular season, Lake Belton took some time to relax and reflect this week, forgoing competition earlier in the week.

Today, however, the whirlwind resumes.

The Lady Broncos return to action today, traveling to Pflugerville for the district's annual VolleyPfest Tournament, which will stretch across three days and four campuses.

Lake Belton is one of 32 schools participating in the event, and it is situated in Pool 8. The four teams comprising the group will play their opening-day matches at Pflugerville Connally High School.

Austin McCallum will serve as the Lady Bronco's first opponent, and the match will begin at 9 a.m. Then, Lake Belton will play San Antonio Southwest and San Antonio Madison at 11:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m., respectively.

Based on the outcomes, teams will be resorted into new quartets for a second day of pool play Friday, and the results will place teams into either the Copper, Bronze, Silver or Gold bracket Saturday to determine final placing.

A year ago, the Lady Broncos advanced to the Gold bracket, finishing as one of the tournament's top eight teams.

Lake Belton enters the event with an overall record of 6-5 following a 5-4 showing in its opening tournament.

After splitting their first two matches, falling to Pflugerville Weiss in straight sets and defeating Georgetown East View 3-1, the Lady Broncos spent three days at the Round Rock Westwood tournament.

They were defeated by San Antonio Antonian 25-19, 25-15 in their first match and followed with a 25-21, 25-15 loss to Richardson before beating Liberty Hill Legacy Ranch's junior varsity squad — a last-minute replacement — 25-17, 25-8.

The following day, Lake Belton earned a spot in the Bronze bracket with a 2-1 performance, defeating Kingwood (25-22, 25-17) and San Antonio Fox Tech (25-23, 26-24). The Lady Broncos capped off the series with a 25-19, 25-

22 loss to Pflugerville Hendrickson.

Lake Belton head coach Allison Garner collected her 100th victory since taking over the program in 2023 with a 25-23, 25-21 win against Kingwood Park, and she added to the total in the following match, beating Hutto 25-23, 25-23.

The Lady Broncos' stay concluded in the bracket final, where they encountered Canyon Randall and lost 25-15, 25-15.

Next week, Lake Belton returns home for a contest against visiting Leander on Tuesday. First serve is set for 6:30 p.m.

Then, it will take part in the three-day Joshua tournament, starting Aug. 27.

The Lady Broncos play at Lorena (Sept. 1) and welcome Killeen Ellison (Sept. 4) to town in their final nondistrict matches. They open the District 12-6A schedule Sept. 8 against Killeen Harker Heights at home.

Broncos face tough test against Weiss in final preseason scrimmage

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

Lake Belton will hit the road Thursday for the final scrimmage of its preseason slate, traveling to take on Weiss in what should be one of the most challenging tests the Broncos face before the regular season begins. The matchup comes at a pivotal moment for the program, as it marks the last live look at this year's roster before Lake Belton officially opens its season on Thursday, August 27.

Weiss brings a formidable resume into Thursday's

scrimmage. The Wolfs finished the 2025-2026 season 10-3 overall, going 6-2 in a district that was as competitive as any in the state. That mark was good enough for a fourth place finish, but Weiss showed the depth of its program didn't stop at the regular season. The Wolfs reeled off two playoff wins before their season came to a close with a heartbreaking overtime loss in the third round.

For Lake Belton, going up against a team of that caliber isn't just a scheduling formality. It's an opportunity. Scrimmages against lesser

competition can leave coaching staffs guessing about where their team truly stands, but a trip to face a squad that competed for a district title

and advanced multiple rounds in the playoffs strips

any illusions. Whatever weaknesses exist will be exposed, and whatever strengths the Broncos

have built through fall camp will be put to the test in a real, high pressure setting.

That kind of clarity is exactly what a new

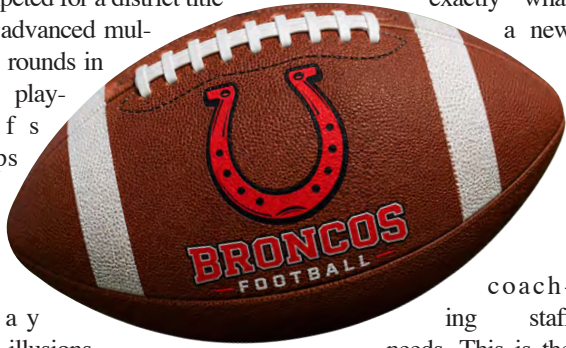
coaching staff needs. This is the first season under head coach Kirk Rogers, and every rep this preseason has carried

extra weight as the program installs new systems, establishes new expectations, and builds chemistry across the roster. A scrimmage of this magnitude gives Rogers and his staff a clean evaluation tool, a chance to see how the offense executes in the red zone, how the defense holds up against sustained drives, and how special teams perform when the opponent isn't just lining up and running the same handful of plays.

There's also a mental component to consider. Facing potential adversity now, in a scrimmage setting

against a good opponent, can pay dividends once the games start to count. Players who see what real playoff caliber competition looks like in August will be better prepared for the grind of a full season, especially with district play looming just a few weeks down the road.

Kickoff is set for Thursday at Weiss, with the Broncos looking to carry the lessons and hopefully the momentum from this final tune up straight into their August 27 season opener.





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





Be on the lookout for the
BISD SPORTS PREVIEW.
If interested in running in the Friday Night Football Tab, please call or email.

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

**David Tuma**
David@BeltonJournal.com
CALL: 254-939-5754

**Randa Miller**
Sales@BeltonJournal.com
TEXT: 254-493-2637



FLOORCO.
PREMIUM FLOORING
& MORE

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

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

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

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

Sports Briefs

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Tigers will participate in their final scrimmage today, hosting Killeen Shoemaker.

