



Community Guide to Belton & the Surrounding Areas

ENTERTAINMENT

RECREATION

EDUCATION

SERVICES

DINING

LODGING

SHOPPING



In this special issue you will enjoy some historical tributes to
The People and Businesses that Built Belton

COURTESY OF BELTON'S OLDEST BUSINESS - CELEBRATING ITS 160TH YEAR

THE BELTON  JOURNAL

2026

GUNTER
FINANCIAL SERVICES

A Partner of
OakCrest
ADVISORS

YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS MATTER

Our team of experienced advisors are here to help you reach your goals. With a comprehensive planning process and ongoing management, we focus on your financial goals, allowing you to focus on life.

Call Us Today at 254-613-5508

Financial Planning • Investment Management • Retirement Plan Consulting



Learn More:



204 N Penelope St, Ste A, Belton, TX 76513 | 254-613-5508 | contact@gunterfinancialservices.com

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Investment Advisory Services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. Gunter Financial Services and Oak Crest Advisors are not registered broker/dealers and are independent of Raymond James Financial Services. Raymond James does not offer tax or legal advice. You should discuss any tax or legal matters with the appropriate professional.

Jones

Home & Auto

"Your Neighborhood Tire Store, Downtown Belton"

NEED TIRES, AUTO REPAIR?

A to Z We Have You Covered!

Air Conditioning	Cooling System	State Inspection
Batteries	CV & Drive Axle	Tire Repair
Belts	Engine Service	Tire Rotation
Brakes	Exhaust	Towing Available
Computerized Alignment	National Accounts	Transmission Maintenance
Computerized Engine Analysis	Oil Change	Wheel Balance
	Shocks and Struts	

*Serving You in The Same
Location Since 1950
Family Owned*

Store Hours		
M-F	7:30 a.m.	5:30 p.m.
Sat	8:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
Sun	Closed	

www.jonesautomotive.net

Call us today 254-939-3785

103 North Main Street | Belton, TX

BRIDGESTONE • Firestone

FIRESTONE CREDIT CARD

(6 months no interest with a purchase of \$149 or more)

**NATIONAL
ACCOUNT
DRIVERS
WELCOME**

About the cover



The Belton Standpipe, A Tower of History

Standing as Belton's most recognizable landmark, the Belton Standpipe has watched over our community for more than a century. Built in 1914 during a period of rapid growth when city leaders were working to modernize utility services, this historic water tower represents the ingenuity and forward-thinking spirit of early Beltonians.

Rising 155 feet into the Texas sky, the Standpipe served a vital role in the city's water infrastructure for decades. Its distinctive silhouette became more than just a functional structure—it evolved into a beloved symbol of community identity and perseverance.

After years of anticipation and careful planning, the Standpipe has been given new life. In April 2024, the Belton City Council approved a \$1.5 million bid for the Standpipe Park project, with funding coming from federal, state, and local sources. The park features concrete sidewalks, parking spaces, an open-air pavilion, landscape planting, an open play area, standpipe restoration, and lighting.

On May 16, 2025, Standpipe Park was officially dedicated, marking a new chapter for this cherished landmark. The park preserves our local history while creating a vibrant outdoor space for future generations to enjoy—a perfect blend of honoring our past and building our future.

Table of Contents

ABOUT

Mayor's Welcome	Page 6
Early Belton History	Page 16
Belton Area Chamber of Commerce	Page 19
Belton Economic Development Corporation	Page 22
Belton Government	Page 79
Fort Hood	Page 10
Morgan's Point Resort	Page 14

EDUCATION

Belton ISD	Page 40
Belton ISD Athletics	Page 41
Homeschools	Page 24
Private Schools	Page 44
Temple College	Page 30
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB)	Page 8
Belton Christian Youth Center (BCYC)	Page 34

RECREATION

Belton Parks & Recreation	Page 66
Miller Springs Nature Center	Page 72
MPR Paddling Trail	Page 31
Lakes and Camping	Page 32

Advertiser

Advertiser	PAGE #
All Blue Mavericks	42
Alton Thiele, PC	59
AR Homes	54
BCYC	66
BEDC	15
Bell Air Conditioning	24
Bell County Floors	89
Bell County Museum	19
Bell Fine Arts	94
Belton Chamber of Commerce	11
Belton First UMC	24
BISD	9
Blooming Belles	41
Bo's Barn	57
Boyd Design Group	56
Bradley Sheppard Real Estate	93
BSW	5
CareAge	32
Carlson Law Firm	43
City of Belton - Parks & Rec	27
City of Belton - See Belton	26
Cornerstone Gardens	7
Corona's De Oro	77
Crossroads Church	48-49
Crow and Cactus	85
Custom Draperies	14
Dead Fish Grill	67

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENT CENTERS

Belton 4th of July Celebration	Page 56
Festivals and Nightlife	Page 46
Bell County Museum	Page 70
Cadence Bank Center	Page 29
Harris Community Center	Page 64
See Belton	Page 26

SERVICES

Belton Fire Department	Page 80
Belton Police Department	Page 78
Belton Sheriff's Department	Page 84
Lena Armstrong Public Library	Page 82

DOWNTOWN HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Belton Brew City	Page 62
Cochran, Blair & Potts	Page 65
MK&T Depot	Page 83
The GIN	Page 87
Monteith Abstract and Title	Page 90
The Belton Journal - 160th	Page 12

LODGING

	Page 94
--	---------

MEDICAL CENTERS

	Page 81	
BC	Nolan Creek Schools	44
29	Norman Lumber Building	53
28	Oak Fire Pizza	88
50	Pomykal	76
21	Quality Builders	42
32	Red's Cutom T-shirts	57
31	Rodgers PC	84
36	Ruff Puppy	58
75	Shars	72
35	Sol Life	73
45	Stellar Homes	10
86	Steve Dowell	23
40	Subway	79
33	TAMUCT	37
2	Tanner Roofing	71
61	The Exchange	67
25	Tirzah	8
77	TNS Land Design	95
77	Topanga	20
46	Troy Ashford-Farmers Insurance	69
3	VFW	41
47	Vista Real Estate	68
94	Water Street Waffle Co.	62-63
60	West Temple Orthodontics	55
69	Whitish Roofing	78
34	Wilson Construction	58
29	XTREME Jump	51
69	Young's Daughters	80
91	Zooty's	18
92		

THANK YOU to our ADVERTISERS and CONTRIBUTORS

Contributor and Photography Credits: Bell County Historical Commission, Daniel K. Elder, Monteith (Turner Family), Christopher Winston, Cecil and Joe Smith Family, Lisa Curlee, Hogwood Family, Lena Armstrong Public Library, City of Belton, Belton Chamber of Commerce, Belton Parks & Recreation, Bell County Museum, BISD, Harris Community Center, Belton Journal Staff: David Tuma (Publisher) Jason Bachie, Susan Kolodziejczyk, Shanna Grote, Elsie Wiley, David Stone, Michele Weisman, Michelle Rodriguez and Clay Whittington.

You're a pro at being proactive.

Take charge of everyone's wellness with MyBSWHealth.

Managing your family's health is as close as your smartphone, with the capability of scheduling everyone's appointments, getting test results and more.



Download our app



Baylor Scott & White
MEDICAL CENTER

TEMPLE

The power to live better™

Photography may include models or actors and may not represent actual patients. Physicians provide clinical services as members of the medical staff at one of Baylor Scott & White Health's subsidiary, community or affiliated medical centers and do not provide clinical services as employees or agents of those medical centers or Baylor Scott & White Health. ©2026 Baylor Scott & White Health. 99-TKE-1736607 DT

Welcome to Belton, the heart of Bell County! Whether you're just passing through, visiting a friend, or considering making this your new home, I'm delighted that you're taking the time to explore and learn more about us. In this digital age, where communities often feel distant, I hope you discover an authentic community filled with great people.

Take the time to explore our historic downtown, drive through this charming corner of the hill country, and enjoy the outdoors on our hike and bike trails or at one of our beautiful lakes. While there are many stories to be experienced here in Belton, I encourage us all to look up from our screens and explore life beyond posting pictures and memories.

Belton is ideally located at a crossroads between Ft. Cavazos, Austin, and Waco. We're not far from Dallas-Ft. Worth and San Antonio, nestled between two lovely lakes—Belton Lake and Stillhouse Hollow Lake. This central location has made us a regional hub for education, healthcare, and logistics. Our diverse economy benefits residents, but it's our vibrant culture that truly sets us apart. This community offers a wealth of experiences for both visitors and residents, including live music, varied restaurants, great schools, active churches, and wonderful celebrations like our 4th of July Parade and Rodeo.

My favorite place in Belton is our downtown, located along Nolan Creek and highlighted by the beautiful and



historic County Courthouse. Our downtown is a lively and integral part of our community. It's a gathering place where small businesses thrive and people come together in a safe, welcoming atmosphere. I cherish weekends when you can see young and old from diverse backgrounds sharing common experiences. It's a wonderful canvas for building community and creating lasting memories.

Belton is a melting pot of cultures and people, from descendants of the first settlers in Texas to those who have moved here for retirement or new job opportunities. You won't find a greater representation of the true Texas spirit: a community that is both fiercely independent and loyal. I've heard it said that you can define community as having at least three connections with another person. By this definition, you're part of a community if you see someone at the coffee shop, sit in the bleachers at a sporting event, and possibly attend church together. The quality of our community is defined by the many opportunities we have to join together and experience life.

While I've come across many places that seem to foster community on the surface, it's rare to experience it firsthand. I hope you'll see what a great community we have, and my greatest hope is that you'll take part in it yourself. Belton is truly special—a welcoming and diverse community—and we hope you can help make it even better.

Temple's Newest Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing Facility



Depend On Us.

A Leader in Health Care and Rehabilitation

*D*o you know that you have a choice when it comes to your care? Welcome to Cornerstone Gardens – Temple's newest Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing facility.

- On-site Therapy and Rehab Services
- Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy
- 24-Hour Skilled Nursing Care
- ***Outpatient Rehabilitation Services***

Come see for yourself. Give us a call or drop by today! We'll be glad to show you around.

Please give the Administrator a call
at 254.771.5950

763 Marlandwood Rd., Temple, Texas 76502
www.cornerstonegardensllp.com

Accepting Medicare, Medicaid, Private Pay, and a Preferred Provider of Scott & White Health Plan



Privately Owned by Native Texans ✪ In Business for 35 Years

Belton topped Temple as home to UMHB by \$1,000

By David Stone

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor has had a leading role in the shaping of Belton for the past 140 years, and it likely will continue to be instrumental in the city's growth for many years to come.

According to Beth Norvell, associate director of Museum & Alumni Engagement at the Belton university, UMHB has been part of the city's landscape since 1886.

"The school was chartered in 1845 in Independence, Texas," Norvell said. "It originally shared a charter with Baylor University — the Female Department of Baylor was Baylor's women's college. The college became Baylor Female College in 1866 after it got its own charter."

Norvell said both Baylor schools moved from Independence in 1886 — Baylor University moved to Waco and Baylor Female College moved to Belton.

"Both colleges were created in 1845 as a response to an appeal from Texas Baptists who wanted faith-

based education schools," she said. "They wanted to have the same opportunities for Texas families as families in the eastern US had for their kids."

Baylor Female College changed its name to Baylor College for Women in 1925, and later changed the name to Mary Hardin-Baylor College. In 1978, the "college" became a "university."

"The name came from a Texas couple — Mary and John Hardin," Norvell added. "The Hardins made their wealth through a trading business and oil. During the great depression, they helped struggling orphanages and colleges that were going bankrupt. The Belton college changed its name in honor of the couple's deeds. And, since the local college was primarily for women, they took Mary's name instead of John's. Another Texas College — Hardin-Simmons — also was partially named in honor of the couple."

Norvell said both Baylor colleges moved from Independence because the town refused to build railroad facilities.

"Back in 1886, many people traveled by train

Tirzah



A Charming
Vintage Venue for
Special Celebrations



**115 N. East Street
Belton, TX 76513
www.Tirzah.biz
254-760-9145**



Turning Moments
into Memories

and the schools wanted trains to bring in new students,” she said. “Independence wouldn’t build the facilities, so both schools moved.”

Baylor Female College decided to move to Bell County, but both Belton and Temple vied to host the college.

“Temple offered the college \$30,000 to locate there, but Belton topped that offer by \$1,000,” Norvell laughed. “Both were railroad towns, but Belton offered \$31,000 and the college came here.”

The first building built on the Belton campus was Luther Hall, but it burned in 1929. A memorial is still there. Heard Hall was built in 1919 and is still on campus. It was originally constructed as a dormitory, but it also once served as the university’s temporary administration building. Today, it houses offices for the departments of Communication, Modern Foreign Languages, and English.

UMHB became a fully co-ed school in 1971, but men actually began taking classes about 50 years earlier.

“It was a women’s college, but in the 1920s it had a program that allowed men to work on cam-

pus and take a limited number of classes,” Norvell said. “They were called Campus Boys — they had to do physical labor in exchange for the ability to take classes. At the time, the college had a dairy, a hog farm and a boiler room, and boys also served as night watchmen. Basically, they did everything the girls didn’t want to do.”

The Belton college has always been a high-level school. In the 1880s, it offered business classes for women.

“They used the slogan, ‘You don’t need to be a secretary, you can be an executive,’” Norvell said.

“The college had the very first work-study program for women in Texas and the second in the nation,” she continued. “In 1893, women started coming in to take advantage of the program, which was called the Cottage Home System.”

In 1922, the school opened the first journalism school for women in America, bringing in hundreds of women who sought jobs at newspapers.

Sports are and have been a source of pride for UMHB for years. 1998 was the inaugural year for football.




INSPIRING DREAMS. EMPOWERING FUTURES.

www.bisd.net 254-215-2000 400 N. Wall Street, Belton, TX 76513

Fort Hood impacts Bell County, state of Texas

Spread across more than 340 square miles of rugged Hill Country terrain, Fort Hood is home to expansive US Army training facilities and is home to more than 35,000 soldiers and airmen, 48,900 family members, 24,000 Reserve and National Guard troops and over 9,000 civilian employees and contractors.

Fort Hood is home to the III Armored Corps Headquarters, the 1st Cavalry Division, the 1st Army Division West, 13th Armored Corps Sustainable Command and other brigades, tenant units and organizations.

The massive fort also distinguishes itself as the largest single local-location employer in the state of Texas, according to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Its economic impact on the Texas economy is estimated at \$28.8 billion.

While most off-post housing is located in the Killeen, Harker Heights and Copperas Cove areas,

additional housing is available in Belton, Temple, Gatesville and Lampasas, all of which are about a 30-minute drive.

Randy Pittenger, president of the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, said a large number of families who live in Belton have a connection to Fort Hood because it is the largest employer in the area.

“Many military families choose to live off post and make Belton their home,” he said.

“Many spouses of active-duty soldiers work in Belton, and families enjoy the shopping, dining, and entertainment available here,” he added. “We have many veteran-owned businesses in Belton, since retirees often choose to stay in our area.”

“We are thankful for the significant impact Fort Hood has on our community, both from an economic impact and for how they contribute to our overall quality of life.”

Visitors to the Belton area may want to spend



Highland Park Estates Ph. 2

Lots starting at \$65000

info@stellarhomes.us

254.933.8807

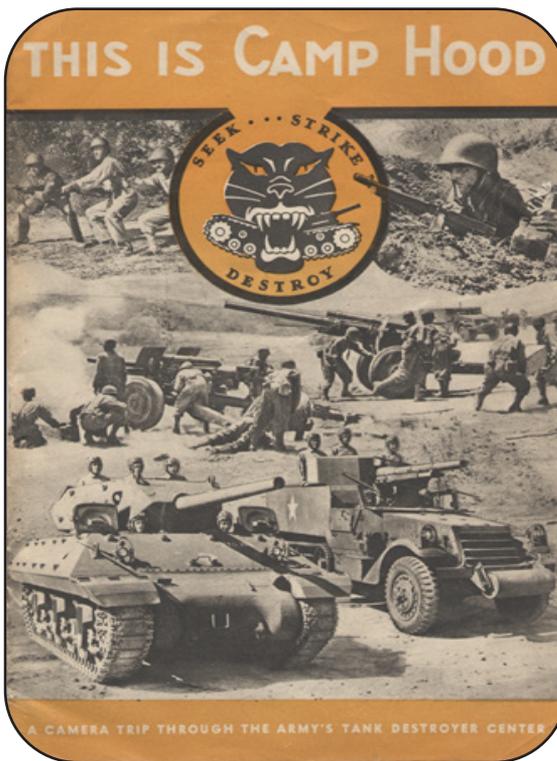
**Building you
a home for
life.**



a day exploring the museums of Fort Hood, most notably the new National Mounted Warrior Museum.

From the earliest days of the American Revolution to the wars on terrorism, mounted infantry and cavalry have played a significant role in US military success. This new museum honors the history and importance of soldiers on horseback and in tanks and fighting vehicles.

“This museum will have a huge impact on Central Texas businesses,” said Retired Lt. Gen. Paul Funk, former commanding general of III Corp and Fort Hood, and presently the CEO of the National Mounted Warfare



Foundation. “It’s going to bring in a lot of people who will spend money in our communities.”

“Eventually, we will have about 600 artifacts on display, including a Huey helicopter, an M4 Sherman tank, an M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle and other items representing the history of the U.S. Army from 1776 to the present day,” he said.

Fort Hood soldiers, both on and off post, head to Belton for dining and events such as concerts, rodeos, festivals and fairs.

Belton
the 4th of July
Celebration

JUNE 27 - JULY 4, 2026

Downtown Street Party
Annual PRCA Rodeo
Parade
Festival on Nolan Creek
Backyard Party at Schoepf's BBQ
With Concert & Fireworks

CREATING FAMILY MEMORIES FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS!

BELTON
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PATRIOT WAY
★ ★ ★ ★
BRICK WALK

Honoring those who
have served

**HONORING VETERANS AND
ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY MEMBERS**

**PERSONALIZED BRICKS
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.**

CONTACT US

254-939-3551 | info@beltonchamber.com
BELTONCHAMBER.COM

In its 160th year, The Belton Journal is Belton's oldest continuous business

By Susan Kolodziejczyk

It is 1866, in the midst of the Reconstruction era following the Civil War. The founders of The Belton Weekly Journal, stock raiser and Civil War veteran Major Jouett H. Davenport and James T. Longino, purchased printing and typesetting equipment in Waco, TX. This period marked a time of significant change and opportunity, as the state of Texas experienced rapid growth and transformation. They moved the equipment overland to Belton, a strategic location due to its proximity to the expanding railroad networks, and established The Belton Weekly Journal in the John Henry Brown Building on the southwest corner of the courthouse square (current location of the newly restored 1895 Belton Opera House). The first issue was distributed in January 1867.

In 1868, Davenport purchased the full inter-

ests in the paper from Longino and held it until he moved to Eastland and was elected State Senator in 1874. The paper was then sold to Captain John G. Batte and, again in 1883, to William S. Hunter and George C. Robinson. After 38 years of publication and several owners, the Journal had its first major disaster in 1898, when the building burned, destroying all equipment, files, and records. Robinson, then the sole owner, immediately purchased the rival newspaper, Belton Reporter's, equipment and files and quickly renamed the paper The Journal-Reporter.

In 1899, the paper changed hands, with Charles H. Wedemeyer and John F. Crouch taking over its publication. They led the paper until 1911. In that year, Owen P. Pyle resolved a major feud and acquired both The Journal-Reporter and Bell County Democrat, merging them to



form the Belton Journal. Owen P. Pyle passed away in 1919, and his son, Charles W. Pyle, assumed control, re-naming it The Belton Journal and Bell County Democrat. By 1925, Charles W. Pyle sold the paper to Charles C. Watson, who then transferred ownership to Forace B. Russell in 1927. After Russell's death in 1943, Helen Russell and their son, James H. Russell, retook ownership and continued publishing the newspaper until 1981, when it was sold to Sam Kinch, Jr.

In the April 21, 1966 issue, an article titled "Journal Observes 100 years of Continuous Publication" recognized the paper's 100th birthday. It featured a warm congratulations Western Union Telegram from Texas Governor John Connally. The writer of the article said, "In the interest of honest reporting, the Journal must admit it was not the first newspaper in Belton - but it was the only surviving one, there having been, by the best count available, a total of 13 others, which gave this town an earned reputation as 'the graveyard of newspapers.'"

In its April 8, 1982 issue, the paper announced new ownership and adopted the name The Belton Journal a name it proudly carries to this day.

Lastly, in March 1996, current owner and Publisher, David Tuma, took over operations of The Belton Journal, where he has stayed committed to publishing a local, family- and small-business-oriented paper. In addition to the weekly news, he provides the community with specialty monthly publications highlighting the families and businesses that make Belton and the surrounding areas unique.

"The Belton Journal doesn't belong to any one person or corporation—it belongs to you. Every time you pick up a copy, you become a part of our story. Whether we're in print or online in the years ahead, our mission remains the same: to share the stories and news that shape our community," Publisher David Tuma said. "It's been my privilege and greatest joy to serve Belton through these years."

