



Courtesy Photo

The City of Belton received a first place TAMI Award and a second place Award of Excellence last week at the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO) Conference in Fort Worth.

City of Belton wins at TAMIO Conference

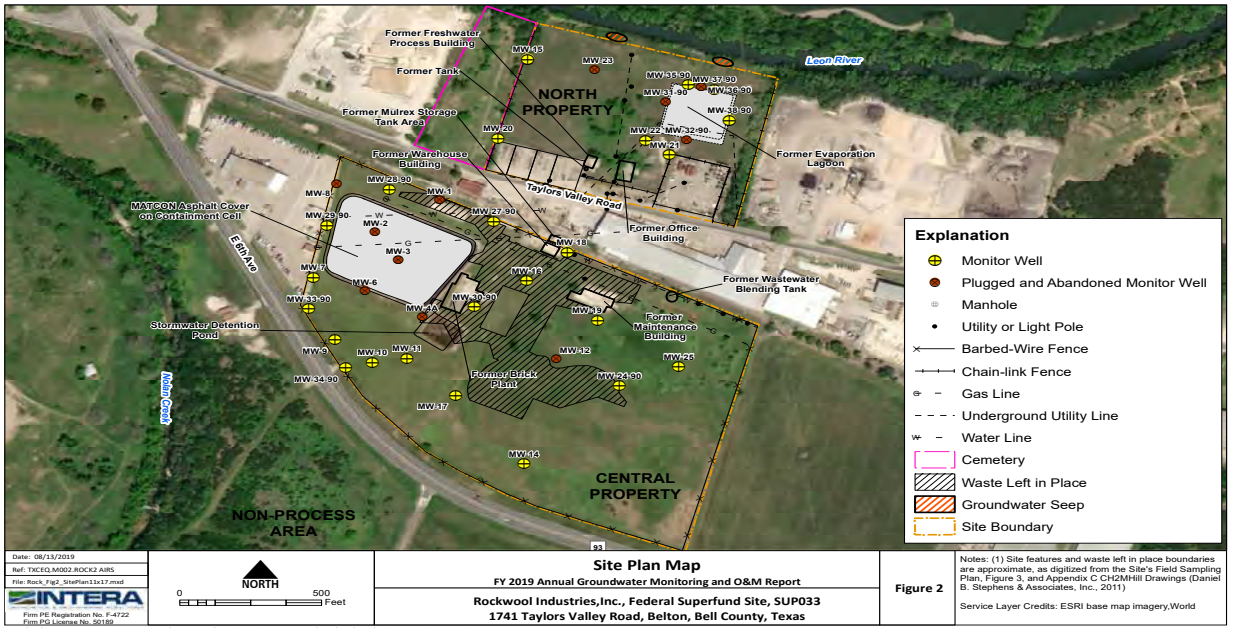
Special to the Journal

The City of Belton won a first place TAMI Award and a second place Award of Excellence on Thursday at the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO) Conference at Sheraton Downtown in Fort Worth. The City's first place TAMI award was for Best Social Media Campaign - Unplanned (population under 100,000). The campaign was a series of Facebook posts over a six-week

period following the May 2024 storm that spawned two tornadoes nearby and caused significant damage to public and private property. The posts recognized the efforts of the men and women from Belton's Public Works and Parks and Recreation teams and their immediate response after the storm and with the weekslong cleanup that followed. Belton employees and a few volunteers collected enough brush from residents dur-

See **TAMIO**,
Page A2

Council, EDC OK sale of 23.4-acre Rockwool tract



A site plan map shows the acreage that was sold to Jon-Tex Properties for the expansion of ECS Environmental Solutions,

By **David Stone**
The Belton Journal

Belton's City Council arranged for the sale of 23.4 acres on FM 93 to Jon-Tex Properties during Tuesday's meeting.

According to Cynthia Hernandez, executive director of the Belton Economic Development Corporation, the EDC has been working with two prospective purchasers to subdivide a 36-acre tract on FM 93. The parcel is part of the Rockwool Superfund Site, which was acquired by the Belton EDC in 2016 from the city of Belton.

The sale of the property will allow for the expansion of ECS Environmental Solutions, which is owned by Jeff Jones, Hernandez said. The total sales price is \$193,526.

Although the property is adjacent to ECS, access was initially a problem as the tracts are divided by the former Georgetown Railroad tracks. The railroad was abandoned and obtained by

the city of Temple for a future Rails-to-Trails project.

The city of Belton resolved the challenge by coordinating with Temple to realign the Belton segment of the trail.

As a result, Temple approved an easement agreement with Jeff Jones allowing for contiguous access to the Rockwool site. BEDC approved a land lease with Jon-Tex Properties, allowing the company to utilize the site for parking and outdoor storage while formal access was obtained from Temple.

The enclosed contract provides for the following:

- Jon-Tex Properties, purchase of 23.435 acres at \$8,258 per acre;
 - \$12,000 credit for lease payments will be applied toward the purchase price;
 - Environmental provisions;
 - \$15,000 earnest money;
 - 180-day feasibility period;
 - Closing by December 17, 2025.
- The sale of property to Jon-Tex

LLC will support the expansion of ECS and potentially serve additional industrial users. This transaction will help transform the Superfund Site into a productive property, the intended outcome of EPA's remediation efforts.

Additionally, the ECS expansion and development of the Rockwool site is a component of the \$2 million grant awarded to Belton by the Economic Development Administration for the FM 93 infrastructure improvement project.

Also Tuesday, Council authorized City Manager Sam Listi to execute an agreement with Kasberg, Patrick & Associates (KPA) for bidding and construction services for the two 18-inch force main crossings of Nolan Creek.

According to Director of Public Works Scott Hodde, Belton's main lift station currently utilizes two 14-inch force mains for all wastewater flows from the lift station to the Temple-Bel-

See **COUNCIL**,
Page A2

Registration Deadline is June 18 for Belton 4th of July Parade



File photo

Riders make their way down the street at a past 4th of July parade in downtown Belton. Registration for this year's parade closes on Wednesday, June 18.

Special to the Journal

The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting applications for the 4th of July Parade but the deadline to register is Wednesday, June 18.

The annual parade is a treasured family event with generations of Texans lining the streets of Belton to celebrate the birth of our country.

The theme for the 4th of July Parade this year is "Celebrating 175 Years of Bell County" in conjunction with the significant milestone being observed. Bell County, as well as the City of Belton, was established in 1850.

The parade will be held on Friday,

July 4 beginning at 9 a.m. and will follow the traditional route south on Main Street starting at UMHB, turning east on Central Avenue at the Courthouse, and continuing north on Birdwell, ending at the Belton Police Memorial.

Parade registration applications are available online at BeltonChamber.com. The parade features Belton Area Chamber of Commerce members, and includes categories of for-profit organizations, non-profit organizations, clubs, teams, equestrian and car groups, and features Chamber members.

The Chamber Parade Committee has

See **DEADLINE**,
Page A2

Public hearing set for annexation

Special to the Journal

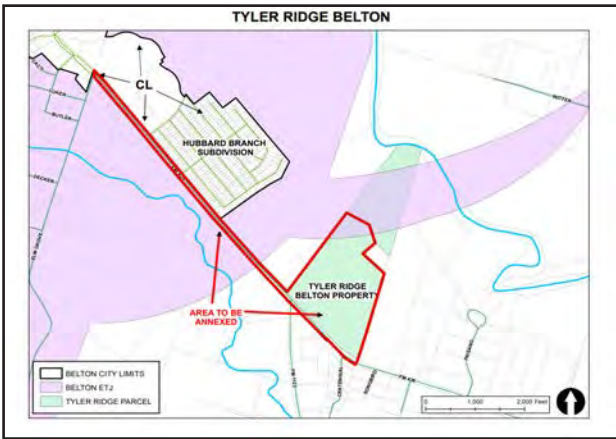
The Belton City Council will conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance annexing a parcel of property into the City of Belton on June 24, 2025, at the Harris Community Center located at 401 N. Alexander Street, Belton, Texas at 5:30 p.m. The property is 94.514 acres of land consisting of both the right of way for F.M. 436

from Elm Grove Rd. west to and including a portion of a 113.420-acre tract of land out of the O.T. Tyler Survey, Abstract No. 20, Bell County, Texas, said tract of land having been conveyed to Tyler Ridge Investments, LLC. Those with any questions should contact the Development Services Department at 254-933-5812 for more information.

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The Belton city council will be holding a public hearing for annexing 94.514 acres on June 24. — Courtesy Graphic



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Avoiding Father’s Day shopping scams

Special to the Journal

Father’s Day is on June 15, and consumers are actively searching for and purchasing gifts for the father figures in their lives.

The National Retail Federation (NRF) reported a total spending of \$22.4 billion on Father’s Day gifts and celebrations in 2024, with the most money spent on special outings, clothing, gift cards, and electronics. While shopping online for Father’s Day purchases, the Better Business Bureau reminds consumers to be wary of online purchase scams and all-inclusive packages advertised at steep discounts.

Texans have reported losing more than \$450,000 to online purchase scams through BBB Scam Tracker so far this year.

“If it’s too good to be true, it is,” one Texas resident reported to BBB Scam Tracker. “I tried to order my husband a gift for Father’s Day and got taken for \$98. I ordered some tools I found online and paid through PayPal, then my receipt said I was paying a person instead of a company, which seemed strange. I contacted PayPal immediately, but they could not re-



turn my money. It was that fast! The website was no longer active the very next day, but they already have a new one that looks the same and they always say 80% off.”

When purchasing gifts online for Father’s Day or any other celebration, it is essential to exercise caution and carefully read the limitations of purchase, expected delivery date, and source of the product. BBB’s 2024 Scam Tracker Risk Report identified online purchase scams as the fourth riskiest scam affecting consumers in North America across all age groups, with 87.5% reporting a dollar loss.

While shopping for Father’s Day gifts this year, BBB recommends the following guidelines to avoid scams:

Read the fine print. Check terms and expiration dates before buying gift cards or outing packages. Make sure they’re valid for online and in-store use,

and understand any restrictions.

Research before you buy. Look up companies at BBB.org and check for secure websites (look for HTTPS). Read reviews—especially for personalized gifts—to avoid poor quality or scams.

Plan ahead for shipping. Confirm delivery timelines and guarantee dates. For pricey items, request a signature on delivery to avoid theft.

Be careful with rentals. Get a written contract outlining all fees and policies. Inspect equipment and document any damage before use.

Know your protections. Understand return and complaint policies. Use credit cards for better dispute options—avoid debit, wire transfers, or payment apps for risky purchases.

Avoid shady links. Don’t click on coupons or offers from unknown sources. Instead, verify deals by visiting the company’s official website directly.

Don’t click online coupons. If you see a post on social media or receive an email with an offer, don’t click on the link unless you’re sure the source is legitimate. Learn more about social media scams on www.BBB.org,

One dead after boating incident on Belton Lake

By Lynette Sowell
The Belton Journal

A 78-year-old man from Houston died on Sunday after he and his wife were separated from their boat while on Belton Lake, at Roger’s Park near Morgan’s Point Resort.

The Bell County Sheriff’s Office said

that around 1:36 p.m. a 9-1-1 call came in, reporting that there was a boater in trouble.

Citizens had gone to the aid of a male and female in the water, and the Bell County Sheriff’s Office, Morgan’s Point Resort Fire Department, Morgan’s Point Resort Police Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engi-

neers Park Rangers responded to the incident.

Once on the scene, they learned that resuscitation had been started on the male and continued.

Both were transported to the emergency department at Baylor Scott and White Medical Center in Temple. However, the male, Charles Edward Dickson, succumbed to his

injuries.

Justice of the Peace Larry Wilkey was notified and ordered an autopsy.

“The Dickson family is in our thoughts and prayers,” the sheriff’s office said in a release. “We are also grateful to the citizens who stepped in to assist during this tragic incident.”

TAMIO - From Page A1

ing that time that if it was stacked in a 12 ft. by 12 ft. box the brush would be taller than the tallest building in the world. “This honor is a reflection of the tremendous response from Public Works and Parks employees to the aftermath of a frighteningly powerful storm. When residents needed them the most, the men and women from these Departments stepped forward without hesitation and helped clear brush from curbsides before 4th of July festivities began,” said Paul Romer, Director of Communications, who accepted the award on behalf of the City. The City also earned an Award of Excellence for Best Media Relations, which recognizes Belton’s commitment to transparency and maintaining positive relationships with members of the local media.

Council - From Page A1

ton Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In November 2021, a failure occurred in one of the force mains, resulting in a wastewater overflow that discharged into Nolan Creek. The overflow was promptly reported and managed in accordance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality protocols. In response, City staff worked closely with the Brazos River Authority staff to isolate the damaged main and successfully reroute flow through the second line.

Both force mains are located just beneath the creek’s water level and were originally protected by concrete aprons. However, over time, the combined impact of water flow and debris led to significant deterioration of the apron structure, leaving the force mains exposed and vulnerable, according to Hodde.

Upon evaluation by a qualified contractor, it was determined that a standard repair would be insufficient, and the city knew that operating with only one force main posed a risk during high-flow events.

To address the issue, Belton proceeded with a slip-lining solution installing a new pipe within the damaged main and reconnecting it on both ends outside the creek. This allowed for continuous operation and minimized environmental risks.

