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WELCOME GUIDE | SPRING 2022

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Welcome to Central Texas

The Spring 2022 Newcomers Guide is designed to help new residents familiarize themselves with the Central Texas communities that comprise the greater Killeen-Fort Hood area.

This convenient guide provides information to help new and returning residents settle into their homes, enroll in schools and colleges, get involved in the local communities, and enjoy the area's wide variety of activities and attractions. It includes information on registering vehicles, hooking up utilities, searching for a job, understanding the workings of local governments and receiving assistance from the many service organizations in the area.

The following Herald staff members, graphic designers and correspondents contributed to the writing, photography, planning, editing and design of this section: Renee Blue, Jacob Brooks, David A. Bryant, John Clark, Taylor Cooper, Lauren Dodd, Jack Dowling, M. Clare Haefner, Emily Hilley-Sierzchula, Thaddeus Imerman, Jana Lynn Kilcrease, Dennis Knowlton, Christian K. Lee, Dave Miller, Mark Miller, Madeline Oden and Clay Whittington.

CONTACT US

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New residents must register vehicles, get a Texas driver's license

Upon moving to Texas, individuals can legally drive with a valid, unexpired license from another state or country for up to 90 days. Within that time, individuals must apply in person at any driver's license office for a Texas license.

To apply, residents must prove their residence is in Texas and that they have lived here least 30 days. There are a number of forms that can be used to prove residency:

- Current deed, mortgage, monthly mortgage statement, mortgage payment booklet or a residential rental/lease agreement.
- Current homeowner's or renter's insurance policy or homeowner's or renter's insurance statement.
- Valid, unexpired Texas voter registration card.
- Texas vehicle registration or title.
- Texas boat registration or title, Texas concealed handgun license.
- Utility statement (including electric, water, natural gas, satellite TV, cable TV or non-cellular phone bill) dated within

90 days of the application date.

- Selective Service card.
- Current automobile insurance policy or insurance statement.
- Current Form DS2019, I-20 or a document issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

In addition, three forms of identification are required, including a Social Security card or military ID card. One form of ID needs a photo. For more information, go to www.txdps.state.tx.us.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Texas residents must register their vehicles within 30 days of moving and should do so prior to applying for a Texas driver's license. Proof of insurance and an inspection from a state-licensed station are needed.

Active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and nonresident, full-time students attending a Texas college or university are not required to register or title their vehicles in Texas. Call 254-634-0265 or go to www.txdot.gov.

DRIVER'S LICENSE OFFICES

KILLEEN

5100 W. Elms Road
254-616-1800
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Main Gate Visitor's Center,
Building 69005
254-618-4180
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

GATESVILLE

3418 E. Main St.
254-865-2444
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LAMPASAS

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512-556-6871
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Change your mailing address with the post office

New residents can change mailing addresses online or at a local post office. For information, call 800-275-8777 or go to www.usps.com.

In northern Killeen, residents with ZIP codes 76540, 76541, 76543 and 76544, are served by the Main Post Office at 300 N. 10th St. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Passport applications are taken from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays. Call 254-634-0281.

Residents in southern Killeen, ZIP codes 76542, 76547 and 76549, are served by the Copper Mountain Post Office, 3100 S. W.S. Young Drive, which is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Call 254-554-3033.

Residents in southwestern Killeen, ZIP code 76549, are served by the Willow Springs Post Office at 2403 W. Stan Schlueter Loop. It's open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Call 254-501-8601.

The Harker Heights Post Office, ZIP code 76548, is at 415 E. Farm-to-Market 2410. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Call 254-699-2111.

The Fort Hood Post Office is in Building 332 on 761st Tank Battalion Avenue. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Call 254-287-2728.

Postal contract stations are in Fort Hood National Banks at Clear Creek Road in Building 50005 and at Clarke Road in Building 91079. All are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

The Nolanville Post Office, serving ZIP code 76559, is at 201 N. Main St. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Call 254-698-2626.

The Copperas Cove Post Office, serving ZIP code 76522, is at 802 E. Avenue D. It is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Call 254-547-3605.

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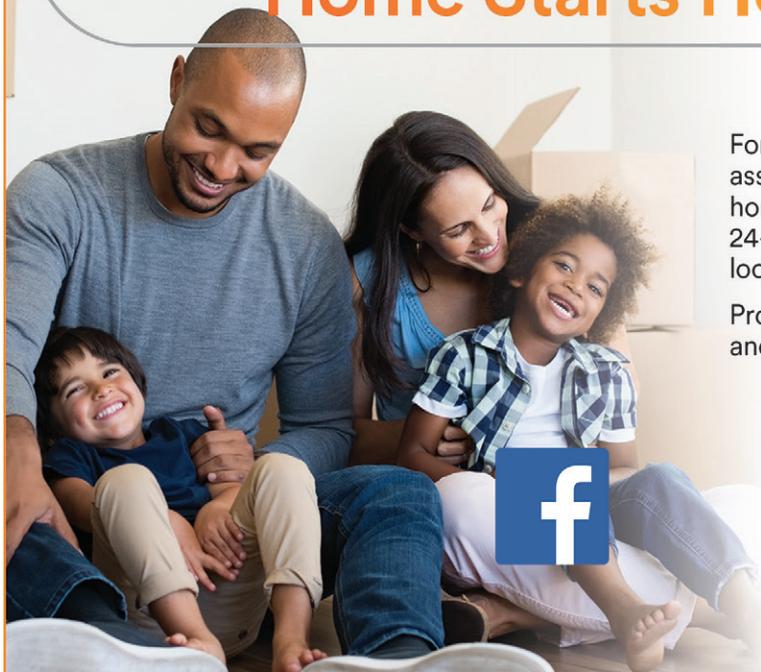
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Killeen celebrating its 140th anniversary

For the last 140 years, Killeen has grown into a metropolitan city with a rich history, and has adapted its diversity in its support of one of the largest military posts in the world.

The city was established with the arrival of the first Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad train, and incorporated in 1882, primarily as a shipping center for agricultural and textile materials and products.

The city was named after Frank P. Killeen, a senior railroad official and native of Ireland. The rural community began with 350 people, and gradually expanded until it boomed during the war era of the 1940s.

Camp Hood, later designated Fort Hood, was set up in 1942 as a development and training center to fight German tanks.

Killeen grew with the influx of soldiers and families, and became a melting pot of cultures, food, ideas, languages and people.

About 150,000 people currently live in the city that sprawls over more than 55 square miles.

Downtown Killeen is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Infrastructure and amenities continue to expand to keep up with demand.

In addition to essential city services, a variety of quality-of-life amenities are offered, including hiking and biking trails, public libraries, a recreation and fitness center, a disc golf course, swimming pools, skate parks, and an 18-hole golf course.

The city's Utility Collections Division, 210 W. Avenue C, manages billing for water, sewer and trash services. New accounts can be set up during regular business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Visit by noon for same-day service; after-hours services are available for an additional fee. Go to killeentexas.gov/utilitycollections for more information or call 254-501-7800.

Trash service is often set up at the same time as water and sewer; reach its customer service at 254-501-7785.

The Killeen City Library System is an educational and cultural asset. The



Killeen City Council members and City Manager Kent Cagle meet during a special planning session at City Hall in March.

City has council-manager form of government

Killeen uses the council-manager form of government, established in its City Charter in 1949.

Although Mayor Debbie Nash-King is the chief officer, her administrative power is limited. She presides over the seven council members, who set policy.

City Manager Kent Cagle is the chief administrative officer and is responsible for oversight of all city operations.

Four council members represent Killeen's districts: Jessica Gonzalez, District 1; Riakos Adams, District 2; Nina Cobb, District 3; and Michael Boyd, District 4.

The three at-large council members — Mellisa Brown, Ken Wilkerson and Rick Williams — represent the city as a whole. Residents of each district choose their representatives, but

at-large members are elected by the entire city.

Council terms are two years, and service is limited to three consecutive terms. Elections are typically held in May in even-numbered years for mayor and at-large council members. Elections for the four district council members are held in May in odd-numbered years.

The Council's Governing Standards and Expectations call for workshops on the first and third Tuesday of each month and regular meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday unless rescheduled by the council. Both workshops and council meetings are typically held at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 101 N. College St.

Call 254-501-7600 or go to www.killeentexas.gov for agendas and minutes and more information.

main library at 205 E. Church Ave. downtown and the Copper Mountain Branch Library at 3000 S. W.S. Young Drive offer two locations for residents

with a dynamic collection and seasonal children's activities.

Go to killeentexas.gov to learn more about the city and its services.

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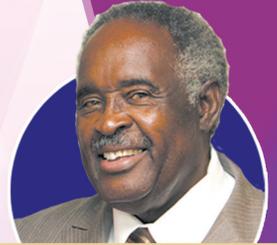
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Harker Heights offers programs, services for its residents

Harker Heights continues to witness growth and economic development since its incorporation in 1960.

Located on Interstate 14 about 10 miles west of I-35, and abutting Stillhouse Hollow Lake, the city is 15.65 square miles in area. Its census 2020 population of 33,097 is a 21% increase from 2010.

“Harker Heights has that unique sense of place that continues to attract new residents and businesses,” City Manager David Mitchell said.

Construction continues with widening of Interstate 14 from four to six lanes by adding a third lane of through traffic in each direction in the existing median. The I-14 westbound to eastbound turn around at FM 2410/Knights Way is estimated for completion this summer.

Housing development in Harker Heights has continued to show stable growth in 2022. As of March 25, the city had issued 35 residential permits. The city issued 195 permits during 2021.

Cedarbrook Ridge continues to be the largest residential development under construction. The housing development also includes a street to honor the city’s first African American police officer, Freddie Nichols Sr.

Gambit Social House has progressed on its family entertainment center at 1405 E. Knight’s Way, which is expected to open in mid-2022.

Some of the public services that the city provides include parks and recreation, library, planning and development, pet adoption center, fire and EMS, police, and public works.

An interactive map of park facilities can be found on the Parks and Recreation Department’s webpage at www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us. The department also offers a multitude of programs for residents.

One of the programs at the heart of what the makes the city such a special place is the Ability Sports program. It provides sporting activities and events for special-needs children and is supported by public and private donors.

Looking for entertainment? Visit <https://harkerheights.gov/librarycalendar/monthcalendar> for family-friendly events at the library.

Harker Heights provides a full array



Coach Bobby Johnson works with different age groups during soccer clinics sponsored by the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department in April.