The one thing that has remained constant is that the paper is printed and delivered to its subscribers. Although the introduction of computers has replaced the production of layouts, it is still set on a printing press using broadsheet paper. The old typeset ink blots are no longer used to create the paper, although it still looks very close to its original design.

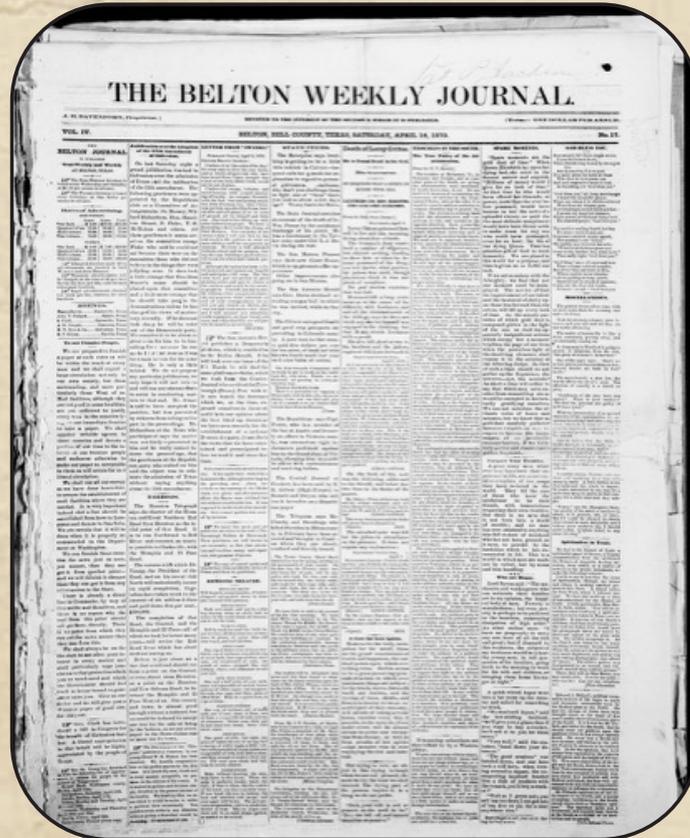
The newspaper has developed a strong, collaborative relationship with community members, local chambers of commerce, city leaders, and the school district.

The Belton Journal places a high priority on local news, working closely with community businesses to offer affordable advertising rates that even the smallest businesses can afford. During challenging economic times, the local business community has continued to support the newspaper, understanding the importance of mutual assistance and fostering a sense of respect on both sides.

Photo:

Obtained from The Portal to Texas History. University of North Texas Libraries.

The Belton Journal, established in 1866, is beginning its 160th year of continuous publishing. Vol IV, No. 17 is the earliest known surviving paper; all previous editions were destroyed by fire.



Morgan's Point Resort

By Michele Weisman

Morgan's Point Resort (MPR) is known for its forest backdrop providing a quiet retreat, deer sightings, and fishing along the shore of Belton Lake. Its namesake is James E. Morgan, who owned most of the land in the late 1800s. In the 1960s, developers purchased the land, marketing it for retirement living and vacation homes. What has sprung up in the incorporated city are families of every age. The city council can boast a high percentage of its population attending the monthly council meetings and volunteers that support departments and the citizens.

MPR's library, the Mary Ruth Briggs Library, established in 1980, was originally named Morgan's Point Resort Lending Library. The Chairperson of the library is Pamela Robinson. Newly established Friends of the Mary Briggs Library, a 501 c3, raises funds through membership and fundraising.

About the library, Robinson said, "This is completely run by volunteers."

Volunteers gather on the third Wednesday of the month to cover new books, re-shelve returned books, and prepare for upcoming library events. The annual summer reading program for pre-K through fifth grades saw about 40 participants in 2025. Youth who outgrow the summer program are welcomed back to volunteer the following summers. Participation in the annual Art Show is open for submissions by children and adults. It is a judged event and is free to local and out of the area artists. The 2026 show will be held in November.

The Garrett and Mic Hill Event Center, overlooking Belton Lake, is where voting, city council meetings, city events, and rentals for private events are held. You may contact the city for rental guidelines and dates of availability.

Until 1976, MPR had a city marshal. Afterward, the MPRPD had a Chief of Police. In 2025, the role

Est. 1972
Custom Draperies
By Lydia

Family owned & operated for two generations
Now run by Lydia's daughter Monica!

We design & fabricate in our own workroom!
Custom Draperies - Fabrics - Blinds - Shutters - In-Home Services

1305 N Main St. Belton, TX | 254.939.1070

of Director of Public Safety was established. Director Matthew Schuetze oversees Police and Fire-Rescue. MPRFD was originally an all-volunteer fire department and is now a combination of paid and volunteer fire-rescue personnel.

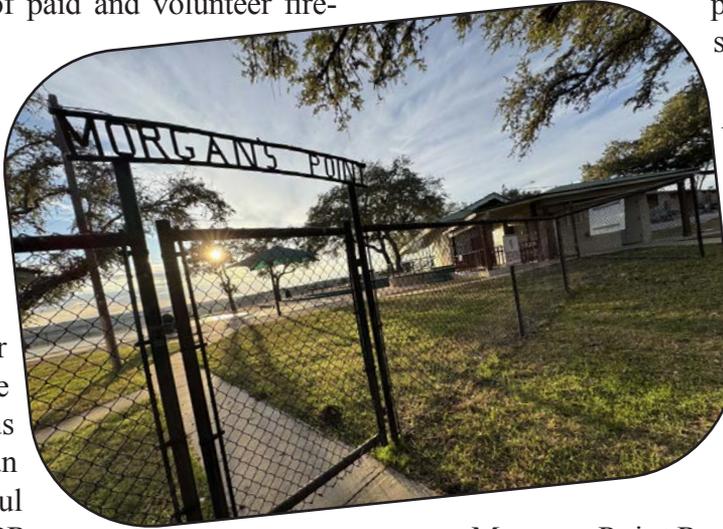
About the departments, Schuetze said, “They provide the best living environment for our residents and our visitors. We’re all approachable. Come up and visit with us.”

A K9 unit with Handler Michael Nipper was made possible by a generous donation for a Belgian Malinois named Nia. Roul Vidro is a Bailiff for the MPR municipal court to Judge Larry Wilkey. Sworn officers make up a portion of the MPRPD. A 22-person volunteer dive team meets twice a month for training on the recovery of evidence, vehicles, and bodies.

Public Safety is involved in several of the yearly events at MPR, such as escorting Santa, and Mrs. Clause to the tree lighting, hosting the Easter Egg hunt, and participating in the library summer reading program.

Both the Ladies Auxiliary and the MPR Community Outreach for Police Support (COPS) create events that invite the residents to support the Public Safety departments and the citizens. The Ladies Auxiliary, for the MPRFD began in 1973. MPR COPS was founded in 2020.

Morgans Point Resort’s City Manager, Denis Baldwin, said, “People decide to make this their home because it’s welcoming and it’s engaging. If it wasn’t called Morgan’s Point Resort, it would be called the City of Community.”



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT...



254.831.6960

www.imaginebelton.com



**IMAGINE
BELTON**

BeltonEDC
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Early History of Belton

By Susan Kolodziejczyk

Founded in August 1850, Belton served as the county seat of newly organized Bell County. Originally named Nolanville, the town was re-named Belton in 1851 and became the last outpost of civi-lization for pioneers traveling West. A stagecoach route from Tennessee to Brownsville brought commerce and settlers, and by 1853, permanent structures replaced log buildings as the town grew with a jail, school, hotel, church, and stores.

The Carnegie Library

In 1898, the Women's Wednesday Club formed with a vision to create a public library accessible to all residents, not just those who could afford private subscriptions. The 25-member literary organi-zation began collecting books through receptions at the Central Hotel, gathering 350 volumes at their first event. As the collection grew beyond the hotel space, they moved to Main Street, hired librarian Miss Emma Lee, and opened their doors in April 1900.

Dreaming bigger, the Wednesday Club partnered with the Century Club and wrote to philanthro-pist Andrew Carnegie. In 1903, Carnegie agreed to donate \$10,000 for a library building if the city would provide land and ongoing maintenance. Local residents raised \$1,500 for a lot at Main Street and First Avenue, and combined



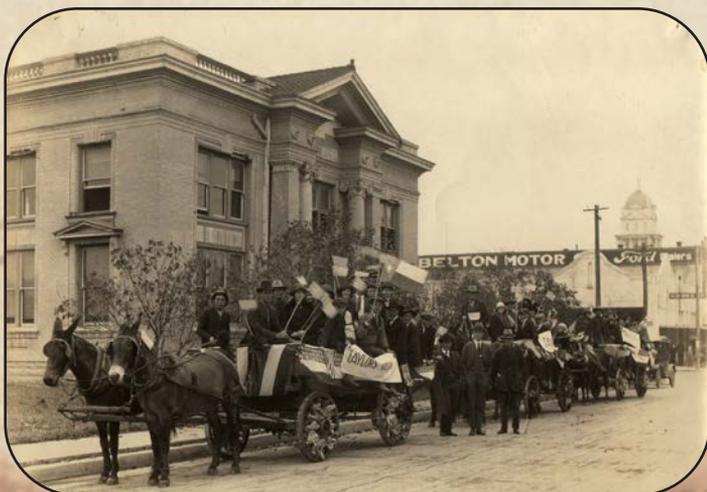
with \$2,570.68 in additional contributions, they built a two-story structure with reading rooms, a lecture hall, and a stage.

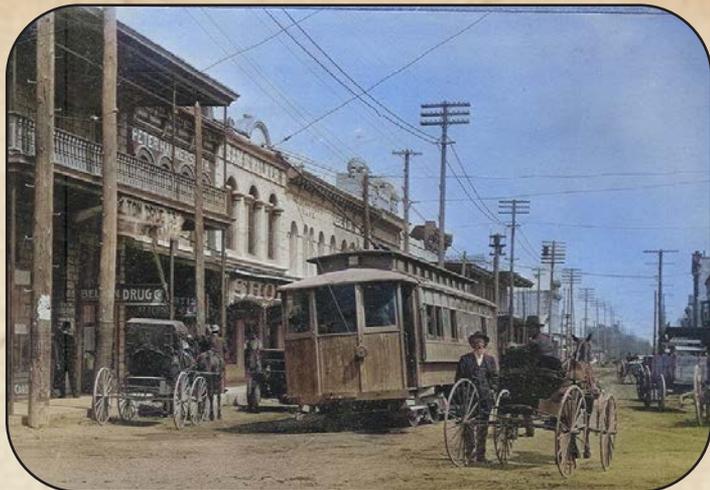
When the library opened on May 15, 1905, the Wednesday Club donated its 1,500 books to the collection. But triumph turned to disappointment when the library closed just two months later due to a lack of operating funds. For the next quarter-century, the library fought for survival through fundraising efforts. The city began modest contributions in 1915, gradually increasing support until the library finally became a permanent city department in 1933. By the 1970s, the collection had outgrown the Carnegie building, prompting construction of a new facility in 1974. Today, the his-toric Carnegie Library houses the Bell County Museum.

The Belton Yarn Mill

As Belton's economy thrived on cotton from the 1880s through the 1920s, local businessmen saw an opportunity to process the crop locally rather than shipping it elsewhere. In 1900, they invested \$25,000 to build the Belton Yarn Mill, transforming cotton bought on Belton streets into cloth and yarn.

The mill began operations in October 1901 with 3,100 spindles and 100 looms, eventually consuming up to 2,200 bales annually. Despite early losses under inexperienced management by banker JZ Miller, the operation expanded in





1905 to 7,000 spindles. The mill employed approximately 112 workers, including tenant farmers who worked between planting and harvesting seasons. To house employees, the company maintained 25 cottages.

The Panic of 1907 forced the mill to close, and it sat empty for nine years before reopening. It operated until the county's cotton industry collapsed in the late 1920s. The building later served as a furniture manufacturer before fire destroyed the complex.

The Belton Standpipe

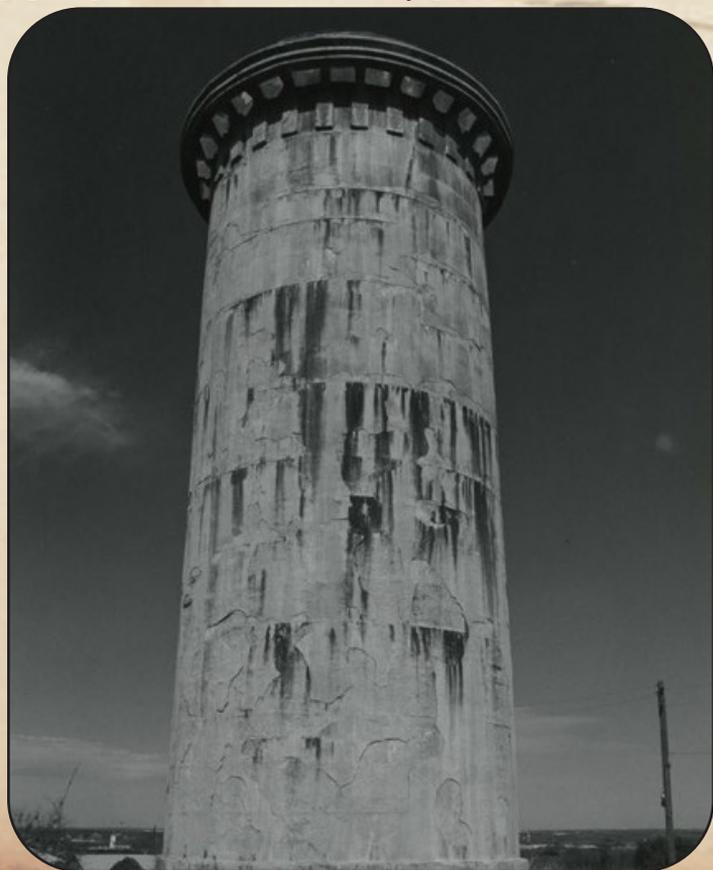
After devastating fires threatened the young town, Belton residents committed to building proper fire protection. In 1884, the Committee on Waterworks & Fire Protection awarded WC Connor of Dallas a \$41,500 contract to construct a comprehensive system with water mains throughout the business district, a 50-foot standpipe, and pumping equipment at the Leon River. The municipal water system was completed on July 1, 1884.

The first iron standpipe, located east of Main Street, served the town for years until it dramatically burst in October 1909, sending water flooding down Main Street. A replacement was built on Denison's Hill south of town, standing 75 feet high and visible for miles.

In August 1928, the new standpipe became the center of local hysteria when residents found water bugs in their faucets. Wild rumors spread

about six-foot-long green snakes and alligators infesting the water supply. Though the State Department of Health confirmed the water was safe, the City Council accelerated cleaning plans to calm public fears. Workers descended into the standpipe on a raft, scrubbing the interior as they slowly sank with the draining water. The Belton Journal reported that instead of the imagined horrors, they found only sand and wall scrapings at the bottom.

By the mid-1960s, the aging standpipe could barely meet the city's needs, particularly during summer months when water levels dropped dangerously low. The inadequate capacity forced Belton to pay additional fire insurance fees. In 1975, City Manager George Ferrell reported the standpipe leaked as much as it held, and it was officially retired. Though initially planned for demolition, the landmark was preserved and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 as a rare example of early reinforced concrete public works. In 2025, the renovated standpipe opened as a community park.



ZOOTYS

*Stop by
and let's be friends!*

Our goal is
to make our
customers
feel loved
and stay
looking
great!



We keep up with
your life and
have a pretty
good handle on
your style.



Feel good about what you are wearing!



ZOOTYS | 1407 South 31st Street | Suite C | Temple, Texas 76504 | 254.770.0904



Belton Area Chamber of Commerce – Better Together

Dating back to 1913, and chartered by the State of Texas in 1936, the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce supports and promotes our community in a variety of ways to make the Belton area a great place to live, work, shop, play, and raise a family. Through the promotion of business growth and providing opportunities for members to learn, lead and serve, the Chamber provides opportunities for its members to work together to make our community better and stronger.

“Better Together” is more than just a slogan for the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce. As a membership organization, our strength comes from the collective and coordinated efforts of our members.

Working with our community partners is a key focus for the Chamber. Through coordination with the City of Belton, Belton Economic Development Corporation, Bell County, Belton ISD, Workforce of Central Texas, Central Texas Council of Governments, Fort Hood, Temple College, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Downtown Belton Business Alliance, local VFWs and American Legion, elected officials, and other member organizations, we are better able to serve our growing community. These strategic partnerships are essential to coordinated efforts to promote economic growth and quality of life within the Belton area.

For both established businesses and those looking to

open a new business in the Belton area, the Chamber provides a variety of resources and opportunities to connect and invest in the community. New businesses especially find the information, connections and opportunities available through the Chamber to be valuable in establishing themselves and expanding their influence.

The Chamber actively promotes supporting local businesses through “Shop Local” campaigns. Locally owned small businesses are vital to the health and growth of the Belton area, and the support our community provides to them is returned in numerous ways. The impact our local businesses have on the quality of life we enjoy in the Belton area cannot be overstated.

An important role for the Chamber is in its ongoing advocacy for local small businesses, both through legislative avenues and through its efforts to inform and equip members with knowledge, resources and connections to impact rules and regulations. The Chamber provides timely and accurate information to members through regular emails, website and social media.

Perhaps the most widely recognized activity of the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce is the annual 4th of July

Continued on Page 21



The Bell County Museum exists to engage and educate the community by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the prehistoric and historic heritage of Bell County.







201 N. Main St. Belton (254) 933-5243

Visit the Bell County Museum

New Exhibits and Programs Year-Round

Spring Lecture Series, Summer Camps, Historic Escapes, Night at the Museum, Weird Science, and Much More!

**ALWAYS FREE
ADMISSION!**

Permanent Display:

- Discover Bell County
- Gault Site Exhibit
- Log Cabin Exhibit

TOPANGA

BOUTIQUE

Women's Clothing
Handbags & Accessories
Kids Section
Gifts and More

122 N Pearl St
Belton, Tx
254.613.4107

www.topangaboutique.com



@TOPANGABOUTIQUEBELTON



Celebration, the largest event in our central Texas area with over 50,000 people enjoying the various events. The annual parade and rodeo have been held for over 100 years in Belton, and includes a variety of entries, including floats, bands, military and community groups. The weeklong celebration kicks off with a Downtown Street Party and Concert and includes other events, such as the Festival on Nolan Creek, Carnival, Backyard Party at Schoepf's Concert and Fireworks, and three-day PRCA Rodeo at the Bell County Expo. USA Today has recognized Belton as one of the top 10 places in the nation to celebrate the 4th of July.

The Chamber serves as an advocate and resource in five strategic areas: Workforce Development, Economic Development, Leadership Development, Marketing and Business Development and Networking Development. The Chamber has several programs in place to improve the growth and development of the Chamber, as well as providing opportunities to connect and serve in the Belton community. These programs include Ambassadors, Leadership Belton, Mentor Belton, Business After-Hours, HYPE (Helping Young Professionals Excel), Chamber Coffee Connection, Business Bites & Insights, Legislative/Governmental Affairs, and Military Relations Committee.

The Ambassadors program provides opportunities for members to be actively involved in welcoming new members with ribbon cuttings and other celebrations. They represent the Chamber in connecting with our members and in hosting the annual awards banquet.

The Leadership Belton program is a year-long leadership training experience providing participants opportunities to learn about and connect with the community. The program meets one day per month focusing on a different aspect of the community, including Social Services, Education, Healthcare, Economic Development, City and County Government, State Government – Day at the Capitol, Fort Hood, Recreation/Quality of Life and more.

Mentor Belton is a program pairing UMHB students with mentors in the community to promote workforce development.

Several networking opportunities provide a way to connect with others within our business community.

Business After-Hours is a monthly event designed for members to gather in a social setting for networking and to meet new members. This event also provides an opportunity for the host organizations to showcase their business.

HYPE – Helping Young Professionals Excel, provides networking social events for people ages 20-40 looking to develop closer relationships with others in the community.

Chamber Coffee Connection is an event geared toward all members and potential members who are interested in

learning about member organizations or specific programs in our community. Often, a non-profit organization is featured.

Business Bites & Insights is an opportunity for members to learn together in a relaxed setting. Topics have included learning how to use Canva and social media, and stress management.

The Chamber is actively engaged in legislative and governmental affairs, hosting legislative updates and providing information to citizens about notable issues. The Chamber is an active advocate for its members and business community.

Our Military Relations Committee serves as the focus of coordination for our outreach, not only to neighboring Fort Hood, but also to military families living in our community. The Military Relations Committee has sponsored several specific programs including Adopt-a-Unit and Single Soldier Care Packets.

The Chamber also sponsors the Patriot Way Brick Walk along Central Avenue in Downtown Belton providing an opportunity to honor those who have served in our armed forces with engraved bricks. In addition to the engraved bricks, story boards are located along the walkway to share the story of our local heroes. Special ceremonies for Memorial Day and Veterans Day are held to honor those who have had bricks added each year.