This temporary solution has held up well and provided the City with the time needed to secure funding for a long-term

fix. The upcoming rehabilitation project will replace both existing 14-inch force mains with new 18-inch mains beneath the creek. These new mains will be installed using directional boring, allowing the pipe to be placed significantly deeper below the creek bed to protect against future damage from water and debris.

The new 18-inch force mains will tie into the existing 14-inch lines on either side of the creek, allowing for the lines to be upgraded on each receiving end in the future.

According to a report by Hodde, this project will cost \$91,860 and will be funded through the recently issued Certificates of Obligation.

Deadline - From Page A1

been planning for several months to ensure that this year’s parade is the best ever. Dozens of volunteers work alongside City of Belton Police, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation staff to take care of the logistics for this massive event, bringing over 30,000 spectators to our community to celebrate.

Parade Participant safety meetings will be held at the Belton ISD Pittenger Fine Arts Center on Wall Street Saturday, June 21 at 10 a.m., and on Wednesday, June 25 at 6:00 p.m. A representative from each parade entry must attend one of these meetings to hear from event organizers.

“We are excited about continuing this cherished tradition for our community,” stated Randy Pittenger, Belton Area Chamber President/CEO. “We are a com-

munity that values tradition, so honoring the generations of families who have made Belton and Bell County their home over the past 175 years will be especially meaningful.”

“The parade has been such an important part of our community for generations, and the many wonderful family traditions that are celebrated make this something we can all look forward to,” added Pittenger. “This is a great opportunity for us to celebrate our community and history together while also bringing huge crowds of people to Belton to enjoy what we have to offer. It also serves as a great opportunity for our sponsors to get their message out to thousands of people.”

The annual parade serves as the centerpiece of a weeklong celebration in Belton that includes a kick-off

Downtown Street Party on the Courthouse Square Saturday, June 28, Carnival in Liberty Park July 1-5, and the 101st annual three-day PRCA Rodeo at the Cadence Bank Center July 3-5.

On Friday, July 4 in addition to the Parade, we will celebrate with the Annual Patriotic Program at the Bell County Historic Courthouse, Festival on Nolan Creek in Liberty Polk Park featuring the Rev, White & Blue Car Show, and the Backyard Party Concert and Fireworks at Schoepf’s.

For more information about these events, sponsorship opportunities, or membership in the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, visit the website at www.beltonchamber.com, call 254-939-3551, or email info@beltonchamber.com.



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- You understand that submissions may or may not appear in the Belton Journal and its related forms of publication, now or in the future.
- By contributing a submission, you are granting to the Belton Journal unrestricted, non-exclusive right to use it now and in the future. This includes modifying the original submission to fit print requirements.
- Submissions used become a permanent part of the Belton Journal and its product offerings. By virtue of appearance on the Belton Journal Web site, submissions may also become a permanent part of search engine caching libraries (such as google.com) and online archiving organizations (such as archive.org).
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SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

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

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



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OBITUARIES

Weaver
Henry Alfred Weaver
May 29, 1940 – May 21, 2025

Henry Alfred Weaver, born on May 29, 1940, in Sumter, South Carolina, passed away on May 21, 2025, in Temple, Texas. He leaves behind a legacy marked by his dedication & service to his country. Henry enlisted in the military on October 31, 1960, proudly serving until his honorable discharge on October 30, 1963. His commitment to the values he upheld during his service is a testament to the character he exemplified throughout his life. He is survived by two children. Additionally, he is remembered by his brother, Leonard Weaver. Henry is preceded in death by his parents. As we reflect on his life, we acknowledge the profound impact he had on those around him. The burial services for Henry will be held at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas, on June 25, 2025, beginning at 11:00 AM and concluding at 12:00 PM. This will be a time to honor and remember a man whose presence will be deeply missed by his family and all who knew him. In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial donation to the VFW POST

1820 Disaster Fund attn: Service Officer for the emergency needs of veterans. Arrangements are under the care of Sabrina Young of Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center.

Gonzalez
Guadalupe “Lupe” Gonzalez
August 9, 1948 — May 31, 2025

Guadalupe “Lupe” Tamez Gonzalez, 76, passed away enveloped in love and light on May 31, 2025, in Temple, Texas, from glioblastoma. Services will be held at Youngs Daughters Funeral Home on June 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. with burial at Sacred Heart Cemetery to follow. Lupe was born to Maria Rincon Tamez and Sebastian Tamez in Rosebud, Texas, but was raised in Temple, Texas. A proud Wildcat alumna, Lupe graduated from Temple High School in 1967. From there, she spent a life of adventure traveling with her husband as a proud Army wife. Always an active community member, Lupe found fulfillment through volunteering - from VBS to Girl Scouts, from South Carolina to Italy - she bloomed wherever she was planted. Locally, she settled her family in Killeen and was a beloved employee of Union

State Bank for twenty years, known for her smile and friendly demeanor. Lupe loved her garden and flowers, and could often be found on her back porch tending to all her plants. When not outside, she could always be found crafting and was a regular at the local holiday fairs. Always excited to continue growing, she loved to travel and take pictures of the world’s offerings. Her greatest love, however, was spending time with her granddaughter, Natalia Rose Nesmith, whom she cherished above all else. She is preceded in death by her parents and sisters, Maria Elena Piñon and Rita Rivera. Survivors include her husband, John Gonzalez; daughters, Deanna Nesmith Gonzalez, Michelle Gonzalez, and Adrianna Gonzalez; siblings, Olivia Soto and Sylvia Maedgen; and her granddaughter. Arrangements with: Young’s Daughters Funeral Home and Bereavement Center.

Fuchs
Charles Alois Fuchs
September 24, 1935 – June 3, 2025

Funeral services for Charles Alois Fuchs , 89, of Salado, were held at 1 p.m. Monday, June 9, 2025, at Dossman

Funeral Home in Belton. A private burial followed. The family received friends for visitation 1-3 p.m. Sunday, June 8, at the funeral home. Mr. Fuchs died Tuesday, June 3, 2025, in a local rehabilitation center. Mr. Fuchs was born September 24, 1935 in Westphalia, the son of George Theodore Fuchs and Mary Ola (Keeton) Fuchs. He married Billie Jean Fant, October 27, 1956 in Temple at St. Mary’s Catholic Church. Mr. Fuchs served honorably in the National Guard for a few years before working as a truck driver for Pepsi Cola. Later he owned and operated Charlie’s Used Cars in Belton. In the 1950’s and 1960’s he owned drag race cars and enjoyed drag racing at local race tracks. He was a member of St. Stephen’s Catholic Church in Salado. In his retirement he owned an exotic ranch where he raised Black Buck Antelope and Elk. He was preceded in death by one son, William “Billy” Fuchs; and two sisters. Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Billie Jean Fuchs; one son Michael Fuchs; three daughters Charlotte Frieden, Merry Kellough, and Barbara Clay; one brother Leroy Fuchs, ten grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Retirement party set for SPJST’s Dorothy Stuchly

Special to the Journal

SPJST Accounting Assistant Dorothy Stuchly retires after 59 years of faithful service. The Home Office will host a come-and-go reception Thursday, June 12 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at 520 North Main St., Temple. Refreshments are provided. Stuchly started work at SPJST February 14, 1966, when SPJST was still in The Professional Building in downtown Temple. In 1966, then-SPJST Financial Secretary Ben Zabcik, who was a family friend, told her about the job. “I remember it was wintertime and cold weather on the day when Mr. Zabcik came by,” Stuchly said. “He asked me to come in on Monday, which happened to be Valentine’s Day.” She worked before computers were introduced



to the Home Office. She used a color-coded flag system for monthly and annual dues. “I typed all of the information on a typewriter,” Stuchly said. Dorothy’s roots with SPJST run deep. Her parents purchased insurance for her and her twin sister when they were babies. She remembers attending dances and activities at Lodge 29, Taylor. Stuchly also represented Lodge 47, Seaton in the royalty contest. She was

selected as first runner-up in the District Two Queen Competition. It was also at the Lodge 29 May Fete she met her husband, Ray. Dorothy served under four financial secretaries and helped countless members during her career. Many members know her as their first point of contact. Financial Secretary Roy Vajdak praises Dorothy’s work. “I am very proud to have had Dorothy as a member of my staff,” Vajdak said. “When you get to know Dorothy, you discover that her longevity as SPJST is due to her love for SPJST and her desire to see SPJST continue to flourish. She is always willing to assist our members.” Former Financial Secretary Jerry Mikulas, who served as Dorothy’s supervisor for many years, also

shared his admiration during her 50-year celebration in 2016. “Dorothy was always punctual,” Mikulas said. “She always completed every assignment. Quite often Dorothy gave up her coffee breaks to make sure the accounting cycle got started each day.” Her 59-year milestone is a rarity in the workforce today. The median tenure with a current employer is 3.9 years, according to January 2024 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Dorothy recalled her Golden Anniversary working with SPJST. “It [didn’t] seem like 50 years,” Stuchly said. “The years went by very fast.” Stuchly now looks forward to spending her time enjoying her garden and tending to her family. SPJST invites all mem-

bers and friends to join in celebrating Dorothy’s remarkable career. For more information, call the SPJST Home Office at 254-773-1575, Ext. 169.



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FUMC hosting annual VBS June 23-26

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

First United Methodist Church of Belton will host their annual Vacation Bible School from June 23-26. The

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Vacation Bible School is for students who have completed kindergarten through the 5th grade. Each day starts at 9 a.m. and finishes at noon.

The sections include Bible study, interactive music class, recreation class, craft class, and science class, along with many other activities. Each section has an adult leader. There is also a puppet program each day.

“The number one thing is to teach children about the love of God and Jesus. It gives children the experience of Jesus’ love. This program opens doors to the



Kids enjoy a story at FUMC’s Vacation Bible School last summer. This year the program is set for June 23-26.

Extreme Cheer & Tumble hosts summer camps through July

By David Tuma
The Belton Journal

Extreme Cheer & Tumble in Temple, TX, is offering a summer camp program with fun, exciting themes and activities each week, including field trips and special events like snow cones on Fridays.

Registration is available at <https://extremecheer-tumble.com/>.

Key features of the summer program:

- Weekly Themes: Each week of camp will have a unique theme with related games and activities.
- Unlimited Gym Time: Campers will have access to unlimited gym time throughout the summer.
- Field Trips: Field trips are planned as part of the

summer camp experience.

Special Events: Snow cones are offered on Fridays.

All-Star Cheerleading Focus: Extreme Cheer & Tumble’s website emphasizes cheerleading, gymnastics, and tumbling in a safe and fun environment.

There is a different theme each week. “We brought back the different themes this year. We have been hosting summer camp for around 10 years. Each year, we have a lot of returning participants. Our staff enjoys the summer camp,” said Zenobia Olivares, Office Manager, Temple Extreme Cheer.

“There is a lot of good socialization at the camp. This is a structured environment in a fun way,” said

Bailey Preddy of Extreme.

Bridget Wiley, President and Owner of Extreme Cheer & Tumble, has developed a program from the recreational level to the National level since 2001 in Cheer, Gymnastics, and T&T.

The quality of our coaching staff is second to none in the Central Texas Area. Extreme has over 39,000 square feet in training facilities between the Killeen and Temple locations.

Extreme has developed numerous collegiate-level athletes with outstanding leadership and humanitarian skills. Extreme staff continue to grow and improve with continuing education in all areas of the sports they provide.

SUMMER AT EXTREME

This summer is going to be one for the books at Extreme! We have an incredible fun filled summer planned out for the kids. Each week we will have a NEW and exciting theme that will correlate to our craft, games, and field trip! We offer full summer care or you can go week to week. Your child will have something exciting to talk to you about each day you pick them up!

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June 2nd - June 6th

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June 9th - 13th

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June 16th - June 20th

Olympics & Sports Mania Week



June 23rd - June 27th

Under the Sea Week



June 30th - July 3rd

Beach Bash Week



July 7th - July 11th

JURASSIC PARK WEEK



JULY 14TH - JULY 18TH

Performing Arts & Music Week



July 21st - July 25th

Arts & Science Week



July 28th - August 1st

Friendship Week



August 4th - August 8th

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That Art Place offers summer fun activities

By Michelle Rodriguez
The Belton Journal

This summer, That Art Place located at 108 Lake Rd., is your go-to destination for hands-on creative fun for structured workshops or spontaneous creative sessions, and their air-conditioned studio provides the perfect environment for screen free family time.

“We’re open normally Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and for the months of June and July we’re open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. so people any age can walk in anytime, no reservation needed, and dive into pottery, painting, or infused glass at their own pace,” said owner Michelle Weaver.

Walk in activities include:

- Fused glass - working safely with colorful broken glass. Kids and adults aged eight and up can walk in anytime. It’s like making a puzzle out of glass. Project ideas include night lights, garden stakes, jewelry, and dishes.
- Pottery painting - a good family activity; most people do it on their first visit. Pricing depends on the size of the piece. Pieces are fired in the kiln, so the finished piece is food safe.