Freshmen and junior varsity will scrimmage at 5 p.m., while the varsity follows at 7 p.m.

Tiger Moms Camp and Belton media day is set for Saturday, and Dads/Guardians and Decals will take place Saturday.

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 Friday. Decals with Dads/Guardians will be held Saturday at 1 p.m.

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

GOLF

Lake Belton will hold a parents meeting Monday at 5:30 p.m. inside the lobby of the high school.

The meeting is for both the boys and girls teams.

TENNIS

Lake Belton hosted rival Belton on Friday, and the Broncos and Lady Broncos emerged with a one-sided victory, winning 15-4.

Brianna Dubrocq and Sonia Padmanabhan rebounded from an opening-set loss to win via tiebreak in girls doubles, while Sara Stephens earned a close win in singles.

With the outcome, Lake Belton improved to 6-0 heading into Tuesday's District 12-6A opener, but its winning streak ended there.

Waco Midway earned a 16-3 victory at Lake Belton.

The Broncos and Lady Broncos travel to Killeen Harker Heights on Tuesday for their next league competition.



ATHLETICS PASS

Family athletic passes for the upcoming school year are on sale and can be purchased at the Belton High School athletic complex or the BISD administration offices.

The pass admits the holder and immediate family into all home games conducted by BISD. It is accepted for all sports except football. Cost is \$100.

Cash or credit card is accepted for purchases made at Belton High School, while cash is required for purchases at the administration offices.

BOOSTER CLUB

The Belton Tiger Athletic Booster Club is currently

accepting memberships for the upcoming school year.

Contributions benefit all athletes across all sports for the entire school year with options for both community and corporate memberships. Benefits vary based on memberships.

For the community, Cub (\$75), White (\$150), Red (\$300) and Varsity (\$500) options are available, while corporate options are Tiger (\$1,250), Elite (\$3,000) and Legacy (\$5,000).

Payments for memberships can be made online at BeltonTigersABC.org, through Venmo by using the handle @BeltonTigers-ABC or by sending via mail to BTABC, PO Box 1454, Belton, TX, 76513.

For more information, visit BeltonAthletics.com or BeltonTigersABC.org.

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 Pavillion.

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.

Tigers dominate Rudder in straight sets volleyball victory

By Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Belton Tigers volleyball program picked up a commanding home victory Tuesday, sweeping Rudder in straight sets to open the week on a high note. Belton controlled the match from start to finish, winning 25-11, 25-7, and 25-7 in a performance that showcased great dominance that the program will look to build on as the season progresses.

The opening set set the tone early, with Belton jumping out and never allowing Rudder to find any rhythm on either side of the ball. A 25-11 first set win gave the Tigers all the momentum they needed, and they carried that energy into the second and third sets with even more authority. Belton's 25-7 finishes in both the second and third sets reflected a team clicking on all cylinders, serving with precision, defending with discipline, and finishing points efficiently at the

net.

Sweeps like this one are valuable for a program not just in the win column, but in what they reveal about depth and execution. Being able to close out a match in three sets, and doing so by such lopsided margins in sets two and three, suggests Belton is finding consistency in phases of the game that often decide close matches later in the season, serve and receive, blocking, and putting away opportunities when they present themselves.

With the Rudder match now behind them, the Tigers won't have much time to rest. Belton heads into a stretch of competition starting Thursday, August 20, as the team travels to compete in the Pflugerville ISD tournament, a multi day event running through Saturday, August 22. Tournament play presents a different kind of challenge than a standard match, with teams often facing multiple opponents in a single day and

needing to adjust quickly between matchups. For a Belton squad coming off a statement win, the tournament offers a chance to test that momentum against a broader field of competition and continue building chemistry heading into district play.

crowd, and after Tuesday's performance against Rudder, expectations will be high for the Tigers to carry their form forward.

Between the tournament grind and the return to home court against Harker Heights, this stretch of the schedule will offer a clear picture of where Belton stands as the season progresses and if Tuesday's sweep was any indication, the Tigers are rounding into form at the right time.



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

COMPARE THE DIFFERENCE

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

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

DON'T LET FACEBOOK BE YOUR NEWS SOURCE.

Because "I saw it on Facebook" isn't always journalism.

Get **3 MONTHS FREE!**

↓ SCAN HERE ↓

STAY INFORMED WITH:

- ✓ Local News
- ✓ Community Events
- ✓ School & Sports Coverage
- ✓ Hometown Stories
- ✓ Breaking Local Updates

★ Get the facts before the comments section does. 😊 ★

Proud supporters of the

Tanner Roofing

2025 EXCELLENCE PRODUCT

2025 TOP PERFORMER GROWTH

(254) 939-0343 TannerRoofing.Com

BISD ATHLETICS

Smith Brothers Drive-In
Tiger Car Wash & Speed Wash

GO BIG RED

921 E. 6th • Belton 939-2471

BELTON TIGER ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

@ BELTON TIGERS ALTHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

Harper-Talasek FUNERAL HOMES
Belton • Killeen • Temple

We make it personal.®

254.939.2411 • 503 N. Main Street
www.harpertalasek.com

2"x1.7" HT.SportsSponsorship'21

H-E-B plus!

2509 N. Main Street Belton

Extraco Banks.

Let's Build Some Dreams™

Banking | Insurance | Mortgage

774.5500 | Belton | extracobanks.com

Extraco Banks is a Member FDIC.

Go Tigers!

We're with you all the way!

BELTON HIGH SCHOOL

600 Lake Rd. 215-2200

Designers & Manufacturers of Quality Library Furniture

indecO sales

939-5742 • 1-800-692-4256

805 E. 4th Ave. • Belton

WEST TEMPLE ORTHODONTICS

SIT MEANS SIT DOG TRAINING

(254) 541-3343

centraltexas.sitmeanssit.com

CENTRAL TEXAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIONS

Now Enrolling

Book A Tour Today!

www.ctcslions.com | 254-939-5700

R.K. BASS ELECTRIC, INC.