The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce is here to serve our business community through advocacy, collaboration, engagement, support, and networking. For more informa-

EMILSON'S
COIN SHOP
Est. 2023

COINS
GOLD
SILVER

BUY & SELL

TROY EMILSON, OWNER

254-831-1049

200 E. CENTRAL AVE STE. E BELTON, TX

Belton is a city of continued growth

The BEDC (Belton Economic Development Corporation) was created in 1990 after Belton citizens voted to adopt the state's Type A Sales Tax Program, an initiative introduced and supported by the city council. Acceptable projects for the BEDC are governed by state law for Type A Corporations and by policies established by the board of directors and the Belton City Council.

The board of directors consists of five community business leaders appointed to three-year terms by the Belton City Council. Current board members include Brandon Bozon, Stevie Spradley, Marion Grayson, John Holmes, and Tyson McLaughlin.

"We are still seeing a lot of requests for building space. Companies are interested in Texas. The companies we have here in Belton are still in growth mode. The Imagine Belton Plan, begun in 2022, accentuates Belton's unique characteristics and is intended to guide investment in its core marketing plan. This project is a joint effort between the City of Belton and BEDC. It is a vision for the downtown area," said Executive Director Cynthia Hernandez. Under Hernandez's leadership, BEDC's services have expanded to include local businesses. Traditionally, Economic Development Corporations focus on attracting businesses, then moving on to the next potential business, thinking of relocating.

There are four industrial areas in Belton. Available sites

are located in the Belton Business Park and the FM 93 Industrial Park. Belton Business Park, located along IH-14 and Loop 121, offers excellent access to water, fiber-optics, the interstate, and 3-phase electricity. Highway 93 Industrial Park is just off IH-35 and home to Belton's heavy industry.

Belton has an excellent school system and quality of life.

Belton is located at the point where IH-14 and IH-35 connect. Close to Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio, the Belton community is at the heart of one of the country's fastest-growing areas. The Killeen Regional Airport is just 25 miles away.

Amazon started construction on a 127,000-square-foot delivery station in Belton.

The project is the result of collaboration between the BEDC and the City of Belton. The facility will be located on Capitol Way, just east of Interstate 35.

"One of the core responsibilities of the Belton Economic Development Corporation is to bring new jobs and industry to Belton," said Brandon Bozon, president of the BEDC Board of Directors. "Amazon's decision to establish operations in Belton is a win for our community."

KBC Advisors completed the lease of a 344,000 square foot industrial complex in Belton last fall.

Each year, the BEDC assists new companies interested in establishing operations in the City of Belton, encourages expansion of local companies, continues developing the Belton Business Park, and supports infrastructure projects in the community to spur growth.

Business Roundtable meetings featuring special presentations are held quarterly to encourage networking among industry representatives, present topics of common interest, and provide opportunities to learn and support our local industry.

The BEDC also holds quarterly meetings with industries located in the Belton Business Parks. The meetings are more of a roundtable affair with a speaker provided. Warren Ketteman, Director of Industry Development for the BEDC, is responsible for making these meetings a reality.

"Building relationships with our current industries and businesses is as important as new industry development," said Hernandez. Under Hernandez's leadership, BEDC's services have expanded to include local businesses.



WHERE IS JOHN CARTER?

...ON REDUCING FEDERAL OVERSPENDING?
...ON PUTTING TERM LIMITS ON CONGRESS?

...ON FIXING OUR VA (VETERANS AFFAIRS)?
...ON RESTORING OUR WATER?

...ON BEING PRESENT IN-PERSON?

AFTER 23 YEARS, IT'S TIME TO BRING MR. CARTER HOME

VOTE STEVE DOWELL FOR CONGRESS

Why should I vote for you, Steve?

I, along with almost every American, believe that the number one issue holding back our country today is a dysfunctional and ineffective Congress. And as a Central Texan and a voter myself, it saddens me greatly to have to say the hard truth that Mr. Carter is now part of that problem. Congress is America's least trusted institution for a reason. I come from America's most trusted institution, having served as an officer and a proven leader in our armed forces at home and overseas. Moving at the speed of a military operation, I want to reform Congress, get us back to civility, to sanity, and to getting results on behalf of our People. I pledge to do this by sponsoring bills to Reduce Federal Overspending and the National Debt, to Fix our VA, to Restore our Water, and on day 1: to Put Term Limits on Congress. Lastly, I promise that I will always be available to you in-person and to put our People and my Principles before the Politics — no matter the cost.



Reduce Debt ★ Term Limits ★ Fix the VA ★ Restore Water

STEVE DOWELL



For U.S. House - Texas 31st District

- ✓ Veteran
- ✓ Christian, Baylor Alum
- ✓ Former Police
- ✓ D.C. Experience
- ✓ Businessman & Inventor
- ✓ 35 Years Old
- ✓ Major U.S. Army Reserve (IRR)



**CONSERVATIVE
REPUBLICAN**

www.StevenDowell.com

Vote for Steve Dowell on Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Visit me at my next coffee chat.
2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7 pm
Highlands Lounge
Belton, TX



POL. ADV. PAID FOR BY STEVE DOWELL FOR CONGRESS
Use of military rank does not imply endorsement by the Department of the Army or DoD.



DONATE



Homeschooling takes root in Bell County

Homeschooling in Bell County continues to grow as families seek flexible education options that meet the needs of their families. Texas does not require families to register as homeschooling but local estimates suggest that around 3500 homeschool students in Bell County are connected to co-ops, learning centers, sports associations, or support groups. With the demand growing, families now have more avenues than ever to tailor how and where their children learn.

“There are so many opportunities for homeschoolers in Bell County; everyone can find what fits their family,” said Deanna Sallee of the CenTex Christian Homeschool Coalition, noting that homeschool in Central Texas has become increasingly diverse over the past decade.

The Homeschool House in Belton is a hybrid homeschool and enrichment center offering project-based learning in small class sizes. Students attend part-time or full-time throughout the week, combin-

ing core academics with STEM activities, collaborative projects, and creative electives. The model allows students to receive structured instruction while families retain control of curriculum and scheduling at home.

Providence Prep is a classical, Christian, university-model school, meaning students attend classes on campus part of the week and complete academic work at home under parent supervision the other days. Parents who choose Providence Prep are technically not considered traditional homeschoolers under Texas law, but the program attracts many families who want a classical curriculum with home-based instructional days and a structured academic plan.

For families seeking social and supportive networks, the CenTex Christian Homeschool Coalition serves as a hub for co-op classes, field trips, and teen activities, including prom and graduation ceremonies. Many families from Temple, Belton, Killeen, and surrounding communities participate.

Athletics also remain a priority for homeschool families in the area. The CenTex Chargers Homeschool Sports Association offers a variety of competitive sports for middle and high school students. Another option is Guardians Sports, a program under the Bell County Homeschool Association, which organizes athletic and recreational activities for homeschoolers across a wider range of ages.

Faith-based options are available through groups

Customer Satisfaction Rating
Premier Dealer Rating: 4.7

THIS RATING SHOULD IMPROVE YOUR
COMFORT LEVEL

Another Way We Make You Feel Better.

Customer ratings gathered by an independent survey firm.
Rating subject to change.

**Voted Best A/C
Business in the
Belton area**

LENNOX
PREMIER DEALER™

Bell INC.
Air Conditioning

254-877-2628

Locally Owned and Operated Since 1964
Visit us at www.bellaircond.com

READERS CHOICE WINNER
2025

THANK YOU FOR VOTING US THE BEST!

© 2018 Lennox Industries Inc. Lennox Dealers are independently owned and operated businesses. LIC #TACLA21562E

**Belton
First United
Methodist
Church**

Open to all. Shaped by grace.
Sent to serve.

📍 205 E. 3rd Ave.
Belton, TX

🌐 fumcbelton.org

such as Raising Arrows, which provides Christian fellowship, activities, and support for homeschool families. Classical Conversations, a national classical-education program, hosts weekly community days for students and parents centered on memory work, logic, and Socratic discussion.

Homeschool families also participate in city recreation leagues, private club sports, dance, gymnastics, martial arts, and swim lessons, many of which offer daytime or flexible scheduling that suits homeschoolers. Families also connect through Bell County 4-H, which offers programs in agriculture, engineering, shooting sports, food science, leadership, and public speaking. Many homeschool students participate in 4-H clubs and competitions, giving them access to hands-on projects, county fairs, and youth leadership experiences.

With a variety of options in academic instruction, athletics, co-ops, classical curriculum communities, and faith-based enrichment, homeschooling in Bell County offers families multiple paths to design an education that reflects their values, interests, and goals.



Homeschool HOUSE

Where learning is personal,
hands-on, and meaningful!



- Choose your path: enrichment, hybrid homeschool, or microschool
- Project-based learning that encourages curiosity and independence
- Small class sizes and individualized support
- A welcoming, inclusive community

Contact us to schedule a tour!

(254) 831-3070

allison@homeschool-house.com

1 Bending Branch,
Belton, TX 76513



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

homeschool-house.com

Belton has many Annual Events

SeeBelton.com is a website that has a visitor's guide, which can be downloaded with a detailed list of places to see. Includes a dining guide for your visit and a map of downtown and parking areas. Upcoming events, places to shop, and places to stay on overnight visits.

Explore the rich history of Belton by visiting historic sites across the city, including the historic mansions. Satisfy your hunger at one of our many local restaurants that

offer a wide selection of world cuisine coupled with an unbeatable atmosphere. Check out the different stores to find the perfect gift or that just-right thing your home's been missing! Enjoy a nature stroll along the Nolan Creek hike and bike trail or a day of outdoor fun on one of our beautiful lakes. Come celebrate special moments with us during one of the numerous events. There's something in Belton for everyone!



See Belton

ANNUAL EVENTS

SELECT SATURDAYS	EVERY SATURDAY	3RD FRIDAY MONTHLY	SELECT WEEKENDS	FEBRUARY 13 - 14	FEBRUARY 20 - 22
NOLAN CREEK SATURDAY MARKET 219 S EAST ST. 	ARTISAN MARKET 411 E CENTRAL AVE. 	PISTON'S ON THE CREEK 219 S EAST ST. 	A SAMI SHOW - ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET 301 W LOOP 121	BELL COUNTY YOUTH FAIR 301 W LOOP 121 	HOME & GARDEN SHOW 301 W LOOP 121
FEBRUARY 20 - 21	FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1	APRIL 1	APRIL 10	APRIL 18	MAY 8 - 9
FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE 401 N ALEXANDER ST. 	CARDEN CIRCUS 301 W LOOP 121 	UMHB EASTER PAGEANT 900 COLLEGE ST. 	ROCKIN' ROTARY 702 E CENTRAL AVE. 	BELTON MARKET DAYS DOWNTOWN BELTON 	LEGENDS ON THE CHISHOLM TRAIL 219 S EAST ST.
SATURDAYS MAY - SEPT	GO TO WEBSITE FOR DATES	JUNE 27 - JULY 4	JULY	AUGUST 1 - 2	SEPTEMBER 3 - 6
BELL COUNTY FARMERS MARKET 411 E CENTRAL AVE. 	SCHOEPF'S MUSIC SERIES 702 E CENTRAL AVE. SCHOEPFSBBQ.COM 	4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION DOWNTOWN STREET PARTY, PATRIOTIC PROGRAM, PARADE, FESTIVAL, CARNIVAL, RODEO, BACKYARD PARTY 	BELTON PARKS & REC MONTH FOR EVENTS GO TO: BELTONTXAS.GOV 	BELL COUNTY COMIC CON 301 W LOOP 121 	CENTRAL TEXAS STATE FAIR 301 W LOOP 121
GO TO WEBSITE FOR DATES	SEPTEMBER 25 - 26	OCTOBER 16 - 17	OCTOBER 25	NOVEMBER 21	DECEMBER 4 - 5
UMHB FOOTBALL GAMES HOME GAMES AT 905 UNIVERSITY DR. UMHB.EDU	BELTON'S BACON, BLUES, & BREWS DOWNTOWN BELTON 	POLKA ON THE SQUARE DOWNTOWN BELTON 	CANDY TRAIL DOWNTOWN BELTON 	BELTON MARKET DAYS DOWNTOWN BELTON 	CHRISTMAS ON THE CHISHOLM TRAIL DOWNTOWN BELTON



For more events visit seebelton.com



EXPLORE *Belton Parks & Recreation*

**THERE'S
SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE!**

PARKS

With 22 parks & the Nolan Creek Hike & Bike Trail, there is plenty of space to run, play & explore in the great outdoors.



EVENTS

Family-friendly events are offered throughout the year, such as Family Camp Out, Father Daughter Dance, & Christmas on the Chisholm Trail.



REC PROGRAMS

For those wanting to learn a new skill or explore a new hobby, check out classes like Swordplay Fencing, Ballroom Dance or Crochet Classes!



CONNECT WITH US!



@BELTONTXPARKS



BELTON PARKS AND
RECREATION



Subscribe to the
Monthly Newsletter





2026

BELTON MARKET DAYS

SATURDAY

APRIL 18 & NOV 21

9 AM - 4 PM



LIVE MUSIC * FOOD TRUCKS * VENDORS

The Silver Dome

Judge John Garth stood in the empty pasture off Highway 190, squinting against the Texas sun. It was 1987, and all he could see was scrub grass and dust. But in his mind, he saw something else entirely—a gleaming arena that would put Bell County on the map.

“You really think three cities can agree on this?” asked the contractor beside him.

Garth smiled. “Belton, Killeen, and Temple already did. That’s the miracle right there.”

It took \$12 million and countless meetings, but by the time the silver dome rose against the sky, visible from Interstate 35 and even from passing planes, Garth knew they’d built something special. The Bell County Expo Center wasn’t just a building—it was a promise.

On opening night, six thousand seats filled with families who’d come

for the Youth Fair. Kids paraded their livestock through the arena while parents cheered from the stands. Garth watched from the concourse, remembering that empty pasture.

Year after year, the center became the heartbeat of the county. Graduations, rodeos, concerts, conventions, the Bell County Senior Expo—the silver dome welcomed them all, local hotels filled and restaurants thrived.

Decades later, the silver dome still gleams against the Texas sky. Now called Cadence Bank Center, it remains a testament to what Judge Garth envisioned in that empty pasture—a place where communities gather, celebrate, and thrive together. The name may have changed, but the promise endures.

The silver dome still stands, a beacon of collaboration and community spirit.



LITTLE ELM RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME, LLC

CARE WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH.



254.314.8340

WWW.LITTLEELMRCH.COM



Double T Construction, Inc.

Belton, TX 76513

- ★ CUSTOM QUALITY REMODELING ★
- ★ CUSTOM CABINETS ★

Residential • Commercial • All Work Warrantied

Remodeling & Repair - Add Ons - Custom Cabinets
 Counter Tops - Siding - Kitchens & Bathrooms
 Garage Conversions - Decks & Patios - Patio Covers
 Storage Buildings - Concrete Work - Roofing - Painting
 Fire & Water Damage - ADA Modifications - Privacy fencing
 Window Replacement

254-939-1934

doubletconstruction@hotmail.com
 doubletconstructioninctx.com



FREE ESTIMATES



Insurance Claims Welcome Insured

TC campus continues to grow with new buildings

By David Stone

Temple College is known as the sprawling community college on the city's southeast side, but the college that now includes campuses in Hutto, Taylor and Rockdale started in a vacant classroom at the old Temple High.

According to a history written by Harry C Farrell Jr., Temple Junior College was organized and opened by the Temple Chamber of Commerce with the assistance of the University of Texas and the Temple Public Schools board.

"It was opened in the fall of 1926," Farrell wrote in a 1976 history of the college. "And it had an enrollment of 87."

Just a year later — in 1927, the college was recognized by the Texas Department of Education and the Association of Texas Colleges as a first-class junior college that stressed teacher preparation and the classical education.

According to Farrell's report, Temple Junior College was founded as an independent college fully supported by tuition, and financial problems arose during its first two years.

The college attempted to raise money through a bond issue in 1928 that would have constructed facilities separate from Temple's public schools, but the bond failed.

"The college would have been forced to close had it not been for consolidation with Temple Public Schools," Farrell wrote. "The public schools shared their administration and faculty, and the consolidation ensured the survival of the college."

TJC experienced a period of modest growth during the Great Depression and during World War II, and the average annual enrollment was close to 150.

"In 1941, the state provided assistance for the first time," Farrell wrote. "Curriculum expanded, an evening and a summer program were added, but serious political problems plagued the college due to its association with the public schools."

The Temple Junior College District was established in 1955, making possible a bond election of \$300,000 for the construction of a building.

"Members of the alumni association of the college visited every registered voter in the district, and the proposal carried by a vote of six to one," wrote Farrell. "The election provided for a junior college building of 30,000 square feet, on a campus of 32 acres donated by the United States government."

Temple Junior College moved from Temple High in

1957 to property in Southeast Temple that had housed German prisoners of war during WWII. According to Farrell, racial segregation at the school ended the same year.

Temple JC acquired its own board of regents in 1959, and the school severed all ties with Temple public schools.

According to Farrell's writings, the increased state aid and separation from the public schools prompted unprecedented growth after 1959.

Enrollment increased from 488 in 1959 to 2,500 in 1984, and the curriculum was expanded in all areas. The summer and evening programs grew, and off-campus, continuing education, and out-of-district classes were established.

Twelve buildings were built or remodeled by 1984, and the campus grew to 103 acres.

Now known as Temple College, the campus has continued to evolve over the years: A massive \$160 million building project funded in part by a bond package approved by voters in 2021 is well under way. In fact, one of the buildings is complete and others are nearing completion.

"We plan on having four new buildings finished by Temple College's 100th anniversary in 2026," TC President Christy Ponce said.

The project is adding a new Main building that features a University Center, a new Arts & Workforce Building, a new Campus Services Center and an expanded Health Sciences Center.

Ponce said TC's new Health Sciences Center will allow the college to expand current health-care programs, add new ones and help address the statewide shortage of workers in health fields.

"Thanks to a grant from the US Department of Commerce, Temple College will be able to renovate our dental hygiene program by creating new space and purchasing new equipment to prepare students to work in dental offices around the region."

Ponce said the expansion and renovation of the Health Sciences Center will allow Temple College to more than double its existing nursing program.

"Because of growth, nursing and some of our other health-care programs are housed in temporary spaces," she said. "This will provide urgently needed facilities for learning, training and clinical simulations."

The construction project also includes an 80,000-square-foot Visual Arts & Advanced Manufacturing Training Center that has been built on the north end of the campus.

MPR Paddle Trail offers 12 miles of lake adventure

As Texas weather warms, Central Texans are discovering Lake Belton's 12-mile Morgan's Point Resort Paddling Trail — one of 81 official paddling trails exploring the state's waterways.

Designated by Texas Parks & Wildlife in 2013, the trail offers three launches: Morgan's Point Marina, Kleypas Park Community Center, and Rogers Park.

The trail consists of three segments, each completable in one to three hours:

The Tanyard Springs Trail loops around Belton Lake inlets near Morgan's Point Marina, with access also available from Kleypas Park.

The Camp Kachina Trail follows the shoreline from Kleypas Park around the Camp Kachina peninsula to Rogers Park, offering stunning views of the lake and limestone bluffs.

The Mother Neff Trail begins and ends at Rogers Park, crossing the lake to explore inlets and coves north of Morgan's Point Resort.

The Tanyard Springs Trail is named after a community now submerged beneath Lake Belton. Before the Leon

River was dammed in 1954, this area was known as Tennessee Valley, settled by Tennesseans reminded of home. The Chisholm Trail cut through in the 1860s-80s, and wagon tracks worn in limestone rock remain visible near the shoreline.

Paddlers can fish for largemouth bass, hybrid striped bass, white bass, and catfish. Wildlife includes deer, fox, and various birds including osprey and eagles.

1.2 million striped bass added to Belton Lake

Belton Lake became home to a massive number of new hybrid striped bass in 2025, according to Carl Kittel, program director of the Region 1 fish hatchery in San Marcos.

"For 2025, we added about 1.2 million hybrid striped bass in Belton Lake," Kittel said. "That's all we have planned for now — there were no stockings in 2025 for Stillhouse Hollow."

The Belton Lake stockings will continue a massive move to boost the striped bass population in the Bell Coun-

Continued on Page 32

Want to approve payroll
from paradise?

Now you can.

Business Banking from
just about anywhere.



BUSINESS BANKING



TREASURY MANAGEMENT



MERCHANT SERVICES

To see how Extraco can help your organization,
visit extracobanks.com/business.



Extraco
Banks.

Let's Build
Some Dreams.

Member FDIC

ty lake. In 2022, Texas Parks & Wildlife introduced 2.2 million Sunshine bass into the lake, and in 2023 more than 400,000 Palmetto and nearly 700,000 Sunshine bass were released.

In 2024, 99,855 Lone Star bass fingerlings, 148,620 smallmouth bass fingerlings and 780,255 Sunshine bass found new homes in Belton Lake.

Lone Star bass fingerlings are second-generation offspring of pure Florida strain ShareLunker largemouth bass that were at least 13 pounds, said Michael. Baird, district supervisor for the Waco Inland Fisheries District of Texas Parks & Wildlife.