If you’re looking for something more immersive check out their week-long themed summer camps for kids entering kindergarten through fifth grade. Camps go far beyond simple crafts, each session is designed and taught by an experienced art teacher who introduces kids to real art tools and techniques in a safe, supportive setting. Camps are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and cost \$218 per week. The types of art taught will be acrylic and watercolor painting, printmaking, metal tooling, scratch art, and modeling clay. Each week there are different themes:

June 2-5: Sunny days, creative ways
June 9-12: Cute makes Creepy
June 16-19: Don’t eat the art
June 23-26: Pixelated: Gamer art
June 30-July 3: Forces of nature
July 7-10: Pop culture cities
July 14-17: Toy box creations
July 21-24: Enchanted Garden
July 28-31: Myths and Magic

“Campers bring home ten plus finished projects and develop creative confidence as they explore multiple mediums and styles. Each activity is carefully designed to balance fun with skill building, giving kids a true art studio experience in a relaxed, encouraging environment. It’s a little bit of all types of art so they can decide what type they like best,” said Weaver.

Families can register online at thatartplacestudio.com/summercamp or by calling 254-613-4292.

They also offer one-time workshops besides walk-ins for artists of all ages, including beginner friendly pottery wheel classes, clay hand building sessions, and fused glass. These events are perfect for families, friend groups, or anyone wanting to try something new without a long-term commitment.

That Art Place also rents private space for art parties for birthdays, baby showers, bridal



Participants at kid’s summer camp paint with their hands.

showers, farewells, group celebrations, reunion, and team celebrations. Parties can be reserved online by filling out a form, booking a date and time, and paying a \$100 party package fee. Party packages include one and a half hours in their party room, one hour art project instruction with host, downloadable party invitations, and set up and clean up. Party project options include pottery with non-fired paint or kiln fired glaze or fused glass for kids aged 8 and up. Projects are paid for separately.

“Our mission statement is, ‘At That Art Place, we make art easy,’” said Weaver. “Our welcoming staff, organized studio, and simple process ensure every visitor feels inspired and supported whether it’s your first visit or your fiftieth.”

That Art Place has been open for eleven years and every year they’ve held a summer camp. Weaver taught art in Salado for two years for a total of six years’ experience in teaching in public schools.

“I was teaching in public schools, but didn’t get to teach much. There are limits to budgeting and access to art supplies. I have a kiln for clay and glass. I want to create a community space that people can have fun and make memories,” said Weaver.



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June 16-19: Don’t Eat the Art
June 23-26: Pixelated: Gamer Art
June 30-July 3: Forces of Nature
July 7-10: Pop Culture Cuties
July 14-17: Toy Box Creations
July 21-24: Enchanted Garden
July 28-31: Myths & Magic

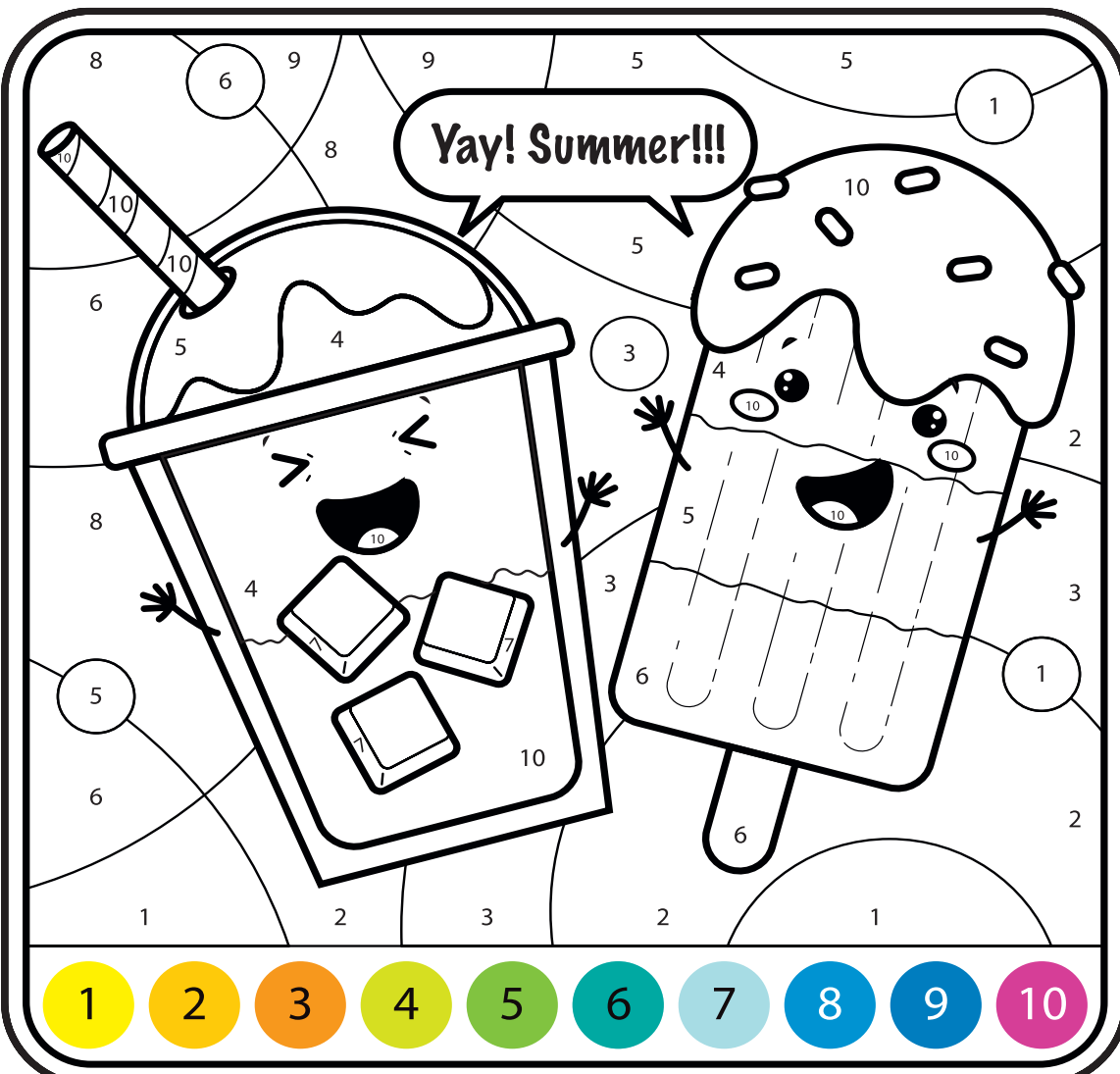


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Extraco Banks breaks ground on new West Adams location

Special to the Journal

On Monday, Extraco Banks broke ground on the new, state-of-the-art banking facility at 8303 W. Adams Avenue, to serve as the company’s flagship branch for commercial banking, wealth and trust, and will also include a full-service consumer banking lobby. The anticipated completion date of the branch is in Summer 2026.

The new 22,000-square-foot building will feature a modern design and customers can expect the same friendly faces to serve them that they have come to know over the years. Extraco will occupy the entire first floor, creating a centralized hub for ensuring customers receive superior customer service and access to solutions and services to

build people and businesses.

The second floor of the facility will be available for lease, offering new opportunities for business tenants in the growing West Adams corridor.

“This new branch represents a significant investment in the Temple community and aligns with our commitment to delivering forward-thinking financial services in Central Texas,” Doug Streater, President and CEO of Extraco Banks, said. “We’re building more than just a branch—we’re continuing our commitment for growth, partnership, and innovation that we’ve had in the Temple community since 1902.”

In addition to this new West Adams location, customers will continue to have access to Extraco’s other loca-

tions throughout Bell County including Temple, Killeen, Harker Heights, and Belton, as well as Extra Banker virtual tellers that are available 24 hours a day.

This expansion adds to Extraco’s legacy of banking excellence and community stewardship, offering customers across the region access to leading-edge services with the personal touch that defines the Extraco experience.

“This new flagship location in West Adams is a continuation of Extraco’s legacy—designed to meet the evolving needs of our customers while strengthening the economic vitality of the Temple region,” Brian Reinhardt, Chief Banking Officer and Corporate Executive Vice President, added.

UMHB to offer occupational therapy doctorate beginning in 2026

Special to the Journal

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (UMHB) announced the development of a new entry-level occupational therapy doctorate academic program.

UMHB’s Occupational Therapy doctorate program will be a 28-month program, with the first cohort starting in the spring of 2026.

This academic program offers expanded career opportunities and is a planned expansion within the university’s Mayborn College of Health Sciences to prepare students for careers in the ever-changing healthcare environment. This addition is an expansion of the occupational therapy master’s program that began in 2020 and will allow students within the master’s program to choose an ad-

vanced pathway and receive a doctoral degree.

With the same mission, vision, curricular design, and educational approach as the master’s in occupational therapy (MSOT) program, the occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) degree program will prepare students to be excellent entry-level practitioners with the additional value of the capstone experience in one of the following focus areas: Program Development, Research, Policy and Advocacy, Clinical Practice, and Administration/Entrepreneurship.

“We are so excited to offer students the choice between master’s or doctoral-level degree programs in occupational therapy,” said Giulianne Krug, PhD, founding program director for UMHB’s MSOT and OTD programs. “Consistent with our student-centered approach to OT ed-

ucation, we have structured the program to allow students to make a fully informed, educated choice about which degree will best meet student learning and career goals. Entering as a single graduate cohort, students will have a year of foundational content before deciding which degree to complete. To date, we are the only OT program in Texas offering students this incredible opportunity to choose between a MSOT or OTD within the same degree path.”

The Mayborn College of Health Sciences is comprised of three schools with a unified purpose of educating students in a rigorous academic setting. The college aims to prepare approximately 1,300 undergraduate and graduate students annually to engage in inter-professional relationships to provide holistic healing of the mind, body, and spirit of their patients.

SARW Fine China Luncheon



Courtesy photos

Two hundred guests attended the Salado Area Republican Women’s 18th Annual Fine China Luncheon and Fundraiser in Salado. Attendees voted for their favorite table among the 25 entries. Rev. Rafael Cruz, father of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, was the keynote speaker. He spoke about fleeing from communist Cuba and coming to America for freedom. First place winner of the best table was Kat Carter, a realtor, who decorated her table in the theme of Breakfast at Tiffany’s. Second place winner was Katherine Krska with the theme of Air Force One.

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EDITORIAL

Signs of the Times

Pleasant Ramblings • Mark Magnan

Have you ever noticed the amount of warning stickers and actually the content of those same stickers? It is amazing how close we come to “serious injury or death” on a daily basis. I try not to be too negative in my ramblings here, but honestly it seems like almost everything I do has some warning. To put things into perspective, I am not that old yet (depending on what generation you may ask), but when I grew up we had a lawn mower that you jerked a rope and it started, and it would run until you stopped it or it ran out of gas. You could let the mower run in the middle of the yard and go inside for a drink of water, we didn’t have athletic or energy drinks then, and come back out to a running mower and pick up where you left off. To kill the mower when you were completely done there was a little metal piece that you pushed over to touch the top of the spark plug, it would short the circuit out and the mower would die. Now after a couple of seasons this little metal device would fall off in the yard, or perhaps rust through, so after that you had to pop off the spark plug wire to kill the engine. The trick was to remember to connect the wire again or you were pulling on an engine that wasn’t planning on starting no matter how much you tugged on the rope.

OK, back to the signs. There are signs that seem to find the most remote situation and in that specific time every safeguard fails and then the danger could happen. Kinda like winning the lottery, only this was on the other end of the spectrum. I have a utility trailer with a ramp type door for driving something up into the trailer, it has a warning sticker about the door. I guess the hazard is the door falling open on you. Well it is spring loaded to make it easier to open, well it

makes it harder to get down, and if the spring failed it would probably just cause me to fall backwards, or I couldn’t get it open at all, either way I would figure something out.

Some years ago I bought a fancy thermal cup to hold whatever various drink I decided that I wanted for the day. I was impressed by the closure on top, it was easy to open and close, it seemed fairly leak proof. Now there was no logo or store name on it, it was completely empty when I purchased it and as far as I know it could not fill itself with a beverage. On the top of the cup was a warning that the contents may be hot. OK, it is my cup, I am filling it myself, so wouldn’t I know if the drink was indeed hot? What if I only preferred cold drinks? How in the world would the cup get filled without my knowledge and I be surprised that the contents were hot?

Granted I do like hot coffee, it is my favorite morning drink, and yes, I like it hot. I have been drinking coffee since my Air Force days, there is something about the military that almost forces you to eventually take part in certain habits, coffee is one of those. I know my coffee is hot, I know not to pour it in my lap because of that, so I think the warning was just wasted on me.

I was in California a few years back, there was a Prop’ 65 warning on almost everything. You can look it up, but essentially it is the never ending list of the things, substances, places, cosmic events, that the state of California believes can cause a certain disease or illness. You can even find it on items we purchase here in Texas. I asked the native that I was working with about that warning because literally it was on doors, windows no matter which way you went. He said it was so saturated into society that no one even paid attention to it anymore, no one believed the warnings or even took heed to them. It was just a sticker on every item that did not move in the state, although I swear I saw a dog with one of those Prop 65 stickers on his fur.

Now Q-Tips have a warning to not stick them in your ear. When I was young that is all they were for, cleaning your ears. The suggested use now is to apply medicine. Well, I thought that was what your fingers were for. If it is not good to put the medicine on my finger to apply, then is it good to actually put on the sore? It seems like Q-Tips really just closed their niche market down.

I am sure all of this is making us a lot safer, but now we don’t have to think for ourselves. Just read the warning and don’t do that, whatever it is, then you are fine. I hope everyone has a good week and no one spills a hot beverage in their lap.