200 East FM 2410 • Harker Heights

254-698-8751



NEED A ROOF? LOCALLY OWNED

Residential, Commercial, General Construction SERVICES

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





WorkFORCE Central Texas stands ready to assist workers affected by layoffs

Special to the Journal

No-cost career services, job-search support and training resources are available throughout the seven-county region.

WorkFORCE Central Texas is reminding workers and employers across the region that assistance is available when layoffs or business closures affect local families.

Workers experiencing an unexpected job transition can receive personalized assistance from WorkFORCE Central Texas staff at **no cost**. Services are designed to help individuals evaluate their options, reconnect with employment and prepare for new career opportunities.

“Losing a job creates uncertainty not only for workers, but also for their families,” said Dr. Linda Angel, President & CEO of WorkFORCE Central Texas. “Our message to anyone affected by a lay-off is simple: You do not have to navigate this transition alone. Our team is ready to provide practical

assistance, reliable information and a clear path toward the next opportunity.”

Available services for job seekers include:

Career exploration and individualized career planning

Local labor market information, including in-demand occupations, wages and hiring trends

Personalized job-search and résumé assistance

Interactive workshops covering résumé development, interviewing and other employment skills

Connections to employers and current job opportunities

Training assistance for eligible individuals pursuing high-demand occupations

Child Care Services for eligible families participating in employment, education or training activities

Employers anticipating a layoff are encouraged to contact WorkFORCE Central Texas as early as possible. Early



notification allows the organization’s response team to begin working with employees before their final day on the job, provide customized services at the workplace and connect affected workers with employers that are actively hiring.

“The sooner we are notified, the sooner we can help workers prepare for and secure their next opportunity,” said Dr. Angel. “Helping people return to work more quickly can also reduce the time they may need unemployment benefits. Because benefits paid to former employees can affect an employer’s unemployment insurance costs or future tax rate, early coordination may benefit both the affected workers and

the employer.”

Our services can be tailored to an employer’s schedule and circumstances. WorkFORCE maintains the confidentiality of employer information while helping minimize workforce disruption, connect skilled workers with regional opportunities and support the continued strength of the Central Texas economy.

About WorkFORCE Central Texas

WorkFORCE Central Texas offers employment services to employers, individuals, veterans and students. The organization partners with communities, counties, chambers of commerce, colleges and public school districts to facilitate eco-

nomic success throughout Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba counties. At WorkFORCE Central Texas, we’re helping create a brighter future for Central Texas.



GRAND AVENUE THEATERS

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

SUMMER SPECIALS

15% off Laundry Shirts



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



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

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

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

Exp: 8-18-26

Now Offering 24 Hour Dropbox at 37th Street Location



Johnnies
CLEANING & TAILORING

“Se Habla Español”

GUESS WHO ?

I am a singer born in England on August 22, 1995. I worked as a waitress while living in London. I started posting covers of songs on YouTube. I won Grammy Awards in 2019 for Best New Artist and Best Dance Record, and I’ve had many hits on the charts. I recently tied the knot.

Answer: Dua Lipa

Expert, Affordable Auto Repairs & Maintenance

DARREL & STEVEN GREEN



254-770-0666 | www.DarrelGreensAutoTX.com



Norman Building Materials

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1945

WE MAKE SURE YOU EXPERIENCE THE BEST & FASTEST SERVICE.



Building Materials Millwork Hardware Plumbing Tools

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



YOUR MANAGED SERVICES PROVIDER

We Make IT Simple.



WE CAN HELP...

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

templetechnology.net

Kutula SALON

118 East 6th Ave, Belton, TX

BOOTH RENTALS AVAILABLE!

♥ GROW YOUR BUSINESS. LOVE WHERE YOU WORK.

\$160 WEEKLY

BACK BAR PROVIDED

Ideal For:

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

♥ Professional salon environment

♥ Friendly & supportive atmosphere

♥ Build your clientele and your brand

♥ Move-in ready workspace

Contact

HEATHER LEMMONS
254-933-7755

Let's build your beautiful future! ♥

KUTULA SALON
118 East 6th Ave, Belton, TX

your salon home awaits

EMPLOYMENT

MCGUIRE TIRE

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

LEGALS

APPLICATION HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

for Caseys Marketing Company for a Wine Only Package Store d/b/a Casey’s #4683 located at 5537 FM 439, Belton, Bell County, TX 76513 Officers: Samuel James – President, Brian Johnson – VP, Douglas Beech – Asst. Sec., Scott Faber – Secretary, Eric Larsen - Treasurer 08.13,08.20

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: RANDY LOREDO RODRIGUEZ, 5419 DENMANS LOOP, BELTON, TX 78513-4764 PER THE ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTE SERVICE TRCP 106 (B) OR WHEREVER HE MAY BE FOUND

Greetings:
YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the County Court At Law #2 of Hidalgo County at the Courthouse being located at 100 N. Closner, in the City of Edinburg, Hidalgo County, Texas, by filing a written answer at or before 10 o’clock A.M. of the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, the date for answer being the 17th day of September, 2026 to Plaintiff’s Petition filed in said Court, on the 9th day of September, 2025, in this cause, numbered CL-21-2173-B on the docket of said Court and styled
LACKS VALLEY STORES, LTD. vs. RANDY LOREDO RODRIGUEZ

A brief statement of the name of this suit is as follows, to-wit:* CONTRACT - OTHER CONTRACT (OCA)

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.

Witness, ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR., Clerk of the County Court(s) of Hidalgo County, Texas. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office this the 6th day of August, 2026.

ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR. , COUNTY CLERK, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS, 100 N. CLOSNER EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539, COUNTY COURT AT LAW #2

By: LORENA PEREZ Deputy

NOTICE

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney’s do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you Plaintiff/Plaintiff’s Attorney: JOSE W. HERNANDEZ, 206 W STUBBS ST EDINBURG TX 78539

* Here give brief statement of nature of suit, proper description of property, if any, and interest

LEGALS

defendants are alleged to hold in said property, if they have an interest therein. See Rule 114, Rules of Civil Procedure. See Rule 115, Rules of Civil Procedure, where suit involves land. Reproduction of this form by any person or party is prohibited. 08.13,08.20,08.27, 09.3PD

26DFAM360546 NO.

Filed 3/25/2026 10:57 AM Joanna Staton, District Clerk District Court - Bell County, TX by Hailey Bailey , Deputy

IN THE MATTER OF IN THE DISTRICT COURT THE MARRIAGE OF ERICA KISS AND EFRAIN VELAZQUEZ JIMENEZ 169th JUDICIAL DISTRICT, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE

1. Discovery Level, Discovery in this case is intended to be conducted under level 2 of rule 190 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.
2. Objection to Assignment of Case to Associate Judge Petitioner objects to the assignment of this matter to an associate judge for a trial on the merits or presiding at a jury trial.
3. Parties, This suit is brought by ERICA KISS, Petitioner. The last three numbers of ERICA KISS’ driver’s license number are 176. The last three numbers of ERICA KISS’ Social Security number are 677. EFRAIN VELAZQUEZ JIMENEZ is Respondent.
4. Domicile, Petitioner has been a domiciliary of Texas for the preceding six-month period and a resident of this county for the preceding ninety-day period.
5. Service, Process should be served on Respondent at 10477 Spalding St Omaha Nebraska or wherever he may be present.
6. Protective Order Statement, No protective order under title 4 of the Texas Family Code, under Chapter 7A of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, or an order for emergency protection under Article 17.292 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure is in effect, and no application for a protective order is pending with regard to the parties to this suit or the child of the parties to this suit.
7. Dates of Marriage and Separation, The parties were married on or about 6/12/2009 and ceased to live together as spouses on or about 2012.
8. Grounds for Divorce, The marriage has become insupportable because of discord or conflict of personalities between Petitioner and Respondent that destroys the legitimate ends of the marriage relationship and prevents any reasonable expectation of reconciliation.
9. Children of the Marriage, No children involved in the marriage
10. Division of Community Property, The Petitioner and the Respondent own community property, and each owns separate property. They have also incurred debts and liabilities during the marriage for which community property is liable. The petitioner anticipates that the parties can come up with a just and agreeable division of the estate of petitioner and respondent, but in the event the parties are unable to come to such agreement, the petitioner requests that the Court order a division of the estate of the petitioner and the respondent in a manner that the Court deems just and right, as provided by law.
11. Attorney’s Fees, Expenses, Costs, and Interest, It was necessary for Petitioner to secure the services of Marc Chavez, a licensed attorney, to prepare and prosecute this suit. To effect an equitable division of the estate of the parties and as a part of the division, and for services rendered in connection with conservatorship and support of the child, judgment for attorney’s fees, expenses, and costs through trial and appeal should be granted against Respondent and in favor of Petitioner for the use and benefit of Petitioner’s attorney and be ordered paid directly to Petitioner’s attorney, who may enforce the judgment in the attorney’s own name. Petitioner requests post judgment interest as allowed by law.
12. Prayer, Petitioner prays that citation and notice issue as required by law and that the Court grant a divorce and all other relief requested in this petition. Petitioner prays that the Court, after notice and hearing, grant a temporary injunction enjoining Respondent, in conformity with the allegations of this petition, from the acts set forth above while this case is pending. Petitioner prays

LEGALS

for attorney’s fees, expenses, and costs as requested above. Petitioner prays for general relief.

Respectfully submitted, Marc Chavez Law Firm, 2251 Double Creek Dr Unit 601, Round Rock, TX 78664, Tel: (512) 337-9774
By: Marc Chavez, State Bar No. 24050405, marc@marcchavezlawfirm.com, ATTORNEYS FOR ERICA KISS 08.20,08.27,09.03,09.10pd

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JANICE CAROL BRANCH, Deceased, were issued on August 13, 2026, in Cause No. 25CPB00770, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1, Bell County, Texas, to: GREGORY SWANE.

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

c/o: ASHLEY CLAPPER Attorney at Law 603 North 8th Street Killeen, TX 76541
DATED the 14th day of August 2026.
CORBIN & CLAPPER, ATTORNEYS, DANIEL A. CORBIN, State Bar No. 04814300, ASHLEY CLAPPER State Bar No. 24076317, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541, Tel: (254) 526-4523, Fax: (254) 526-6711, Email: legal@corbinlegalteam.com 08.20

CAUSE NO.26CPB00443 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MARY F. SEROTA, Deceased, were issued on August 4, 2026, under Cause No. 26CPB00443, pending in County Court of Bell County, Texas, to KATHERINE ANN JONES.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the undersigned at the address shown below within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 12th day of August, 2026.
/s/ Suzanne N. Hack, Suzanne N. Hack #24049511, Sheehy, Lovelace & Mayfield, P.C., 510 N. Valley Mills Drive, Suite 500, Waco, Texas 76710, Telephone No. 254-772-8022, Facsimile No. 254-772-9297, Email: shack@slm.law, ATTORNEYS FOR THE EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF MARY F. SEROTA 08.20

CAUSE NO.26CPB00441 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of FRANK R. SEROTA, Deceased, were issued on August 4, 2026, under Cause No. 26CPB00441, pending in County Court of Bell County, Texas, to KATHERINE ANN JONES.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the undersigned at the address shown below within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 12th day of August, 2026.
/s/ Suzanne N. Hack, Suzanne N. Hack #24049511, Sheehy, Lovelace & Mayfield, P.C., 510 N. Valley Mills Drive, Suite 500, Waco, Texas 76710, Telephone No. 254-772-8022, Facsimile No. 254-772-9297, Email: shack@slm.law ,ATTORNEYS FOR THE EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF FRANK R. SEROTA 08.20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CHARLES M. STILES AKA CHARLES MARION STILES JR., Deceased, were issued on July 30, 2026, in Cause No.