HARKER HEIGHTS' ELECTED LEADERS AND TOP ADMINISTRATORS

Harker Heights is a home-rule city that operates under a council-manager form of government. Serving as council members are:

Mayor: Spencer H. Smith, second term expires May 2023

Mayor Pro Tem: Jennifer McCann, second term expires May 2025

Place 2: Michael Blomquist, second term expires May 2024

Place 3: Jackeline Soriano Fountain, second term expires May 2022

Place 4: Lynda Nash, first term expires May 2023

Place 5: Sam Halabi, first term expires May 2024

City Manager: David Mitchell, dmitchell@harkerheights.gov

Assistant City Manager: Jerry Bark, jbark@harkerheights.gov

Director of Human Resources: Leona Clay, lclay@harkerheights.gov

Public Works Director: Mark Hyde, mhyde@harkerheights.gov

City Secretary: Julie Helsham, jhelsham@harkerheights.gov

Finance Director: Ayesha Lealiiee, alealiiee@harkerheights.gov

Planning & Development Director: Kristina Ramirez, kramirez@harkerheights.gov

Information Technology Director: Gary Bates, gbates@harkerheights.gov

Library Director: Lisa Youngblood, lyoungblood@harkerheights.gov

Fire Chief/Emergency Management Coordinator: Paul D. Sims, psims@harkerheights.gov

Parks & Recreation Director: Jeff Achee, jachee@harkerheights.gov

Police Chief: Phillip M. Gadd, pgadd@harkerheights.gov

of utility services: solid waste collection, drainage, wastewater, water and street maintenance. Call Public Works at 254-953-5649 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for more information.

The City Council meets at the Harker Heights City Hall in the Kitty Young Council Chambers at 305 Miller’s Crossing. Regular council meetings are at 5 p.m. on the second and fourth

Tuesdays of the month. Workshop meetings normally begin at 3 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays. Items may be placed on the agenda by submitting a written request no less than seven days prior to the scheduled council meeting.

Billy Ray Hall serves as Harker Heights’ municipal court judge. Garland Potvin serves as the alternate municipal judge.

July 4 festival brings thousands to Belton each year

As the county seat of Bell County, Belton really knows how to celebrate. The city's largest event is its Fourth of July festival, which traditionally attracts more than 50,000 people. This is an impressive feat considering Belton's estimated population is 25,000. Events include a parade, rodeo, carnival and festival on Nolan Creek.

"Nothing in Central Texas can top the city of Belton's July 4th parade," City Manager Sam Listi said. "It is the best way to kick off Independence Day and celebrate all things American."

Nolan Creek, which winds its way downtown, offers plenty of recreation opportunities. A park with nature trail and kayak/tube launch area is just below the MLK bridge. Parking is available just east of the bridge. Year-round, the Downtown Belton Merchants Association hosts Belton Market Days on the third weekend of each month. Streets near the historic Bell County Courthouse are closed, and a variety of vendors sell their wares. Belton's Annual Bacon, Blues and Brews Festival takes place each fall around Courthouse Square. The two-day festival features blues bands, food trucks and breweries.



Dr. Bill Long leads family members down Main Street as part of the Fourth of July Parade in Belton.

The highlight is the bacon cook-off where teams compete to see who prepares the best bacon-inspired dish.

CITY GOVERNMENT

A mayor and a six-member council govern Belton. In September, the council adopted a \$36.38 million budget for fiscal year 2022.

Mayor Wayne Carpenter was elected in 2020. Mayor Pro Tem David K. Leigh represents Place 4; John Holmes, Place 1; Dan Kirkley, Place 2; Craig Pearson, Place 3; Daniel Bucher, Place 5; and

Guy O'Banion, Place 7. The mayor also represents Place 6.

Three council seats expire in May 2022, but there will not be an election because all three candidates are unopposed. Bucher and Carpenter will begin new council terms, and Stephanie O'Banion will fill her husband's seat. Then council members will choose one which one of them serves as mayor.

The city council meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Harris Community Center, 401 N. Alexander St., Belton.

Nolanville officials maintain small-town atmosphere

Nolanville, located along Interstate 14 between Belton and Harker Heights, is home to about 6,200 residents.

The city is involved in several future projects, including a multi-use trail along Nolan Creek with pedestrian bridge crossings and renovations to the JW Sims Community Center.

City officials strive to maintain the small-town atmosphere by prioritizing quality of life. One of the Nolanville City Council's current objectives is neighborhood place identity installation that includes signage, landscaping and access to greenspace from everyone's front door.

Another priority is the inclusion of a technology strategic plan through a partnership with Texas A&M University.

The city's \$2 million operating budget funds the administration, including the police and public works departments. All departments are centrally located in the Nolanville Municipal Building at 101 N. Fifth St.

Nolanville manages city business with a council-manager form of government. The Council meets at 6 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of every month in council chambers in the Nolanville Municipal Building.

The governing body includes Mayor Andy Williams, Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Ramsdell and council members Joan Hinshaw, James Bilberry, Butch Reis and David Williams.

The City Manager is Kara Escajeda, who was appointed in March 2015.

Crystal Briggs is the City Secretary and Assistant City Manager.

Council appoints the municipal judge every two years. Judge Kevin Madison is the primary presiding judge and Judge Ebony Todd is the alternate. Misha Johnson serves as court clerk. The court conducts hearings once a month.

The Nolanville Police Department is led by Chief Michael Hatton. He guides 10 full-time officers and several reserve officers.

The Nolanville Economic Development Corporation uses a one-quarter percent of the city sales tax for economic and industrial development and the coordinator is Kerry Phillip.

Learn more about services at www.nolanvilletx.gov.

Arts, antiques, events draw tourists to village of Salado

The village of Salado contains a wealth of activities for tourists and area residents alike. From the annual Salado Christmas Stroll in December to the Wildflower Weekend in late March, the village in south Bell County is constantly attracting tourists. The village is steeped in rich history and has been a destination for travelers for hundreds of years. It has art galleries, a microbrewery, a winery, an exceptional culinary scene and many historic lodging options.

More than 2,300 people call Salado home. Salado is home to the distinctive Tablerock Amphitheater, an outdoor sculpture garden, and over 40 historic buildings designated on the national register. Salado is also home to internationally known painters, glass blowers, sculptors, potters, carvers, writers, actors, and others in the creative arts, making it one of a handful of state-recognized Cultural Art Districts in Texas.



Michael Pritchett's work hangs on the walls at the Sirril Art Gallery in Salado.

Music fills the air in many establishments. One of the most iconic venues is the Stagecoach Inn & Restaurant, which has been renovated. Once a stop on the Chisholm Trail in the pioneer days, it now serves as a place for dinner, meetings, and a historic headquarters if you want to stay awhile.

Salado's elected government is

comprised of a mayor and a board of five aldermen. Mayor Michael Coggin, an engineer who was elected in 2020, previously served as an alderman.

The current aldermen are Mayor Pro Tem Rodney Bell, D. Jasen Graham, John Cole, Paul Cox and Jason Howard. Don Ferguson is the city administrator.

Learn more about the city at www.saladotx.gov or www.salado.com.

Commissioners govern Bell County, set its annual budget

The Bell County Commissioner's Court — an elected county judge and four precinct commissioners — form the backbone of county financial administration because they set the budget.

"The Texas Constitution vests broad judicial and administrative powers in the position of county judge, who presides over a five-member commissioners court, which has budgetary and administrative authority over county government operations," according to Bell County. "The commissioner's court is responsible for building and maintaining the roads and bridges of the county..." and adopts the tax rate and budget for the county. As of March, the current Bell County Commissioner's Court consists of County Judge David Blackburn, Precinct 1 Commissioner Russell Schneider, Precinct 2 Commissioner Bobby Whitson, Precinct 3 Commissioner Bill Schumann, and Precinct 4 Commissioner John Driver.

COUNTY BUDGET

The county budget continues to increase each year since the county's population has swelled by more than 21% since 2011. In 1960, the county's population was a little over 94,000. As of 2020, it hovered closer to 400,000. The expected revenue for fiscal year 2022 is expected to be \$115.7 million. In fiscal year 2021, \$109.2 million was budgeted as general fund revenues.

The 2022 budget includes a 2% pay increase for county employees, amounting to more than \$1 million. Another expense was the addition of 39 new positions, most of which relate to public safety or the judicial system, accounting for \$2.16 million in the budget.

The court meets every Monday at 9 a.m. at the Bell County Courthouse, 101 Central Ave., Belton. If there is a Monday holiday, the court meets on the following Tuesday.

Visit www.bellcountytexas.com/county-government/commissioners-court to

learn more about the commissioners, to view a precinct map, and to view agendas, minutes and archived video of past meetings.

COUNTY CLERK

Working behind the scenes is the county clerk's office, which provides administrative support to the commissioner's court as well as three county courts-at-law. Republican Shelley Coston has been the Bell County Clerk since Jan. 1, 2007.

The clerk's office handles much of the paperwork that documents the lives of Bell County residents, from births to deaths and all the steps in between.

Deputy clerks focus on specific duties in five departments — vital statistics, land records, probate, civil and juvenile records and criminal records.

The office, at 1201 Huey Road in Belton, is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Go to www.bellcountytexas.com or call 254-933-5171.





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Permit process made easy in Central Texas cities

KILLEEN

City residents can obtain permit applications online at <http://www.killeentexas.gov/207/Permit-Applications-Forms-Reports>.

Completed applications can be emailed to buildingpermits@killeentexas.gov or faxed to 254-501-6302. Permits can also be dropped off to the Building Inspections Office in person at 100 E. Avenue C. Forms can also be mailed to the Building Inspections Office, P.O. Box 1329, Killeen, TX 76540.

HARKER HEIGHTS

At www.mygovernmentonline.org, residents can create an account and navigate to the Harker Heights portal, where permits can be completed electronically. Residents may also obtain applications at <http://www.harkerheights.gov/index.php/permits-and-forms>. Submit forms at the Building Inspections Office, 305 Miller's Crossing.

NOLANVILLE

Residents may obtain city permits online at http://www.nolanvilletx.gov/page/Forms_Permits. Submit forms at City Hall, 101 N. Fifth St.

COPPERAS COVE

Residents can now complete the permitting process online via the MyGovernmentOnline Portal at www.mygovernmentonline.org/. Specific questions or concerns may be addressed by stopping by City Hall, 914 S. Main St., Suite G, or calling 254-542-3528.

BELTON

Residents can complete the process online at www.beltontexas.gov/departments/planning_department/building_permits_and_inspections.php. Applications can be submitted at City Hall, 333 Water St or via email to planning@beltontexas.gov.



Artifacts unearthed at the Gault Archaeological Site are even older than the Clovis culture.

Florence known for archaeological site

You're not far from the oldest hometown in America. The discovery of ancient relics at the Gault Archaeological Site was a result of years of archaeological digs, research and testing, gives the small town of Florence bragging rights to a home foundation. The site dates back thousands of years, even earlier than the Clovis culture. People can book tours of the site through the Bell or Williamson County museums.

SMALL TOWN, BIG DREAMS

Now, the city of Florence is a small town with big dreams.

The city of about 1,200 residents in northwestern Williamson County, south of Killeen, is in the middle of an economic revival of its downtown area. "Florence once was predominantly a ranching and farming community, but now the city is experiencing a resurgence of interest," said Peggy Morse, president of the Greater Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. "The entire country is seemingly pulling up roots and heading to Texas."

The territorial limit of Florence has grown by 8% since 2000.

Managing all that growth is the elected government that consists of Mayor Mary Condon and five city council members: Mayor Pro Tem Debra Bartos Cahill, who has been on the council since 2006; Lesa Ragsdale, serving since 2012; Amanda Davis, who has been on the council since 2019; and Jesus "Jesse" Castillo, since 2020.