Work smarter, not harder

My Front Porch • Lynette Sowell

We often hear, “Work smarter, not harder.” So, what does that mean, exactly?

People proclaim that they work very hard, but is it just busy-work, or are they productive? What do they have to show for their work?

Anyone can say they’ve worked hard for 8-10 hours a day, but are they merely “riding the clock” and appearing busy?

Or, are they working using old methods when there is something newer and faster available?

To me, work is rewarding when you have something to show for it. You’ve created a product, provided a service, fixed a problem, built something new –fill in the blank. And, in the best of worlds, you get paid a fair wage for what you’ve done.

However, there are few things more frustrating than exercises in futility, the feeling that no matter what you do, you’ll have nothing to show for it.

Working smarter not harder, is one of my regular slogans. We’re always looking for ways to do the same thing we always do, but more efficiently. Because you can’t buy time, but you sure can work to manage it.

At least one day a week, I arrive at the office a little later than usual because I’m tossing in some laundry or taking care of dishes, while I write and answer emails from home. We work on a cloud system, so I can work from anywhere. Literally. One time, I was proofing newspaper pages in Massachusetts, while my sister drove us to pick up my mother at

her apartment, to surprise her for her 80th birthday.

Then, there’s our life off the timeclock. Many of us discovered in 2020’s time of pandemic shutdowns, how tedious meal planning really is. Then there’s the cooking involved, and the cleanup after. Working smarter not harder can mean assembling batches of meals in storage bags, called meal prepping. Cleaning up? Get paper plates and toss when you’re done.

Also, who in the world can keep up with laundry and picking up after the “not-me” who lives in your house leaves things on tables, floors, in random corners and inside chair cushions?

Another quick answer: Follow FlyLady and adapt some of her principles. Set a timer for 15 minutes and take care of the clutter in a room. Just taking a few minutes to spot-clean can help your whole outlook.

FlyLady says, “You can do anything for 15 minutes.” Police the living room or family room, gather up the empty water bottles, wayward socks, shoes, wrappers and receipts. Put and toss them where they need to be. Do one small load of laundry daily (disclaimer: larger load if you have a family), then take 10 minutes to round up the family to collect what they have that is clean. Hint: If a kid is old enough to work

a cell phone, they can put something in a drawer or a basket. Set a timer for them and race to put toys in the box.

Yet another busy-work aspect of life that can be vital to our well-being is dealing with home office paperwork. Open your mail right away when you get home. Take five minutes and rip up the junk mail and put it in recycling. Have a place for your bills. Take another five to 10 minutes and set up payments for the month. If you have a good calendar on your phone, set yourself reminders on when to pay what.

Work can feel like an avalanche and life is made up of a lot of work. But the secret isn’t just working smarter. You can feel all kinds of overwhelmed if the work of life bogs you down.

I’ll leave you with a saying from business guru Simon Sinek:

“‘Work hard, play hard’ sounds terribly unhealthy. I think we would all be a lot healthier, happier and find greater balance in our lives if we learn to work smart and play always.”



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LIFESTYLES

THE BELTON JOURNAL

CASA officially opens doors to new facility

Special to the Journal

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Bell and Coryell Counties held a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony, Wednesday, June 4, to officially open their new office complex in Temple.

The Temple Chamber of Commerce coordinated the ribbon cutting festivities as CASA Board President, Ashley Clapper Bennett, had the honor of cutting the ribbon and welcoming more than 100 guests in to see the new home of CASA.

CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties is also celebrating their 10th Anniversary this year as a stand-alone agency. Over the past 10 years CASA has served 1,500 children with more than 500 volunteer advocates devoted to making sure their best interests were heard while their cases were heard in court.



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CASA recruits and trains community volunteers to become advocates for children placed into foster care. Advocates spend time representing these children in court and in all aspects of the kids' lives as they meet with teachers, therapists, doctors, attorneys, and many others to advocate for the best interests of each child.

CASA advocates are assigned to one case at a time and remain on the case from start to finish to ensure that each child has someone looking out for their best interests and providing a voice for them in the child protection system.

The new home for CASA is located at 900 W. Irvin Ave. in Temple and provides almost three times the office space as their previous location in Belton. The complex includes 18 offices, a conference room, a large training room, visitors lobby, and a large warehouse and outdoor courtyard area. The building provides more than 8,000 square feet of meeting and office space.

Board President Ashley Clapper Bennett was beaming with pride as the new facility was opened to the public.

"Our goal is to serve as many children as possible in the foster care system in our two counties. The new, permanent home for CASA gives us the opportunity to grow, to add more staff and volunteers to accomplish that and our team of board

members made this possible by fundraising, connecting with new donors, and approving the campaign plan once we found out this facility was on the market. We also have a goal of getting it paid off within five years so we can reinvest those resources to serve even more children in the future" stated Bennett.

Temple Mayor, Tim Davis, was present to see the new facility and presented CASA officials with an official proclamation noting the special event and thanked CASA volunteers for the impact they have on so many young lives.

Representatives from Texas CASA in Austin were also on hand for the event. Texas CASA CEO, Vicki Spriggs was joined by Deedra Baker, the Chief Network Services Director, Celeste Prather and Denise Jackson.

A special presentation was made to CASA by Bobby Hoxworth, President and CEO of First National Bank Texas as they provided a \$75,000 donation to the CASA for CASA capital campaign to help pay off the new facility.

"First National Bank Texas is the largest bank in our region and we believe in getting behind great causes like CASA who changes lives forever. We appreciate the work that so many volunteers do and the time and energy that CASA pours into giving vulnerable children a chance to be reunited with their families and the loving home they deserve. I would like to challenge all other banks in the area as well as other businesses and individu-



Courtesy Photo

TOP: Texas CASA Executives visit CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties at its ribbon cutting last Wednesday. Pictured left to right are: Dennise Jackson – Texas CASA, Vicki Spriggs, CEO Texas CASA, Kevin Kyle, Executive Director CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties, Celeste Prather, Texas CASA, and Deedra Baker, Chief Network Services Director at Texas CASA. **Above:** CASA leadership and Temple Chamber Ambassadors cut the ribbon officially opening the new CASA offices in Temple.

als to step up and make a difference by donating to CASA – this is a great program that advocates for the best interests of these children who will be the future of our communities in Central Texas" added Hoxworth.

Other dignitaries on hand for the event included

the Temple Chamber Ambassadors, Bell County Commissioners Bobby Whitson and Greg Reynolds, Judge Cari Starritt-Burnett, Belton City Councilman Luke Potts, and Bette Robinson, one of the original founders of the CASA office in Bell and Coryell Counties.

CASA serves about 300 children in Bell and Coryell Counties with almost 150 volunteer advocates. For more information about the CASA for CASA capital campaign or how to become a volunteer advocate, go to www.casabellcoryell.org or call (254) 774-1881.

9 ASOS hosts successful TACP 24-hour memorial run

Special to the Journal

From June 5–6, the 9th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS), an Air Force unit stationed at Fort Cavazos, successfully hosted the TACP 24-Hour Memorial Run at Salado High School Track.

The event honored fallen Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) service members and raised funds for the TACP Foundation, which provides crucial support to Gold Star families and wounded warriors.

The TACP 24-Hour Memorial Run is a deeply rooted tradition in the TACP community, with units worldwide running continuously for 24 hours to commemorate the sacrifices of their fallen comrades.

Each mile covered serves as a testament to the re-

silience and dedication of TACP personnel, ensuring that those who gave their lives in service are never forgotten.

Proceeds from the event were directed to the TACP Foundation, a nonprofit committed to supporting service members and their families. Since its inception, the foundation has provided emergency financial assistance, educational scholarships, and long-term support to those affected by loss or injury.

Funds raised from the memorial run will help cover medical expenses for wounded warriors, offer aid to the families of fallen TACP members, and ensure educational opportunities for the children of personnel.

Community members, service members, and local supporters gathered to participate and cheer on runners, showing unwavering commitment to the cause. The event not only raised substantial funds but also strengthened the bonds within the TACP brotherhood, local community and beyond.

For those who wish to continue supporting the TACP Foundation, donations can still be made at <https://runsignup.com/Race/Donate/TX/SanAntonio/TACPMemorialRunTeamLoneStar>.

This event stood as a powerful reminder of the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of TACP personnel, ensuring their legacy will live on.

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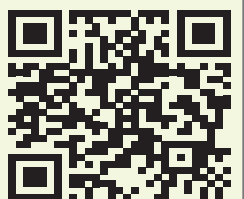
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How to keep kids safe during a home renovation project

Home renovation projects are significant undertakings. Some projects are simple and do not require residents to adjust much, if at all. But larger projects can take several weeks or even months, and such renovations pose a unique challenge, particularly for homeowners who have young children.

Children are curious by nature, and that curiosity can be dangerous during home renovations. Homeowners preparing to renovate their homes can keep these safety strategies in mind to protect their children during the project.

- Let contractors know there are children in the house. Keeping kids safe can be a collective effort that involves homeowners and the contractors working in their homes. On the day contractors arrive, remind the project leader there are kids in the house and request that he or she let staff know there will be curious youngsters around. Contractors can seal off rooms being worked on at the start of each day, and then do so again before leaving for the night. Many contractors

have children of their own at home, so if they know youngsters are in the house they might be especially mindful of safety and less likely to leave tools or potentially harmful debris out overnight.

- Inform children certain areas are now off limits. Parents can inform and routinely remind children that spaces being renovated are off limits until the project is complete. Explain why it's important that everyone in the house, including adults, must respect this rule. Of course, kids don't always listen to Mom and Dad, so this step likely won't guarantee kids will steer clear of sealed off areas. But explaining to kids why they need to avoid the areas can be more effective than just telling them to avoid project spaces.
- Set a good example. It can be tempting to peak in on spaces being renovated when contractors go home for the day, but parents should know children may be watching them. If you're curious about the progress, ask the project manager to see a space during the day while children are at school. If

it's summertime and kids are home, you can still ask, but do so with your children so they won't think you're being sneaky, which will only add to their curiosity.

- Turn off electricity in rooms being renovated when contractors go home. Speak with your contractor and ask if it's alright to turn off the power to rooms being worked on at the end of each day. If so, this can remove the risk of kids sneaking into spaces and turning on power tools at night or getting hurt while poking around exposed electrical wires.
- Hire a cleaning service once the project is complete. Once the job is finished, hire a professional cleaning service to clean all areas that were worked on. This increases the chances that small but potentially harmful remnants, such as nails or staples, are gone before kids start using the renovated spaces.

Renovation projects can last for weeks. Parents of small children must take steps to keep curious kids safe while a home is being renovated.





Celebrate Father’s Day in unique ways

Father’s Day is a celebration of dads near and far. Falling on the third Sunday of June each year, Father’s Day presents an opportunity for families to come together and put the spotlight on fathers who work tirelessly for their children and provide them with love and support. Father’s Day also is a chance to honor the men who serve as father figures or play special roles in people’s lives.

It’s easy for families to fall into a routine when it comes to celebrating Father’s Day. Certainly dinner and gift-giving is traditional, but there are additional ways to provide Dad with the day he deserves. Explore these creative options.

Set up a scavenger hunt

Drag out the suspense of Dad getting his Father’s Day gift by hiding it and requiring him to go through a series of clues to find it. When writing up the clue cards, spouses and children can reference particularly happy moments or things around the house that are representative of Dad’s love. For example, a clue may read, “Here’s where we like to snuggle together to watch our favorite show.”

Take it outdoors

June weather tends to be pleasant,

and that means Father’s Day celebrations can be held outside. Everyone can select a spot that Dad loves to visit, whether it’s a hiking trail or a local park, and then plan activities around the chosen location.

Go on an adventure

Father’s Day can be spent engaging in something the family has never tried before that may be exciting for Dad. Maybe he’s always wanted to go off-roading on quads or try his skills at hatchet-throwing? The family can get together and choose an activity Dad will find engaging and that everyone can enjoy.

Make it a beach day

Dad might just want a break from the hectic pace of life on Father’s Day. This is the perfect opportunity to head oceanside. For those who don’t live by the coast, a river or lakefront spot can be an ideal alternative. Frequently these are touristy areas, so it could be relatively easy to find an eatery where everyone can make a reservation for lunch or dinner after enjoying a relaxing day with waves lapping the shore.

These are just a few clever ways to celebrate Father’s Day. Families can choose activities that honor fathers and ensure he is feeling all the love.



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ASK FOR REBATES

Sports summer camps offer multiple opportunities

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Summer is in full swing, and Belton ISD is still offering multiple opportunities for young athletes to improve their skills and have fun.

Belton and Lake Belton each have several summer camps remaining before students return to school, starting with Monday's Lady Tigers volleyball camp.

Like all other camps, attendees will be offered instruction by the team's varsity head coach and their staff through the use of games, drills and competitions along with providing both individual and group attention.

The three-day Belton volley-

ball camp is broken into two sessions with third through sixth graders scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon, while seventh, eighth and ninth graders follow from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The following week, the Tigers will conduct their boys basketball camp, beginning June 23. Open to first through fifth graders, it runs from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day.

All remaining camps, which are also three days, will start in July.