“They have taken the place of Florida largemouth in our hatcheries and are being stocked statewide,” Baird said.



“Belton Lake is a smallmouth bass brood fish source for our state hatcheries, and it consistently gets smallmouth stocked, mainly for that purpose. But it is one of the best smallmouth reservoirs in Texas for angling.”

Sunshine and Palmetto bass are crosses of white and striped bass. Sunshine bass are a hybrid of female white bass and male stripers, and the Palmetto bass are the opposite — a hybrid cross between a male white bass and a female striper.

“In Belton Lake, TPWD typically stocks hybrid bass on an annual basis at 100 fry per acre — and that request shouldn’t change unless there is some unforeseen issue with production or the status of the reservoir,” Kittell said.

“Smallmouth bass are not stocked every year in Belton but were last stocked in 2021 (51,308 fingerlings),” he added. “The smallmouth bass population is strong, and there is some natural recruitment from year to year. Whether or not TPWD stocks smallies at Belton Lake depends heavily on the status of the reservoir at the time and the outlook for hatchery production of this species.”

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

At Stillhouse, TPWD stocked 63,326 Florida large-

English Maids

We will sweep you off your feet!

Kay English
Owner
info@englishmaids.biz

Lauren English-Thurman
Director of Operations
lauren@englishmaids.biz
254-231-0583

2022/23 AWARD WINNER
LOCALS LOVE US

Residential/Commercial • Cleaning Service

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

CareAge HomeCare

At Home Care * Alzheimer's Care * Hospice Support

Because Home Is Where The Care Is

Call us today and see how we can help!

(254) 780-9864
CareAgeHomeCare.com

“This is the most wonderful agency ever. They met the needs and wants of my 93 year old Aunt. They gave me peace of mind knowing she was given the best care ever. I can never thank them enough. They were much more than just caregivers, they became family.”

★★★★★
— Maureen Coleman

mouth bass in 2021, 123,165 channel catfish in 2022 and 93,228 Lone Star bass last year.

“TPWD has discontinued Smallmouth Bass stockings at Stillhouse due to poor stocking success and recruitment of fingerlings from previous stockings,” Kittel said.

Bell County lakes offer exceptional hiking

Spring has arrived, and that means warmer weather and good times at Bell County’s two major lakes, both of which are just minutes from downtown Belton.

Miller Spring Nature Center, Dana Peak Park and Chalk Ridge Falls Park offer diverse hiking experiences.

“Stillhouse Hollow offers two different trail systems,” said Ranger Alex Klepac, a natural resources specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Stillhouse. “The Dana Peak Trail system extends from Dana Peak Park to Stillhouse Park. And the Chalk Ridge Trail is located in our Chalk Ridge Falls Environmental Learning Center.”

“This system offers miles of trails ranging from a two-lane fire trail to a rugged single-track. There are multiple loops and destination trails available depending on your skill level.”

Klepac added that a horse-trailer parking area is available

for equestrian users near the Dana Peak boat ramp.

Hikers should use caution as some trails have steep drop-offs with loose rock.

According to Klepac, the Chalk Ridge Falls trail is for hiking only — mountain bikers and horse riders should visit Dana Peak.

The Chalk Ridge trail winds through juniper and oak forests along the Lampasas River with interpretive information along the route.

Highlights include river views, an elevated boardwalk over wetlands, and the Chalk Ridge waterfall.

Miller Springs Nature Center features scenic overlooks, winding trails, waterways and abundant wildlife.

This free natural preserve offers hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, fishing, birding and wildlife observation.

The park received a facelift in 2025 — a new boardwalk and improvements to an observation deck were part of a capital improvement plan.

“The new boardwalk is about a third of a mile in length, and it allows visitors of all ages to enjoy the Nature Center,” Beavers said. “Before the recent improvements, the route to the scenic overlook was not accessible for those who use walkers or are in wheelchairs. Now it is accessible for every-





Providing Central Texas with honest
advice for lawn & gardening needs

254-698-6008

1101 U.S. Hwy 190, Nolanville, TX 76559

hiddenfallsnurserykilleen.com

BCYC, a cornerstone of support for the Belton Community

For decades, the Belton Christian Youth Center (BCYC) has been a cornerstone of support for families in the Belton community. Known for its commitment to youth development and Christian values, BCYC continues to grow its after-school and summer programs while serving hundreds of local children each year.

Located at 505 E. Ave C, BCYC is a non-profit youth activity center offering a wide range of programs designed to enrich learning, promote healthy lifestyles, and provide a safe environment for students. BCYC is licensed by the state to provide childcare for up to 175 students during the school year. Each afternoon, students receive a



Over 40 Vendor Booths to Shop!

Including

Apparel * Candles * Unique gifts
Iron Decor * Jewelry * Vintage Clothes
New, Used & Hand-Made Items
& Much More!

*Lindy Luis
on the Square*

110 E Central Ave. Belton, TX

254-613-4420

warm meal, homework help, and supervised recreational time.

During the summer, BCYC runs a full-day program that includes three meals daily, eight classrooms, two kitchens, a dining hall, a playground, a basketball court, and a full-size gymnasium. More than 300 children enroll in the summer program each year.

BCYC also offers volleyball, recreation leagues, and specialty activities that engage youth of all ages. The Center has built a strong reputation for service and community involvement. Last year alone, participating children collected more than 5,000 pounds of food for the Helping Hands Ministry.

Transportation plays an important role in BCYC's success. With five vans and three school buses, BCYC transports students from multiple campuses across the Belton area. Maintaining these vehicles—especially the aging buses—remains one of the Center's ongoing challenges.

Executive Director Daniel Bucher, who began

his career with BCYC after graduating from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, emphasizes the importance of the Center's mission. "If we can make a positive impact on even one child each day, that's what makes everything worthwhile," Bucher says.

With community support and continued program expansion, BCYC remains dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing, and faith-centered environment for local youth—one child, one family, and one day at a time.



ONE DESTINATION

FOR ALL YOUR HOME DESIGN PROJECTS



GALLERY DESIGN CENTER

Since 1998

254.773.9890

www.GDCtexas.com
3103 SW HK Dodgen Loop, Temple



**WINDOW COVERINGS • FLOORING • CABINETS • COUNTERTOPS
KITCHEN & BATH REMODELS • AND MORE**

Insurance Solutions You Can Trust

Personal & Commercial Coverage
Tailored to You



David Matthews, Jr.

Sales Executive

Personal & Commercial Lines

✉ davidm@ghfins.com

☎ 254-346-1918

G&H
FINANCIAL INSURANCE

- Auto • Home
- Business & Commercial Insurance
- Personalized Coverage Options



Scan To Learn More

G&H FINANCIAL INSURANCE

Protecting What Matters Most



WHERE LEARNING COMES TO LIFE

As the state's only upper-division university, we work with our community college partners to provide an affordable, world-class education.

- **A UNIVERSITY DESIGNED FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS**
- **BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES**
- **IN KILLEEN AND ONLINE**



Scan this code to find out more about the benefits and value of education.

Member of the Texas A&M University System



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
CENTRAL TEXAS™

tamuct.edu
1001 Leadership Place
Killeen, TX 76549

THE LEGACY OF XENOPHON B. SAUNDERS

Daniel K. Elder, Chair
Bell County Historical Commission

In Bell County's long history, few early settlers influenced the region as Xenophon Boone Saunders. He was born in 1828 in Columbia, Tennessee, and was related to the frontiersman Daniel Boone through Boone's sister, Elizabeth. Saunders came to Central Texas with a law degree, strong support for the Union, and a clear goal to shape public life. Over the years, he worked as a lawyer, a Confederate officer, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, a district judge, and a key leader in the county's legal and civic growth.

Arriving in Belton, Texas in 1855, he had studied at Hanover College in Indiana and had been admitted to the bar in Memphis just a year earlier. He quickly became a well-known figure in Bell County, reportedly having influenced the County's first newspaper, the *Weekly Independent*, which was published by A. Marschalk & Son. He sided with local Whigs and Unionists, speaking out for those uneasy about the growing push for secession in Texas. It was in the *Independent* that he made his position clear: secession was risky and unwise. His influence went beyond the page, which was evident in 1860 when the voters of Belton chose him as the town's first mayor.

Though he opposed leaving the Union, in 1861



Saunders accepted the outcome when Bell County joined most of Texas in backing secession, with 495 votes for and 198 against. He joined the Confederate Army soon after. Unlike some organizers who supported secession but stayed far from the battles of the Civil War, Saunders and other men from Belton served with George Flournoy's Regiment in the Trans-Mississippi theater. He was elected captain of Company A, 16th Texas Infantry,



and later promoted to major. He took part in key battles, including Milliken's Bend, Mansfield, and Jenkins Ferry. At times, he led the entire regiment, showing his steady leadership during the war's many hardships. He was paroled at Milliken's Bend in June 1865, ending military service shaped more by duty than by politics.

After the war, Saunders returned to Belton and resumed practicing law. But his efforts to rebuild the county went beyond legal work. In 1866, voters again elected him to represent, this time for Bell, McLennan, and Falls counties as a delegate to the Texas Constitutional Convention. At the convention, he stood with Radical Republicans, supporting the cancellation of the 1861 secession vote and favoring requiring loyalty oaths. This stance angered many former Confederates but matched his earlier support for the Union before the war.

During the convention, Saunders argued that treating secession as legal was like "waving the flag of secession." He pushed for a firm rejection of the war's legitimacy. He would go on to work on policies meant to restore Union law and protect the rights of freed people. Records from the convention show he was

an active voice who stood his ground when he believed it was needed. In 1875, Saunders was elected district judge, taking over from federal appointees who had served during Reconstruction. While no longer tied to the Radical Republican agenda, he stayed committed to keeping order and improving the local legal system. His time on the bench showed a move away from political battles and toward day-to-day governance. He stepped down in 1877 and returned to private law practice, teaming up with attorney Andrew J. Harris.

Outside the courtroom, Saunders was a key figure in Belton's economic and civic growth. The first president of the Old Settlers Association, he was also a Knight Templar Mason and an original

organizer of Belton Commandry, Number 23. Saunders invested in land, farming, and local businesses, including the Belton Compress Company, where he served as vice president. Saunders died in 1909 and was buried in the historic section of North Belton Cemetery. He was remembered as a respected leader who shaped the county through both war and peace. All six of his children outlived him and had families of their own, carrying on a legacy of service and community involvement.

Photo: Belton, Texas 1921

FUNERAL NOTICE

The friends and acquaintances of the family are invited to attend the funeral of

JUDGE X. B. SAUNDERS

From the family residence on Wall Street at 4:30 o'clock tomorrow (Wednesday) afternoon.

Funeral services conducted by Rev. A. F. Cunningham.

Interment in North Belton Cemetery.

Belton, Texas, July 20, 1909.

MASONIC NOTICE.

The members of Belton Lodge No. 166, A. F. & A. M. are hereby requested to meet at their lodge room on Wednesday, July 21, 1909, at 4 o'clock p. m. sharp, for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Brother X. B. Saunders.

S. W. MILLER, W. M.



Belton ISD - Preparing students for success

Belton Independent School District is a fast-growth, destination district in Central Texas serving more than 13,500 students in pre-K through 12th grade across 20 campuses. Known for academic excellence, innovative programming and strong extracurricular opportunities, Belton ISD prepares students for success in college, careers and life.

Guided by the Journey of a Graduate, the Big Red Community serves Belton, Morgan's Point, portions of Temple, and unincorporated areas of Bell County across nearly 200 square miles. Belton High School and Lake Belton High School offer award-winning fine arts, athletics and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, while Belton New Tech @Waskow serves as a districtwide school of choice for grades 9–12. Belton ISD is also proud to be named a CTE District of Distinction for the second consecutive year.

The district celebrated a 98.6% graduation rate, with more than 1,000 industry-based certifications earned and strong college readiness outcomes, including AP Scholars, National Merit Scholars and dual-credit and

associate degree earners through partnerships with Temple College and the Texas Bioscience Institute. Students also excelled through service, academics, fine arts and athletics at the state and national levels.

Through Bond 2022, Belton ISD completed the new Delta Program facility, celebrating the milestone with a ribbon cutting in 2025. The 7,000-square-foot facility supports students with special needs as they transition to adult independence and employment. The district also maintained its long-standing record of fiscal responsibility, earning a "Superior" financial accountability rating for the 14th consecutive year.

This year will mark the fourth production of The Penguin Project, featuring Madagascar: A Musical Adventure Jr., an inclusive theater program pairing students with developmental disabilities and peer mentors. The program reflects the district's commitment to providing exceptional learning experiences for every student.

To learn more about Belton ISD, visit www.bisd.net/news.



BAKERY * MEAT MARKET * CAFE * MERCH

Celebrating 80 Years
Est. 1946

We are located 10 miles east of Temple on Hwy. 53

www.greenssausagehouse.com

254-985-2331

BISD 2025 Athletics

By Clay Whittington

Belton and Lake Belton accomplished a lot on the court, track, field, pool, pitch and diamond during 2025, but some of the most impactful things occurred away from the competitions.

Despite experiencing immense success last season, both athletic programs will endure massive change in 2026 thanks to the departure of the Tigers' head football coach and the classification elevation at Lake Belton.

After six seasons at Belton, veteran coach Brett Sniffin stepped away from the sport, announcing his retirement after turning around the Tigers.

In 2020, Sniffin inherited a 3-7 squad, and in his first campaign, the program was forced to navigate its way through the coronavirus pandemic, and the result was another three-win season.

Then, everything changed.

During the next five years, Sniffin guided the Tigers to the playoffs every season, becoming the only head coach in school history to accomplish the feat.

With a 6-5 record, Belton made its first playoff appearance under Sniffin, and the Tigers followed the showing by winning a

Continued on Page 42



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR OUR VETERANS AND YOUTH



All bingo proceeds go to our veterans, youth programs & scholarships.



Doors open 1.5 hrs before session.

SUNDAYS- 5:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAYS- 12:30 P.M.
FRIDAYS- 6:30 P.M.

HENRY T. WASKOW

VFW POST 4008

2311 S. IH 35, BELTON 254-939-7159

FLOWER Shop

Blooming Belles




Fall Designer Choice

NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE SEASON



Monday - Friday 9 AM - 5 PM
Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM

Blooming Belles
(254) 831-5002

WE Deliver!

304 East 6th Ave Ste. 316 Belton, TX 76513

254.831.5002 www.BloomingBellesFlowers.com @BloomingBelles info@bloomingbellesflowers.com

combined 19 games and celebrating consecutive district championships in the ensuing two years.

It was Belton's first league title since 1974.

The Tigers encountered adversity in 2024, losing seven games to start the season before earning two critical victories to close the campaign and extend the playoff streak.

In his final season, Sniffin led Belton to a 5-6 record, bringing his overall record to 35-31 with the team.

For his career, Sniffin won 110 games with only 53 defeats, qualified for the playoffs in all but one season and hoisted seven district championships.

The Broncos and Lady Broncos will also be forced to overcome change in 2026 after the University Interscholastic League announced its biennial reclassification and realignment information. With an enrollment of 2,253 students, Lake Belton moved from Class 5A to Class 6A, joining the state's other schools with a minimum of 2,215 students.

The UIL will determine districts in February, and the Broncos and Lady Broncos will most likely be placed in a league with Killeen Harker Heights, Killeen Chaparral, Waco Midway, Copperas Cove and Temple for most sports.

The changes will take effect beginning in the 2026-27 school year and last for two years.

Regardless of what the future holds for Belton and Lake Belton, 2025 was prosperous for the schools' teams, especially the

Lady Broncos' softball squad.

Lake Belton fell just short of returning to the state tournament for the second consecutive season, losing to eventual Class 5A, Division I champion Melissa. It was the second state title in a row for Melissa, which eliminated the Lady Broncos at state last year.

In the state quarterfinals, however, Lake Belton defeated national No. 1 Melissa 2-0 in the series opener, snapping a 49-game win streak.

At the state track meet, Lady Broncos senior Abigail Rydberg made her third consecutive appearance and earned the silver medal in the pole vault, clearing 12 feet, 0 inches.

Lady Tigers senior distance runner Olivia Brillhart (5th, 3,200-meter run) and Tigers junior Christian Porter (8th, 400) were also in attendance.

On the basketball court, the Lady Broncos opened the season with a historic start, winning 23 of 24 nondistrict games and climbing into the top 10 of the state rankings.

Other highlights from 2025 included the Broncos' fifth consecutive district championship in baseball, while Lady Tigers' swimmer Lili Nelson returned to the state meet, the Lady Broncos captured an undefeated district championship and Broncos powerlifter Christian Morales was second at the state meet.

The All Blue
MAVERICKS
Pool Cleaning

**WE KEEP YOUR POOL
SPARKLING BLUE AND CLEAN!**

**SCAN
ME!**

512-203-5819
theallbluemavericks@yahoo.com

QUALITY BUILDERS
Home Improvements

Family Owned & Operated

Residential & Commercial

44 YEARS

- Lifetime Siding
- Windows
- Patio Covers
- Sun Rooms
- Screen Rooms
- Rain Gutters

**SCAN
ME!**

Qualitybuildersltd.com

1201 Industrial, Belton 939-3899



**COURTROOM PROVEN
COMPASSION DRIVEN**
WE CARE. WE CAN HELP.

**Veteran Owned
20 Convenient Locations**



**Craig Carlson
Managing Partner**

YOUR PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS

**Family Law | Criminal Defense | Mass Torts
Killeen • Temple • Waco**

CONTACT US TODAY
833-4-CARLSON • carlsonattorneys.com



Bell County offers over a dozen private school options for families

Central Texas Christian School (CTCS), located at 4141 W Highway 93 in Temple, serves approximately 500 students and is the largest private school in Bell County. The school maintains a 100 percent graduation rate and requires at least one parent to be a professed Christian for enrollment, with the school community representing around 30 different churches.

The school fosters academic excellence and character development through rigorous academics, Bible classes, and leadership training. Students benefit from small class sizes—approximately 16 in elementary, 22 in middle and high school, and a maximum of 12 in Pre-K. High schoolers can take Advanced Placement and dual credit courses, and the school is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International.

CTCS promotes spiritual growth through weekly chapel services, mission trips, retreats, and community service. Each grade level supports a local organization, and students participate in the annual Food for Families drive. The school also offers extracurricular activities and electives, including Fine Arts, technology, and leadership programs. Prospective families can attend the public Open House held each spring.

Holy Trinity Catholic High School is a private, coeducational Catholic college-preparatory school dedicated to the educational mission of the Church. The school provides students with a high-quality, gospel-based education while fostering engagement with the Catholic heritage.

The school offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum that includes Honors and Advanced Placement courses designed to enhance critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. With a 7:1 student-teacher ratio, Holy Trinity maintains SAT and ACT scores above national and state averages. AP courses are available in English, Calculus, Biology, Chemistry, U.S. Government, History, Spanish, and Art History.

Students develop their intellectual gifts through effective communication, diverse subject offerings, and classes that promote research skills and civic awareness, preparing them for success in higher education and beyond.

Memorial Christian Academy provides high-quality education built on rigorous academics and personalized support in the Killeen–Fort Hood community. The school maintains small class sizes—16 in elementary, 14 in middle school, and 10 in high school—ensuring students receive individual attention and support.

MCA students consistently score in the top 25% na-

A Free Public Elementary School That *Feels* Private



Kinder to 5th Grade Public Charter School

- STEAM Curriculum; TEA Accredited
- Small School Advantage
- Morning Bus Route in Nolanville and Harker Heights



505 E. Ave C, Belton

254.939.4491

Enroll Now!

Nolancreekschool.org

tionally in Reading and Math on the MAP (NWEA) assessments. All teachers hold college degrees, with more than 50% holding master's degrees and/or state certifications. With an average of 8 years of teaching experience, the faculty are known for their dedication, expertise, and genuine care for students.

The school integrates biblical truths throughout its curriculum, classroom instruction, and assessments, using trusted Christian publishers such as ABEKA, Bob Jones University Press, Purposeful Design (ACSI), Positive Action for Christ, and Apologia. The mission is to partner with families to help each child grow in wisdom, character, and their walk with Christ.

MCA is accredited by TEPSAC (recognized by the Texas Education Agency), Cognia, and ACSI, two of the most respected names in Christian and private education. The student body is highly diverse and reflective of the community, creating a welcoming environment where teachers and staff build strong relationships that help students thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

Providence Preparatory School in Belton is a private Christian school offering education for pre-K through high school. Founded in 2011, the school serves 445 students from Belton, Temple, and the greater Central Texas area with average class sizes of 11 in pre-K and first grade, and 16-17 in grades two through twelve.

The school's mission is to blend classroom and at-home instruction, emphasizing the importance of the parent-child relationship in fostering vibrant learning. Providence collaborates with families through a schedule that combines half homeschool and half traditional school.

Daily Chapel prioritizes spiritual growth through singing, scripture recitation, devotionals, prayer, and announcements, creating a sense of community among students of all ages in the Worship Center.

St. Francis Episcopal School, established in 1971, is located in Temple on the grounds of the church of the same name. The school offers early childhood education from ages two to kindergarten, using a play-based curriculum that promotes critical thinking and independent learning.