The most recent addition to the council is not a newcomer to the seat. Kory Woolverton was elected in May, but the fire department lieutenant previously served on Florence's City Council from 2011 to 2019.

The City Council meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 851 Farm-to-Market 970, Florence.

The city's small but busy Eula Hunt Beck Florence Public Library offers classes, children's programs and a book club that meets Tuesdays. For more information about the library, visit florencepubliclibrary.wordpress.com or call 254-793-2672.

For more information on local businesses and events, go to florencechamberofcommerce.org or florencetex.com.

Meet the area's elected officials

Residents in Central Texas have multiple ways to get their voices heard. The area is served by elected officials in Congress and the Texas Legislature. The following officials represent the region, however, the boundaries of those districts changed following a 2021 state redistricting process.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 31

U.S. Rep. John Carter represents the 31st Congressional District, an area of Central Texas that includes Killeen and Harker Heights, in the U.S. House of Representatives.



Carter, a Republican from Round Rock, was first elected in 2002. Carter's Bell County office is in Temple at 6544B S. General Bruce Drive. Call 254-933-1392 or go to <http://carter.house.gov>.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 25

Lampasas County, Coryell County and part of Killeen are part of District 25, represented by Republican Roger Williams of Austin. He was first elected in November 2012. Williams' Austin district office is at 5806 Mesa Drive, Suite 390, Austin. Call 202-225-9896 or fax 202-225-9692.



TEXAS SENATE DISTRICT 24

Republican Dawn Buckingham represents Senate District 24, a multicounty region that includes Bell, Coryell and Lampasas counties. She was elected in 2016. Call 512-463-0124 or email dawn.buckingham@senate.texas.gov. Her address at the Capitol is P.O. Box 12068 Capitol Station Austin TX 78711.



Buckingham is running for land commissioner, and a new senator will be elected in November 2022.

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 54

In the Texas House, District 54 is represented by Republican Brad Buckley, a Killeen veterinarian and Salado resident, first



elected in 2018. The district includes much of western Bell County, as well as Lampasas County.

Buckley's Capitol address is Room E1.316, 1100 Congress Ave, Austin. The mailing address is P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768. His Capitol office phone number is 512-463-0684.

Buckley has district offices at the Historic Fowler House, 1301 N. Stagecoach Road in Salado, and in the Lampasas County Courthouse, 501 E. Fourth St., Suite 301.

TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 55

District 55 is represented by Republican Hugh Shine, a retired Army officer, of Temple. He was first elected in 2016. Call 254-742-7616 or 512-463-0630. His address is Room GS.6 1100 Congress Ave, Austin. The mailing address is P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768. His local office is at 4 S. First St., Temple.



TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT 59

Republican Shelby Slawson, an attorney and entrepreneur from Stephenville, has represented District 59 since 2020. The district includes all or parts of Erath, Comanche, McCulloch, Mills, Hamilton, Coryell, San Saba and Somervell counties. Call her office at 512-463-0628.



REGISTER TO VOTE

As soon as residence is established, a person is qualified to register to vote. Residents must be registered at least 30 days before an election.

Bell County: Register at the Bell County Tax Assessor and Voter Registrar's Office, at 550 E. Second Ave. in Belton, the County Annex at 307 Priest Drive in Killeen and the Fort Hood visitor center.

Coryell County: Register at the Coryell County Courthouse at 620 E. Main St. in Gatesville or at the County Tax Office at 330 Cove Terrace in Copperas Cove.

Lampasas County: Register at the Lampasas County Courthouse at 501 E. 4th St. Download forms at www.sos.state.tx.us.

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Clearwater protects groundwater

For more than 20 years, the Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District has been managing and protecting Bell County's groundwater resources.

The district was established in 1999 after Bell County residents affirmed in a local election the taxing authority and thus approved the Texas Legislature's creation of the district.

"We want to protect both the groundwater across Bell County so that it is available to future generations, but at the same time balance that role while protecting property rights," Clearwater General Manager Dirk Aaron said.

The district's website, www.cuwcd.org, provides updated information on the county's underground water resources as well as a drought monitor and a GIS map platform allowing residents to learn about their property's site-specific geology. The platform is also a repository of information about site-specific wells across the county.

Clearwater also has an elaborate monitor well network to measure the groundwater in various areas of the district. Clearwater collaborates with the Texas Water Development Board, which runs waterdatafortexas.org, and is a key partner in the governor's initiative to create the TexMesonet Weather System, which provides live data at www.texmesonet.org.

The district's educational features include a new mobile classroom for schools, groups, fairs and neighborhoods to provide a deeper understanding of our aquifers and the local geology of Bell County.

Clearwater also has a YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtHlvOrTAvkm2w9nvvQPnoA/videos>

More information as well as Clearwater's annual reports and financial audits can be found online at www.cuwcd.org.

The district is at 700 Kennedy Court in Belton; call 254-933-0120.

Central Texas Council of Governments helps area grow, improve

The Central Texas Council of Governments is an association of cities, counties, school districts and special districts spanning a region of seven counties in Central Texas. The purpose is to help communities work together on services targeting economic development and regional planning, services for the elderly and housing assistance.

The council was established in 1968 as a result of state legislation that served local government by planning for common needs and helping municipalities improve regional development. The council has no regulatory or taxing ability, but it helps the region identify areas it can strengthen and develop.

The council's governing body includes representatives from each of its municipalities. When representatives see a need in their district, they bring it before the entire group to decide which projects take priority.

CTCOG serves nearly 489,000 residents in Central Texas. Representatives are chosen annually. The representatives elect the CTCOG Executive Committee, which appoints an executive director who makes all policies and gives the official approval for undertakings of the council.

The current executive director is Jim Reed. Other directors include George Losoya, director of Area Agency on Aging; Uryan Nelson, director of Planning and Regional Services; Michael Irvine, director of Finance and Carmen Lim, director of Housing Division.

The committees work alongside a professional staff that answers to the executive director. The council also forms committees dedicated to technical, study, policy work, and takes on special projects on a fee-for-service basis. Each jurisdiction pays individual dues to the council, which allow each jurisdiction to take advantage of state-funded financial assistance. CTCOG's office is at 2180 N. Main St., Belton. Call 254-770-2200, email info@ctcog.org or go to ctcog.org.

More than 36,000 troops call the Great Place home

Fort Hood, nicknamed the “Great Place,” is one of the largest military installations in the free world.

With more than 36,000 troops and nearly 220,000 acres of training ground, Fort Hood is big.

In 2019, the Texas Comptroller’s Office said the post had an economic impact of nearly \$30 billion statewide.

The post services more than 500,000 area active-duty soldiers, family members and retirees at its commissaries, post exchanges, Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center and other facilities. It is, by far, the biggest employer of the Killeen-area economy.

Lt. Gen. Pat White currently commands III Corps and Fort Hood. He joined the Phantom Corps in June 2019.

III Corps Command Sgt. Maj. Cliff Burgoyne joined the Fort Hood command team in July 2020.

Fort Hood’s deputy commander for maneuver is Maj. Gen. Steven Gilland. The deputy commander for support is British Maj. Gen. Michael R. Keating.

Fort Hood’s garrison commander is Col. Chad Foster, who took command in June 2021.

Across the post, most of the original World War II-era buildings have been torn down to make room for modern brick-and-stone buildings. Construction on a new \$24 million Training Support Center was completed in 2017. The center was dedicated in honor of 1st Cavalry Division Medal of Honor recipient Master Sgt. Mike Castaneda Pena, who was killed in action Sept. 5, 1950, at Waegwan, South Korea.

Being the first in the digitized warfare arena and having the most modern equipment, Fort Hood soldiers use state-of-the-art training facilities.

Housed in the Close Combat Tactical Trainer are exact replicas of tank and Bradley fighting vehicle crew compartments, which allow troops to play realistic video-game-type scenarios to familiarize themselves with the equipment and how to interact as a unit before taking the high-dollar equipment to the field.

Its motor pools and hangars hold more than 260 tanks, 165 aircraft and 320 Strykers.



Roughly 160 soldiers from III Corps at Fort Hood deployed March 7 as part of the 7,000 U.S. military personnel earmarked to support the NATO Response Force to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

FORT HOOD UNITS

III Corps
1st Cavalry Division
1st Army Division West
13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command
U.S. Army Operational Test Command
1st Medical Brigade
3rd Cavalry Regiment
3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade
36th Engineer Brigade
48th Chemical Brigade
69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

85th Civil Affairs Brigade
89th Military Police Brigade
407th Army Field Support Brigade
418th Contracting Support Brigade
504th Military Intelligence Brigade
Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center
Warrior Transition Brigade
11th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade
901st Contracting Support Battalion
Noncommissioned Officer Academy
Hood Mobilization Brigade
3rd Air Support Operations Group (Air Force)

Two urban training areas offer soldiers the chance to practice the type of warfare they may face during missions to Iraq, Afghanistan or other areas.

Once in the field, soldiers find themselves in a semi-arid terrain that has 413 miles of paved roads and 449 miles of dirt roads. Live-fire exercises take place on more than 60 ranges, which support all Army weapons and most aerial weapons with eight automated, multipurpose ranges for digitized units and six automated small-arms ranges.

Bombs that weigh up to 2,000 pounds

can be handled and military aircraft have the ability to maneuver in restricted airspace to 45,000 feet.

The Robert Gray Army Airfield radar approach control center controls air space within a 60-mile radius of Fort Hood from the surface to 12,000 feet. In order to monitor and secure this environment, the facility interfaces with other federal aviation administration air route traffic control centers located across the state in Houston, Waco and Austin. The collaboration of these FAA centers enables over 10,000 flights each year with safe passage to Dallas, Houston and Atlanta.

Many kinds of units stationed at Fort Hood

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

Known as America's First Team, the 1st Cavalry Division is currently under the leadership of Brig. Gen. John Richardson, who took command in July 2021. The command sergeant major is Command Sgt. Maj. Shade S. Munday, who joined the team in August. It has three armored-brigade combat teams, a Stryker brigade and an air cavalry brigade, as well as artillery and sustainment units. More than 15,000 soldiers wear the unit's distinct, large patch. Two unique assets are the Division Band and the Horse Cavalry Detachment, a company-sized unit with more than 30 horses to present a living history of the cavalry. The division fought in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, among others. The division was first stationed at Fort Hood in 1971.

FIRST ARMY DIVISION WEST

First Army Division West has the unique mission of training, readiness oversight and mobilization for U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard units. The division is headquartered at Fort Hood and commanded by Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Edwards II. It has four training brigades stationed at Fort Hood and other installations.

OPERATIONAL TEST COMMAND

U.S. Army Operational Test Command is headquartered at West Fort Hood and commanded by Brig. Gen. David W. Gardner. As the Army's only independent testing organization, it plans, conducts and reports rigorous operational tests, assessments and experiments in order to provide essential information for the acquisition and fielding of warfighting systems. The command has about 240 soldiers and employs about 340 Department of the Army civilians to maintain its operations and has directorates at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Fort Bliss.