26CPB00428, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: ASHLEY CLAPPER. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: ASHLEY CLAPPER Attorney at Law, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541
DATED the 12th day of August 2026.

CORBIN & CLAPPER, PC, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541 Tel: (254) 526-4523, Fax: (254) 526-6711
By: ASHLEY CLAPPER,DANIEL A. CÖRBIN ,State Bar No. 04814300, ASHLEY CLAPPER

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

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



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

LEGALS

,State Bar No. 24076317, Legal@CorbinLegalTeam.com, Attorney for
CONSTANCE STILES
08.20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Mary Frank Barner, Deceased, were issued on August 6, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00106, pending in the County Court At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: Orris John Long.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Estate of Mary Frank Barner, c/o: Orris John Long, 103 Dolphine Ave., El Granada, CA 94018
SIGNED on August 12, 2026.
Respectfully submitted, THE ZIMMERMAN LAW FIRM, P.C.
By: /s/ Garrett L. Beach, Garrett L. Beach, State Bar No.: 24101493, 3501 W. Waco Dr., Waco, Texas, 76710 Telephone:, (254) 633-3333 Facsimile:, (254) 752-9680 ,E-mail: gbeach@zlawhelp.com, Attorneys for Orris John Long
08.20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of WALLACE EDWARD TOUTANT, Deceased, were issued on July 13, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00324, pending in the County Court at Law of Bell County, Texas, to PAUL MICHAEL TOUTANT,
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, Texas 76543
Dated: AUG 11th, 2026
BRETT H. PRITCHARD Attorney for PAUL MICHAEL TOUTANT
08.20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ANTHONY C. WATSON, Deceased, were issued on March 3, 2026, in Cause No. 25CPB00734, pending in the County Court at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to DONNA MARIE WATSON.
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: AUG 112026
BRETT H. PRITCHARD Attorney for DONNA MARIE WATSON
08.20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DENNIS LYNN LESCHBER, Deceased, were issued on August 5, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00382, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: JEFFREY SCOTT LESCHBER.
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 SCOTT LESCHBER, 1812 Ridgecrest Dr., Garland, Texas 75042
SIGNED on August 11, 2026.
/s/James O. Cure, James O. Cure Attorney for JEFFREY SCOTT LESCHBER, State Bar No.: 05252800 ,2584 Blue Meadow Dr., Temple, TX 76502, Telephone: (254) 778-8934, Facsimile: (254) 773-2477, Email: jocure@cureandfrancis.net
08.20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of EUGENE GATES, Deceased, were issued on July 30, 2026, in Cause No. 24CPB00339, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 1, Bell County, Texas, to: CORDELIA GATES.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: Ashley Clapper Attorney at Law, 603 North 8th Street Killeen, TX 7654
Signed on August 10th, 2026
CORBIN & CLAPPER, PC 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541, Tel: (254) 526-4523, Fax: (254) 526-6711,
By: ASHLEY CLAPPER, DANIEL A. CORBIN, State Bar No. 04814300 ,ASHLEY CLAPPER ,State Bar No. 24076317, Legal@CorbinLegalTeam.com Attorney for CORDELIA GATES
08.20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Timothy Jones, Deceased, were issued on August 12, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00147, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: BRIDGETTE JONES. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: ASHLEY CLAPPER Attorney at Law 603 North 8th Street Killeen, TX 76541
DATED the 17th day of August 2026.
CORBIN & CLAPPER, PC, 603 North 8th Street, Killeen, TX 76541, Tel: (254) 526-4523, Fax: (254) 526-6711
By: ASHLEY CLAPPER, DANIEL A. CORBIN, State Bar No. 04814300, ASHLEY CLAPPER ,State Bar No. 24076317, Legal@CorbinLegalTeam.com Attorney for BRIDGETTE JONES
08.20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROBERT LEE FITZSIMMONS, JR., Deceased, were issued on August 11, 2026, in Cause No. 26CPB00197, pending in the County Court-At-Law No:

LEGALS

1, Bell County, Texas, to: MATTHEW P. FITZSIMMONS.
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 August 17, 2026.
Jeffrey A. Thigpen Attorney for MATTHEWP. FITZSIMMONS, State Bar No.: 24099990, PO Box 428, TEMPLE, TX 76503, Telephone: (254) 773-1663, Facsimile: (254) 773-2574 ,Email: jeff@linzythigpen.com
08.20

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION-PARENT AND CHILD

To: Ricky Sanchez, 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 April 6, 2026, against Maria Saenz and Ricky Sanchez, Respondent(s), numbered 26DFAM360820, and entitled “In the Interest of MICHAEL SAENZ, minor child.” The suit requests to terminate the parent-child relationships and/or to appoint a managing conservator of the child. The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit is:
MICHAEL SAENZ, DOB: April 1, 2026, Place of birth: Texas
The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child’s interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child’s adoption.
The name and address of the attorney for plaintiff is Macy Green, 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 17th day of
august 2026
Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, TX 76513
By: C. Rodriguez Deputy.
08.20