Focused on diverse learning styles, St. Francis provides a warm environment for children to grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, and cognitively. The school also offers after-school activities, including basketball, dance, art, and science, allowing students to explore their interests beyond the classroom.

Vintage Christian Academy (VCA), located in Harker Heights, offers a Christian classical education for stu-

dents from Pre-K through sixth grade, emphasizing academic, moral, and spiritual development. The school also features a part-time Mother's Day Out program for Pre-K children that encourages growth through play and social interaction.

Students are prepared for both academic success and spiritual resilience, symbolized by the school's mascot, the Warriors, representing the ongoing spiritual battles they will face in life. This emphasis on spiritual preparation equips students to navigate challenges with faith and integrity.

St. Mary's Catholic School in Temple provides educational opportunities for children from Pre-K3 through middle school. The school follows the St. Jerome Model of Classical Education, which is based on the medieval Trivium (grammar, logic, rhetoric) and serves as both a framework for learning and a method for developing independent thinking.

The St. Mary's Way of Catholic Classical Education fosters students' love for the True, Beautiful, and Good, guiding them closer to God. The Classical Education model is structured to align with childhood development, with each stage building on the previous one, ensuring students develop strong foundations before advancing to more complex concepts.

Year-Round Medicare Enrollment Opportunities!

- CHRONIC ILLNESS
- RETIRING
- RELOCATING

- TURNING 65
- LIS/EXTRA HELP
- MEDICAID

Golden Age

HealthPlans

MEDICARE • UNDER 65 • LIFE • DENTAL

Call Your Licensed Sales Agents Today



We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 4 organizations which offer 40 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDI-CARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to get information on all or your options. Plans are insured or covered by a Medicare Advantage (HMO, PPO and PFFS) organization with a Medicare contract and/or a Medicare-approved Part D sponsor. Enrollment in the plan depends on the plan's contract renewal with Medicare.

Open Monday - Thursday 9am - 4pm
or by appointment



TTY 711 254-778-4448

Cheryl 254-718-0504

Don 254-760-5052

1516 S. 31st St. Ste A, Temple

Festivals, nightlife and events keep Belton thriving

Located deep in the heart of Texas, Belton is a bustling city with friendly folks and a rich history. Founded in 1850, the city is located along the once thriving Chisholm Trail, and the city's location also puts it in the middle of natural wonders, shopping and entertainment.

With its many dining, entertainment and shopping opportunities, Belton has become a fun destination for local residents and out-of-town visitors. And, according to Belton Chamber of Commerce President Randy Pittenger, most of these opportunities are family oriented.

"The Chamber presents the Fourth of July Kickoff at Courtyard Square the Saturday before the Fourth, and the Backyard Party at Schoepf's on the Fourth," Pittenger said. "But we also support many other events throughout the year that are put on by other organizations."

"There's always something going on in Belton, and as the Chamber, we support those events," he added.



"We have a community that supports small businesses, and people come together and enjoy being together at these gathering spots. People are comfortable bringing kids to Belton for safe, family entertainment, to dine or to shop."

LIVE MUSIC EVERY THURSDAY

COVERED PATIO • FULL BAR

Bold burritos. Cold drinks.
Good vibes, done right.

Locally owned • JNeely's Burrito Bar
127 Lake Road • Belton



127 Lake Road • Belton



Order Online



“We have great places to dine and to enjoy a night out,” he said. “Belton truly is a great place to live, work, shop, play and raise a family.”

Pittenger said the many restaurants and nightspots in Belton provide ideal locations to gather as a community. Events such as Market Days, the Fourth of July activities, Christmas on the Chisholm Trail, and many others contribute to Belton’s image as a family friendly city.

“We have several places that have live music on weekends,” he said. “There’s almost always something going on.”

While the Chamber’s big Fourth of July focus is on the opening and closing celebrations, a full week of events is sandwiched inside.

An estimated 30,000 people are expected for the festivities. *USA Today* has named Belton as one of the Top 10 places in the nation to celebrate Independence Day.

Another massive event is the annual Belton Bacon,

Blues and Brews festival, organized by the Belton Visitors Center and held at the Bell County Courthouse Square. The event features live entertainment, arts and craft vendors, brewery and winery displays, a pig calling contest and a bacon cook-off between local food trucks.

The two-day festival features Central Texas bands and bacon-inspired dishes.

Downtown Belton’s annual Candy Trail is a great way to celebrate fall and the spooky Halloween season. Kids dressed as princesses, goblins, and superheroes head to downtown for a fun

time that features more than 135,000 pieces of candy.

Organizers say Candy Trail is a fun and free alternative to trick or treating, thanks to the Downtown Belton Business Alliance.

Young ladies and their fathers or father figures enjoy the annual Father-Daughter Dance, held every February.

Continued on Page 50






LOCALLY OWNED

\$50 FAMILY PLAN ✓ 24/7 ACCESS

\$35 INDIVIDUAL PLAN ✓ NO CONTRACTS

511 LAKE RD BELTON

WWW.JUSTFITNESS247.COM



✓ 24/7 ACCESS

✓ NO CONTRACTS

SCAN TO SIGN UP!



Sign up online at:
WWW.JUSTFITNESS247.COM

LOVE CHRIST.



S P



Founded in 1936, Crossroads Church is celebrating **90 years** in 2026! At Crossroads, we believe in doing life together. That means that we grow together, laugh together, cry together, and push each other to be better **TOGETHER.**

OUR BELIEFS:

- Christ-Centered
- Biblically Based
- Grounded in Grace
- Passionate About Prayer
- Authentic in Our Walk
- Committed to the Uncommitted
- Relevant and Innovative
- Committed to Community



SERVE PEOPLE

crcbelton.com
info@crcbelton.com
254.939.2122
500 S I-35, Belton, TX 76513

CONNECT:

At Crossroads Church, we believe growth happens in community. That's why we offer many ways to connect with others, no matter what stage of life you're in. You can get involved through Life, Ladies' and Men's Groups, Kids and Youth events, and more! By serving at Crossroads, you'll also have the opportunity to be part of meaningful and rewarding ministries throughout the Church.



We believe Jesus is the best thing that has happened to us, and we want others to know Him as we do! We are a community-focused church centered on the clear presentation of God's Word, where everyone is welcome to come just as they are. We're also honored to serve families through The Ark, our dedicated special needs ministry and facility designed for extra support and care.

The evening includes refreshments, dancing, games, prizes and a photo booth.

The city is home to many other festivals and family activities as well.

Belton is home to two movie theaters, The Beltonian and the multi-screened Grand Avenue. Both are hot spots for a variety of movies and events. The Beltonian, however, has been closed and is up for sale. Its future is not known.

Two lakes are within five minutes of downtown Belton — Stillhouse Hollow and Belton Lake. Both offer

spectacular fishing, camping, hiking and biking. Windsurfing and paddling sports are also popular. A 12-mile paddling trail can be found a short drive away in Morgan's Point Resort.

The massive Cadence Bank Center, formerly known as the Bell County Expo, is home to concerts, rodeos, the Central Texas State Fair, the Bell County Youth Show and many events featuring horses, dogs and livestock.

The City also has well over a dozen parks, plus hike and bike trails, art museums and the popular Bell County Museum.

Recognizing that the past profoundly influences the future, the Bell County Museum collects, preserves and interprets the historic and prehistoric cultural heritage of the area and provides quality traveling exhibitions for enjoyment and education.

The nearby Gault Site is home to a wealth of archaeological evidence, and the site has been home to human beings for more than 13,000 years. The Gault Site provides archaeologists with a unique look into the lifestyles of the earliest people in Texas and the Americas.

Built in 1899, the Belton Depot served as a train station for the Katy Railroad and later the Belton Railroad



Dustin Zanders
Financial Advisor
127 LAKE RD
Suite 4
Belton, TX
939-3387



Scot Hrbacek, CFP
Financial Advisor
3011 N Main St
Suite C
Belton, TX
933-7680



**Paul Stringfellow, CFP,
ChFC, CLU** Financial Advisor
127 LAKE RD
SUITE 201
Belton, TX
939-3387



Gary Knight
Financial Advisor
114 S East St
Belton, TX
933-2436



Joshua Dildine
Financial Advisor
207 E 2nd Ave
Belton, TX
939-5824

www.edwardsjones.com
Member SIPC



**If multiple accounts are a part
of your retirement strategy,
*are you sure you know why?***

Edward Jones[®]



company for many decades until it fell into obscurity. Thanks to local developers it has been renovated into the latest retail hotspot downtown. New businesses have found their home in the old station with more on the way.

The Chamber serves as an advocate and resource in five strategic areas: Workforce Development, Economic Development, Leadership Development, Marketing & Business Development, and Networking.

The Chamber has several programs in place to improve its growth and development, and it provides opportunities to connect and serve in the Belton community. These programs include Ambassadors, Leadership Belton, Mentor Belton, Business After-Hours, Chamber Coffee Connection, Legislative Governmental Affairs, and Military Relations.

The Ambassadors program provides opportunities for members to be actively involved in welcoming new members with ribbon cuttings and other celebrations. They represent the Chamber in connecting with members and hosting the annual awards banquet.

The Leadership Belton program is a year-long training experience that provides participants with opportunities to learn about and connect with the community.

Mentor Belton is a program that pairs University of Mary Hardin-Baylor students with mentors in the community to promote workforce development.

Networking opportunities provide a chance to connect with other people and businesses in the community. Business After-Hours is a monthly event designed for Chamber members to gather in a social setting for networking and to meet new members.

Chamber Coffee Connection is a Chamber event geared toward all members and potential members who are interested in learning about member organizations and specific programs in the community. Often, a nonprofit organization is featured.

The Chamber's Military Relations Committee serves as the focus of coordination for outreach to military families living in Belton. The Chamber also sponsors the Patriot Way Brick Walk along Central Avenue, providing an opportunity to honor those who have served in the military with engraved bricks and story boards, which are located along the walkway to share stories of local heroes.

A comprehensive Belton events calendar can be found at <https://business.beltonchamber.com/events/calendar/>

Mon - Thurs:
11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Fri:
11:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Sat:
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Sun:
11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

X-TREME JUMP BIRTHDAYS

SCAN ME!

3111 S. 31st St., Suite 6504B Temple, TX 76502

Belton First United Methodist Church serves Community for 175 years

The First United Methodist Church was established in 1850 five years after the Republic of Texas was admitted into the United States as the 28th state.

Belton was originally called Nolanville. A circuit rider from the Georgetown Mission served a sanctuary building.

Construction of the charge began in the 1850's and was completed in the 1860's on a lot on Pearl Street. The original building was of native rock and hewed cedar, and well-lit. The original structure had no floor and seated 300.

By 1854, Belton had become head of the circuit and reported 249 members. In the 1870's a bell was presented to the church by some New York City merchants in honor of Dr. John Embree. The bell is still being used each Sunday to sound calls for wor-

ship.

By 1884, the church had outgrown its original building, and members voted to build a new one. A lot was purchased at the corner of East Street and Third Avenue, and the sanctuary was completed in 1886.

"I was connected to FUMC in 1937 when my parents, Gladys Sutton and Lester Proctor, brought me with them to church. I became a church member in 1947. It was a wonderful and kind, and loving church. We had Sunday School in the basement, then climbed up the stairs to the Sanctuary for church service. The church has supported many a military family through the years. My husband Max Mart served in the Korean and Vietnam wars," said Mary Lou Marks.

They still have the original silver-plated baptismal font and the first communion set consisting of a silver-plated pitcher and two chalices.

An organ was purchased and installed in 1908. The present exposed pipes are ornamental. Waterpower was discontinued later when an electric motor was installed.

In 1925 the upper 16 feet of the tower and steeple were condemned and removed. The front steps originally ran directly from the door to the sidewalk on East Street. This was changed to the split stairs seen today. A balcony was added to this renovation.

Stain glass windows were added in 1950. In 1954 Otto Hoffmann, a well-known architect, rebuilt the organ. Panel doors were added to the front of the organ expansion to permit listener viewing. In 1975 the parking lot area was purchased



from Santa Fe for \$24,000. The original lease was for \$1 per year.

The Family Life Center was built in 1986. There is a mystery window in the wall behind the organ. It is not known if this window is from the original Gothic window design of 1886 or the Florentine windows of 1924. In either case, the window has not been functional since the installation of the organ in 1908.

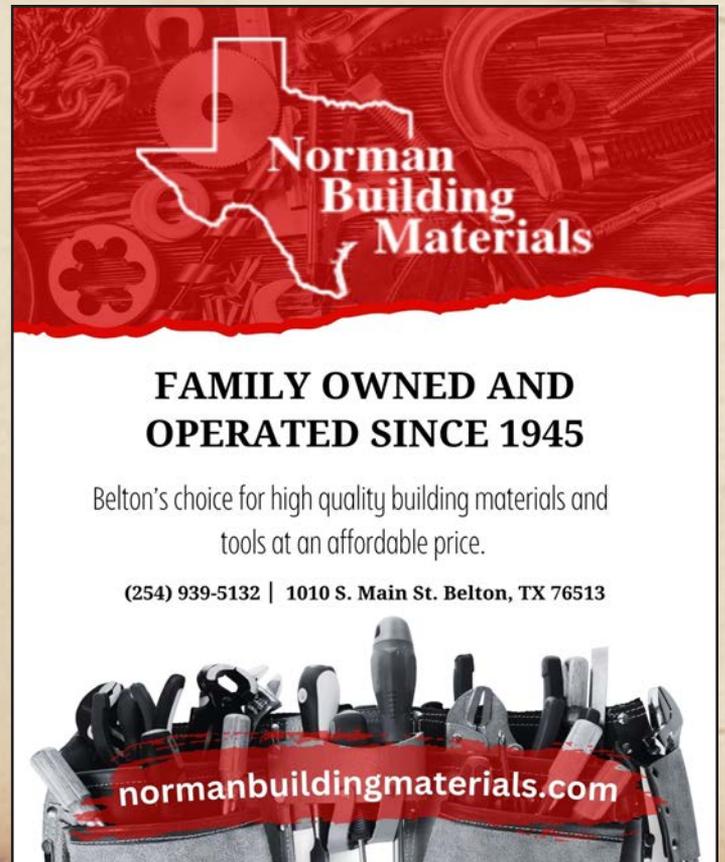
My family has been part of this church for at least 5 generations. Both my mother and father were involved here as youth and got married in the church in the 1930's. It has been my home church for over 75 years, and I have a lot of great memories. This church helped me and Leah raise our two sons here, and several grandchildren have been baptized here.

“What I remember most about Belton First United Methodist Church is the people who have faithfully attended and served here during my lifetime. I have always been moved and motivated by the faithfulness of many church members. As a young adult, and still today, I learn from their examples of what I think it means to live a Christian Life. They always seemed to make time to be in church and help with the church activities. They show their love for each other in so many ways by sharing their time and resources. And over the years, we have had church members involved in all aspects of the community, including judges, law enforcement, school and city leaders, teachers and administrators. This church has always been an important part of this community through the church members who were involved in the community and have helped to make this a better community

Belton FUMC has been an important supporter of Scouting since the beginning of Scouting here in the 1930s. I was

part of the Scout program as a boy in the 1950s and 1960s and learned so much from our volunteer leaders for the Cub and Boy Scouts. The church continues that support Scouting today.

I have witnessed this church answer the call for needs in the community, our nation, and around the world, many times. But I often reflect on those brave people who started this church in 1950 and kept it going during what had to be tough times. It seems like we have it so much better and easier today, but I think those pioneers didn't look at it that way. The church was an important part of the family and the community. They relied on the church for so many things that we today take for granted. I am amazed at their courage and perseverance, and it motivates me to do everything I can to ensure Belton First United Methodist Church is here for generations to come,” said Jay Taggart.



Norman Building Materials

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1945

Belton's choice for high quality building materials and tools at an affordable price.

(254) 939-5132 | 1010 S. Main St. Belton, TX 76513

normanbuildingmaterials.com

ARHOMES[®]

Build Beautifully *in Belton*



**CUSTOM
PLANS**



**AWARD-WINNING
DESIGNS**



**LOCAL
BUILDERS**



NOW BUILDING AT



RANCH LATITUDE 31

START BUILDING TODAY

512-710-3176 | ARHOMESCTX.COM
200 E CENTRAL AVE SUITE B, BELTON, TX 76513

ALWAYS GOING THE eXTRA SMILE

- Personalized care led by a board certified orthodontist
- Family owned & operated
- State-of-the-art digital orthodontics
- 3D scanner meaning no more messy impressions
- Friday and Saturday appointments available



WEST TEMPLE
ORTHODONTICS

WESTTEMPLEORTHODONTICS.COM
120 MORGAN'S POINT RD
SUITE 103
BELTON, TX 76513
254.899.2500



LARRISSA CALI DMD, MSD
BOARD CERTIFIED ORTHODONTIST

City of Belton known for Fourth of July Celebration

By Michelle Rodriguez

The Fourth of July, also known as Independence Day or July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the eighteenth century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the thirteen colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. The Fourth of July in 2026 is on a Saturday.

For the community of Belton, the Fourth of July is nothing but casual and known nationwide and even worldwide! In 2008, USA today named the Belton Fourth of July Parade as one of the Nation's "Top Ten Places to Fly Your Flag on the Fourth."

"We are expecting to continue to celebrate the Fourth of July only as Belton does, starting with the kickoff downtown street party with live music, vendors, and family-friendly fun. It's open to all and most of our events are free," said Randy Pittenger, President and CEO of the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Fourth of July PRCA Rodeo is an event that



has been going on for over one hundred consecutive years. It is now located at the air-conditioned Cadence Bank Center. Historically, it used to be outdoors. The Mutton Bustin' is a crowd favorite. The stick horse stampede has become a wonderful tradition.

"The Fourth of July celebration begins with a patriotic program at the courthouse at 8 a.m. There's a parade then a festival on Nolan Creek at Liberty Park by BCYC. It closes out with a concert and fireworks at Schoepf's BBQ. My favorite part is the children and seeing their excitement, smiles, and laughter and seeing the joy and happiness on people's faces," said Pittenger.

The parade begins at 9 a.m., is one and a half miles long, and starts on 10th Avenue and Main St. at UMHB to Central Avenue and ends at the Belton Police Memorial on Birdwell St.

Crowds of over thirty thousand people from all over watch the parade in person and at home on TV filled with a range of military, elected officials, veterans, horses, cowboys and cowgirls, car enthusiasts, floats, fire trucks, high school bands, cheerleaders, dancers, and more.

"One particular thing that I'm fond of is people returning to Belton for the weekend and sitting in



the same place their family has sat for many years. For some, it's a tradition. It's really rewarding to hear the stories about how meaningful it is and how they reminisce something special," said Pittenger.

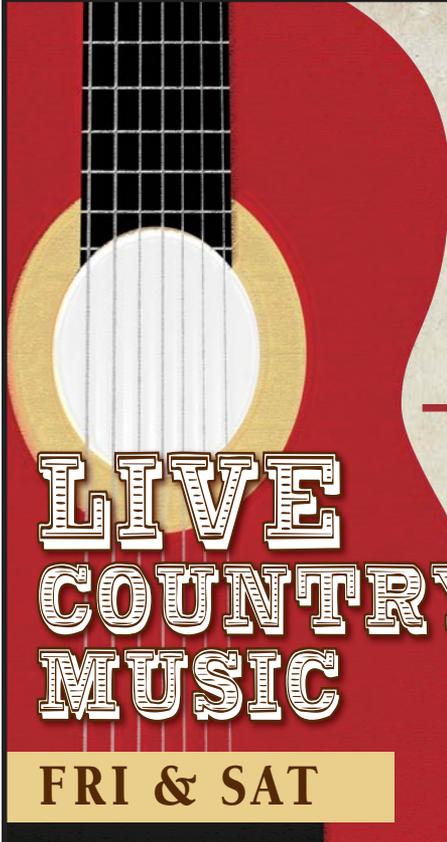
The community comes together with different committees and volunteers to plan all the events. Community partners like the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, UMHB, City of Belton, Fort Hood, BCYC, Schoepf's BBQ, Bell County, and over one hundred business organizations work, volunteer, and help sponsor the Fourth of July Celebration.






- Screen Printing & Graphics
- T-Shirts • Fleece • Active Wear
- Direct to Garment Printing
- Photo Tees • Sport Shirts

redscustomtees.com
254-613-4718
105 Greenbriar • Belton



LIVE
COUNTRY
MUSIC

FRI & SAT



Bo's BARN

DANCE HALL

TEMPLE, TX
EST. 1981

LIVE MUSIC
VENUE AND
DANCE HALL

DANCE LESSONS,
BURGERS
& MORE



HAPPY HOUR

5PM - 8 PM



KARAOKE

ON THURSDAY

4984 FM 93, Temple, TX

(254) 939-7131 • bosbarndancehall.com



Boyd Design Group^{TX}

Let us Help You Create the Home of Your Dreams

We look forward to working hand in hand with you to ensure your custom project is done correctly and to your satisfaction.