3RD CAVALRY REGIMENT

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment is led by Col. Kevin Bradley, the 79th commander



Maj. Gen. John B. Richardson IV, 1st Cavalry Division commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Shade Munday recognized Capt. Nick Lee and 1st Sgt. Donald Fermaint, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment command team, for their excellence as they received the Armor and Cavalry Leadership Award on March 7 at Fort Hood.

PLACES TO KNOW

A Defense Department ID card is required to drive through the Fort Hood gates. Non-military personnel may gain access by obtaining a pass from the visitor's center. To get a pass, visitors will need to provide their current vehicle registration, proof of insurance, license plate number, destination on post and a photo ID.

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- Comanche III Village, 53301 Drum
- Song Trail, 254-285-2289.
- Kouma & Montague Villages, 48810
- Washington St., 254-285-2245.
- McNair & Chaffee Villages, 6310
- Tank Destroyer, 254-285-2251.
- Pershing & Venable Villages, 5649-2
- Lockridge Loop, 254-285-2242.
- Wainwright, Walker & Patton Park Villages, 6310 Tank Destroyer Blvd., 254-285-2251.

of the regiment. On order, the "Brave Rifles" deploy to designated contingency area of operations by sea, land or air and conducts combined arms operations to prevent conflict, shape the operational environment and win any fight. The 3rd Cavalry Regiment uses the battle cry "AI-EE-YAH!"

13TH EXPEDITIONARY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

The 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command is led by Brig. Gen. Ronald R. Ragin. Its mission is to deploy, provide command and control of assigned

attached and operationally controlled units, and plan and provide sustainment, distribution and health service support for full-spectrum operations. The 13th ESC also maintains training and readiness authority over dozens of units across the western U.S.

AIR FORCE

The 3rd Air Support Operations Group and its two squadrons provide direct support to Army units for joint operations. The 3rd Weather Squadron provides weather data for Fort Hood.

Museums on Fort Hood help tell Army's story

Fort Hood is home to one of the Army's most storied divisions, along with one of its most history-steeped regiments.

Both the 1st Cavalry Division's and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment's tales had formerly been told through their on-post museums and memorials, which were open to the public with visitor passes acquired at the visitor center outside the main gate.

Both were officially closed Oct. 1, 2021, in preparation to move into the new Mounted Warrior Museum. Visitors are still able to view the static display of military vehicles on site for now.

The 1st Cavalry Museum, Building 2218, is at 56th Street and 761st Tank Battalion Avenue.

The 3rd Cavalry Museum is between Battalion Avenue and 761st Tank Battalion Avenue, just west of 24th Street. The entrance to the parking lot is on 761st Tank Battalion Avenue.



The National Mounted Warrior Museum at Fort Hood had a soft opening in March, with a grand opening set for summer 2023.

MOUNTED WARRIOR MUSEUM

A museum to honor all of Fort Hood and Central Texas is in the building and fundraising stages. The National Mounted Warrior Museum is being built just outside the main gate and will provide a unique educational experience, preserving and interpreting the story of mounted units and soldiers who have served at Fort Hood and worldwide, and the area's rich history,

values and heritage.

The first phase of construction was completed near the end of 2021 and a soft opening for the new 28,700-square-foot museum occurred in March, with a grand opening in summer 2023 after interior displays are in place. Special events and tours are available.

To learn more about the museum, go to nmwfoundation.org/about-the-museum.

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The Army and Air Force Exchange Services provides goods and services to military personnel and family members.

The TJ Mills Starbucks is the first to boast a drive-thru on an Army installation. Also new is a Qdoba Mexican Eats inside the AAFES Food Court.

Customers on Clear Creek Road can get a caffeine fix from the Starbucks inside Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, which also includes a retail store and barber shop. Down the street, a two-in-one restaurant of Burger King and Popeye's is under construction.

The Clear Creek Shopping Center features clothing, shoes, cosmetics, jewelry, hardware, books and magazines, outdoor living, toys and a variety of specialty stores and restaurants.

To use these facilities, an individual must present a military ID or military dependent ID when paying for goods and services, except at restaurants. All post visitors are authorized to dine at all Fort Hood exchange facilities. Post exchanges are tax exempt.

The Clear Creek Shopping Center, Building 4250, is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Call 254-532-7200.

Palmer Theater is operated by AAFES and offers movies with a military ID. The theater is in Building 334 and the 24-hour movie hotline is 254-287-3851.

Shopping is also available online at www.shopmyexchange.com.

COMMISSARIES

Fort Hood has two commissaries, one on Clear Creek Road and the other at the intersection of Warrior Way and 10th Street. A military ID card or a dependent card is required to shop in the commissaries, which are grocery stores for the military. For more info: commissaries.com.

AUSA a voice for Army, support for soldiers

The Central Texas-Fort Hood Chapter of the Association of the United States Army is not only the biggest in the country, but also one of the most active — to include the largest active-duty unit membership in the Army, the 1st Cavalry Division.

AUSA members include retired military personnel, with combat experience dating back to World War II, and local businesspeople. Active-duty soldiers also attend meetings.

Since 1950, AUSA, created by the Army for the Army, has worked to support all aspects of national security while advancing the interests of America's Army and the men and women who serve. Its mission is "Voice for the Army — Support for the Soldier."

AUSA provided \$72,000 in scholarships to about 60 local active-duty or retired soldiers, Department of the Army civilians employed at Fort Hood, and their immediate families.

The local chapter president is Kelly Brown, who began his term in 2020. The chapter serves as the liaison between the Army and local civilian communities and helps educate the public about the needs for a strong national defense and the Army.

The Central Texas-Fort Hood Chapter of AUSA is involved in a variety of programs to help support deployed and mobilized soldiers and their families. Some activities include general membership meetings with high-profile



AUSA members gathered near the T.J. Mills Bernie Beck main gate to assist with trash cleanup at Fort Hood in October.

guest speakers, community involvement events, special events honoring the Army and outstanding soldiers, professional development forums, scholarships, and a strong soldier support program; helping soldiers and their families in need.

AUSA is the only professional association for the entire Army, according to ausa.org. The organization advocates for the men and women in uniform who serve and supports the soldiers and the civilians and families who work alongside of them.

The association holds four local general membership meetings a year, in addition to regular charitable events.

A large local contingent also travels to the national conference in October in Washington, D.C. For more information, go to www.ausaforthood.org.

Information fair welcomes soldiers, families

The Hood Howdy Information Fair is a biannual installation event conducted by Fort Hood's Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation as well as Army Community Service, Relocation Readiness Branch, held in February and August.

The event serves as an overall installation "welcome" to the Great Place, and provides newly arrived soldiers and family members with the opportunity to become familiar with the installation and community. Many groups set up booths to provide information to the thousands of new residents who stop by the event.

The August Hood Howdy focuses on youth and schools. The February Hood Howdy highlights wellness for soldiers and their families as well as caregivers and local veterans.

The Employment Readiness Branch also sponsors a mini Career Fair with more than 25 employers participating in conjunction with the event.

Hood Howdy takes place at Club Hood, Building 5764, on 24th Street at Tank Destroyer Boulevard.

Call 254-287-4471 or go to www.hoodmwr.com/hoodhowdy for information.

Copperas Cove offers many activities for families

As Copperas Cove experiences population growth, it seeks more industrial and business opportunities to help support residents.

The city's history dates back to when the cattle industry cut through the region on the Chisholm Trail in the 1870s. A resident petition for a post office named the settlement "Cove" but added "Coperas" to reflect the mineral taste of the spring water; the name was later changed to "Copperas Cove". Marsden Ogletree became the first postmaster in 1879 and lends his name to Ogletree Gap Preserve, a 218-acre municipal park on the west side of the city that contains the original post office.

Today, Copperas Cove is the largest city in Coryell County, home to many retirees, active-duty military and families. Copperas Cove has an estimated population of 37,225 residents per the 2020 Census and City Council Resolution. Residents are served by four major entities — the Copperas Cove Chamber and Visitors Bureau, the Copperas Cove Economic Development Corporation, the Copperas Cove Independent School District and the City of Copperas Cove Municipal Government.

Developers continue construction in several residential subdivisions. The Shops at Five Hills retail center continues to be a hub for city shoppers, while The Narrows Business and Technology Park has available space and recently completed a sidewalk project.

Construction on a Texas Department of Transportation median project for the Business U.S. 190 corridor is ongoing. It includes sidewalks, medians, turn lanes, bicycle lanes, pedestrian crossings, and upgraded drainage infrastructure from Avenue D to Constitution Drive. The Improvement Project is intended to provide safety for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians as they travel along the main highway. The roadway will remain three lanes in each direction, but will include raised medians with left turn-controlled access.



Taste of Cove Food Truck Park co-owner Tasha Roberts helps Copperas Cove Mayor Pro Tem Fred Chavez cut a cake to celebrate the city's 143rd birthday during the park's grand opening in March.

Cove's elected leaders

The Copperas Cove City Council meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, with workshop meetings at 5 p.m. and regular meetings at 6 p.m. at the Technology Center, 508 S. Second St.

Elected officials are:

- Mayor Dan Yancey
- Joann Courtland, Place 1
- Fred Chavez, Place 2
- Shawn Alzona, Place 3
- Jay Manning, Place 4
- Dianne Campbell, Place 5
- Vonya Hart, Place 6
- Jack Smith, Place 7

Learn more about the city and its services at copperascovetx.gov.

Copperas Cove has a variety of events and activities each year. Rabbit Fest brings an estimated 25,000 people to Copperas Cove during the 3rd weekend in May and features a parade, carnival, car show, and live entertainment. The city continues to promote the festival and similar events in hopes of drawing more visitors from around the area and increasing overnight stays at local hotels. The Chamber of Commerce serves as a hub

for information about events, tourism and business opportunities, and has most recently taken over the Farmer's Market, held on Thursday evenings from May through October.

The Copperas Cove Parks and Recreation Department offers several events, including the 5K Run to the Polar Bear Plunge, Fishing in the Park, the Easter Egg Round-Up, the Food Truck Festival and the Fall-O-Ween Festival.

Copperas Cove offers golfing at the Hills of Cove Golf Course, basketball courts, baseball/softball fields and multi-purpose fields at eight locations. The Parks and Recreation Department has been overseeing improvements to the city's parks, which includes new bathrooms, concessions and pavilions, as well as improving parking lots, walking trails, and lighting.

Another successful event is the Five Hills Scholarship Pageant. More than \$80,000 in scholarships and prizes are awarded to boys aged 0-8 and girls and women of all ages, who in turn dedicate themselves to charitable projects benefiting Copperas Cove and surrounding communities. While the 2022 pageant was recently canceled, organizers hope to bring it back next year.

Kempner touts its family values and rural lifestyle

Kempner was founded in 1882 and was named after Harris Kempner, a Texas philanthropist, banker and railroad magnate. The city incorporated in August 1997 and according to the latest census figures has a population of 1,294.