CAUSE NO. 24CPB00595

IN THE ESTATE OF LUIS GRIMALDO DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT
AT LAW NO. 1 BELL COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Luis Grimaldo, Deceased, were issued on October 1st, 2025 in Cause No. 24CPB00595 in the County Court At Law
No. 1 of Bell County, Texas, to: Willie Wells, Independent Administrator.
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.
DATED the 17th day of August, 2026
Respectfully Submitted:
/s/ Lane Heginbotham, HARRIS LAW OFFICE, 425 North Eighth Street, Killeen, Texas 76541,
Phone (254) 526-0108 ,Fax (254) 526-7141, Lane Heginbotham, State Bar No.: 24000323, E-mail: lane@centexlawyers.net 08.20

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

EDITORIAL

A revolution of words

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

When Johannes Gutenberg invented the movable type printing press in the mid 1400s, many scribes throughout Europe probably freaked out about their jobs. Until then, pretty much everything was handwritten by scribes who wrote on vellum, aka animal skin. Europe went through a revolution because of the press and movable type, and that revolution affected the entire known world at that time. But what about the scribes and the shrinking demand for their handwritten work. Was their business obsolete? What would a smart scribe do in order to earn a living? Fast forward not quite 600 years and we’ve been through a digital revolution and our world has become increasingly “not paper.” Until working for the newspaper, my exposure to the world of “paper” was limited to that of book publishing. With the advent of ebooks, things have changed for paperbacks and with that, publishers had to rethink the way they do business. Years ago, I attended a conference workshop given by Allen Arnold, then senior vice president and publisher of Thomas Nelson’s fiction division. He directly met the idea of what publishers and publishing should do about the digital revolution head-on.

“We are not simply paper book publishers,” he said. “We are information publishers. It is our job to provide that information, those books, to our readers in whatever form they would like to buy it.” Smart publishers don’t fight the change, and like those scribes of old, they figure out a way to adapt to the changing formats. I think it’s an exciting time to be a writer. In fact, anyone can start an online “newspaper” and start sharing what they think is “news,” when it’s not really the news. Gullibility runs rampant on the Internet. Those in the newspaper biz must understand that people get their news in other formats besides opening printed and folded pages. For some, there’s no better way to get hometown news than in digital form. You can get your local newspaper on your mobile device first thing Thursday morning. We will still have newspapers of record. There’s something to be said about the “realness” of paper. When it’s printed, it is that more real when so much about the digital world has become fake. Also, clippings of significant events in our lives never go out of style. There is nothing like someone seeing their name in print. Paper or pixels, it doesn’t

matter. Either way, you can still keep up with current events that mean something to you. With all the information out there, wouldn’t it be nice if you could get your news and information in one place? What if you miss a Facebook post, social media junkies? It’s a constant ticker-tape stream of information that is here and gone in the next moment. How do you wade through screen after screen of information which is sometimes mis-information? Al Cross, the director of the University of Kentucky’s Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, put it well when he said: “We practice journalism, which reports facts. To do that, we verify information or we attribute it to someone else. That is called the discipline of verification, and it is the essence of the news media. Social media [outlets] have no discipline, and hardly any verification, and they emphasize opinion. Newspapers separate fact from opinion, reserving our own views for the editorial page. Of course, our views influence what news we choose to cover, so if you think we’re not covering what should be covered, or have failed to separate fact from opinion, or make another mistake, we want you to tell us.”

The Egg Hunt

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

I know it’s not Easter. And even if it were, it’s been decades since I went on a bonafide egg hunt. I’m usually the one hiding the eggs, not finding them. But that all changed a few weeks ago when Rick and I were on vacation. We drove for two days, stopping off in Lubbock, to end up at a small town in New Mexico. The remote cabin we rented was right on the Pecos River, and it was glorious! But I’m getting ahead of myself. Rick (the organized one and therefore the planner for all our trips) had made sure we’d drive through the town before reaching our destination. We’d stop for groceries, then go off the grid for a week. Little did we know, there was no grocery store in this town. There was a Dollar General. They sell eggs and milk, right? We’d grab enough for breakfast basics and drive to a bigger town

tomorrow. We’d been in the car for two days straight. We were ready to relax. Dollar General let us down. Their refrigeration section was out of commission, so... no eggs. Or milk. But there was a gas station across the street. They had milk, but no eggs. But there were two more gas stations in town. Surely one of them had eggs. Surely. We tried the next gas station. No eggs. But on the way there, we spotted a Family Dollar. They carry eggs, don’t they? We pulled in the parking lot and practically ran into the store, straight to the back where the refrigerated section is. (Have you noticed all Family Dollar stores have the same layout? Makes it easy to find stuff.) Y’all. They had ice cream. And technically, some ice cream contains eggs... but they did not have eggs in a carton. This was turning into the most frustrating egg hunt

I’ve ever been on. With little hope, we pulled into the final gas station. “They’re not going to have any,” Rick said. “But we might as well go in. I need to use the men’s room.” He took care of his business while I looked around. There, in the corner, like a beacon on a hill, was a tiny refrigerated section with *four whole cartons* of eggs. I’m certain I heard angels singing. (Or it might have been Randy Travis playing on the old-school radio behind the counter.) I paid *dearly* for a dozen eggs, and was happy to do it. Rick’s eyes lit up when he saw me holding the goods. We still needed more groceries, but at least we had breakfast. It was tempting to give up after the first three tries. We were exhausted. We were ready to see the inside of our cabin and explore the surrounding area. But we persist-

ed, and it paid off in the form of 12 perfectly formed, perfectly expensive eggs. In a similar way, we sometimes have to hunt for God. His presence is all around us, but it’s not always obvious—like when natural disasters take innocent lives, or war kills unsuspecting civilians. Even then, He is right there... and He will make His presence felt to those who look diligently for Him. Some days I see God everywhere. Other days are dark, and it seems like He’s disappeared. But my decades of friendship with the Almighty have taught me that He’s always near to those who seek Him. Sometimes we just have to look a little harder. The effort of the hunt is always worth the reward of His presence, His peace, and His love. “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” *Jeremiah 29:13*