254-760-0686

Linda@BoydDesignGroupTX.com
Joe@BoydDesignGroupTX.com

BoydDesignGroupTX.com

Wilson Construction Services, LLC
Owners: David & Donna Wilson

CONCRETE WORK

RESIDENTAL *and* COMMERCIAL

- DRIVEWAY • SIDEWALKS
- PATIOS • STEPS
- ROCK/BRICK WORK
- BOBCAT SERVICES
- ASPHALT REPAIR

FULLY INSURED FOR YOUR PROTECTION



254-421-0933
Residential & Commercial -
Work is Guaranteed

We are **FULLY INSURED** for your protection.

wilsonconstructionservices.business.site

Personalized Obedience & Behavioral Modification Training Programs

512.943.2922

**We serve the Central Texas Area!
Located in Belton**



www.ruffpuppyadventures.com
Lilfurryeinsteins@gmail.com

Dog Training In-Home Boarding Daycare



Alton D. Thiele P.C.

Business Accounting Services & Tax Services for Individual, Business, Trust and Estates

- Tax-Exempt Organizations — Tax Return Preparation & Consulting — Tax Planning & IRS Representation
- Tax Resolution — Payroll — Preparation of Financial Statement — Quick Books Pro Advisor

NEW CLIENTS WELCOME!

Alton D. Thiele, CPA & Jeff Kelley, CPA
254-939-0701 — alton@adtcpa.com
adtcpa.com — 300 E Avenue C - Belton



**Large Enough to Handle
Diverse Needs,
Small Enough to CARE.**

The City of Belton named Brew City

The City of Belton joined the Texas Craft Brewers Guild's Brew City, Texas program, which also includes Temple, Killeen, and Belton. Nolan Creek Brewery on Penelope Street is a tourist attraction for the community.

The first of its kind in the nation, the Texas Craft Brewers Guild's **Brew City, Texas** program is dedicated to propelling Texas to the forefront of craft beer-generated economic development and tourism. With the craft beer industry contributing a staggering \$4.5 billion annually to the Texas economy, communities large and small have begun to recognize the industry's vital importance to fueling economic development, attracting food and drink tourism, and cultivating community for residents.

Brew City, Texas aims to unite breweries and com-

munities across the state under a shared vision: to position Texas as a world-class craft beer tourism destination.

Whether working with established beer destinations or communities seeking to attract their first brewery project, our approach celebrates established brew hubs and empowers aspiring locales. By fostering strategic alliances, providing tailored educational resources, and deploying targeted marketing efforts, the program aims to bolster Texas craft beer tourism for large and small communities and invite visitors to savor the taste of tradition while stimulating economic prosperity for every corner of the Lone Star State.

"You have to have a brewery to apply. We are very excited about this. It is just another way to attract tourists to our community. Hopefully, we can attract other breweries to come to Belton," said Judy Garrett, Re-



Kwik Kar

BELTON AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE CENTER

Fast. Honest. Reliable Auto Care.

- Oil Changes
- Brakes
- Inspections
- Maintenance



1702 N. Main St., Belton, TX

(254) 933-0526

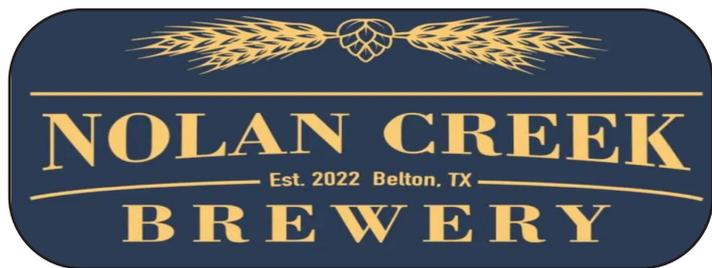
www.KwikKarBTX.com

★ Same Day Service ★



Scan to Book
or Learn More





tail Development City of Belton.

The Texas Craft Brewers Guild is a nonprofit trade association working to advance the Texas craft beer industry through advocacy and education. As a member-driven organization, the Guild's board of directors hails from craft breweries in all of the major metropolitan regions of the state, as well as from different brewery and brewpub business models and sizes.

Formed in 2009 by a band of brewers, today, the Guild has more than 300 brewery members throughout the state, including operating breweries and breweries in planning. The Guild offers membership categories for a variety of businesses and organizations that are craft-adjacent, including suppliers, service providers, educational institutions, and retailers who feature Texas craft beer in their

bars, restaurants, and bottle shops across the state. In 2024 the Guild launched the Brew City, Texas program, which aims to unite breweries and their home communities in propelling Texas to the forefront of craft beer-generated economic development and tourism.



SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES FOR OVER 61 YEARS
 Traditional Burial Services • Cremation Services • Veterans Services • Pre-Planning Options



Killeen

506 North 38th Street
(254) 699-8200

Belton

503 North Main Street
(254) 939 2411

Temple

500 West Barton Avenue
(254) 773-4564

Harper Talasek Funeral Homes

Now Family-Owned & Operated



We are honored to serve you today, tomorrow, and beyond.

For generations, families across Central Texas have trusted Harper Talasek Funeral Homes for compassionate, professional care. Today, we are honored to share an important milestone: **our firm is proudly family-owned and operated.**

This transition strengthens what has always mattered most—personal service, local stewardship, and a deep respect for every life we are entrusted to honor. As a family-owned funeral home, decisions are made locally, care is more personal, and every family is treated as our own.

With three conveniently located funeral homes, Harper Talasek continues a long-standing tradition of serving Temple, Belton, and Killeen with respect, honor, and excellence for generations.

www.harperatalasek.com
Family-Owned & Operated





Water  Street
WAFFLE CO.
107

*Creating Comfort Food
Completely from Scratch!*

Specializing in the Liege Waffle
out of Belgium





Gourmet Dishes from Fresh Ingredients

BELTON LOCATION

107 Water St., Belton, TX | (254) 831-3060

TEMPLE LOCATION

116 S 1st St., Temple, TX | (254) 228-5623

waterstreetwafflecompany.com



Harris Event Center, linking a rich history dating to 1936

By Michele Weisman

Built in 1936, the Harris Center celebrates the building's 90th anniversary this year. Known today as a prime location to rent rooms for meetings, family occasions, or to attend City Council meetings, the Harris Community Center was first a school during segregation. It was the T.B. Harris High School, educating African American children from elementary school up through high school.

Former students of the school speak with pride and joy about their teachers, principals, and that their education was second to none. Valedictorian of the final graduating class in 1966 was Barbara Duncan. She continued on to Paul Quinn College, graduating Magna Cume Laude. To this day, the West Belton TB Harris Association exists to preserve the legacy, encouraging involvement and membership by all, hosts events, and

provides two scholarships a year to African American students.

If you rent a room, the entire facility, or attend a Belton City Council meeting, know that the rooms are named after principals. Professor Thomas Breckenridge Harris, the building's namesake, was



Photo by Rachel & Jeff Photogra

the principal prior to the construction and continued upon its completion. The Aleck and Milton McGree Room, not a rentable space, is named for the second principal and his wife who taught at the school. The Kinchion Room, named for the third principal, Mr. Kinchion, brought the Texas Colored Teacher Association nonprofit to Belton. He was

the principal for 20 years. The Smith Room is named for the fourth principal, Mr. W. T. Smith, who had the shortest tenure. City Council Chambers meet in the TW. & Teresa Wright Room, the school's fifth principal. Mrs. Wright taught first and second grade. Mr. TW. Wright added the school library. The Evans Room, named after the sixth principal, Mr. Evans is the largest, once being four rooms at the school. The room is also named for Mrs. Evans, a first and second-grade teacher. The seventh and final principal, Mr. W. F. Simpson, has the Simpson Room named after him. He erected the school's gym and added a science lab.

If you rent a room, are a guest at an event, attend a city affair, or listen in on Belton City Council gatherings, you too are part of the living time capsule the Harris Community Center opens its doors to.

Potts family keeps downtown Belton landmark vital and strong

Cochran, Blair & Potts is the oldest department store in Texas, and business at the downtown Belton landmark continues to be strong.

The store opened in 1869 and still takes up one side of a city block at the corner of Central and Penelope. It has been open so long that a portion of the building is used as a Cochran, Blair & Potts museum.

“There are a lot of cool things like a library of ledger books, including the original from 1869,” said Robert Potts Jr., president of the company. “There’s also a drawer that was used to hold fabric patterns in the store’s old fabric department, and an old Bell County notary.”

“We have a coin holder and change maker that was used from 1900 until 1982,” Potts added.

The massive store consumes 12,000-square-feet and has four entrances for shoppers. The store has been in its current location since 1884, and the cast iron columns outside the building were added in 1887.

“We did a renovation project in 2016,” Potts said. “We renovated the inside of the building, and finished an enhancement project on the outside that includes structural work, awnings and lights.”

There are several departments throughout the store, including men’s and women’s clothing, kid’s essentials, gifts and shoes.

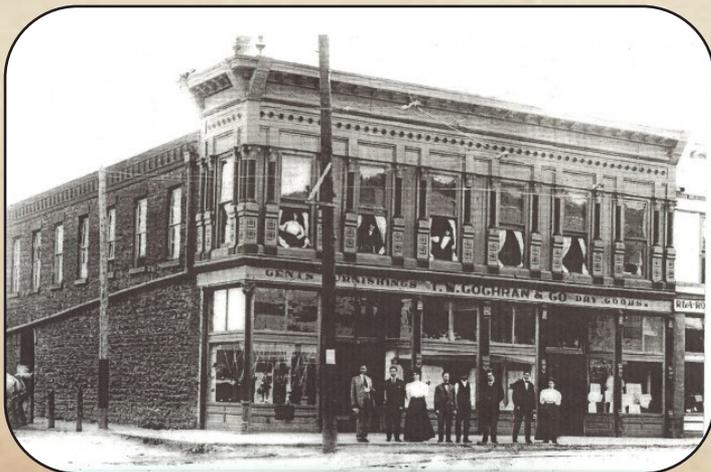
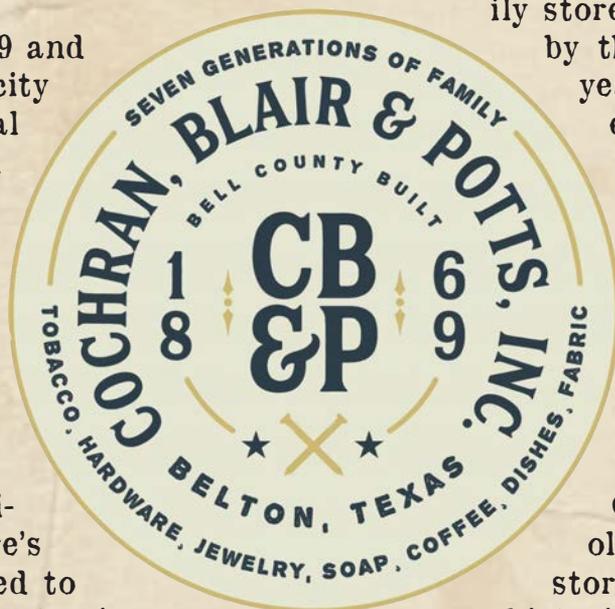
The shoes are the most purchased item

— they have On brand running shoes and Red Wing work boots.

Cochran, Blair & Potts is a family store — they’ve been owned by the same family for 140 years. Pott’s father, Robert Sr., is retired, and his brother, Michael Potts, is the vice president of the company and does clerical and accounting work. His wife, Ashley Potts, does the buying.

After 14 decades of selling treasures in Central Texas, Texas’ oldest family department store was named a state historical jewel in 2013.

The store, which became solely owned by the Potts family in 1970, opened in 1869 in Centerville, moved to Buffalo in 1876 and eventually settled in downtown Belton on East Central Avenue in 1884. It was closed after a major fire in 1928, but reopened in 1929.



Belton parks get upgrades

By David Stone

It's a busy year for Belton Parks & Recreation with the addition of two new parks plus improvements at many of the other 22 parks in the community.

The new parks — **Standpipe Park** and **Freedom Neighborhood Park** in Liberty Valley subdivision — opened in 2025, said James Grant, director of Belton's Parks & Recreation department.

Standpipe Park is built around the renovated Belton Standpipe, which will be lit up in color-changing lights.

"It will instantly be a Belton landmark because it will be visible from both I-35 and I-14," Grant added. "The lights will change according to the season or special events. For example, if the Tigers or UMHB win games, the standpipe will be illuminated in school colors."

"In addition to the standpipe, the small community park has a very nice playground, a restroom, a

practice field, a butterfly garden and a quarter-mile walking trail," Grant said.

"The park also has our first-ever hill-side slide," Grant said. "The slide runs down the hill and into our playground. There also is a pavilion with multiple tables and street parking along three sides."

Freedom Neighborhood Park, at the intersection of Huey Avenue and Connell Street, will feature a playground, open spaces and a walking trail. Planning is under way and construction should take place this year.

A new pavilion has been built at Chisholm Trail Park through the City's Legacy Program. The pavilion honors Debbie Potts, who served as a counselor at Belton High for many years. The Legacy Program is a unique way to honor others through the beautification of parks and other areas in Belton.

Grant said the new pavilion is located next to the existing pickleball courts at the park, the number of pickleball courts is being expanded to six. Also, the park's basketball court will be painted green and stripes will be added to mark half-court and free-throw areas.

Several projects are on tap for Heritage Park, Grant said.

"The lights on all four baseball fields at Heritage are being retrofitted with LED lights," he said. "These lights will be much brighter and more energy efficient."

"Also, the soccer complex is getting another practice field, and we are adding lights to the new multi-purpose field. This will help out during the summer — kids can play later when it's not so hot."

The Belton Baseball Association is putting in batting cages at Heritage Park, and they will be open to the public when not in use by league baseball teams.

"The batting cages will be near Community Garden, which also is getting a facelift," Grant added.

Two big park additions are Leadership Belton projects.

"We just did a Welcome to Belton sign and new banner brackets on downtown lamp posts," he said.



BELTON CHRISTIAN YOUTH CENTER

Our mission is to provide care and promote Christian values through education and recreation to enhance the potential of all youth.

505 East Avenue C www.BeltonYouth.com



Serving the Belton Community since 1982

“Now, Leadership Belton is doing two more projects. One will be renovation of the basketball court and park benches at Miller Heights Park. They also will add more security cameras on the Nolan Creek Hike & Bike Trail.”

In a joint project with Temple, a new access trail and boardwalk, and a renovated overlook, has been constructed at Miller Springs Nature Center near Belton Dam.

Parks in the Belton system include:

Beall Park — It includes a playground, a large open space and picnic tables.

Carla Kay Park — This is a small pocket park with a swing set, picnic table and some shaded open space.

Chisholm Trail Park — This park features baseball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, covered area, butterfly garden and a three-quarter mile walking trail.

Continental Field — A special-purpose park with a backstop.

Griggs Field — This area has a backstop where teams can practice.

TB Harris Community Center — This is a multi-use event center suitable for parties.

Heritage Park — Belton’s largest park at 155 acres has athletic fields, picnic tables, grills, a community garden, two pavilions, a fishing dock, and a special-needs accessible playground.

Harris Community Park — This park has a splash pad, playground and benches, plus a restroom, picnic tables and a butterfly garden.

Jaycee Field — It has a baseball field, restrooms and a concession building.

Jeff Hamilton Park — A playground, open green space, a quarter-mile walking trail and several seating areas are featured at this park near South Belton Middle School.

The Landing at Creekside Park — The Landing is a popular spot along Nolan Creek.

Liberty Park — This park features two pavilions, several picnic tables, two playgrounds and lots of open space. The Nolan Creek Hike & Bike Trail runs through the park.

Continued on Page 68

DEAD FISH GRILL

DELICIOUS FOOD WITH A GORGEOUS VIEW!

Serving Classic American, Southern Comfort, Seafood, Cajun, And More!

2207 Lake Belton Rd. Belton, TX
(254)-939-5771

DEADFISHGRILL.COM

EXCHANGE
on central

216 E Central Ave • Belton
254-933-8833
exchangeoncentral.com

the mercantile

Belton, TX Family owned GENERAL STORE est. 1971

Lions Field — This is a special-purpose park equipped with a practice baseball field and a basketball court.

Miller Heights Park — There are picnic tables and grills, a playground, basketball court, fitness station and more than a half-mile of walking trails. There is also a butterfly garden and open green spaces.

Miller Spring Nature Center — Lots of hiking is offered at this sprawling area owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers and operated and maintained by the Cities of Belton and Temple.

Nolan Creek Hike & Bike Trail — This 1.26 mile trail links Liberty Park and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, and it travels through Harris Community Park and Yettie Polk Park. It includes 10 educational stations along the trail.

Nolan Creek Nature Trail — This quarter-mile getaway is in the city limits but somewhat primitive. Great views and places to stop along the way.

Quail Meadows Park — This park features three small pavilions, a nearly quarter-mile asphalt

trail with picnic tables, a half-court and three playground areas.

South Wall Tiger Park — The highlights of this park are a splash pad, a half-court, a playground and covered picnic tables.

Yettie Polk Park — One of the city's oldest and most-used parks. Nestled aside Nolan Creek, the park features two playgrounds, picnic tables, a basketball court and the Nolan Creek Hike & Bike Trail.



◆ TORI *Tawater*
MARKETING

(254) 231-0209 EXT #2

MARKETING@THEVISTAREALTORS.COM

7446 HONEYSUCKLE
TEMPLE, TEXAS 76645

◆ "IT'S NOT WHAT YOU SELL THAT MATTERS AS MUCH AS HOW YOU SELL IT!"



COMPASS

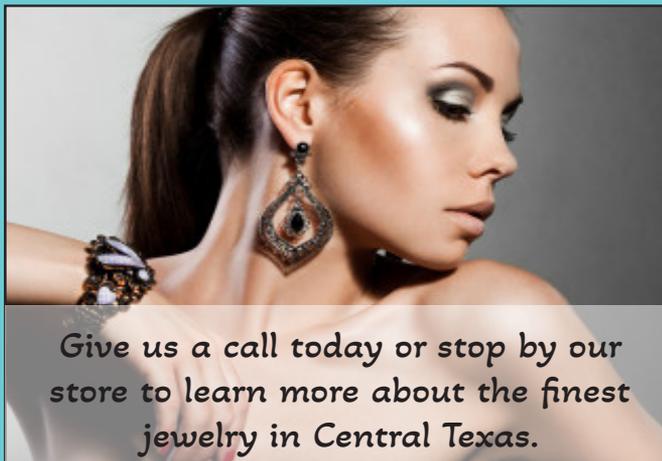
VISTA
REAL ESTATE GROUP

LASTOVICA

Over 70 years of experience from a family you've grown to trust.



Don't give up on your broken jewelry
Create that special piece you've been dreaming about



Give us a call today or stop by our store to learn more about the finest jewelry in Central Texas.

1202 S. 31st St Temple
LastovicaFineJewelers.Com
254-773-5772

For fast, fair, friendly service, contact...

Auto • Fire • Homeowners • Life • Renters
Boats • RVs • Mobile Homes
Worker's Comp

DISCOUNTS FOR: Accident-Free Drivers
Good Students • Multiple Cars • Auto/Life

A wide choice of deductibles to fit your specific need and budget. All policies can be combined in one monthly payment.

Good people to know for your insurance needs.



Troy Ashford

"Your Neighborhood Agent"



FARMERS

INSURANCE

201 E 2nd Ave • Belton, TX
254-933-2007

tashford@farmersagent.com



McGuire Tire

"Since 1947"

- ALIGNMENTS
- BRAKES
- LIFT KITS
- WHEELS
- TRUCK ACCESSORIES
- FARM SERVICE
- TRUCK RETREADING

McGuire
Tire

\$20 OFF

ANY BRAKE SERVICE
BELTON OR TEMPLE LOCATION

Exp. 12-31-26 (NO CASH VALUE)

McGuire
Tire

\$15 OFF

4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT
BELTON OR TEMPLE LOCATION
RETAIL ONLY

Exp. 12-31-26 (NO CASH VALUE)

McGuire
Tire

\$20 OFF

SHOCK/STRUT INSTALLATION
W/PURCHASE OF SHOCKS OR STRUTS
BELTON OR TEMPLE LOCATION

Exp. 12-31-26 (NO CASH VALUE)

103 Lake Rd. | Belton | 939-1357

603 S. 1st. | Temple | 773-3114

McGuireTire.com

The Bell County Museum

The Bell County Museum exists to engage and educate the community by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the prehistoric and historic heritage of Bell County. The museum is housed in the beautifully restored 1905 Belton Carnegie Library building, which is a recorded Texas Historical Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historical Places. Prior to the museum being opened to the public in 1991, the county and museum board embarked on a "Save the Museum" campaign to update and restore the Belton Carnegie Library. The campaign raised the necessary \$400,000 to restore the beautiful beaux-arts building. In 2006, the Guffy Building was renovated and connected to the Carnegie Library building, creating a unique structure that bridges contemporary style with historical architectural integrity. The award-winning Bell County Museum features permanent exhibits on the history of Bell County, the Marshall Log Cabin, and the Gault Archaeological Site. The museum

was awarded the John Nau III Excellence in Museums award by the Texas Historical Commission for Discover Bell County, the permanent exhibit on Bell County history. Throughout the year, the museum features several traveling exhibits in its West Gallery exhibition room. In addition to permanent and traveling exhibits, the museum offers a wide array of programming. Visitors of all ages will enjoy the Spring Lecture Series, Day on the Texas Frontier, STEAM Exploration, Weird Science!, Homeschool Day and much more this year. Items in the museum collections are available for research by anyone interested in the history of Bell County. In addition, the museum has a research room and manuscript library to aid those researching Bell County history. Stop by and visit the museum (admission free) located at 201 N. Main Street in Belton. For more information or to find out about volunteer opportunities, please call (254) 933-5243 or visit the museum website at www.bellcountymuseum.org



70
YEARS

SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS SINCE 1956

Tanner Roofing

*Family-owned and operated
for seven decades*

- Serving all of Bell and Surrounding Counties
- Free Estimates
- Commercial, Residential, Metal, Gutters and Repairs
- Work with all Insurance Companies
- Fully Insured

Rely on us for home roofing repair and get your roof fixed quickly!