On the heels of the holiday, Lake Belton will kick off its volleyball camp July 7, and it will divide into multiple sessions based on age. Third and fourth graders will attend from noon until 2:30 p.m., while fifth and sixth graders are scheduled from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Then, starting July 14, the Lady Broncos conduct a second camp with seventh graders taking part between noon and 2:30 p.m. each day. Eighth and ninth graders follow from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

On July 15, Belton is offering a wrestling camp for any third through ninth graders, and it runs from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day.

The Lady Tigers soccer camp is also broken into segments. Second through sixth graders will attend in the mornings (8-11 a.m.) starting July 21, while seventh, eighth and ninth graders attend in the evenings (5-8 p.m.).

The final three summer camps will be offered in late July. Belton will have a cheer-

leading camp for kindergarteners through sixth graders from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. starting July 23 prior to the final two camps beginning July 28 at Lake Belton.

The Lady Broncos softball camp takes place between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and is open to third through ninth graders.

The Broncos football camp runs at the same time and will be available to any kindergartener through ninth grader, but it will be split into sections based on age and ability.

The cost for each camp is \$60 per participant, and tickets can be purchased at BeltonTigers.com or LakeBeltonAthletics.com.



Dr. Jack Welch
From the Bleachers

Reflecting on a season of growth and gratitude.

This season, I was truly blessed to coach in the United Football League (UFL) with the San Antonio Brahmas, serving alongside Payton Pardee in his first head coaching role. Coaching at the professional level, with such a passionate and resilient group of athletes and staff, was a privilege I will always treasure.

The Brahmas faced extraordinary challenges, season-ending injuries, the illness of legendary head coach Wade Phillips, and the mid-season departure of our offensive coordinator. In professional sports, that kind of upheaval is rare. Yet through it all, Coach Pardee showed unwavering leadership. His calm, clarity, and vision anchored us. He fostered a culture of discipline, energy, and belief that resonated in every meeting, practice, and game.

Despite the adversity, our players remained fiercely competitive. We were in position to win many games, often leading into the final minutes, only to be undone by turnovers, dropped passes, or critical injuries. Still, the team's spirit never wavered. Their daily commitment and hunger, many with NFL experience or aspirations, were deeply inspiring. As a coach, working with such determined professionals was both humbling and energizing.

I'm especially grateful to Coach Pardee for the opportunity to be part of this journey. He stepped in as the interim head coach with an outstanding coaching staff, seasoned veterans known nationwide for their football acumen, and rising stars already showing signs of future greatness. Their insight, dedication, and brotherhood made it clear why they belong at the professional level.

I would be remiss not to recognize our General Manager, Marc Lillibridge. His leadership, talent evaluation, and motivational presence were invaluable. His ability to support coaches, empower players, and build a winning culture is rare, and essential to the identity of the Brahmas.

See **WELCH**
Page B4

Tiger soccer program holds annual summer camp for students

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

The Tigers' annual boys soccer camp is intended for kids, but Carlo Mosnia believes it is a testament to the program.

For decades, Belton has offered summer sports camps to the area's youth, providing fun and fundamentals for all ages, and this year was no different.

Despite early morning rain repeatedly attempting to interfere, the Tigers conducted the three-day camp starting Monday, and it was a success, drawing approximately 40 third- through ninth-graders.

Admittedly, the numbers were impressive, but Mosnia feels the fact his current and former players donate their free time to help conduct the camp is equally important.

"That means a lot to me," he said, "and the guys know that. To me, that shows how much they respect me, how much they respect the program and how much they love the game. It is just great to see.

"Additionally, the more time we all spend together, the stronger our relationship grows, and that is one of the best parts of it all."

Thanks to Mother Nature, portions of the camp were unexpectedly spent inside the school's gymnasium, but instruction continued for each three-hour session.

Overall, the goal was the same

as Mosnia hoped to provide universal skills through drills, games, discussions and competitions, but with such a wide variety of ages and skill levels in attendance, modifications were necessary.

The same lessons were being imparted to all, but an emphasis on basic techniques through funner activities was used for younger kids, while older participants were learning the abilities at more intricate levels.

Attendance was fairly evenly distributed across the age range, according to Mosnia, but one group in particular stood out based on numbers, giving him reason to be hopeful for the future.

"There were probably 14 sixth-graders," he said. "So, that is a pretty good percentage of everyone who was there. That was really nice to see."

While there are many benefits to the camp for all involved, at its core, the event is merely meant to nurture a love for the sport among the area's youth, and Mosnia simply wants everyone to have fun and leave with new knowledge.

The goal was accomplished.

"The kids seemed to love it," he said. "They've done a great job of transitioning with us whether we were inside or outside. All the games were fun and competitive, and everyone was actively engaged and involved.

"We didn't have any issues outside of the weather."



More than 100 attend annual Lake Belton Basketball camp

By: Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

With two full gyms and more than 100 campers ranging from third to ninth grade, the Lake Belton Boys Basketball Camp made a loud statement: basketball is growing strong in Bronco

Country.

For Head Coach Zane Johnston, the turnout wasn't just a number it was a sign that the program is heading in the right direction. "I think we're turning the cor-

See **BASKETBALL**,
Page B2

Eight games to try for a backyard bash

Special to The Journal

Games can enhance any outdoor function. Whether at the beach or in one's backyard, activities can keep guests entertained in between the food and other refreshments. And the good news is that most games designed for these types of functions are appropriate for players across a wide range of ages.

The following are eight games that can add to the excitement of any outdoor gathering.

1. Ladder toss: Also known as ladder golf, this game requires players to toss string-attached balls onto a ladder-shaped target. Points are awarded depending on which rung the ball lands on.

2. Kubb: Pronounced "KOOB," this Swedish lawn game believed to have originated during the era of the Vikings and is best described as a blend of bowling and horseshoes. Two teams compete to knock over their opponents' wooden blocks by throwing batons.

3. Cornhole: Many people have played cornhole, which involves tossing bean bags at the cornhole board. The objective is to get the bag into the hole or on the board to score points. The game can be played as singles or doubles. The first team to reach 21 points wins.

4. Spikeball®: Also called Roundnet, this two-on-two sport is played by hitting a ball off a net with



the goal of preventing the opposing team from returning the ball within three touches.

5. Ring toss: This is another game that tests hand-eye coordination. Players take turns tossing the rings onto the target pegs. Each peg is worth a different number of points. The first player to reach the agreed-upon amount of points wins.

6. Connect four in a row: Giant

versions of familiar tabletop games also are available for yard use. With this game, players need to get four chips in a row, either up and down or diagonal.

7. Kan Jam®: Similar to cornhole or horseshoes, Kan Jam® features two teams of two that alternate between throwing a frisbee and trying to deflect it. The goal is to get the frisbee into

the can.


8. Rollers: Goals are placed 25 feet apart and then players roll wooden discs to try to get closest to the goal. Each side of the disc has a different number to determine the point value.

Backyard events can be enhanced with some game play. There are plenty of fun options for your next gathering.



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Summer skills camp held for Lady Broncos basketball

By: Aries Ramos
The Belton Journal

The Lake Belton Broncos Girls Basketball program hosted its annual summer skills camp June 2-4, welcoming nearly 75 young athletes eager to grow their game and learn what it means to be part of a team. The camp was divided into two age groups, with incoming 1st through 5th graders attending the morning session and incoming 6th through 9th graders participating in the afternoon.


Head Coach Tiffney Barnes said the primary goal of the camp was to “build younger Broncos and prepare them for the future.” Over the course of three days, campers were introduced to essential basketball fundamentals such as ball handling, shooting, passing, and defense. In addition to individual skill development, Coach Barnes and her staff made sure to emphasize team concepts and communication, two critical pillars of the Lake

Belton program. “These skills are super important in building a good basketball player,” Barnes said. “We also introduced terminology we use at the middle and high school levels so they feel more confident moving up.” One of the biggest highlights of the camp, according to Barnes, was seeing how quickly the girls embraced the team-first mindset. “Our motto is, ‘A quiet gym is a losing gym,’ and the girls really embraced that. Their communication was great,” she said.

The coaching staff was particularly impressed with the older group of campers, many of whom showed a strong understanding of the game. “Our incoming 5th through 9th graders really impressed us. They came in knowledgeable, and I credit that to our elementary PE teachers and middle school basketball coaches.” Barnes reported no significant challenges during the camp and said the event ran smoothly thanks to community support and player enthusiasm. She noted that many of

the concepts taught during camp will be incorporated into team practices and game plans at both the middle and high school levels during the upcoming season. “We do everything with a purpose,” Barnes said. “What we taught here will absolutely be part of what you see in games and practices.” Looking ahead, the program plans to continue engaging young athletes throughout the year with two free clinics during the school calendar. Barnes encouraged families to stay connected through the

team’s social media platforms for announcements and updates. “Follow our ‘X’ page, formerly known as Twitter, @LBHSGirlsBB, or our Facebook page, ‘Lake Belton High School Athletics Booster Club’ for updates,” she said. As for the future of the camp, Barnes hopes to expand participation and reach even more aspiring Broncos. “We always want to reach out to more future Broncos,” she said. “The more kids we can get involved, the stronger our program will be.”



Is your retirement at risk?

Scot Hrbacek, CFP® Financial Advisor

Retirement should be an exciting time, but you’ll need to plan for it. Otherwise, your retirement may not stack up to expectations.

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Next, think about how much risk you’re willing to take. Of course, the biggest risk is not reaching your retirement goal. So, you’ll want investments that

help grow your savings but without so much risk that you feel nervous. A financial advisor can help you find investments that work for you.

If you’re not already saving, start now. The earlier you begin, the better. If you’re 50 or older, you can make pretax catch-up contributions to retirement plans.

Retirement should be a time to enjoy what you’ve worked so hard to earn. Planning for what you’ll need and protecting those savings can help ensure a comfortable future.

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Basketball - From Page B1

ner of making basketball something kids want to do,” Johnston said. “At a young age, that’s how you build a culture and a program.” The camp, which spanned multiple days, focused on creating an environment where kids could learn fundamental skills, connect with teammates, and most importantly, have fun. Johnston emphasized the importance of keeping basketball enjoyable at every level, especially for the younger players. “The whole reason you started playing basketball is because it’s fun,” he said. “So for the little ones, especially third graders, we play a lot of games that keep them coming back and wanting to pick up a basketball.” Campers rotated through a series of stations, each designed to build specific skills like shooting, defense, post work, and one-on-one play. Though the drills varied by age group, the philosophy was the same: teach fundamentals through activity and energy. “They’re having fun, but they just don’t realize how hard they’re working,” Johnston said. A key highlight of the camp was the involvement of current high school players and coaches. Johnston gave his staff and players opportunities to lead stations, allowing them to grow in their own roles while supporting the development of younger athletes. “That’s everything,” Johnston said of having his players help coach. “Each one of them is coaching our eighth grade summer league team too, so stepping into that leadership role changes their perspective. Hopefully, it helps them appreciate coaching more when they’re on the receiving end.” In fact, Lake Belton’s athletes have been working non-stop. Johnston noted that many began their day with elite camp at 7 a.m., transitioned into coaching the youth camp until 2:30 p.m., and then competed in summer league games well into the evening. “They didn’t get home until 9 or 10 o’clock,” he said. “I’m proud of them. We’ve got great turnout and great kids.” Johnston also praised his coaching staff, which includes middle and high school coaches who were encouraged to adapt the camp structure in real time based on the campers’ development. “I try to take a step back and organize the camp, but let the coaches lead,” he said. “They have the freedom to adjust on the fly and build what’s best for the kids. It’s good for everybody’s growth.” With a strong turnout, passionate staff, and a program-first mentality, Johnston believes this camp laid another building block in the long-term development of Lake Belton basketball. “Some of these guys are going to be in high school next year,” he said. “This camp is a great first step.”



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Nick Kozole to coach Tigers baseball team

By Clay Whittington
The Belton Journal

Nick Kozole did what most good husbands should, and it brought him to Belton.

After spending the past several years overseeing the program at New Braunfels Canyon, an opportunity arose with the Tigers as longtime head baseball coach Mark Krueger retired following nine consecutive playoff appearances.

As circumstances would have it, Kozole’s wife graduated from Mary Hardin-Baylor and always longed to return. Now, she is.

Kozole was recently hired to replace Krueger, and while he was excited about the opportunity for obvious reasons, admittedly, it was also something he wanted for his wife.

“Belton has been on our radar for quite some time,” Kozole said. “My wife always loved it there and has always said she wanted to raise her kids in Belton. So, when this job came open, that was my calling, and it pulled me here.

“I knew this was just perfect timing.”

The father of two takes over the Tigers with a history of transforming teams into winners, but that particular skill will not be necessary.

In just four seasons at Canyon, Kozole led the Cougars to consecutive district championships and a trip to the regional final, while helping extend 25 players’ careers to the college level.

Prior to that, Kozole and his players set new school records for total victories in a season and district wins in a season at Manor after posting an overall record of 3-21 the season before his arrival.

Additionally, in 2016, Kozole inherited a Greenville team on a 40-game losing skid and guided it to a 17-9 record in 2019 — a school record for wins in a season. Kozole left with the most head coaching victories in program history.

Belton, however, is accustomed to competing for district championships and playoff berths, and that is a welcome change.

“That is always nice as a coach,” Kozole said. “You don’t always want to have to rebuild, and this

is the furthest thing from a rebuild there is. There has been so much success within Belton’s baseball history, so I don’t want to come in and overhaul or change everything.