The city, a Type A General Law Municipality, is a community of rural living and traditional family values. The mission of the elected government and city staff is to build a culture of honesty, high morals, and exceptional ethics. To provide for the financial stability of the city. To establish ordinances to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens. To abate nuisances that impairs the quality of life and lowers property values.

To stimulate economic development for the benefit of the city and to always provide open government in compliance with established laws.

Mayor John “JW” Wilkerson was elected in 2021. With a focus on “Moving Forward,” he said: “I believe all of us were granted the God-given rights to be free Americans. Regardless of race, religion, creed or any other means in which you identify yourself, know that you and your voice are welcome here. Your thoughts and concerns may be outweighed by the will of the majority,



Kempner Fest filled Sylvia Tucker Memorial Park with music, food and family fun in June.

however your independent rights will be honored here.

On behalf of this little community, I welcome you here and know that this community will do the same. Never hesitate to reach out to the city if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.”

Council members include David Richardson, Thomas Combs, Rob Green, Dan Long and Melba Vandever. The council meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 12288 E. Highway 190.

More information is available at www.KempnerTX.gov.

Coryell County established in 1854 by Texas Legislature

According to the county website, Coryell County was created by the Texas Legislature in 1854 and is named for James Coryell, an early explorer of the region. Gatesville, the county seat, grew up around Fort Gates, established in 1849 to protect settlers. The habitation of Coryell County dates as far back as 4500 B.C. The Tonkawa, Lipan Apache, Kiowa and Comanche were among the tribes who migrated through the area.

Land for a courthouse square was acquired and a one-story framed structure was constructed in 1865 on a corner presently occupied by a city filling station. In 1872, a two-story structure of native white limestone

was erected on this property and served as a focus of county business for the next 25 years.

On May 15, 1897, architect W.C. Dodson was commissioned to draw plans and specifications for a third courthouse. The flag of Coryell County was designed by Donald K. Fisher, a member of the Commissioners’ Court, and adopted on Feb. 24, 1986, in preparation for a number of anniversary events. In gold on white, it depicts the county seal and the date of the county’s creation and organization, 1854.

Coryell County’s largest city is Copperas Cove, with a population of just over 36,000. Gatesville has just

over 16,000 residents, according to the 2020 U.S. census, and is home to five state prisons and one jail as part of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Other communities in the county include Evant, Jonesboro and Oglesby. The county’s population is just over 83,000 within an area of 1,057 square miles.

The county government is administered by the five-member Coryell County Commissioners’ Court: County Judge Roger Miller; Precinct 1, Kyle Matthews; Precinct 2, Daren Moore; Precinct 3, Ryan Basham; and Precinct 4, Ray Ashby.

For more information, go to www.coryellcounty.org or call 254-865-5911.

Gatesville known as the ‘Spur Capital of Texas’

The small town of Gatesville is located about 35 miles north of Killeen. The Coryell County Courthouse on the town square is considered to be one of the most beautiful in Texas. It was built with limestone quarried from just west of town across the Leon River and dedicated in 1907.

The Coryell Museum and Historical Center at 718 Main St., is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free, but donations are welcomed. The museum has what is believed to be the world’s largest collection of spurs (10,000 sets), including ones from Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa. Accordingly, in 2001, Gov. Rick Perry signed a bill officially naming the city as the “Spur Capital of Texas” in honor of former Gatesville High School teacher Lloyd Mitchell’s spur donation.

The large museum also houses a “Days of Old” exhibit and the original, one-room Log Jail.

Two parks, near downtown provide ample outdoor activities. Raby Park is home to a free splash park, playground and picnic areas along a shady creek, complete with tadpoles and ducks. Faunt Le Roy Park is located just a block away, on the banks of the Leon River and features shady picnic and playground areas, and a large pavilion that can be reserved for special events. Five RV hookups are also available for short term stays in the park. The pavilion and RV spots can be reserved by calling 254-499-0102. A challenging disc golf course starts in Raby Park and continues across the walking trail to Faunt Le Roy Park.

The Gatesville Country Club at 1308 Golf Course Road is an 18-hole semi-private course with reasonable

green fees, cart and club rental, and a comfortable clubhouse with a bar and grill. The front nine features tree-lined fairways and two par 5s under 500 yards. This is a scenic little course with elevated tees and greens, and a back nine design that incorporates a canyon and water that comes into play on seven holes. Call 254-865-6917 or visit GatesvilleCC.com for more information or to reserve a tee time.

The Last Drive-In Picture Show, which has been in operation since 1950, offers a double feature on first-run pictures starting at dusk, seven nights a week. At \$10 a carload, they offer a fun and affordable night out. There is a concession stand available, or you can bring your own cooler. Get there early and enjoy a game of putt-putt golf before the movie. Call 254-865-8445 to find out what is showing.



Colorful murals are painted on many buildings in Lampasas, adding to its charm.

Lampasas offers lots of rustic charm

Lampasas walks the line between small-town rustic charm and big-city convenience, with a population of about 7,000 and a 15-minute drive to the west of Copperas Cove.

Lampasas was founded in 1883, and is run by a council-manager style of government led by Mayor TJ Monroe, Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Williamson, and Council members Zachary Morris, Randy Clark, Cathy Kuehne, Bob Goodart and Herb Pearce, as well as City Manager Finley deGraffenried.

Council members and the mayor are elected for two-year terms. Lampasas typically holds elections in May.

The council, which meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Jack Calvert Municipal Building at 302 E. Third St., is responsible for adopting budgets, determining policies, appointing the city manager and approving legislation.

A major attraction is the annual Spring Ho Festival, traditionally held on the second weekend in July. Founded in 1972 by residents Gary Martin and Milton Boone, the festival commemorates the rejuvenating powers of Sulphur Springs.

Learn more about city services at www.lampasas.org.

Gateway to the Hill Country

Lampasas County lies as a gateway to the Texas Hill Country and Bend State Park.

It’s famous for the natural mineral springs that flow water into Sulphur Creek and the Lampasas River. Take a dip or swim in Hancock Pool. Touted for the healing properties of the springs, it’s 72 degrees year-round.

Take a tour of the historic County Courthouse. Built in 1883, it is the third-oldest county courthouse currently in use.

The county is home to a population of 21,428. It offers great schools, recognized hospital and medical facilities, outstanding hunting and fishing, job opportunities, restaurants and shopping, as well as several award-winning wineries.

Visit the Farmer’s Market and Crafts Show in downtown Lampasas on Saturdays from March to December, or play golf at the Municipal Golf Course.

For more information, go to www.lampasaschamber.org.



Crews work on the sidewalks along Business Highway 190 in Copperas Cove in January. The \$5 million improvement project should be complete this year.

Area road projects improve mobility and safety

The Waco District of the Texas Department of Transportation plans, designs, builds, operates and maintains roadways in its eight counties.

The district primarily conducts asset preservation and mobility projects to ensure the safety of the traveling public. The Waco district experiences a wide variety of challenges, but nearly 83% of projects are completed on time, while 83% are finished on budget.

INTERSTATE 14

The area's main east-west thoroughfare — previously known U.S. Highway 190 — received its official designation as an interstate highway in January 2017.

The 25-mile stretch from Belton to Copperas Cove is now Interstate 14 and is the first segment of a strategic deployment route that will connect forts to ports from El Paso to Savannah, Georgia.

More than \$100 million of state and local investment brought the Killeen and Fort Hood portion to interstate standards. Work continues east of Killeen to expand I-14 from Harker Heights to just east of Nolanville at FM 2410, with expected completion in summer 2022.

Further expansion from FM 2410, east of Nolanville to I-35 at Belton, is expected to be concluded in late 2022.

INTERSTATE 35

The construction, widening and safety-proofing of Texas' primary north-south interstate is officially completed in Bell County. The \$2.5 billion TxDOT project, from Salado to Hillsboro, also improves frontage roads and ramps, reconstructs bridges and overpasses and interchanges. It was funded through federal stimulus money along with a voter-approved road construction initiative. Projects are ongoing in McLennan County and Hill County.

BUSINESS 190

A \$5 million project to add a shared-use lane, raised medians and sidewalks and resurface the roadway from Constitution Drive to FM 116 in Copperas Cove is expected to be completed by 2022. The contractor is TTG utilities.

U.S. 190

A \$77 million-dollar project to widen U.S. 190 from a two-lane to four-lane divided highway in Rogers, Texas, is currently underway. Additionally, the

project will construct a bypass around the east end of Rogers. The project runs from south of FM 436 to the Bell/Milam County Line. The project is scheduled to complete in 2024.

A project to add two lanes to the roadway from Clarke Road, west of Killeen, to the Coryell County/Lampasas County line, is also tentatively planned for FY 2026.

STATE HIGHWAY 9

A \$14 million safety improvement project to add an overpass at State Highway 9 and FM 116 in Copperas Cove began earlier this year. It is scheduled to complete in early 2025.

LOOP 121

Beginning earlier this year, a project on Loop 121 to upgrade the roadway from a two-lane road to a four-lane divided road with a raised median from FM 439 to I-14 in Belton is expected to conclude in 2024.

FARM-TO-MARKET 1741

A \$2.5 million project to construct pedestrian sidewalks and curb ramps along FM 1741 from West Avenue A to Palermo Parkway in Temple is near completion.

Killeen-Fort Hood airport connects travelers to larger hubs

The Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport offers worldwide access, via a major airline.

American Airlines offers flights daily to Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, which connects travelers globally.

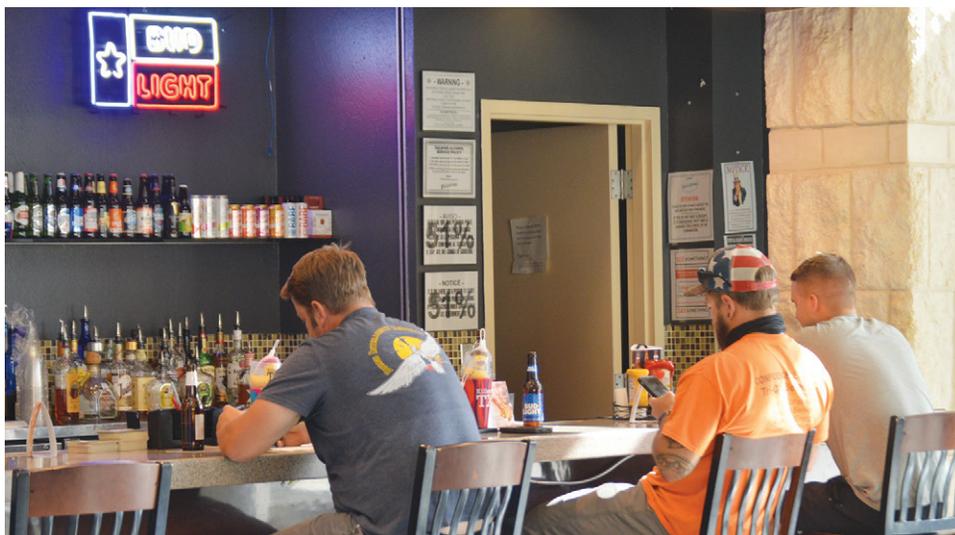
The airport, at 8101 Clear Creek Road in Killeen, is easily accessed via improved area highways. Paid short- and long-term parking is adjacent to the terminal building; the first half hour is free. Certain specialty military plate holders, who qualify, are exempt from parking fees.