(254) 939-0343
1100 E. 6th Ave.
Belton, TX 76513

TANNERROOFING.COM

**ONLY OWENS CORNING PLATINUM
PREFERRED CONTRACTOR IN TOWN**



WON THE 2025 GOLD SAFETY AWARD FROM HIGHWIRE

Miller Springs gets new boardwalk, observation deck

By David Stone

Construction on a new boardwalk and improvements to an observation deck at Miller Springs Nature Center were completed in 2025, adding a new trail and an updated observation deck.

The 260-acre natural area in the Cities of Temple and Belton is located just below Belton Lake Dam along the Leon River.

“The two cities manage and operate the park, and it is owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers,” said Kevin Beavers, Temple’s director of Parks & Recreation. “Everything has to be approved by the Corps of Engineers. We presented our improvement plans to the local Corps office, and then it went to the Fort Worth regional office for final approval.”

“There was a wooden boardwalk at Miller Springs years ago, but it was damaged when the Belton Lake Dam spillway was breached in February 1992,” he said. “It essentially washed away, but you can still see some of the concrete pillars.”

The boardwalk was rebuilt in the mid 1990s but had to be removed in 2016 because of damage.

“The new boardwalk is about a third of a mile in length, and it will allow visitors of all ages to enjoy the Nature Center,” said James Grant, executive director of Belton Parks & Recreation. “Right now, the route to the scenic overlook is not accessible for those who use walkers or are in wheelchairs. After this project, it will be accessible for everyone.”

The new boardwalk was built with a synthetic material commonly used by cities on bridges and decks. It is engineered to resist fading, scratches and stains, and it doesn’t rot. Maintenance is minimal.

Beaver said that while the boardwalk is used by hikers and birdwatchers, its main purpose will be to provide a smooth walk to the overlook.

The old overlook is used to view a historical marker that sits a few feet away. The new overlook prominently displays the marker, which provides a bit of the history of Tennessee Valley before it was flooded to create

SHAR'S
 Consignment
 and Boutique
 1615 Canyon Creek Dr.
 (254) 773-7744
sharsconsignment.com

Celebrating 27 Years

Belton Lake.

The plan to improve the overlook and construct the boardwalk was approved by both Temple and Belton Councils, and KPA Engineering created designs for the project.

The park opened after the construction of the dam in 1954, and camping and fishing were popular on both sides of the dam. The area was left open to the public with no controls from the 1960s to the 1980s,

Between December 1991 and March of 1992, some 22 inches of rainfall in the area caused the lake elevation to rise 40 feet. Water overflowed the spillway for 42 days, reaching a peak depth of nearly 4 feet.

The water-flow into Miller Springs created new canyons and exposed geological formations. In 1993, the Miller Springs Alliance took over the lease and maintained the area, with a desire to protect it and see it used for educational and environmentally sustainable activities.

The alliance operated using volunteers until 2018, when the Cities of Belton and Temple took over the lease to maintain the area.

According to the City of Belton website, volunteers

help keep Miller Springs Nature Center functioning and clean. To be added to an email list and receive notification about future volunteer dates, please email parksandrec@beltontexas.gov.








Sol Life
NATURAL WELLNESS
A HOLISTIC SHOP
IN BELTON, TX.

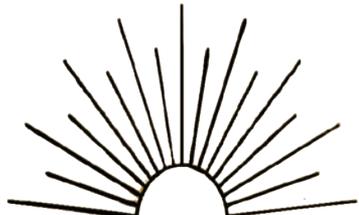
HERBAL REMEDIES,
ORGANIC TEAS, &
ETHICALLY-SOURCED CRYSTALS.

(254) 444-5999 

404 Lake Road Belton, TX 

www.sol-life-studio.com 

WITH



BUENA VIDA
MASSAGE



— THERAPEUTIC MESSAGES, CUPPING,
DRY BRUSHING, FOOT REFLEXOLOGY, & MORE! —

JULIE RODRIGUEZ
(210) 840-1637



Sanitarium played key role in early 20th century Belton

By David Stone

The Belton Sanitarium, a building of white stone covered in stucco, opened Sept. 5, 1916 at the corner of Second and Pearl streets, and residents packed the state-of-the-art hospital for the launch.

The sanitarium was built at a cost of \$22,000, and it was equipped with an electrical operating room. It accommodated about 20 patients in private rooms with adjustable lights over each bed, an electronic call bell and a telephone. The kitchen was also electrically equipped, thus providing the best sanitation. The entire building was steam-heated.

The building, formerly a steam laundry, belonged to the Woman's Commonwealth of Belton. The Sanctified Sisters earned a significant income from laundry service to their own Central Hotel. The hotel was sold in 1899 when the sisters left Belton.

A group of Belton businessmen, in cooperation with several Belton doctors, formed a stock company and purchased the building as a hospital. Baker Brothers contractors out of Temple repaired and remodeled the structure.

The doctors eventually bought out the stock and became owners of the hospital. Associated with the hospital in the early days were Doctors M. P. McElhannon, A. B. Crane, S. L. Mayo, O.N. Mayo, and later Doctors Boren, Ballard, and Pitman.

The first superintendent of the sanitarium was Miss M.A. Dorvin of San Antonio. She had previously been employed as the head of the hospital department at the Southwestern Insane Asylum.

For more than a quarter of a century, the sanitarium served the people of Belton. By 1945 the sanitarium could no longer accommodate the needs of the community. Dr. J. G. Sewell and his

brother, H. W. Sewell purchased the stock interest in the sanitarium and planned a new building. The doctors came to Belton in 1939 and 1941 respectively. Both were practicing physicians and surgeons.

The new hospital, called the Sewell Hospital, was a one-story structure with 40 rooms facing Pearl Street. It began operation in 1946. Waiting rooms were located at the front of the building. The hospital also housed operating rooms, delivery room, nursery, and an X-ray department. An electro-cardiograph machine was included in the new equipment.

Along the north portion of the T-shaped building were the emergency room, physiotherapy department, laboratory, nurses' quarters, kitchen, and dining room. The kitchen featured all-steel cabinets, sinks, and storage space.

A long wing extending east toward the post office contained the patient rooms which were painted in pastel shades of pink, blue, green, and yellow. Some rooms had adjoining baths, but all were outfitted with new light fixtures and furniture including beds, dressers, cabinet tables, and leather upholstered chairs.

George Eads purchased the old Belton Sanitarium building, now vacant with the opening of the new hospital. Eads and his father were partners in the Eads Funeral Home. In 1947 he opened the Ranch House Hotel following a complete transformation of the building, both inside and out.

The new ranch style decor featured Western touches such as simulated cedar wainscoting, desert murals on the dining room walls, and wagon wheel chandeliers. Each piece of furniture was marked with the "GE" brand.

The new hotel filled a long-felt need in the community and was well-received by the residents of Belton.

First Baptist Belton's new church building expected in early 2027

A new \$25-million First Baptist Church of Belton is expected to be complete in the first quarter of 2027, according to Executive Pastor Mike Morrow.

"I'm hoping we will be in the new facility in time for Easter services in 2027," he said.

Ground was broken for the new church — located at 1308 W MLK Jr Avenue — in May and site work began at the first of August. Land for the new building was acquired through a land swap with the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. The university likely will replace the current First Baptist with buildings needed for continued growth.

"The general contractor estimates that construction will take about 18 months to complete," Morrow said.

"The overall size of the new building will actually be smaller than the total square footage of our current church building," he added. "But, we will have a larger sanctuary."

Morrow said the current church is about 110,000 square feet and the sanctuary seats 1,000 people. The new facility will be just over half the size — 66,000 square feet. The sanctuary, however, will seat approximately 1,300.

"It's a reorganization of space," he said. "We will have some amenities the current church doesn't have."

Included in the future First Baptist is a large gathering space that stretches the entire length of the building.

"The gathering space will be a significant portion of the total square feet," he said. "It will include our welcome center, a coffee shop and space for gatherings. We have a lobby in our current church, but nothing this large."

"The new building will include 28 Sunday school rooms — 12 adult rooms and 16 for children and youth," Morrow said. "We also will have a large gymnasium and administrative offices."

"The gym will house a full basketball court and three pickleball courts," he added. "It will be used for recreation, but we can also set up for banquets in the gym."

The new church is being constructed by S-B Construction Group of Indiana.

"They specialize in commercial work," Morrow said. "They have an entire division dedicated to building churches and Christian schools."

"The new building has been a heartbeat for First Baptist for several years — it started before I was here," he said. "The church did extensive research to determine if the current facilities could be renovated or if a new building was needed."

The research revealed that renovation costs could top \$32 million, so a land swap was engineered with UMHB.

The new facility was designed by Utah-based Building God's Way.

"This is an exciting time for First Baptist Church," Morrow concluded. "We are looking forward to the new church."

celebrating
38 YEARS!



www.ga-tx.com

254.778.1466

815 North Main Street
Belton, Texas

TACLA22074C



TM

POMYKAL
HEATING & COOLING LLC

**We are your Professional
Heating, Ventilation,
HVAC/Air Conditioning
Repair Solution**



William & Gwen Pomykal-
Service & Repairs, Preventative Maintenance
Billy Pomykal- HVAC Technician
Monty Pomykal- HVAC Apprentice



Serving Belton, Temple and Killeen



www.gopomykal.com (254) 938-6290

KW REAL ESTATE PLANNER



Plan for the future now.

A real estate planner specializes in helping individuals navigate the complexities of real estate investments within the context of retirement planning.

- ✔ Wealth building through real estate
- ✔ Buying and selling assistance
- ✔ Expertise in real estate investment
- ✔ Eliminate Family Disputes

CONTACT US

- 📞 254-495-5661
- 🌐 www.i35group.com
- 📍 i35 Group in Killeen



RESIDENTS CHOICE WINNER 2025

Coronas De Oro Mexican Restaurant

Voted Best:
Fajitas, Margaritas, & Enchiladas

Monday - Tuesday
10:30 AM - 9:30 PM

Wednesday - Saturday
10:30 AM - 10:00 PM

Sunday
10:30 AM - 9:00 PM

254-613-5007

219 S East St, Belton, TX 76513

Excellent Care, Every Patient Every Day!

Meet your Temple Team



Kelli Jenkins
Hospice

Hospice
254-598-7297



Colleen Wagner
Home Health

Home Health
254-771-4131



Ebony Gebrehawariat
TCC



Tiffany McFarland
ADS



Deborah Koko
Hospice



Tammy Karm
Home Health



Belton Police Department Expands Community Programs

The Belton Police Department is committed to building trust, reducing crime, and enhancing public safety through strong community partnerships.

Serving residents, businesses, and visitors 24/7, the department emphasizes approachability and prevention-focused policing. Its reputation for modern, service-oriented law enforcement is recognized locally and across Texas.

Chief Larry Berg, a 28-year department veteran, became chief in Feb. 2, 2024, following the retirement of Chief Gene Ellis. Berg previously served as deputy chief for seven years.

Officers regularly participate in community events, including Belton ISD functions, Coffee with a Cop, and National Night Out—giving residents opportunities to connect with those who serve them.

Belton Police was the first agency in Bell County

to earn accreditation from the Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices Recognition Program. The program evaluates compliance with more than 170 standards covering use of force, citizen rights, pursuits, evidence handling, and investigations.

Established in 2011, the Citizens Helping in Police Services (CHIPS) program supports the department through volunteer patrols and administrative assistance. CHIPS members, all graduates of the Citizens Police Academy, patrol parks, shopping centers, and public events, contributing more than 7,000 service hours annually.

CHIPS also staffs the RU OK Program, which checks on elderly residents. The program has helped 17 individuals in potentially life-threatening situations.

The Belton Police Department remains committed to professionalism, respect, and service in every interaction.



WHITISH ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION

Central Texas' Trusted Roofing Experts

ROOF REPLACEMENT | ROOF REPAIR | GENERAL CONSTRUCTION



FREE ESTIMATES

(254) 300-8242 | whitishroofing.com



BELTON COUNCIL MEMBERS

David K. Leigh, Mayor
John Holmes, Mayor Pro Tem
Craig Pearson
Stephanie O'Banion
Daniel Bucher
Dave Covington
Luke Potts

PLANNING

Bob van Til -
Director of Development Services

Belton EDC

Warren Ketteman -
Director of Industry Development

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Amanda Cox - Asst. Director of Finance

HUMAN RESOURCES

Megan Odiorne - Director of Human
Resources

UTILITIES

Mike Rodgers - Finance Director

PUBLIC WORKS

Scott Hodde - Director of Public Works

PARKS AND RECREATION

James Grant - Director of Parks and
Recreation

LENA ARMSTRONG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Amanda Hairston -
Director of Library Services

COME EAT AT
SUBWAY



Proudly locally owned and operated, we're committed to serving our community with care, integrity, and hometown pride.

"From small gatherings to large-scale events, our catering delivers exceptional food and service every time."

600 Forest Dr Belton, TX
254-933-7827

★ **MVP** ★
REWARDS

JOIN THE NEW SUBWAY® MVP REWARDS
TO EARN POINTS ON YOUR ORDER
Redeem for Subway® Cash, get birthday freebies, and more.







Young's Daughters
Funeral Home & Bereavement Center

† Burials (Traditional or Green) † Body Donation
 † Funeral Travel † Grief Classes † Pre-Paid Funerals
 † Cremation By Fire † Cremation By Water



4235 E. US HWY 190, Temple
 254-401-1302
 www.YoungsDaughters.com

Belton Fire Department: Committed to Community Safety

The Belton Fire Department is a professional team focused on enhancing community safety through fire and emergency services, prevention, public education, and other essential support.

The department continually seeks innovative ways to improve operations, aiming to build a safe, inclusive, and economically viable community.

Belton Fire Department is a “Recognized” agency by the Texas Fire Chiefs Association, a designation earned through a rigorous self-assessment against industry standards.

In June 2020, Jon Fontenot became fire chief, succeeding Bruce Pritchard. Fontenot brings more than 25 years of experience and holds a master’s degree in public administration.

Since his appointment, Fontenot has led key improvements, including adding a fire captain position, outsourcing EMS services to American Medical Response, increasing crew staffing, and certifying the department as a training fa-

cility for fire certifications.

The department also revised its shift schedule from 24 hours on/48 off to 48 hours on/96 off, giving firefighters more time to recover and support mental health.

Firefighter health is a priority. Stations have commercial-grade extractor washers to remove carcinogens from gear, and trucks are equipped with decontamination supplies for on-scene cleanup.

Fontenot emphasizes a proactive approach—preventing accidents and ensuring professional response. The department has expanded safety

training, community presentations, and code enforcement to improve public safety and strengthen partnerships with local businesses.

In December 2025, the Bell County Commissioners Court authorized conveying 1.7 acres of land near the Bell County Justice Center to the City of Belton, which plans to use the land for a future third fire station.

The Belton Fire Department values the continued support of the community.



Belton has access to several medical facilities

By Michelle Rodriguez

Baylor Scott & White's roots in Bell County began in 1897, when Arthur C. Scott Sr., MD and Raleigh R. White Jr., MD formed a joint private practice in Temple, establishing the foundation for what would become Scott & White. For more than a century, Baylor Scott & White has been growing alongside communities like Belton to expand services, physician access, and clinics.

“Our roots run deep in Temple and across Bell County. As we continue to grow alongside this community, our mission has stayed the same: serve Central Texans right here at home. We are committed to delivering care to our neighbors today and for the next 125 years,” Greg Haralson, President, Baylor Scott & White Central Texas Region.

Body of Christ Community Clinic seeks to provide basic health and dental care services to residents in the East Bell County area who have no health insurance and no means to obtain basic health and dental care services.

Other key facilities in Belton are Freedom Urgent Care, a Seton affiliate, and Integrity Urgent Care. The services they offer include urgent care, virtual urgent care, behavioral health, occupational medicine including drug screens, DOT, and non-DOT physicals, and worker's compensation work-related injuries, and sexual health.

What's the difference between urgent care and emergency room? If you need immediate medical attention, you may want to go to the emergency room, but if it's not life-threatening, urgent care offers more convenience and affordability when compared to the emergency room. There is less wait time, cost, and they send records to your doctor.

Belton is conveniently located near Temple and Harker Heights which offer major hospitals including Baylor, Scott & White Medical Center, Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Hospital, and Seton Medical Center.

Belton has access to specialized facilities, such as Cedar Crest Hospital and Residential Treatment Center, for mental health.

In 2013, Baylor Health Care System and Scott & White Healthcare joined forces and created a new health system, Baylor Scott & White Health, and became the largest not-for-profit healthcare system in the state of Texas.

“Rooted in Bell County for more than 125 years, our hospital has grown from a small clinic in Temple into a trusted destination for care. That rich history is

our foundation—and it's why we will keep investing in people, programs and places that help our neighbors live well, right here at home,” Dr. Stephen Sibbitt, Chief Medical Officer, Baylor Scott & White Central Texas Region.

In the beginning of this year there was an opening of Temple Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital. Baylor Scott & White and Select Medical opened a 45-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Temple, welcoming its first patients in January as part of the expanded joint venture.

Also being built in the southern part of the City of Belton, which will also serve our neighbors in Salado and surrounding communities is another Seton Medical Center facility that will include a free-standing emergency department and Wellstone Health Partners primary and specialty care clinics.

Baylor Scott & White Clinic – Belton South

1001 Arbor Park, Belton, TX 76513; Ph: 254-831-2000

Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Clinic – Belton

1009 Arbor Park, Belton, TX 76513; Ph: 254-724-5437

Baylor Scott & White Clinic – Belton

1505 N. Main St., Belton, TX 76513; Ph: 254-933-4000

Baylor Scott & White Clinic – Belton Lake Rd.

309 Lake Rd., Belton, TX 76513; Ph: 254-933-5600

Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Medical Center – Temple

1901 SW H K Dodgen Loop, Temple, TX 76502;
Ph: 254-724-5437

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Temple

2401 S. 31 St., Temple, TX 76508; Ph: 254-724-2111

Body of Christ Community Clinic

2210 Holland Rd., Belton, TX 76513; Ph: 254-939-9500

Cedar Crest Hospital & Residential Treatment Center

3500 I-35, Belton, TX 76513; Ph: 254-613-9871

Freedom Urgent Care

2812 Oakmark Dr., A, Belton, TX 76513;
Ph: 254-300-9191

Integrity Urgent Care

2510 Commerce St., Belton, TX 76513;
Ph: 254-613-1323

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights

850 W. Central Texas Expressway,
Harker Heights, TX 76548; Ph: 254-690-0900

Lena Armstrong Public Library: Honoring History, Serving the Future

Serving Belton since 1899, the Lena Armstrong Public Library is focused on connecting and engaging with the community through education, access, and inspiration. The Library provides access to 30,000 books, audiovisual materials, and digital items. In addition, the Library houses 3,300 historical photographs, a genealogy collection, a Texas collection, and local history resources.

The Library also provides free Wi-Fi, public access computers, educational and leisure programming for all ages, and free scanning and faxing services. A children's playground with a beautiful mural, a butterfly garden, and comfortable interior to work and collaborate complete the space.

Founded by the Woman's Wednesday Club, the Library began in a single room at the Central Hotel, operated by the Women's Commonwealth. As the collection grew, it moved to the Harris & Walker building on Main Street. Emma A. Lee was appointed the first Librarian.

The club launched a successful letter-

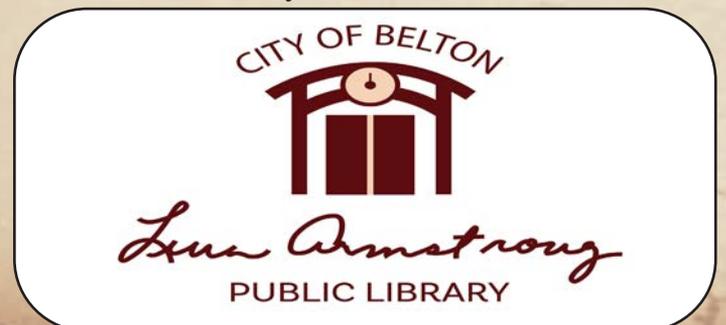
writing campaign to Andrew Carnegie, securing a grant. In 1905, the Carnegie Library opened at 201 N. Main St. with 1,500 books. Lee retired in 1924 and was succeeded by Loulie C. Meyer.