“I’m looking forward to just getting with the coaches and the guys and seeing what works and what doesn’t work. I just want to continue what is going on here while putting my own spin on things to try and get us to the next level.”

Kozole hopes he is currently encountering the biggest challenge of his job change as he attempts to sell his current home and begin the relocation process to Belton.

Regardless of how things unfold with his move, Kozole will be ready to begin the next phase of his family’s life when the school year begins.

“Belton has been great to me so far,” he said. “I’ve received numerous phone calls welcoming me, and there was great turnout at the meet-and-great held at the school. It has just been a great experience for my whole family.”

FISHING REPORT

Belton Lake Stillhouse

FAIR. Water stained; 77 degrees; 2.31 feet below pool. Big changes were brought on this past week with unseasonably hot days and nights bringing the water temperature up quickly and nudging us toward summer patterns. The water is warming rapidly and the fishing is getting tricky. There is a definite transition underway in which the white bass are making use of the bottom less and less and are beginning to suspend routinely. There are two drivers for this: stratification of the water by temperature which will eventually lead to the creation of the thermocline by mid-June, and the increasing presence of young-of-the-year shad making their way into open water. When fish are suspended, I rely heavily on my 2-D sonar, traditional sonar or colored sonar, as the three-dimensional cone it makes use of extends the echo signature of the fish into long arches which are larger and much more easily seen on a screen than the shorter rice grain signatures seen on side-imaging and down-imaging. The MAL Heavy with silver blade and chartreuse tail has been a consistent lure for the past three weeks. It shows up remarkably well on forward-facing sonar and 2-D sonar. Drop below the suspended fish and crank it up at a steady cadence at least two cranks above the fish showing highest in the water column. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. Catfish are good. Anglers can find blue catfish around points and sand flats in 10-20 feet of water. Larger fresh cut baits have been effective for trophy size fish. Eater fish under 10 pounds are active and slow drifting with small cut shad along sand flats will produce. Channel catfish are good and can be caught on punch bait in 10-25 feet of water. Flatheads are excellent on live bait in shallow water around river mouths. Report by Brian Worley, B&S Catfishing. As we enjoy a weekend of fishing we salute and honor our Nation’s heroes this Memorial Day.

GOOD. Water stained; 77 degrees; 3.42 feet below pool. Big changes were brought on this past week with unseasonably hot days and nights bringing the water temperature up quickly and nudging us toward summer patterns. The water is warming rapidly and the fishing is getting tricky. There is a definite transition underway in which the white bass are making use of the bottom less and less and are beginning to suspend routinely. There are two drivers for this: stratification of the water by temperature which will eventually lead to the creation of the thermocline by mid-June, and the increasing presence of young-of-the-year shad making their way into open water. When fish are suspended, I rely heavily on my 2-D sonar, traditional sonar or colored sonar, as the three-dimensional cone it makes use of extends the echo signature of the fish into long arches which are larger and much more easily seen on a screen than the shorter rice grain signatures seen on side-imaging and down-imaging. The MAL Heavy with silver blade and chartreuse tail has been a consistent lure for the past three weeks. It shows up remarkably well on forward-facing sonar and 2-D sonar. Drop below the suspended fish and crank it up at a steady cadence at least two cranks above the fish showing highest in the water column. Report by Bob Maindelle, Holding the Line Guide Service. As we enjoy a weekend of fishing we salute and honor our Nation’s heroes this Memorial Day. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic this weekend.



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Welch - From Page B1

After 44 years in this game, coaching at the junior high, high school, college, and now professional levels, this season felt like the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. I’ve served as a head coach for 34 of those years, always surrounded by faithful assistants and mentors. Being able to contribute at the pro level, helping others chase their dreams, is a gift I’ll never take for granted.

I’m reminded of my high school teammate from Osawatomie, Kansas, Derrick Jensen, who played for the Raiders and later scouted for the Seahawks before passing from ALS. Derrick once said how blessed he

felt to live his dream of being in the NFL. Today, I share the same feeling. From my days receiving an opportunity to be a free agent with the Cincinnati Bengals to now coaching in the UFL, I’m filled with gratitude.

Whatever lies ahead, I trust God’s plan and carry forward the memories of this remarkable season. It was a year marked by challenges, yes, but more so by perseverance, brotherhood, and belief. I’ll never forget the men I stood beside, all of whom love this game and give it everything they have.

Thought for the week, “When you focus on being

a blessing, God blesses in abundance.” Don W. Davis, former WTSU head football coach.

Dr. Jack Welch serves as Special Teams and Tight Ends Coach with the San Antonio Brahmas of the United Football League. He is also the Director of the Coaches Academy and an Adjunct Professor at East Texas A&M University. With a career spanning professional sports, public education, and rural community development, he brings a servant-leader mindset and a passion for building trust-driven cultures that empower people to thrive on the field, in the classroom, and in life.

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Date: June 24 - June 27, 2025
Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



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Bob Hope makes a stop at the museum through June 14

We offer visitors a look into the past, present, and future with interesting exhibits, collections, and interactive elements. Check out the So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope display with interactive elements for visitors of all ages. Also enjoy a 40-piece photography exhibit by the Fine Arts Photography Guild.

Visit the museum for fun activities for the kids with a new theme each day for Spring Break running through March 20.

Join us on March 20 for Texian Exodus: The Runaway Scrape & Its Enduring Legacy lecture and learn more about the Runaway Scrape of 1836 in this great presentation by Dr. Stephen L. Hardin.

We have the following permanent exhibits:
Discover Bell County takes visitors on a journey through our History. Explore our Land, Agriculture and Ranching, Transportation and

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Gault Site includes large murals, discovery drawers, microscopes and the film, “The Gault Project: An Adventure in Time.” This exhibit also features an interactive dig pit, a chance to be an archaeologist, a chalkboard for cave drawings, discovery drawers, and more.

Little River Log Cabin was built in the 1850s near Little River/Academy, the area of earliest Anglo settlement in Bell County. It can be seen from the museum exterior, or by tour groups.

See our traveling exhibitions and upcoming events on Facebook or at BellCountyMuseum.Org. Teachers can schedule a field trip, reserve a travel trunk to show in your classroom, or register for a virtual class program or tour.

Visit us at 201 N. Main St. in Belton and make your time at the museum valuable and engaging. 254-933-5243, museum@bellcounty.texas.gov.



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EDITORIAL

Genie in a bottle

Coffee Talk • Renae Brumbaugh Green

Sometimes, I long for a dull life. Just a simple, peaceful life where there are no daily crises, no high-drama moments, and no stories to tell. Oh, the bliss. Just a bland, grey life filled with nothing but yawns and cozy cat-stretches . . . this is the existence of my dreams.

My real life, most days, is too far-fetched for even Hollywood to produce. Like the time when my daughter bought a bottle of Sprite while I was getting gas.

The drama started when, about ten miles down the road, she dropped the bottle lid and it rolled under the seat somewhere. She spent a minute or two looking for it before giving up. Okay, no real drama yet, but just hang with me.

We got home, unloaded the car, and forgot all about the capless bottle of Sprite in the car. Until the next day, that is.

We had some errands to run. We'd just pulled into a front row space at Staples, when my daughter squealed, "Mom! There's a frog in my Sprite bottle!"

Sure enough, a creature peered at me from inside her half-empty soda container. Only, it wasn't a frog. It looked like some kind of drenched alien space being, paddling for its life. Was it a genie? I couldn't be sure. I rubbed the side of the bottle, just in case.

That's when the woman-child screams, "It's a mouse! Oh-my-gosh-oh-

my-gosh-oh-my-gosh! Mom, get it out!"

People around us stared.

The conversation went something like this:

Her: Mom! Do something!

Me: What do you want me to do?

Her: Set it free!

Me: In the car? I don't think so.

Her: Over there, in the grass!

Me: It's your bottle. You do it.

Her: Ew! Mom, no. (Screams again.)

Mom, please. Do something!

Now, in front of Staples there was a table set up with a sign that read Jesus Saves or something like that, and behind that table sat a man who looked very much like he was enjoying the show.

I took the Sprite bottle and walked it to the garbage can, which happened to be right next to the Jesus man. I figured the mouse would spill out into the trash and have a smorgasbord of popcorn and candy bar remnants, like Templeton from Charlotte's Web. "There's a mouse in here," I explained to the Jesus man, as if that were the most logical thing in the world I could say.

"Aren't you gonna set it free?" he asked, grinning like this was the most action he'd seen all day.

"Be my guest," I said.

That's when his friend exited the store and sat down next to him, behind

the table. Now, this friend was about eight feet tall, had a beard, and reminded me a little bit of Goliath, only friendlier. I gestured to the bottle, which was upright on top of the jam-packed trashcan. "There's a mouse in that Sprite."

"Aren't you gonna let it out?" Goliath asked.

"Go right ahead," I told him. "I'm not touching it."

Girl-child and I entered Staples as if nothing out-of-the-ordinary had just happened. The sad thing is that for our family, this really wasn't that big of a stretch.

We made our purchase and left the store. "Did you let him out?" I asked the Jesus-men.

"Yep," Goliath said. "He's one of God's creatures, too."

"That may be, but he was trespassing," I replied, and they laughed. I wasn't trying to be funny.

Now here's the thing. Once in the bottle, it would have been nearly impossible for that mouse to escape without help. Not entirely impossible, mind you . . . but it was a lot easier with assistance from the Goliath-man. It reminded me of the Bible verse that says it's easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven.

In biblical times, the Eye of the Needle was a low portal in the city wall.

Anyone entering or leaving the city had to go through that gate. Merchants who wanted to enter with a loaded-down camel had a hard time of it; the camel had to be stripped of all its extra baggage. Then it had to kneel down and crawl through on its knees. It was possible, but difficult.

In other words, the camel had to humble himself, if he wanted to get into the city. And the rich man (meaning pretty much anybody here in the U.S.) has to humble himself if we want to become who God wants us to be. I can't speak for anybody else, but humbling myself has never come easy for me. I was taught to hold my head high and have pride in who I am . . . and yet if I want to live out God's purpose for my life, I have to strip myself of my extra baggage, kneel down, and crawl.

But like the Jesus-giant helped that mouse the other day, the Holy Spirit helps us. Who'd have thought a drenched rodent could help deliver such a powerful message.

I guess you could call it a mouse-age in a bottle.

"Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God,"
Matthew 19:24.

Boiling

Shop the Insanity • Darren Blair

Over the past twelve months or so, a utility contractor has been going neighborhood by neighborhood in the city where I live in order to install fiber optic cable as part of a larger roll-out of improved high-speed internet access for the community. In most cases, this involves digging up some portion of the private property along one or both sides of a street in order to put underground cable in place. Well, in far too many instances of digging and running cable, the contractor has managed to strike utility connections.

This includes a number of situations where they struck a critical water service main.

The flagship paper for this feature typically goes to print on Thursday afternoons, at which point I head off to the office so that I can help with circulation. Well, on Thursday morning the utility contractor blocked off part of one of the two main roads that services my neighborhood, and so when it came time for me to head out the door I had to go one street over in order to get out. This wouldn't have been a problem if not for the fact that for some reason the street I detoured down was flooding despite the sky being completely dry.

The neighborhood I live in is sloped a bit since we're in between some hills. With the way the water was flowing, there's only one place it could have been coming from: the contractor's dig site. They hit yet another water service main, and it was flowing down. As soon as I was safely clear of the various workers trying to survey and contain everything, I pulled over to text my parents the bad news.

An hour or so later, I got a text back from them confirming that water service to the entire neighborhood had been cut off to allow for the broken main to be worked on. As such, they were going to visit the local grocery store. Updates would follow.

It's about 8:30 at night and I'm almost finished with my duties when an update follows: still no water, so if I need to use the bathroom it's best if I do so on my way home. Cue a chain of events that sees me sitting in a Wal-Mart parking lot trying to clumsily make sandwiches of bolillo rolls and some pouched sandwich-ready chicken meat. It's not the first time I've eaten dinner in a Wal-Mart parking lot, but it's also not my first choice when it comes to eating out.

Finally, about 9:45 or so, I get another update: we have water, so I can come home, but we're under a boil notice until the system is checked out.

Folks, I know that in the past I've harped on emergency preparedness. This is the kind of situation I'm talking about. It's not so much "preparing a bunker in the middle of nowhere for the end of the world" even though during the Cold War a case could be made for doing so. It's more "what are actual problems I could be facing in my everyday life and what can I do to potentially mitigate them?". We already had bottled water and other bottled shelf-stable beverages on hand, so we had plenty to drink, so at least in that regards we were ready to go. I also now know I need to tinker with the ratio of chicken to bolillo.

It'd be perfect if no emergency never came up in the first place, but unfortunately that's not the kind of world we live in...