Legendary Kindness

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

As I’ve mentioned before, due to a variety of factors (such as old injuries that limit how long I can sit in one position without stretching), I don’t get to do a lot of traveling. For obvious reasons, I make it a point to get over to the local Comic-Con event as often as possible. Indie publisher Iconic Comics out of Temple, Texas, has been running Bell County Comic-Con in Belton for a few years at this point. The very first event was a bit of a gamble, but it showed that there is incredible demand in the area for an event we can call our own. It’s my understanding that in 2025 they had as many guests show up as there were residents of the town I live in according to the year’s census projections. Typically, Iconic Comics has a booth there (I’m there so often one of the writ-

ers knows me on sight) alongside 2 – 3 other indie publishers like Antarctic Press. There are usually a couple of headline actors, such as Lou Ferrigno (who has headlined twice). Joining them are 2 – 3 “Power Rangers” franchise alumnus, several voice actors (many from Crunchyroll or Sentai Filmworks), 2 – 3 professional wrestlers, several TV and movie actors, and a few other guests. There’s typically an artist alley of some kind, numerous vendors who sell a wide variety of merchandise, local businesses out to drum up business, aspiring creators trying to find audiences, a car show, and even bounce houses for the little kids. Yes, the event has grown so big that it now occupies every single facility within the sprawling Huntington Bank Expo Center, including a dedicated area for food trucks. This year, the line-up of wrestlers

consisted of Sgt. Slaughter, Tatanka, and Kevin Von Erich. I decided to visit all three wrestlers. I’d wait in line for one, pay for my photo opportunity, then go to the next line. The lines themselves were a bit long, so I’d just need to have a bit of patience. Ladies and gents, all three individuals were so incredibly positive and upbeat. Sgt. Slaughter and his crew had compliments & a challenge coin for anyone who could “survive” his Cobra Clutch hold. Tatanka took extra time to speak with a child who arrived in full costume. Kevin Von Erich had genuine delight in his voice every time he spoke with someone. These were titans of the sport who worked hard to earn their place in the annals of the sport, living legends, yet at the same time they worked to make everyone they met feel special. I’d had a bit of a rough week before heading off to Comic-Con, the kind of

rough week that *started* with my car blowing a head gasket. Yet as I was waiting in line for everyone I could feel everything just melting away from the excitement of meeting some of my heroes and the sheer positive energy on display. I needed those good vibes. Folks, it doesn’t matter how “big” or “important” we are. Sometimes we just need to give another person that time, that kindness, that positive motivation. It might not be anything special to us, but for some people it can be the entire world, especially if things haven’t been so sunny of late. It doesn’t take all that much to be a hero to someone else. And yes, I’m already trying to clear my calendar for next year’s Comic-Con. It’s always the first weekend in August, and I guard that weekend as best as I can.

Pets and Such

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

I will come out and state that I am not a “pet parent” and probably would not be a good one. Now it is not that I don’t like animals, especially those that would make good pets. However, the word “parent” in that phrase implies some level of responsibility, and I don’t think I want to do that right now. If you were a “kid parent”, which I was, there was a lot of responsibility with that. Now a pet doesn’t always need the same level as a child, but, they can be demanding, especially due to the fact that their world is basically outside and they want to be there at some point every day, rain or shine, or cold, or freezing rain, or windy, or just downright unpleasant. I put together an alphabetized list of potential pets, and the pros and cons, in case someone is wanting a new pet. Aardvark: The mascot of countless bail bond businesses. They are nocturnal, so up all night. You won’t have to worry about ants or termites. I don’t know where you can buy one. Armadillo: Common to Texas, so you could probably just “adopt” one from the side of the road so they don’t get “runned” over. Another critter that is up all night. The good thing about an armadillo is that it is the only known enemy of the dreaded “fire ant”, of course, they don’t eat that many in one sitting. This will likely be a long column if I keep going. Let me

thin the list down a bit. Cats: I have a lot of experience with cats as that was the preferred pet when I was growing up. They are like a toddler with the attitude of a teenager. They will stay up at night just to do the things that they are not allowed to do, like walk all over the kitchen counter with their dirty feet. They don’t eat ants, like our first couple of options, actually they are picky eaters as a whole. They will likely turn their nose up at most packaged cat foods, but will eat the guts of a fish. The upside of a cat is that their “restroom” is inside so you don’t have to take them for a walk in the aforementioned bad weather. The downside of a cat is that their restroom is inside, so you have to deal with that. Dogs: The most popular choice. The big difference between dogs and cats is that a dog is always happy to see you, where a cat wouldn’t miss you for a week as long as it had water and food. Dogs do like to go outside, a lot, and since they are covered in fur they handle the weather a lot better than people. Dogs are typically not picky eaters, they will happily enjoy any pet food, eating like they haven’t been fed in a week, and shortly after eating packaged food they will also eat what is left of a “road kill” armadillo that has been roasting in the sun for a month.

Fish: We also had tropical fish when I was a youngster. There is not much you can do with a fish, feed them, watch them and clean their water. Having a cat and fish at the same time didn’t create much of an issue. Once one of the fish managed to get out of the tank and expired right there on the floor while the cat was roaming the kitchen counters. Birds: Now I have not had a bird, but I have been in homes with a bird as a pet. The talking or singing birds are entertaining. However, when they are ready to relieve themselves they aren’t too concerned as to where they are perched, their cage or your shoulder. Snakes: Now I have openly said that I like snakes, but I would never have one as a pet. They are not very intelligent. They are just an eating machine, they will try to eat about anything that appears to be food, and if they get large enough that might include their owner, I mean, pet parent. I don’t think snakes could be domesticated enough to be a suitable pet. Reptiles: Other than snakes, I just don’t think they would be good to have around the house. Out of all of the options available from the animal kingdom we have managed to get a wolf and lion down to a manageable pet. We should probably just be happy with that for now.