In 1933, the Library Board petitioned the City Council to assume operations. The city took over, and in 1946, Meyer retired and was succeeded by Lena Armstrong, who served for 53 years until her retirement in 1998.

The Library moved to its current location at 301 E. 1st Ave. in 1975 and was renamed the Lena Armstrong Public Library in 1999 to honor Armstrong's

legacy of service.

Kim Kroll was appointed Director of Library Services in 2000, leading the library through a period of modernization culminating in the 2024 exterior improvements and 2025 refresh of the Library's interior. Additionally, she maintained and preserved many historical records and artifacts collected by Lena Armstrong. Kroll retired in July 2025 and was succeeded by Amanda Hairston.



MK&T Depot & Katy Building, a flavor for all

By Michelle Rodriguez

The Belton MK&T Depot was established in 1899. It was built in 1882 and served as a train station for the Katy Railroad and later the Belton Railroad Company. In 2022, local developers Terry and Luke Potts and Matt Gunter renovated the Depot and adjacent property into a downtown destination that is now home to several small businesses. It is located at 201 N. East St., at the corner of First Avenue and East St.

“Activity breeds activity,” said Gunter. It took fourteen months for renovation. Visitors engage in drinking and dining, which contributes to the area’s overall economic activity.

“With so many opportunities for expansion and business development, Belton is, ‘ripe for the picking,’” Gunter said. As many more people visit and conduct business, the city

experiences a compounding effect that leads to even more future activities.

In October 2023, all ten suites in the Belton MK&T Depot and Katy Building were fully leased as a mixed-use commercial area. In January 2025, businesses include the Railway Express Diner, Pinky’s, Early Light Creperie, Pizza PieRos, Katy Deli, and Sly Fox Coffeehouse.

Railway Express Diner is located in Suite A, and owned by Christi and Jay Williams. It is a popular spot for classic American comfort food, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner with options like breakfast tacos, burgers and fries, chicken fried steak, chicken and dumplings, and

daily specials.

Pinky’s Bar is located in Suite B and women owned. It’s a vibrant and unique destination that offers great drinks. It is a pink-themed bar that is popular for its eclectic menu, stylish ambiance, and live entertainment.

“We’re unapologetically pink, but Pinky’s is a space for everyone. From Loteria and a fusion-driven menu to live music, DJs, and rotating events, we focus on community, creativity, and fun. All with our signature Pinky’s flair,” said co-owner Sandra Escalante.

Some people think it’s the perfect spot for a girl’s night out, with signature cocktails like the Malibu Barbie and Espresso Martini Twist. They

have fun events like brunch and watch parties.

Early Light Creperie is located in Suite C. It’s a cozy eatery that offers sweet and savory crepes in a charming French-themed setting,

making it a popular spot for brunch. They serve delicious made-from-scratch crepes, pastries, and coffee. The attention to detail is reflected in its decor, featuring an eiffel tower and festive elements, creating a Parisian cafe experience.

Sly Fox Coffeehouse is located in Suite D and women owned by Jesse Bates. It’s a cozy coffee shop in a converted train car. The business aims to create a warm environment where customers can spend their afternoon enjoying handcrafted coffee and a good book. They’re known for their specialty drinks and freshly baked-from-scratch treats.



Serving Bell County Since 1850

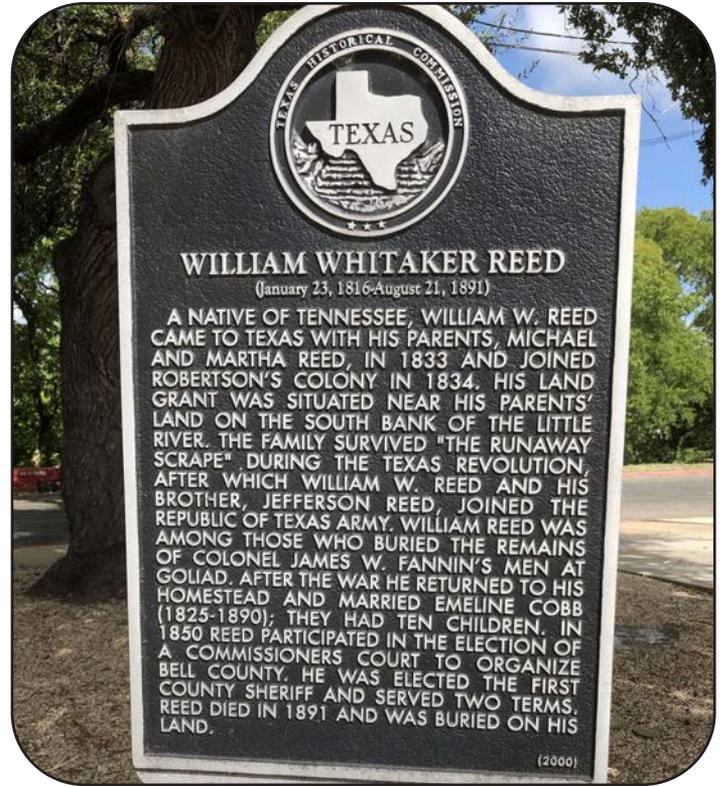
For over 170 years, the Bell County Sheriff’s Office has been looking out for our community. What started back in 1850 as a small frontier operation has grown into a modern law enforcement agency, but our mission remains the same: keeping the people who live in and visit Bell County safe.

Our team trains hard to serve you well. Every deputy brings a combination of physical fitness, mental sharpness, and up-to-date knowledge of the law and technology. We don’t take that responsibility lightly—whether we’re handling a warrant or helping with a civil matter, we’re committed to doing right by the people of Bell County.

Making Sure Justice Gets Delivered

Our Civil team is there to ensure important legal documents are actually delivered. When someone needs to be officially notified about a court date, when

Continued on Page 86



Established 2022

RodgersPC Services

Always Local before Big-Box.

- New & refurbished computers
- Custom PCs built In-House
- Laptop & desktop repair
- Local & remote support
- Mobile pickup & delivery

(254) 613-3567




Local Computer Repair & Sales You Can Trust

Windows • Mac • Laptops • Desktops

Proudly based in Belton, serving all of Bell County



Interior Design Studio,
Custom Furniture
& Luxury Home Store



122 North Penelope Street
Belton , Texas 76513

www.crowandcactus.com
254-561-8344



a protective order needs to reach the right person, when eviction papers must be served—our team handles it.

They work with everyone from the Attorney General's Office to local courts, law firms, and individual citizens. Subpoenas, protective orders, eviction notices, court orders—if it's official and it needs to be delivered in Bell County, we make it happen. It might sound like simple paperwork, but it's actually the foundation that keeps our legal system working. Without official service, justice can't move forward.

When someone has an outstanding warrant in Bell County, our Warrant section gets to work. We handle every felony and misdemeanor warrant that comes through our office—not just serving them, but also maintaining accurate records, updating information, and recalling warrants when needed. It's detailed work that helps ensure accountability in our community.

Our Animal Control team cares deeply about both the people and animals of Bell County. When you call about a stray dog, an injured animal, or a wildlife concern, we respond with compassion and professional-

ism. We handle everything from rescuing pets and working with adoption agencies to managing rabies quarantines and enforcing safety regulations around dangerous animals. Our goal is simple: create a safer, kinder community for everyone—two-legged and four-legged alike.

Sheriff Bill Cooke and our entire team are here to serve you. Have a question or need assistance? Give us a call at 254-933-5400.



Grace
ART GALLERY

*Creating a dynamic space demonstrating the rich tapestry
of expression that emanates from the Lone Star State*

www.GraceGallery.art

108 West Central Avenue, Belton, TX 76513

The Gin has held several roles in Belton

By David Stone

The Farmer's Co-op Gin was created in 1928 to replace a mill that burned down in the 1920's.

The building that stands today was constructed between 1928 and 1929, mainly by the Theodore and Aurelia Hander family with Tom Karnes as the foreman and head brick mason. The concrete and mortar for the building was mixed on-site using water from nearby Nolan Creek. This Co-op Gin in Belton is one of only two gins in Texas that were built of brick.

The Gin consisted of three work areas: The operator, which was used to remove the raw cotton from the wagons; the gin stands, which helped remove the lint fiber from the seeds and allowed them to be dropped into an auger trough to be stored elsewhere; and the hydraulic press, which allowed the fibers to be pressed into bales and wrapped in burlap. Most of the machinery was placed in the building by hoisting it in before the roof was constructed.



The Gin has gone through many transformations throughout the years from a cotton gin in the 1920's, a feed store in the 1940's and falling into disrepair in the 2000's. The biggest change has been the birth of "The Gin" restaurant complex.

As you enter the restaurant's waiting area, you will witness where the original scale was housed. Wagons hauling cotton were brought here to have the cotton weighed.

Entering the main dining area, with its high ceilings and open layout, there was ample space for the large cotton machinery. Much of the machinery could not be brought in through the doors, so it too was hoisted into the building through the ceiling. Some of the machinery took skilled workmen to operate while other machines did not.

Following the stairs down to the bar you will find where the press foundation was located. The bale press was so massive its foundation started here and as you ascend to the Loft dining area you will find the space where the press platform was positioned.

The dining room was the loading platform. It was here where workers would load bales of freshly pressed cotton onto the farmers' trailers.

The main wait station was where the burlap was stored. Without the burlap, the cotton bales would easily lose cotton or simply fall apart.

Passing through the banquet room, you will emerge into the cotton seed house. This room was important for keeping the newly detached cotton seeds together until they could be processed into oil. Next, take a stroll on the beautiful deck areas and imagine the wagons parked here before being loaded with cotton.

Lastly, visit the Weigh Station Yogurt Shop where the office and weigh room was located. All of the Gin's transactions started and concluded in this area.



A quick transition from horse and mule to gas powered machines allowed cotton processing to become more efficient, and the business boomed until the cotton industry collapsed in the late 1940's and early 1950's. The Gin was then converted to the co-op feed store until its doors were closed in 2004.

Smith Brothers retire with a legacy of 74 years in grocery

By Michele Weisman

Smith brothers, Joe and Cecil, retired after 74 years in the grocery business. Their parents, Joe and Lula Smith, opened a grocery store in 1951 that would become a family business. Foundational in Belton, the store created a career for their sons.

Joe Smith's Grocery was on N. East St. and Joe Smith, Sr's boys became hard workers there. Joe, twelve years old, and Cecil, nine years old, at school day's end, began their work day at the store. Over time, and as the boys grew, their parents taught them everything there was to know about the business.

Cecil Smith said, "Joe and I just immediately had a job."



BEST PIZZA IN BELTON




OAKFIRE
pizza and brewing

Belton, Texas

Est. 2017

www.oakfirebelton.com

107 N East St Belton, TX 76513 (254) 613-7551



“Cecil and I went through the ropes,” Joe Smith said.

Eventually, Joe Smith's Grocery started a grocery delivery service with a green Chevrolet.

Joe Smith said, “At fourteen I was dropping off groceries all over town in the pickup.”

The Smith brother's dad, in 1965, changed the name from Joe Smith's Grocery to Joe Smith and Sons Grocery. When Joe and Cecil married, their wives helped at the stores too. Joe Smith's wife, Linda Smith, and Cecil Smith's wife, Peggy Smith, alongside their spouses, helped run the stores.

Peggy Smith said, “We're the last of the old-timey grocery stores. And we've been proud of that.”

Owning three storefronts at one time, their last location, a convenience store with a gas station, car wash, and laundromat, was on E. 6th St.

At one of the grocery locations, customers brought deer to be processed. A souvenir of a gold trim hat was given to anyone with a deer weighing over 100 pounds.

David Tuma said, “Cecil was a butcher at the grocery store. He processed many a deer I shot back in the day. I still have a hat with gold lace.”

Joe Smith, a former President of the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, in 1985, campaigned for the Beer Election after it failed two times. The Smith's took it upon themselves to inform their Belton neighbors what a good thing it would be to pass the Beer Election.

“My wife, couples, and kids knocked on doors,” said Joe Smith.

In 1985, Joe Smith said. “They passed the beer election by seventeen votes to vote Belton wet.”

In Oct. 1985, they filed for and received a beer and wine license.

Joe Smith, retired at age 86, and Cecil Smith, retired at age 83, sold the family business after 74 years in the grocery business. Smith Brothers Drive-In Grocery's last date of operation was Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025. A retirement party was enjoyed by family, employees, and customers. Being the place where customers went to fill their cupboards, the Smiths filled Belton families with a rich legacy.

*“Remodels, Wholesale, &
New Construction
welcome!”*

This year will be our most creative yet and we want to hear from you about the styles you want and love!

Let's turn your house into your dream home together!

Call us today!

**“Local home of life
proof flooring!”**



254-933-1313

6401 STATE HWY. 317 SUITE B,
BELTON

BellCountyFlooring.com

#flooringforall

FLOOR NOW, PAY LATER.

We offer 0% interest financing on all products we carry. W.A.C



Family Legacy Spans 150 Years at Texas' Oldest Independent Title Company

When A.M. Monteith founded his abstract company in 1876, Reconstruction-era Texas was still finding its footing. Nearly 150 years later, the business stands as the oldest independently owned title company in Texas, now celebrating a milestone that also marks 75 years since Frank J. Turner, Sr. purchased the company in 1951.

"My dad was the finest man I have ever known. I was always proud of him and the legacy he left," said Frank Turner, Jr., who was just 12 years old when his father acquired the company. "It gave our family the means and ability to live in this community and grow the business."

That personal connection has remained the company's defining characteristic. Frank Sr. deliberately preserved the Monteith name in recognition of its historical significance.

Today, Brett and Brad Turner lead the company as third-generation owners who grew up in the office surrounded by long-time staff.

"It was basically on-the-job training"

Brett said. "My grandparents, Frank Sr. and Lida, passed their knowledge to my parents, Frank Jr. and Marilyn, who are now passing everything down to us."

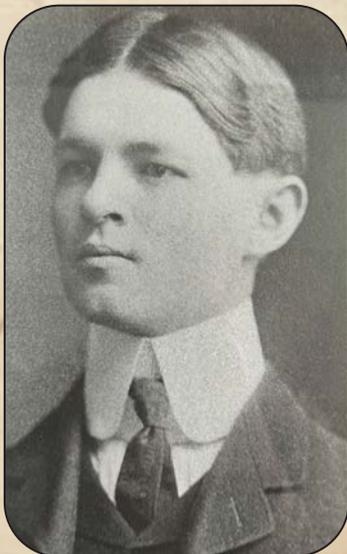
Marilyn Turner, who has worked in the business for 50 years, credits her mother-in-law Lida with teaching her daily operations. That mentorship extends beyond family—more than 20 escrow officers average over 17 years with the company.

From a single office with four employees, Monteith has grown to seven locations serving Bell and Coryell counties with approximately 70 professionals, evolving from early abstracting practices to modern title insurance while maintaining its commitment to personal service.

In an era when most title companies are owned by banks or large corporations, Monteith remains proudly independent.

"Most title companies are owned by banks, but we are a 'mom and pop' shop," Brett said. "That's what we've always been, and it's what makes us successful."

The Turner brothers are keenly aware of



A.M. Monteith



Lida and Frank, Sr



Mary Monteith

the statistics working against them. Third-generation businesses often fail, but they're determined to beat the odds.

"Brad and I will not let that be our story," Brett said. "We know that if we show up, work hard, and take care of our people, then our business will be taken care of, and we will succeed for many generations in the future. We will never take this business for granted."

"We love this community," Brett said. "We were born and raised here. Our family and the Monteiths before us were supported by the very people who built this community."

That gratitude extends to the choice both brothers made to enter the family business. Unlike some family enterprises, there was no pressure to join.

"We were never pressured to go into the business, just like my father was never pressured to take over the business from my grandfather," Brett said.

Their commitment extends beyond busi-

ness. In 2013, Marilyn and Brett started the Monteith #GiveBack program to give back to the community that has given so much to them.

In 13 years, Monteith has given over \$500,000 to local nonprofits, exemplifying the values that have guided the company for 150 years.

As Monteith moves into its next chapter, the Turner family remains committed to the philosophy that has sustained the business: trust is built with every transaction, and legacy is measured by relationships, not just years.

"As we celebrate 150 years in business and 75 years of family ownership, we are honored by the trust our communities have placed in us for generations," Brett Turner said. "This anniversary reflects the dedication of our employees, the loyalty of our clients, and the values that continue to guide our work."



MONTEITH
Abstract & Title Company

OWNED BY THE TURNER FAMILY FOR 75 YEARS



150 Years of Integrity

Our standard of excellence dates back to 1876 when the company was founded by A.M. Monteith.

Seventy-five years later, ownership passed to Frank J. Turner, Sr., and the Turner family proudly continues that legacy today as the oldest independently owned title company in Texas.

Now with seven locations across Bell and Coryell counties, Monteith Abstract & Title Company provides closing and title insurance services that help buyers, sellers, and real estate professionals complete their transactions smoothly, securely, and efficiently.



Brad, Marilyn, Frank Jr., and Brett Turner

Belton Corporate

106 S East St
254.939.5791

Killeen

2500 Bacon Ranch Rd
254.526.7586

Belton Commercial

127 Lake Rd, Suite 101
254.613.5982

Salado

213 Mill Creek Dr, Suite 102
254.947.3922

Copperas Cove

806 S Main St
254.547.8131

Temple

2010 Birdcreek Dr, Suite 102
254.773.9035

Harker Heights

2101 Memory Ln, Suite 107
254.781.8660



PROUDLY RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE NATION'S BEST GIFT SHOPS



**VOTED
BEST
★★★★★
GIFT SHOP
JEWELRY
&
HOME
DECOR**



Located in Beautiful Downtown Belton



My Giving Tree



Gift Shop & Gallery



121 N East St.

254.939.8733

WWW.SHOPMYGIVINGTREE.COM



Bradley Sheppard

254-541-2731

Bradley@SheppardREteam.com

3011 N. Main, Ste. B | Belton, TX 76513



Lodging varies for Belton guests

By David Stone

There are many reasons to head to Belton: World-class bass fishing, antique shopping, festivals, rodeos and concerts — the list could go on and on. And, many of these events just might require an overnight stay.

No problem. The options for accommodations are many, whether you are staying one night or many. There are options to fit all lifestyles and budgets.

Hotels and motels located in Belton include La Quinta Inn & Suites, Comfort Inn & Suites, Knights Inn, Econo Lodge, Budget Host Inn, and River Forest Inn. For visitors wanting a more intimate atmosphere, there are Bed & Breakfast venues as well.

For those seeking more of an at-home feel while on the road, Belton Lake is home to several cottages and cabins, many of which are on the shores

of Belton, providing a perfect tranquil atmosphere.

Belton Lake Cottages are located at Arrowhead Point — a short drive from Belton — and they have a view of the lake from their decks. One- or two-bedroom cottages are available and have rates from nightly to monthly.

Most cottages have a full kitchen, a hot tub, and a laundry room.

Summers Mill, located on the banks of Salado Creek near Belton — a historic gristmill still stands from the 1800s — is a retreat and conference center with lodging options ranging from cottages and cabins to lodges and homes.

Ranch Bunkhouse is located in the rustic countryside of the south Belton area, and the venue is perfect for equestrians and those wanting to enjoy the peace and quiet of the country. Lodging is available for both horses and humans. Horse riding and hiking trails are plen-

tiful spanning more than 800 acres. A daily continental breakfast is provided.

Just outside the gates of Cadence Bank Center is the Belton RV Park. In addition to recreational vehicle spots, there are lodges of various sizes — the largest sleeps six. The lodges include kitchenettes, private bathrooms, a television and WiFi. An outdoor swimming pool and coin laundry room are also available for guests.

One of the newest RV parks is Gather Campground, offering a premium RV experience for those seeking more amenities and convenience. Located on the I-35 corridor in Belton. The resort combines big-city convenience with small-town Texas hospitality, making it suitable for cross-country road trips, weekend getaways, or extended stays.

Additional hotels, motels and other lodging are available in both Salado and Temple.



Kutula Hair
and Nail Salon

Full-service salon offering hair-care services and manicures.

(254) 933-7755

118 E 6th Ave
Belton, TX



Bell Fine Arts Association

Fostering creativity and appreciation for the Fine Arts.

Discover local art, exhibits, and opportunities to connect with fellow artists and art lovers.

Contact for upcoming events

📍 306 E 5th Street • Belton, Texas
☎ 254.931.9733



Landscaping **SERVICES**



OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Residential & Commercial Landscaping
- Irrigation Installs & Repairs
- Topdressing & Yard Leveling
- Artificial Turf
- Hardscaping - Patios, Retaining Walls,
Rock Edging

FREE ESTIMATES

 254.410.9921



LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED



**SERVING
CENTRAL TEXAS
SINCE 1979**



**254.774.6500
800.460.3728**

**DONRINGLERTOYOTA.COM | DONRINGLERCHEVROLET.COM
EXIT 294B OFF I-35 BETWEEN BELTON AND TEMPLE**