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for an original Mixed Beverage Permit (MB) for LIVING ON FAITH INVESTMENTS, LLC. dba HIGHLANDS LOUNGE at 122 N PENELOPE SUITE B, BELTON, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS, 76513. AMBER HILL (Manager)
06.05,06.12PD

25CPB00065

IN THE ESTATE OF RICHARD DICK THOMAS DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT, AT LAW NUMBER ONE OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS



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LEGALS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RICHARD DICK THOMAS, a/k/a RICHARD DICK THOMAS, JR., Deceased, were issued on May 2, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00065, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 in and for Bell County, Texas, to ROSE BONET. The address of the Independent Executor is: ROSE BONET c/o Law Office of Phillip E. Romero 109 Daisy Path Georgetown, Texas 78633 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED this 9th day of June, 2025.
Law Office of Phillip E. Romero, 109 Daisy Path, Georgetown, Texas 78633, Telephone: (972) 436-7584, Facsimile: (972) 349-8982, Email: peromero.atty@verizon.net
06.12PD

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARTHA SUE WORTHAM, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary were issued on June 4,2025 in proceeding styled Estate of Martha Sue Wortham. Deceased, in Cause Number 25CPB00294.
pending in the County Court at Law #1 of Bell County, Texas.
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executrix, addressed as follows: Wendy Kay Mullins Independent Executrix of the Estate of Martha Sue Wortham. Deceased,
c / o BURK ROBERTS, Roberts & Roberts L.L.P., 2501 East Elms Rd., Ste. A, Killeen, Texas 76542-3023
All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Signed on June 5, 2025.
Roberts & Roberts. L.L.P., Attorneys for Wendy Kay Mullins
By: Burk Roberts
06.12

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION CASE NUMBER 30514

To: The Estate of Adelio Peters
J. Eric Stoebner, Trustee of the Adelio Peters Supplemental Needs Management Trust, on June 05, 2025, filed an account for final settlement for the Adelio Peters supplemental needs management trust in a proceeding styled: OSCAR S. PETERS, Deceased, and bearing the number 30514 in the County Court of Bell County, Texas.
The court will hear the aforesaid Application after the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published which will be June 12, 2025, in the County Court at Law #1 Courtroom, at the Bell County Justice Complex, 1201 Huey Road, in Belton, Texas.
All persons interested in the aforesaid estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said application should they desire to oppose or contest it.
Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of Shelley Coston, County Clerk, Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, Belton, Texas 76513.
The name and address of the attorney for applicant is: J. ERIC STOEBNER, 2106 BIRD CREEK DRIVE, TEMPLE TX 76502
The officer serving this Citation shall, in compliance with the Law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of the general circulation in this, the County in which the decedent last resided as required by Section 202.052 of the Texas Estate Code, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office on June 06, 2025.
Shelley Coston County Clerk of Bell County, Texas, PO Box 480, 1201 Huey Road, Belton, TX 76513

LEGALS

By: Sophia Nieto Deputy
06.12

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Steven Obie Sims, were issued on February 24, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00055, pending in the County Court at Law Number 1 of Bell County, Texas, to Kristin Harrington
All persons having claims against this Estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o Kristin Harrington Independent Executor, 413 N. Auburn Farmington, New Mexico, 87401
DATED the 5th day of June 2025.
/s/ Joshua C. Tisdale, Joshua C. Tisdale Attorney for Kristin Harrington, Texas Bar No.: 24075164, The Tisdale Law Firm, PLLC, 1216 S. 31st St., Temple, TX 76504, Tel: (254) 634-8600, Fax: (254) 554-6686, Email: legal@thetisdalelawfirm.com
06.12

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION-PARENT AND CHILD

To: Brandon White, any Unknown Father and All Whom It May Concern, Respondents, in the hereinafter-styled and numbered cause: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.
The Original Petition of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, on November 19, 2024, against Keyara Eastep, Brandon White, Jerry Edwards, Thomas Mayfield, Respondent(s), numbered 24DFAM350167, and entitled “In the Interest of JOYCELYNN EASTEP, et al., minor children.” The suit requests to terminate the parent-child relationships and/or to appoint a managing conservator of the children. The date and place of birth of the children who are the subject of the suit are:
JOYCELYNN EASTEP, DOB: December 9, 2021, Place of birth: Texas
LIAM EASTEP-MAYFIELD, DOB: September 20, 2024, Place of birth: Texas
The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the children’s interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child’s adoption.
The name and address of the attorney for plaintiff is Ryan Smith, Bell County Attorney’s Office, P.O. Box 1127, Belton, TX 76513
Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the 5th day of June 2025.
Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, TX 76513
By: C Rodriguez Deputy.
06.12

CAUSE NO. 25CPB00307
IN THE ESTATE OF CALLIE MAE SHAFFER, DECEASED IN COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CALLIE MAE SHAFFER, Deceased, were issued on May 21, 2025, in Cause No. 25CPB00307, pending in the County Court-At-Law of Bell County, Texas, to: NATHALIE DICKSON.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: NATHALIE DICKSON , 273 Rock Meadow Drive ,Crowley, Texas 76036

LEGALS

DATED the 5th day of June, 2025.
/s/ J. Greg Coontz, J. GREG
COONTZ Attorney for the Estate ,State Bar No.: 04770400,
COONTZ COCHRAN, 217 Market Street, Burleson, Texas 76028, Telephone: (817) 295-1195,
Facsimile: (817) 295-9444, Email: gcoontz@coontzcochran.com
06.12pd

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Heinz Karl Tannreuther, Deceased, were issued on April 7, 2025, in Case No. 25CPB00185, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 in Bell County, Texas, to: Harald R. Tannreuther
The address of the Independent Executor is in Bell County, Texas: Harald R. Tannreuther, c/o William T. Wilson, P. O. Box 427, Temple, TX 76503
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 9th day of June, 2025.
Respectfully submitted, WILLIAM T. WILSON ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW, LTD., P. O. Box 427, Temple, Texas 76503-0427, (254) 771-5885 Telephone, (254) 771-5887 Facsimile ,
ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE WILLIAM T. WILSON, State Bar No. 21734000
06.12

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION - PARENT AND CHILD
CAUSE NO. 22DFAM334338**
To: UNKNOWN FATHER OF AUDRIELLE REED AND KE’NAYIS GENE MCGRAW, CHILDREN
Greetings: You are hereby commanded to appear before the 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas, to be held at the courthouse of said County in the City of Belton, Texas, at or before 10 o’clock AM of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after the date of service of which this citation, then and there to answer the SECOND AMENDED PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND DESIGNATION OF ATTORNEY IN CHARGE of WHITNEY LEMON, Petitioner filed in said Court on May 21, 2025, against UNKNOWN FATHER, respondent, and said suit being number 22DFAM334338, on the docket of said Court, and entitled In the Interest of Children AUDRIELLE REED, 08/19/2022, KE’NAYIS GENE JA’CHAI MCGRAW, 09/17/2023
The nature of which suit is a request to Parent/ Child Relationship.
The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree in the child’s/children’s interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child’s/children’s adoption. The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.
This was issued at the request of attorney: MARCUS BEAUDIN, 2109 S CLEAR CREEK RD, KILLEEN TX 76549.
NOTICE TO Defendant: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required

LEGALS

to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.
Witness, Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas.
Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on June 04, 2025.
Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas,1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909,Belton, Texas 76513
By: M Cortez Deputy Clerk
06.12

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION PARENT AND CHILD
CAUSE NO. 25DFAM353844**
To TRAVION VRONTRELL JOHNSON
Greetings: You are hereby commanded to appear before the 426th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas, to be held at the courthouse of said County in the City of Belton, Texas, at or before 10 o’clock AM of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after the date of service of which this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP of RODNEY JAMES WASHINGTON, Petitioner filed in said Court on May 15, 2025, against TRAVION VRONTRELL JOHNSON, respondent, and said suit being number 25DFAM353844, on the docket of said Court, and entitled In the Interest of Children ALEXANDER KOHEN JOHNSON, 09/04/2019
The nature of which suit is request to Parent/ Child Relationship.
The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree in the child’s/children’s interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of conservator with authority to consent to the child’s/children’s adoption. The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.
This was issued at the request of attorney: BRETT PRITCHARD, 1201 WS YOUNG DR STE C, KILLEEN TX 76543.
NOTICE TO Defendant: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.
Witness, Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas.
Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on June 04, 2025.
Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas,1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, Texas 76513
By: M. Cortez Deputy Clerk
06.12

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION-PARENT AND CHILD**
To: Tyrone Barber, Quinton Howard, any Unknown Father and All Whom It May Concern, Respondents, in the hereinafter-styled and -numbered cause:

LEGALS

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The First Amended Petition of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, on March 13, 2025, against Laure Groseclose, Tyrone Barber, Quinton Howard, Joseph Payne, Respondent(s), numbered 24DFAM350160, and entitled “In the Interest of LAYLIAH GROSECLOSE, et al., minor children.” The suit requests to terminate the parent-child relationships and/or to appoint a managing conservator of the children. The date and place of birth of the children who are the subject of the suit are:
LAYLIAH GROSECLOSE, DOB: May 13, 2009, Place of birth: Unknown ,LIZETTE GROSECLOSE, DOB: June 26, 2015, Place of birth: Unknown, LEEANNA GROSECLOSE, DOB: October 24, 2018, Place of birth: Unknown, LONDYN GROSECLOSE, DOB: August 24, 2019, Place of birth: Unknown, LOGYN GROSECLOSE, DOB: January 20, 2021, Place of birth: Unknown, LYRIQ GROSECLOSE, DOB: July 27, 2023, Place of birth: Unknown
The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the children’s interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child’s adoption.
The name and address of the attorney for plaintiff is Jennine Cintron, Bell County Attorney’s Office, P.O. Box 1127, Belton, TX 76513
Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the 4th day of June 2025
Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, TX 76513
By: C. Rodriguez, Deputy
06.12

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION - CIVIL
CAUSE NO. 25DCV353777**
To THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF MANUEL E. LOPEZ, Deceased
Greetings:
You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the original petition at or before 10 o’clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o’clock AM, before the Honorable 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said original petition was filed in said court on May 09, 2025
The file number of said suit being No. 25DCV353777. The names of the parties in said suit are:
Deceased FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION VS. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF MANUEL E. LOPEZ, The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:
This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 402 Canoe Dr., Harker Heights, TX 76548, and more particularly described as LOT TWO (2), BLOCK TWO (2), SKIPCHA MOUNTAIN ESTATES, PHASE EIGHTEEN, HARKER HEIGHTS, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS, AS PER PLAT OF RECORD IN CABINET D, SLIDE 5-B, PLAT RECORDS OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS.
This was issued at the request of attorney: PETER K. KNAPP MILLER GEORGE & SUGGS, 6080 TENNYSON PKWYSTE 100,



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NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty- two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on June 03, 2025.
Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas 1201 Huey Road P.O. Box 909 Belton, Texas 76513
By: M. Cortez, Deputy Clerk
06.12,06.19, 06.26, 07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - CIVIL CAUSE NO. 25DCV353776

To THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JAMES D. TUCK, Deceased
Greetings:
You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the original petition at or before 10 o'clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o'clock AM, before the Honorable 169th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said original petition was filed in said court on May 09, 2025.
The file number of said suit being No. 25DCV353776. The names of the parties in said suit are:
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC VS. STEPHANO TUCK,XAVIER TUCK,THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JAMES D. TUCK, Deceased
The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:
This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 4305 Hank Drive, Killeen, TX 76549, and more particularly described as LOT TWENTY-FOUR (24), IN BLOCK SEVEN (7), OF CONDER VALLEY PHASE FOUR, IN THE CITY OF KILLEEN, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF RECORD IN CABINET C, SLIDE 368-B, C & D, PLAT RECORDS OF BELL COUNTY, TEXAS.
This was issued at the request of attorney: BRADLEY CONWAY MILLER GEORGE & SUGGS PLLC 6080 TENNYSON PKWY STE 100 Plano TX 75024.
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty- two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required

LEGALS

to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on June 03, 2025.
Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas 1201 Huey Road P.O. Box 909 Belton, Texas 76513
By: M Cortez Deputy Clerk
06.12,06.19,06.26,07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - CIVIL CAUSE NO. 25DCV353315

To THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF AMY M. SUMMERS, Deceased
Greetings:
You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the original petition at or before 10 o'clock AM of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday, at or before 10 o'clock AM, before the Honorable 146th Judicial District Court, Bell County, Texas to be held at the Bell County District Courts Building in Belton, Texas. Said original petition was filed in said court on April 21, 2025.
The file number of said suit being No. 25DCV353315. The names of the parties in said suit are:
TH MSR HOLDINGS, LLC VS. DEBORAH RICHEY,SARGENT RICHEY,THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF AMY M. SUMMERS, Deceased
The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:
This proceeding concerns the foreclosure of a lien on the following real property and improvements commonly known as 3554 Centennial Dr., Belton, TX 76513, and more particularly described as Being Lot 6, of Centennial Subdivision, Section Two, an Addition to the City of Belton, Bell County, Texas, according to the Plat of record In Cabinet A, Slide 3-C, of the Plat Records of Bell County, Texas.
This was issued at the request of attorney: PETER K. KNAPP MILLER GEORGE & SUGGS 6080 TENNYSON PKWYSTE 100 PLANO TX 75024.
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on Monday next following the expiration of forty- two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Belton, Texas, on June 03, 2025.
Joanna Staton District Clerk Bell County, Texas, 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, Texas 76513