Rental car companies, as well as taxis, provide ground transportation.

The Ted C. Connell Terminal Building has all new concessions — Rotor and Wings Grill/Co-Pilot Coffee and Cantina, and Boarding Time Gifts along with an ATM.

The airport honors Robert Gray, a Killeen native, who was a pilot on the Doolittle Raid in 1942. Robert Gray Army Airfield is named after him and a 7-foot bronze statue and memorabilia are displayed in the terminal.

Call 254-501-6100 or go to www.flykilleen.net for more information.



Passengers relax at Tailwind's bar at the Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport before a flight.

SKYLARK FIELD

The city's general aviation airport serves private aircraft, charter jets and aviation businesses.

The airfield, at 1523 Stonetree Drive, does not offer commercial airline passenger service. It has a 5,500-foot runway with a RNAV (GPS) approach to Runway 01, making it a popular choice for private and business aircraft.

Aviation fuel sales, T-hangar and tie-

down space rentals and tenant services are available.

About 65 single and multi-engine aircraft are based at Skylark Field.

The airfield is home to the Central Texas College Aviation Program.

The General Aviation Building is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Call 254-501-8728 or go to www.skylarkfield.net for more information.

The HOP provides urban, rural bus transit across Hill Country

The Hill Country Transit District operates The HOP, Central Texas' regional public transit system.

The HOP strives to provide seamless public transportation, though its service areas are divided into rural and urban segments.

Urban service is provided in Copperas Cove, Killeen, Harker Heights, Belton and Temple, with a direct connector route providing stops in Harker Heights, Nolanville, Belton and Temple. The rural service covers over 9,000 square miles in Milam, Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Mills, Lampasas, San Saba, Llano and Mason counties.

Starting in January, the HOP began a route that takes riders to places such as AdventHealth-Central Texas and Central Texas College as it cruises

along Killeen thoroughfares like Stan Schlueter Loop, Fort Hood Street and Elms Road.

Including the new route, the HOP operates 10 fixed routes indicated by numbered signs along area streets, and each bus stop has map and schedule. Urban services operate from 5:25 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. weekdays. No weekend or holiday service is offered.

Scheduling hours for rural service are between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays. No weekend service is offered.

The HOP costs just \$1 for a one-way ticket, or \$25 for a monthly pass with unlimited rides. Discounted fares are offered for seniors 60 years or older, children 12 or younger, Medicare recipients, students and those with

disabilities if they have a discount card issued by the HOP.

Multi-ride tickets and monthly passes can be purchased in person at various locations including the Killeen Main Library, 205 E. Church St. or through the Belton office at 4515 W. Central Texas Expressway. Bus passes also can be purchased at the Killeen Copper Mountain Library, at Harker Heights City Hall, at Temple City Hall, at the Temple Visitor's Center, and at Belton City Hall.

For a full list of locations to purchase monthly passes, go to <https://www.takethehop.com/faq.html>. Route and schedule information is also available on The HOP website at www.takethehop.com or by calling 254-933-3700.



Students at Killeen ISD's Timber Ridge Elementary took part in a Veterans Day parade in November.

Killeen ISD opening new high school this fall

The Killeen Independent School District is in the midst of exciting growth, with a new high school to open in the next school year and continually evolving opportunities for students from prekindergarten through graduation.

Within a corridor of rapid neighborhood growth near the southern boundary of Killeen and Harker Heights, KISD will open its sixth high school, Chaparral High School, this fall.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled Aug. 4. School starts Aug. 15.

Killeen ISD stretches from Nolanville and Harker Heights in the east across Killeen and Fort Hood and serves more than 45,500 students.

The district includes 31 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, four comprehensive high schools with a fifth about to open, three special campuses, a Career Center and an Early College High School.

Killeen ISD is the fourth most diverse school district in Texas and the 24th largest in the state.

The district provides free, full-day programs for all 4- and 5-year-olds who live in KISD. Enrollment is guaranteed for children who meet the criteria. Pre-K for 3-year-olds is available to military families who live on Fort Hood.

Learn more at www.killeenisd.org/enroll_ec.



In front of the Killeen ISD Early College High School building on the Central Texas College campus March 10, teachers and administrators celebrate alongside a group of seniors who just learned they won a scholarship through the school district's Education Foundation.

Student registration is ongoing and is accessible via the district's Home Access Center: <https://www.killeenisd.org/enroll>.

Killeen ISD is one of the largest employers in Central Texas with about 6,100 employees. The district is currently hiring teachers, substitute teachers, bus drivers and many other positions. To search job postings, go to <http://bit.ly/KISDJOBS>.

Killeen ISD features a Military Families section online for transitioning families with an assortment of resources for all grade levels: https://www.killeenisd.org/military_families.

The district invites residents to learn more about the district at www.killeenisd.org. Join KISD on social media at: facebook.com/killeen.isd, twitter.com/KilleenISD_, instagram.com/killeen_isd/.

Copperas Cove ISD experiences rapid student growth

Copperas Cove Independent School District has become one of the most rapidly growing school districts in the area. With city boundaries of slightly more than 18 square miles, Copperas Cove ISD boundaries include parts of Coryell and Bell counties.

With a strong presence of active-duty and retired veterans living in the Copperas Cove community, Cove ISD provides students with a small-town feel that reaches beyond the neighborhoods and into the classrooms.

But students benefit from all of the amenities of a metropolitan area with Copperas Cove High School and Crossroads High School offering certifications in more than 30 career fields and advanced degrees through the Early College High School Program, Texas University On-Ramps Program, dual-credit, and advance placement courses.

With an enrollment of just over 8,000 students, CCISD instills the importance of education from the beginning stages. Copperas Cove offers young children a great foundation with its pre-K learning facility that was named one of the top 25 in the state of Texas.

The school district encompasses one pre-K school, six elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools with more than 1,500 staff members.

Because CCISD is adjacent to Fort Hood, many of the students have military backgrounds through which hardworking, respectful and honorable values are instilled.

These values help produce great students academically, as CCISD earned more than 20 distinctions on the latest STAAR test and is ranked in the top 30%



Members of the Sunrise Singers choir from Williams/Ledger Elementary sing Travis Tritt's "It's a Great Day to Be Alive" during a January Copperas Cove ISD school board meeting.

of schools in Texas.

Not only have CCISD students done well in the classroom, but students are also highly successful in fine arts, band, choir, theatre arts, and athletics.

CCISD has a robust JROTC program and internationally ranked DECA and HOSA programs. Both the Pride of Cove Band and the CCHS Choir produced All-State student selectees in the 2021-22 school year.

Copperas Cove High School's graduation rate for the 2020-21 school year was 92.3%, above the state average of 90%, and nearly 9% higher than the nation.

CCISD has a budget slightly higher than \$76 million for the 2021-22 school year.

Learn more about the district and enrollment at www.ccisd.com or call 254-547-1227.

MCEC helps military children be college and workforce ready

The Military Child Education Coalition serves the children of those who serve the nation in the Armed Services.

MCEC supports all military-connected children by educating,

advocating, and collaborating to resolve education challenges associated with the military lifestyle.

As a global nonprofit, MCEC delivers programs, services, and professional development to meet the needs of

military-connected students, parents, and professionals to ensure every military-connected child is college-, work-, and life-ready.

Learn more by calling 254-953-1923 or go to militarychild.org.

Belton ISD works to meet needs of growing population

Belton ISD is one of the fastest-growing public school districts in Texas, with more new families joining the Big Red community each year.

“Belton ISD is a special place because we believe each and every student deserves exceptional experiences according to their unique needs and passions,” Belton ISD spokeswoman Karen Rudolph said. “We are proud that our team of world-class employees has selected the district to be their professional home and ensure every student who walks through our doors is engaged, challenged and supported.”

Belton High School and Lake Belton High School feature award-winning extracurricular and career and technical education programs, while Belton New Tech @Waskow is a popular school of choice open to BISD students in grades 9-12.

Belton ISD has earned a reputation for academic excellence, innovative programs and an abundance of extracurricular opportunities. This year’s achievements include:

- 3 National Merit Semi-finalists, and eight Commended Scholars.
- 22 students named College Board National Recognition Program Scholars for top performances on the PSAT. These students were among the top 2.5% of test-takers who identify as African American, Hispanic American,



Belton pitcher Jacob Estrada, middle, checks on Killeen base runner Cade Searcy, right, at first base while Jackson Shirkey covers the bag on April 5 in Belton.

Indigenous or attend school in a small town.

- The district celebrated 116 students who were recognized by the College Board for college-level achievement as demonstrated by their performance on multiple AP exams taken in May 2021.

- 13 students advanced to the Texas History Day competition.
- Robotics teams from Belton High School and Lake Belton High School were invited to the VEX Robotics World Championship.
- 7 state qualifiers in the Texas Art Association’s High School Visual Arts Scholastic Event.
- 87 high school musicians in band, choir and orchestra, qualifying for state

UIL solo and ensemble contests.

So far this year, every varsity athletic team has reached post-season play.

In February, the BISD Board of Trustees approved an order calling for an almost \$174 million bond election to be held on May 7. The proposed bond is intended to address growth, aging and evolving facilities, program equity and safety. No changes to the district’s \$1.3571 tax rate for debt service are expected based on current conditions. For more information about the district’s bond propositions, visit beltonisdbond.net.

To read more about the latest happenings in Belton ISD, visit www.bisd.net/news.

Florence ISD finishes \$7.5 million bond project renovations

Florence ISD completed work this past summer on the district’s \$7.5 million-dollar bond project, according to Superintendent Paul Michalewicz.

With the bond money, the district renovated the science labs on all three campuses, creating up-to-date, state-of-the-art learning spaces.

Secured vestibules were constructed on all three campuses to add to the safety and security of the students and staff.

“The projects also included improvements to technology infrastructure,” Michalewicz said. “We

continue to systematically address the needs of our students by improving infrastructure and by providing hardware and software to meet the needs of our instructional staff and of our students.

“We now have the ability to support a true One to One initiative.”

In addition to these renovations, the district built flexible Career and Technology learning space at the high school campus.

Florence ISD continues to see growth in the student population.

“We have seen roughly a 5% increase

in student population over the past five years,” Michalewicz said.

Florence operates a before- and after-school program as a part of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant. The program provides for academic support and instruction, as well as TEKS-aligned enrichment activities, family and community engagement activities, and College and Career Readiness activities. Transportation is provided for participating students.

Learn more about the district at <https://www.florenceisd.net>.

As Salado ISD grows, district adds classes, sports

The Salado Independent School District continues to expand sports and learning opportunities for its growing student population.

SISD enrollment has increased from 1,348 students during the 2012-2013 school year to 2,255 students during the current 2021-2022 school year.