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."

Bell County Master Gardener - Aug 20

Have you tried to grow blueberries, blackberries, citrus, or strawberries and weren’t as successful as you expected? Come learn how you can successfully grow these fruits in containers. Master gardener Wayne Schirner will teach us why containers are an ideal way to address specific requirements for growing these crops in Bell County. Thursady, Aug 20, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.at Bell County Extension Office- Learning Center, 1605 N. Main Street, Belton. No fee, but registration is required. Register at txmg.org/bell.

MPR Explorers @ The Point- Aug 27

The Explorers Social will feature special guest Sarena Tate, owner of Modern Makers & More, a newly opened creative studio in Morgan’s Point Resort. Tate will share the mission behind her space, her journey as a local entrepreneur, and the ways Modern Makers & More is designed to support creativity, connection, and community for residents at Garrett & Mic Hill Event Center, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Bell County Retired School Employee Association- Sept 3

The Bell County Retired School Employee Association (BCRSEA) will hold its first meeting of the 2026-2027 year on September 3. The organization has a new meeting location! Please join us at Fellowship Baptist Church, 2025 Morgan’s Point Road, Belton. Refreshments and socialization will begin at 1:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 2:00 p.m. New members are always welcome. BCRSEA is an organization comprised of retired school personnel and other persons interested in education. The purpose of the association is to encourage members to use their talents, their training and experience in furthering the educational, social, and civic growth of the community, the state, and the nation, and to afford opportunities for united action in solving problems relative to the needs of all retired school personnel. For more information, see our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BCRSEA>).

Community Plant Swap - Sept 5

Belton Public Library Community Plant Swap is coming up, and we can’t wait to see what you bring! Join us for a morning of trading plants, sharing tips, and connecting with fellow green thumbs. Come ready to swap and talk all things plant-related! Bring seeds, cutting or extra house plants to trade. 10:00 a.m. to noon at 301 E. 1st Ave, Belton.

Soggy Doggie Day - Sept 12

Pups help end the Splash Pad Season in Belton. Right after Harris Community Park’s Splash Pad closes to humans for the season, we fence it off and let dogs in! For more inforamtion and rules visit beltontexas.gov/departments/parks_and_recreation.

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. For more inforamtion 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 mont at VFW 3859. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and metting will begin at 7:00 p.m. 201 VFW Dr, Harker heights, Tx 76548. Email commandant@mcl1249tx.comfor more inforamtion.

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

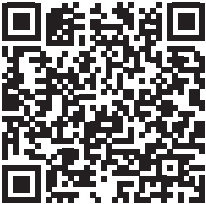
Pistons on the Creek will meet every third Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Come down to Nolan Creek and show off your rides. From classic to modern, muscle, rat rod, exotic, all automotive enthusiasts are welcome. Support our awesome downtown businesses and restaurants surrounded by live music, food,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

Community Information

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

STAY CONNECTED: STAY INFORMED

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

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

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

Celebrating TEXAS

16th Annual Bell County Senior Expo

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

HUNTINGTON BANK EXPO

BELTON 8 AM – 1 PM

Touch-a-Truck

Interactive Aid Displays

CarFit Checkup

Vision Screening

Ask the Expert

Health Checks

Dementia Empathy Experience

Join us for a day of free health screenings, interactive aid displays, “ASK THE EXPERT” and resources designed for seniors. Explore EMS Touch-a-Truck, CarFit vehicle safety checks, vision screenings, and the Dementia Empathy Experience, and much, much more!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Advent Health

Meta

Baylor Scott & White MEDICAL CENTER

UnitedHealthcare

ONCOR

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights
A partner of the Seton Healthcare Family

gentiva HOSPICE

ClearSky
Rehabilitation Hospital of Harker Heights

CareAge HomeCare

Integrity
Senior + Home Health

GATHER & CO.
KITCHEN • BATH
OUTDOOR LIVING

CENTEX
Regional Advisory Council

Cornerstone Gardens
Healthcare & Rehabilitation
“Making a difference...offering a choice.”

Visiting Angels
LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Our Hospice House

SCAN ME

Spots are still open. Contact us today!

HOMETOWN HEROES

FAMILY FEST

SEPTEMBER 12

BULLOTHON

BULLS and BRONCS

BULLOTHON
PROMOTIONS

BULLOTHON.COM
HONORING OUR HEROES

BULL TEAM FEES:
\$1,500
2 Bulls & 2 Riders
NO SHORT GO

BULL RIDER FEES:
\$100
\$1,500 ADDED MONEY TO BULL RIDERS

BRONC FEES:
\$100

PROFESSIONAL TEAM BULL RIDING AND AMATURE RANCH BRONC RIDING

FUN FOR THE WHOLE Family!

FOOD VENDORS
KIDS ACTIVITIES
GAMES & MORE!

KIDS MUTTON BUSTIN
Boys & Girls
Ages 4-7
55 lbs
BUCKLES TO CHAMPION

SCAN FOR TICKETS

GATES OPEN 4PM ★ EVENT STARTS 6PM
ADMISSION:
ADULTS \$15 ★ KIDS UNDER 10 FREE
★ HUNTINGTON BANK ★
EXPO CENTER / EQUINE CENTER
BELTON ★ TEXAS
PRESENTED BY:
CENTEX
Regional Advisory Council

EVENT INFO:
TRACY ARTHUR
469-883-0393
BULL TEAMS
TEXT MIKE SEILER
254-721-1085