LEGALS

By: M Cortez Deputy Clerk
06.12,06.19,06.26,07.03

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION-PARENT AND CHILD

To: Jimmy Orr, any Unknown Father and All Whom It May Concern, Respondents, in the hereinafter-styled and - numbered cause:
You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The First Amended Petition of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Petitioner, was filed in the 146th Judicial District Court of Bell County, Texas, on January 16, 2025, against Samirah Chaplin and Jimmy Orr, Respondent(s), numbered 24DFAM347990, and entitled “In the Interest of LYRICA CHAPLIN, minor child.” The suit requests to terminate the parent-child relationships and/or to appoint a managing conservator of the child. The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit is: LYRICA CHAPLIN, DOB: May 1, 2024, Place of birth: Texas
The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child’s interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child’s adoption.
The name and address of the attorney for plaintiff is Susan Parker, Bell County Attorney’s Office, P.O. Box 1127, Belton, TX 76513
Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Belton, Texas, this the day 2nd of June 2025
Joanna Staton, District Clerk of Bell County, Texas 1201 Huey Road, P.O. Box 909, Belton, TX 76513
By: C Rodriguez, Deputy.
06.12



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Anchor of Hope Fellowship
5700 F.M. 439 ~ 254.721.6514

Belton Christian Church
9425 W FM ~ 436 254.939.1172

Belton Church of Christ
3003 N. Main ~ 254.939.1816

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

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

Belton Lighthouse
1001 NE Loop 121 ~ 254.654.7278

Belton Nazarene Church
1701 Sparta Rd ~ 254.939.3404

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

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

Christ Bible Baptist Church
1590 Jack Rabbit Rd ~ 254.939.9247

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

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

Cornerstone Community Church
5081 Dog Ridge Rd ~ 254.721.8250

Crossroads Church
500 South I-35 ~ 254.939.2122

Dominion Life Chapel
105 Green Briar St. ~ 254.563.0472

Elm Grove Baptist Church
6388 Elm Grove Rd. ~ 254.933.8127

Family Gospel Church
2210 Holland Rd. ~ 254.721.0707

Fellowship Baptist Church
2025 Morgan's Point Rd ~ 254.780.2388

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

First Christian Church of Belton
306 E. Fifth Ave. ~ 254.654.5096

1st Christian Church of Temple
300 N 5th St ~ (254) 773-9061

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

First Presbyterian Church of Belton
2500 Church Street ~ 254.939.2115

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

Free Pentecostal Church of Jesus
1111 Cacti Lane ~ 254.933.8201

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

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

Hope Community Church
507 Mitchell St. ~ 254.933.8222

Hope Tabernacle
202 E. 1st Ave. ~ 254.933.8222

Iglesia de Cristo
3303 N. Main ~ 254.939.6910

Immanuel Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
1215 S. Wall St. ~ 254.939.0824

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

Lakeview Baptist Church
7717 N Hwy. 317 ~ 254.780.1884

Liberty Church
302 E. Central Ave. ~ 254.933.7107

Liberty in Christ Church
2520 N. Main ~ 254.939.3337

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

Ministerios Vida
2020 S. IH-35 ~ 254.624.8015

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

New Life Fellowship
706 E. 4th. ~ 254.939.8011

Nolan Valley Baptist Church
13206 W. FM 93 ~ 254.721.5998

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

Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church
505 E. Ave C. www.RRBC1689.com

Redeemer Reformed Baptist Church
2378 FM 1670 ~ 254.939.6446

Temple Vision de lo Alto
4357 Orchard Hill ~ 254.563.1231

Trinity Full Gospel
810 East 2nd Ave. ~ 254.939.7673

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

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

Christian Life Church
4343 West FM 93 ~ 254.939.2626

Covenant Lutheran Church
4202 Hickory Rd. ~ 254.733.7718

First Baptist Church Temple
8015 West Adams Ave. ~ 254.773.6866

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

First Presbyterian Church Temple
12 West French ~ 254.773.3407
Foundation Church
10701 W. Adams ~ 254.780.9673

Grace Baptist Church
740 Jayline Drive ~ 254.773.1401

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

Grace Presbyterian Church
2401 S 57th ~ 254.773.2134

Harvest Church
2501 General Bruce Dr. ~ 254.780.3566

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2109 W. Ave H ~ 254.773.3898

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

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

St. Francis Episcopal Church & School
5001 Hickory ~ 254.733.4255

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

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

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

Temple Bible Church
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Temple First Church of the Nazarene
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Unity Church of Temple
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Vineyard Christian Fellowship
7425 W Adams Ave. ~ 254.778.2802

Vista Community Church
7051 Stonehollow Dr.
www.thevista.tv ~ 254.774.7992

Wildwood Baptist Church
5195 Cedar Creek Rd. ~ 254.773.3177

The Power of Forgiveness: A Journey from Resentment to Peace



John C. Perry

At 77 years old, life has taught me many lessons, but one of the most profound is this: forgiveness is one of the greatest gifts you can give, not just to others, but to yourself. Life is far too short to carry the heavy burden of unforgiveness. Holding onto resentment, anger, or past hurts does nothing but drain our energy, cloud our minds, and keep us from fully embracing the present. Forgiveness is not about excusing wrongs; it's about freeing ourselves from bitterness and reclaiming our peace.

For much of my life, I was angry at my father. He was a product of the Great Depression, shaped by its hardships, and he raised me, and to a lesser extent, my brothers, with strict discipline, including corporal punishment. By the time I reached my teenage years, I resented him deeply, and our battles were harsh.

When I moved out, I remained polite, but nothing more, our relationship

was distant, lacking the warmth of a father-son bond. For decades, that resentment sat in my heart like a stone.

But something changed in my 40s. With age came some wisdom, and with wisdom came understanding. I began to see my father not just as the man who disciplined me, but as a man who deeply loved me, who raised me the only way he knew how, the way he himself had been raised.

As the years passed, our relationship transformed. Over the next 20 years, we grew close. And when I stood at his funeral to deliver his eulogy, I did so with a heart full of love, declaring that he was the finest man I had ever known.

What had changed? **Not him. Me.** I had forgiven him. And in that forgiveness, I discovered the truth: He had always loved me. I had simply been too blinded by resentment to see it.

I spent 20 years caught in frustration and anger, years that could have been spent in love and understanding. I wasted precious time. And if I could go back, I would erase those years of resentment in an instant. But I can't. What I can do is urge you not to make the same mistake.

Forgiveness is a powerful force. It doesn't erase the past, nor does it mean forgetting the pain. But it means choosing to move forward without letting negativity define us.

Jesus taught that forgiveness reflects

God's mercy and is essential for our spiritual growth. When Peter asked how many times, he should forgive someone, Jesus replied, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven" (*Matthew 18:21-22*), in other words, **Forgiveness is limitless.**

Mark Twain beautifully captured the spirit of forgiveness when he wrote, "Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it." Forgiveness is grace in action, a gift that we give even when harm has been done.

At the end of the day, life is fleeting, and believe me, at my age, that is more evident than ever. Time spent holding grudges is time lost. Choosing forgiveness allows us to love deeper, live happier, and experience true freedom, the kind Jesus Christ himself taught us.

So, I ask you: Is there someone in your life that you harbor resentment toward? A grudge? An unresolved pain? **Let it go.** Let it go today. Live a life unchained from bitterness.

Trust me, friends, no one held more resentment than I did towards my father, but I was **WRONG**. It took me decades to realize that. Don't wait decades. Don't be as stubborn as I was. Don't let years slip away in anger and resentment. **Just forgive!**

John C. Perry is the Lay Leader with New Life Methodist Church. They meet every Sunday at 9 a.m. (Bible Study) and 10 a.m. (Worship Service) in the Salado Middle School at 1169 Williams Rd.

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06/17: Bunco	06/26: 42 Dominoes
06/18: Popcorn Bridge	06/28: Jimmy's Egg
06/19: 42 Dominoes; Nonfiction Book	

**"To join or for more information, please call:
Mary Pringle (760)265-5035 or email at: pringlem@msn.com.
Visit the website: www.bellcountynewcomers.com."**

CAC announces 2025 concert lineups

The Cultural Activities Center in Temple has announced lineups for its two premier music series, and visiting bands will include Los Lonely Boys, Asleep at the Wheel and the wildly popular Shinyribs. 2025 will usher in new music in both the Texas Music Series and the Central Texas Orchestral Society's Classical Music Series. Some old friends will be making return engagements in Temple, and many new performers also will be playing the CAC stage. For more information, please visit <https://www.cacarts.org/events>. Be on the lookout for the full 2025 Texas Music Series lineup in next weeks edition of the newspaper.

Here's a look at the 2025 Texas Music Series:

RUTHIE FOSTER JAZZ BAND — July 12

With five Grammy nominations to her name, Ruthie Foster stands as a testament to the power of authenticity and resilience in music. Her soulful melodies, heartfelt lyrics and an unwavering commitment to her art inspire audiences and fellow musicians as she continues to carve a path uniquely her own.

AN CLIBURN FINALIST CLAYTON STEPHENSON — Oct. 18

American pianist Clayton Stephenson's love for music is immediately apparent in his joyous charisma onstage, expressive power and natural ease at the instrument.

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL — Nov. 8

Founded in 1970, Asleep at the Wheel has been part of the American roots music landscape for more than 50 years.

SHINYRIBS - Dec. 6

Shinyribs, a regular visitor to the CAC, defies genres as a melting pot of Texas blues, New Orleans funk, horn-driven Memphis soul, country twang, border music, big band swing and roots-rock. The 2025 CTOS Classic Music Series includes four big shows.

Historic Escape Games - June 12

There has been a crime at the museum and it is up to you to find the culprit! You have 60 minutes to work together, solve the crime, and escape! There are two times available for the Zombie Apocalypse game. 6:00pm & 7:15pm. Tickets are \$12/person. Pre-registration is required. Games are private and limited to 8 players (ages 13 years and older) of the same group per game time. Players under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult player. Please submit one form per group as all games are private. Please be mindful of the age requirements. Payments can be made through the payment link on the registration form below. BE SURE TO SUBMIT THE FORM AFTER SUBMITTING PAYMENT.

Bell County Master Gardners - June 13

The Bell County Master Gardeners and Troy Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn presents "Herbs 101" on Friday, June 13th from 12 to 1 P.M. at the Troy Community Center, 201 E. Main St., Troy. Certified Master Gardeners Glenn Melton and Barbara Ishikawa will be speaking about turf grasses and other ground covers specific to central Texas. Class Limit: 50. Please register at <https://bit.ly/3DRcaID>.

Belton High School Ex-students Tri-annual Reunion - June 14

The Belton High School ex-students tri-annual reunion will be held Saturday, June 14, 2025, at the BHS Commons Area, with registration starting at 8:30 a.m. The program and business meeting begin at 10:30 a.m., with lunch following. Registration is \$25.00 per person. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, June 4, 2025. Dr. Malinda Golden, BISD superintendent, will speak at the event, sharing successes and challenges of the district. Graduates of Belton High School from all classes are invited to participate. A bar-b-que lunch will follow the program. Classmates from a particular year can join each other for lunch, and may also mingle to visit friends from all years. Raising funds for scholarships given through Belton Education Foundation (BEF) is an integral part of this event. Attendees will have the opportunity to donate to that scholarship fund, plus the Ex-Students organization encourages class units to give as a group throughout each year. You may receive a registration form from a member of your class. Send the completed form and payment to Zonna Cope-land Chenoweth (Class of 1968), 3051 FM 1670, Belton, TX 76513. Direct questions, and requests for registration form, to Jack Davis (Class of 1966), president of BHS Exes, 817-219-3030, jrdtsta@aol.com or to Zonna Chenoweth at zkchenoweth@gmail.com.

Belton's 4th of July Celebration and PRCA Rodeo - July 28 through July 5

Join us in celebrating patriotism, traditional family values, and small-town America at the Belton 4th of July Celebration! Music is an important part of our celebration with the Backyard Party at Schoepf's Concert and Fireworks show being an annual favorite. Kicking off our weeklong celebration is the Downtown Street Party and Concert on June 28th! The Downtown Street Party is open to the public as a free non-ticketed event. Reserved VIP areas are available for sponsors. With an estimated 30,000+ people lining the streets, and a live televised broadcast reaching around the world, the 100-year tradition of the Belton 4th of July Celebration will include a 1 1/2 mile parade route running south on Main Street (FM317) from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor to the Bell County Courthouse, then east on Central Avenue, and north on Birdwell to the Belton Police Memorial. Following the parade, much of the crowd moves to the adjacent Liberty Park for the Festival on Nolan Creek with food and craft vendors, games, a petting zoo, static displays of military and first responder equipment, and live entertainment at the centrally located gazebo. Carnival rides and attractions fill Liberty Park located within a short walking distance on the Belton Hike and Bike Trail. The three-night PRCA Rodeo is held July 3-5 at the Cadence Bank Center, an indoor, air-conditioned facility with a capacity for 5,900 rodeo attendees. Cowboys from around the country descend on the only PRCA Rodeo in Texas during this holiday weekend making it a must-see event. For more information visit beltonchamber.com.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will meet on Tuesday, June 24th at 6:30pm at the Temple VA Hospital. Use the entrance on the Valet parking side of the hospital and take the elevator to the 5th floor -Conference Room 5G31. Both care-givers, supporters and those suffering from mental illness are welcome to join us for mutual support and sharing of information. For more information, call 254-771-3638.

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

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

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

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

Bell Fine Arts Visitors welcome Wednesday's from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 306 E 5th Ave in Belton. Ma-jong games are available every Monday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come join the fun and meet new folks. For more information text Jeanne at 409-313-0611.

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

Bell County Texas Democratic Women holds their monthly meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Belton AgriLife Center, 1605 N Main in Belton. Join us to hear from local and

Community Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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