This is an increase of 907 students during those nine years, which represents an average increase of 101 students per year. Those 907 students represent an increase of 67.2% from the 2012-2013 school year enrollment. That is the highest percentage increase in enrollment of all 76 school districts in the Waco region during that time.

“While growth alone isn’t an accomplishment by itself, this growth is certainly fueled by the quality of our school district,” Superintendent Michael Novotny said.

“Realtors in our area will tell you how families with children want to move into our school district so their kids can



Salado’s Lexi Rice (14) celebrates with Savvy Oyler after scoring a goal in January.

Salado High School has had 100% graduation rates the last four years.

SISD added the following curricular programs: health science (including the ability to get certified in phlebotomy), computer science, culinary arts and welding. It also added extracurricular programs: high school dance team, high school soccer, junior high school soccer, high school team tennis, junior high school tennis, high school swimming and diving, and high school wrestling. As of this 2021-22 school year, SISD offer every sport that the University Interscholastic League has in Texas.

In UIL academics, Salado students earned a district championship, a regional championship and finished in third place out of 206 teams in the state.

In the Lone Star Cup competition, Salado finished in eighth place out of 206 teams in the state.

To learn more about the district, go to www.saladoisd.org.

attend our schools.”

Salado ISD district received the highest possible rating (Superior) and a score of 94 out of 100 on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST).

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Communities in Schools serves 54 campuses across six districts

Since its founding in 1992, Communities In Schools of Greater Central Texas has grown to serve 54 campuses in six school districts: Killeen, Copperas Cove, Temple, Belton, Salado and Jarrell.

“Communities In Schools is the nation’s largest and most effective dropout prevention organization because we do whatever it takes to keep kids in school and on the path to graduation,” Executive Director Michael Dewees said.

The purpose of CIS is to improve student achievement, help decrease the dropout rate and increase the graduation rate. Dewees believes the program is important due to the sheer size of the area’s school districts, which serve over 75,000 students collectively.

“Communities In Schools of Greater Central Texas can assist these youth by bringing outside resources inside schools to assist with immediate necessities like food or clothing to more complex needs like supportive guidance or emotional support,” Dewees said. “It is our goal to continue to empower our youth to stay in school and achieve in life.”

To accomplish its goals, CIS partners with local businesses, social service agencies, health care providers and volunteers.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Communities In Schools is “deeply concerned for the well-being of our students and families,” Dewees said. “Loss of work and income, and being cut off from the school community can impact access to basic needs like food, shelter, and other necessities. ... Our CIS team is adapting to this ever-changing situation, and we are committed to doing everything in our power to support students and connect them to needed resources and services.”

Monetary donations are accepted online at www.cis-tx.org or by mail to: Communities In Schools, 4520 E. Central Texas Expressway, Ste 106, Killeen, TX, 76543.

Lampasas ISD puts focus on improving students’ reading skills

Serving approximately 3,400 students in grades pre-K through 12, the Lampasas Independent School District is a perfect match for families interested in rural living while remaining close to modern conveniences.

In addition to Superintendent Chane Rascoe, the district is overseen by a seven-member school board: President David Millican, Rob Borchardt, Bill Brister, Randy Morris, Jeff Rutland, Ryan Shahan and Sam Walker.

One of the most important goals for the district is to improve the reading ability of the students. Teachers and staff are working hard to reach this goal, Rascoe said.

The district’s Career and Technical Education program has surpassed its goals and has become one of the fastest-growing programs in the area. With the program, more students are becoming job-ready certified than ever before.

“We are very pleased with the progress and have future plans to expand our CTE program to include



Lampasas goalie Keona Cartwright stops a score.

facility upgrades very soon,” Rascoe said. “The community of Lampasas prides itself on supporting Lampasas ISD.”

Having seen success in the district’s UIL athletic and academic extracurricular programs reaching post district competition in most areas, the district has developed a reputation of being an outstanding school district.

“It’s nice to live in an area with great kids and a supportive community who come together to create something so special,” Rascoe said. “We thank you, our staff, students, parents and amazing school board for their hard work in making LISD such a wonderful place.”

Learn more at www.lisdtx.org.

Gatesville ISD serves 2,700 students

Formed in the 1880s, the Gatesville Independent School District is focusing on school health and safety, technology, facilities and personnel to give students a quality education.

Superintendent Barrett Pollard said Gatesville is a generous, supportive, family-oriented community.

“Gatesville is a wonderful place to raise a family, and our school system provides all of our students with a well-rounded education,” he said in a message on the district’s website.

“Over the past few years, we have placed a high priority on literacy, advanced academics, as well as career and technical education courses,” he said. “Our curriculum offers students a wide variety of courses that will prepare them for college, a career, or the military.”

The district has five school buildings including a primary (PK-K), elementary (1-3), intermediate (4-6), junior high (7-8) and high school (9-12). The district serves approximately 2,700 students and budgeted close to \$30 million to operate this school year.

A major renovation of the high school campus was completed in July.

There are seven school board members including: Charles Ament, board president; Charles Alderson, vice president; Cheyenne Kizer, secretary; and Jimmie Ferguson, Calvin Ford, Mary Anne Leib, and Linda Maxwell. The seats occupied by Leib and Kizer are up for election this year.

The administration building is at 311 S. Lovers Lane. Call 254-865-7251 or go to www.gatesvilleisd.org.

Charter, private schools offer an alternative education

OAK CREEK ACADEMY

Oak Creek Academy is a nonprofit private school for students in prekindergarten through 12th grade. Established in 2013, Oak Creek offers curriculum tailored to individual students' needs, with in-house speech, occupational, physical and behavioral therapies. This non-graded school has a 1:5 teacher to student ratio that promotes one-on-one learning and individualized instruction. Parents also work with teachers and therapists to promote learning in and outside of the classroom. Oak Creek is at 1020 Trimmier Road in Killeen. Call 254-526-9299 or visit www.oakcreekkilleen.org.

RICHARD MILBURN ACADEMY

The Richard Milburn Academy, students in grades nine through 12 have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma in an environment in which they feel safe, supported and valued. Students can choose from two daily sessions to complete their nontraditional academic, career and life skills curriculum. RMA is at 802 N. Eighth St. Call 254-634-4444, or go to www.rmaschools.org.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Joseph Catholic School is a parochial classical school of the Austin Diocese School District dedicated to the Catholic education of children.



St. Joseph Catholic School in Killeen is among the private schools in the greater Killeen area.

The school is accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Commission which is recognized by the Texas Commissioner of Education for the purpose of accrediting Catholic schools in the state.

It's a full-day school offering pre-K-3 through eighth grade. A Classical school teaching humanities, science, religion, band, and Latin. The school is at 2901 E. Rancier Ave. in Killeen. Call 254-634-7272.

KILLEEN ADVENTIST JUNIOR ACADEMY

The Killeen Adventist Junior Academy is a private, tuition-based school for prekindergarten through ninth-grade. The academy's curriculum is distributed by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist Education Department while also incorporating the Common Core standards. The mission of Killeen

Adventist Junior Academy is to provide a high quality, Christ-centered education in a safe, caring, learning environment.

The academy is accredited through an extension of TEA. Call 254-699-9466. The academy is at 3412 Lake Road in Killeen.

MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Memorial Christian Academy is a private religious school. Its academic curriculum for students prekindergarten through 12th grade is based on biblical teachings and promotes a Christian worldview. The school is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Athletics, as well as before- and after-school care for students, are offered. Call 254-526-5403 or go to www.mcawarriors.com. The academy is at 4001 Trimmier Road, Killeen.

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VOTED BEST IN CENTRAL TEXAS 2021



Texas A&M University-Central Texas is the state's only public university that exclusively recruits and serves transferring students at the baccalaureate level.

A&M-Central Texas offers bachelor's, master's degrees

Texas A&M University-Central Texas is the only public “upper-level” university in Texas. It offers an array of upper-division, undergraduate coursework leading to baccalaureate degrees, and graduate coursework leading to master's degrees.

It is the only public university in Texas that exclusively recruits and serves transferring students at the baccalaureate level, and it continues to be an exceptional option for both community college students and those individuals with some college, but no degree.

At A&M-Central Texas, students select from 30 baccalaureate and 19 graduate degree programs, many of which are offered online. Several of its programs have been nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report, Intelligent.com, The Best Schools, College Factual, and Best Colleges.

During the 2021 Academic Year, A&M-Central Texas became qualified for formal designation as an Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) based on an undergraduate full-time enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students, as well as designation as Minority Serving Institution (MSI).

These designations will increase



Texas A&M University-Central Texas' new mascot, Pathfinder, flexes in front of Warrior Hall recently. Courtesy | A&M-Central Texas

student access to federal financial aid while they continuously expand educational opportunity, including access to graduate study.

As one of the most affordable public universities in Texas, A&M-Central Texas offers its students an innovative

array of financial assistance, including a 12 semester credit hour maximum for tuition regardless of the number of hours taken, and an option to guarantee that tuition and fees will not change for up to 3 years.

In addition, the Transfer Central program engages students planning to attend A&M-Central Texas while they are still enrolled at a community college, and it assures their seamless transfer into upper-level undergraduate programs with an array of student support activities.

With the conclusion of the spring term for the 2022 Academic Year, A&M-Central Texas will have produced more than 9,200 graduates since it opened in 2009. Its graduates serve the region, state and nation as teachers and counselors, businessmen and women, nurses and therapists, pilots and engineers, experts in computer systems and cybersecurity, historians, social workers and biologists with more to come.

Simultaneously, it continues its commitment to regional impact, with notable projects ranging from the conceptual planning for a Research Park and the opening of a Cybersecurity Center on its campus.

Learn more at www.tamuct.edu.

Central Texas College offers programs for diverse student body

Central Texas College has been providing higher educational opportunities to area residents for more than 50 years. Since opening its doors to more than 2,000 students in 1967, CTC has evolved into a unique institution focusing on affordable, accessible education.

The school's diverse student population includes nearly 6,000 students per semester at its Killeen and Fort Hood campuses, more than 18,000 students at sites across the globe and 10,000 students taking classes online. More than 2,200 students worldwide graduated from CTC in 2020.

CTC is the top college choice for graduating high school seniors as more than 20% come to CTC. Local students can save nearly \$15,000 in tuition and fees by completing an associate degree with CTC before moving to a four-year university.

With more than 100 associate degrees and certificates of completion available, CTC prepares students for careers or to transfer to a four-year university. Programs of study include aviation science, business administration, logistics, communications, computer-aided drafting and design, electronics technology, industrial technology, interdisciplinary studies, language, mathematics, nursing and paramedic, science and computer and information technology.

Several new programs were introduced in the past year, including the Fire Service Administration degree program aimed toward career firefighters seeking advancement or promotion in the field of fire service; the Network Cloud Support and Cybersecurity curriculum, which offers associate degree and certificate programs with career options in cybersecurity, network server and cloud administrator, telecommunications technician, IT network analyst and network administrator; a Cyberdefense — Information Assurance program; and a robotics program, which prepares students to work with a variety of automated electro-mechanical, product assembly, process control and product distribution systems that use



Students in the Central Texas College Culinary Arts program prepare lunch for the homeless in March.

programmable controls to accomplish system management.

CTC also initiated quick career training programs which can help those looking to jump start or change careers. It offers short-term credit certificates of completion and non-credit programs in a variety of areas in six career clusters: arts and humanities; construction, manufacturing and transportation; business and business technology; health care; public service; and science, technology, engineering and math.

Many of the programs offer preparation for licensure, professional certifications and credentials which can be earned in one year or less.

Distance education or online class offerings continue to expand as CTC now offers more than 400 classes and 60 degree and certificate programs which can be completed entirely online. Recent distance education additions include degree and certificate programs in business, information technology, early child development, logistics, cyber defense and mental health services.

CTC was recently ranked as one of the top 10 military online colleges in the U.S. by South Front Analysis Intelligence and the No. 1 online community college in Texas by TexasOnlineColleges.com.

CTC continues to foster a strong relationship with Fort Hood. This past year, CTC and Transitions Assistance Support of San Angelo, Texas, partnered in the Technicians of Tomorrow Career Skills program, which leads to career opportunities in

the automotive industry at participating Ford dealerships in Texas.

Based on recent figures, CTC is ranked fifth overall and No. 1 among two-year schools on the list of most popular colleges and universities for military personnel using Tuition Assistance. CTC was also recently commended by the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Veterans Commission for participating in the "We Hire Vets" employer recognition program.

CTC's Continuing Education program expands each semester with new classes in a variety of areas. Many classes, including College for Kids, now have an online/virtual component.

Some of the more recent CTC initiatives include the Eagles' Nest Food Pantry and CTC Live! sessions.

The food pantry was established to assist students in need and curb a growing trend of food insecurities among college students. Maintained by the CTC Foundation, the food pantry is a way for students to obtain a variety of nonperishable food items. A series of virtual information sessions known as CTC Live! were introduced to engage students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sessions provided information on financial aid, registration, class delivery, tutoring services, degree plans and numerous academic programs. Students were able to get answers to their questions in real-time as each session was streamed interactively.

Learn more at ctcd.edu.

Mary Hardin-Baylor prepares students for the future

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor continued to thrive in 2021. The university marked its 176th anniversary, carrying on its tradition as the oldest continuously operating college in Texas.

Enrollment at UMHB for the 2021-22 academic year is at nearly 3,800 students, and student housing is at 92% capacity, with 1,894 students living on the Belton campus.

The university offers more than 70 academic programs, including bachelor's degrees in 58 undergraduate majors, 16 master's degree programs, and three doctoral degrees, which include Doctor of Education, Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor of Physical Therapy.

In 2021, UMHB added the Master of Science in Physician Assistant program, the only PA available between Dallas and San Antonio, and a new Bachelor of Arts in Southwest Borderlands Studies.

An athletic powerhouse, the university competes in the American Southwest Conference of NCAA Division III. Cru student-athletes now participate in 16 sports with the addition of beach volleyball, which begins its inaugural season this spring.

UMHB has won national titles in both football and golf and celebrated five American Southwest Conference Championships in the 2020-21 season.

Most recently, the Cru football team brought home another National



Cami Tomme, left, a sophomore nursing major, and Catherine Burke, a sophomore business and Christian studies major, shop for pottery in November at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Art Department's pottery sale outside the Bawcom Student Union Building.

Championship title when they defeated North Central College in the 2021 Stagg Bowl in Canton, Ohio.

RENOVATIONS

On campus, UMHB unveiled the newly renovated McClinton Family Intramural Fields in the fall of 2021. The recreation fields were converted from natural grass to 2.6 acres of artificial turf, and boast new lighting, a pavilion, and permanent striping for the

recreational sports played on the fields.

The video board at Crusader Stadium also got an upgrade. The new video board, installed at the start of the fall football season, doubled in size and provides superior clarity and brightness to enhance the game-day experience, along with other campus functions such as concerts, movie nights, student recruiting, and commencement ceremonies.

In UMHB's spring 2021 graduating class, an estimated 490 students were awarded degrees. Of those, 415 earned bachelor's degrees, 57 received master's degrees, and 18 earned doctoral degrees.

In December 2021, an additional 417 students were awarded degrees from UMHB. Of those, 333 received bachelor's degrees, 45 earned master's degrees, and 39 received doctoral degrees.

Founded in 1845, UMHB prepares students for lives of leadership, service, and faith-informed discernment in a global society. Academic excellence, personal attention, broad-based scholarship, and a Baptist vision for education have distinguished this Christ-centered learning community for more than 176 years.

To learn more about the university, go to www.umhb.edu.



Students enjoy a picnic lunch on the campus of UMHB in Belton.

AdventHealth cares for patients across Central Texas

AdventHealth Central Texas, located on Clear Creek Road in Killeen, opened its doors in 1978 as Metroplex Hospital to serve the area's growing population, including the military community.

The hospital started with only 10 physicians on staff. Today, AdventHealth Central Texas has more than 300 physicians in more than 40 specialties.

With its other facilities, the faith-based, nonprofit organization employs about 1,200 area residents and cares for more than 110,000 patients each year.

AdventHealth Central Texas is one of 50 facilities within the AdventHealth system headquartered in Altamonte Springs, Florida, and spans 10 states.

AdventHealth's more than 80,000 employees provide compassionate care and maintain a tradition of whole-person health by caring for a patient's physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

In 2008, AdventHealth Central Texas forged a partnership with Baylor Scott & White Health that continues to grow and flourish. This partnership enables Baylor Scott & White Health specialists to serve Killeen area residents at AdventHealth offering the convenience of whole-person care close to home.

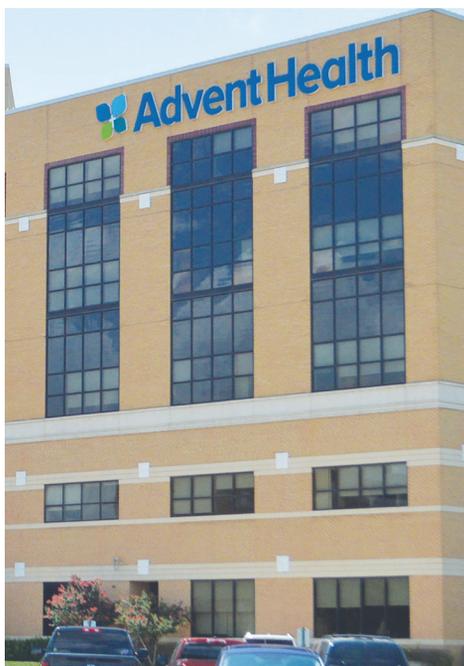
ADVENTHEALTH ROLLINS BROOK

AdventHealth Rollins Brook is a 25-bed critical access hospital in Lampasas. It offers many technological services, including a 24-hour emergency center, a state-of-the-art laboratory, medical and surgical rooms, CT, digital mammography, cardiopulmonary services with EKG and stress testing, sleep disorder center and bone density testing. Echocardiograms, orthopedics, podiatry, Gastroenterology and Urology. General surgery and advanced wound care are also available.

CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The AdventHealth Behavioral Health Center is the area's only full-service behavioral health center for children, adolescents, adults and seniors. The 60-bed facility offers numerous treatment programs, including inpatient, partial hospitalization and outpatient options.

The center is a designated Killeen Independent School District campus,



AdventHealth Central Texas is in Killeen.

giving it the ability to meet the educational needs of children and adolescent patients while in inpatient or partial hospitalization care.

On the campus of AdventHealth Behavioral Health Center is also AdventHealth Medical Group Psychiatry and Psychology Integrated Health Outpatient Clinic serving the needs of the community in an outpatient clinic setting.

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONS

AdventHealth Family Medicine Rural Clinic in Copperas Cove and Lampasas:

With 12 providers on staff, the clinics provide whole-person primary care for Central Texas. Both locations offer the convenience of Saturday morning walk-ins from 9 a.m. to noon.

AdventHealth Heart and Vascular Center:

Staffed by highly trained technologists and diagnostic and interventional cardiologists, along with interventional radiologists, the center offers 24/7 cardiac and vascular services.

AdventHealth Medical Group: With locations across Central Texas, the AdventHealth Medical Group provides the health care services you need, when and where you need them. From primary care providers to leading specialists in women's health, general surgery, podi-

atry and orthopedics, our providers are part of a connected health care system.

PT Solutions: As the largest outpatient rehabilitation center in Central Texas, PT Solutions, in partnership with AdventHealth, offers state-of-the-art treatments for physical therapy in Killeen, Copperas Cove, Harker Heights and Lampasas. Inpatient and outpatient occupational therapy and lymphedema management services are available.

AdventHealth Imaging Harker Heights: Offering state-of-the-art technology with the MAGNETOM Skyra 3T Wide Bore MRI, the imaging facility can accommodate the need of any patient. The features of the MAGNETOM Skyra, combined with 3 Tesla (T) magnet strength, means patients get an extensive array of imaging options with high-quality images and less acquisition time.

AdventHealth Wound Care: With centers in Killeen, Lampasas and Harker Heights, AdventHealth provides advanced wound treatment, including hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

AdventHealth Sleep Center Killeen: The center offers outpatient diagnostic testing for sleep/wake disorders.

AdventHealth Surgery Center: The center is equipped to offer the most up-to-date surgical care, minimally invasive surgery options and a comprehensive joint replacement program.

AdventHealth Endoscopy Center: The center offers a comforting and caring environment for colonoscopies and other procedures intended to diagnose and treat gastrointestinal disorders.

AdventHealth Sue Mayborn Women's Center: The center offers women one convenient location to receive health care for all of life's stages. Services include obstetrics and gynecology, labor and delivery, well-woman exams, 3D mammograms and bone density testing.

Community Wellness: The AdventHealth Wellness Department provides various free services for the community, such as support groups, parenting classes, exercise classes, immunization and flu clinics, and health screenings. It also supports the Greater Killeen Community Clinic.

For more information, go to AdventHealthCentralTexas.com.

Baylor Scott & White is largest not-for-profit health

In Killeen, and across Central and North Texas, Baylor Scott & White offers a range of medical services to meet the needs of patients.

HOSPITALS

Baylor Scott & White Medical Center-Temple, 2401 S. 31st St., is a 636-bed medical center in Temple. As the only Level 1 trauma center (capable of treating the most severe injuries) between Dallas and Austin, a broad spectrum of hospital and clinical services are available, including heart and vascular, cancer care, transplantation, women's services and neurosciences.

Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Medical Center, 1901 SW H.K. Dodgen Loop in Temple, features a 112-bed hospital and a five-story children's specialty clinic. At the only medical center exclusively for children between Dallas and Austin, a range of subspecialists are offered as well as an on-site surgical team that is available around the clock for consultation, care and emergency intervention.

More than 40 specialty services are provided, including general pediatric care, pediatric surgery, cardiology, oncology, gastroenterology, neurosurgery, pediatric dialysis, and pulmonology services.

The medical center is also the area's only Level IV pediatric trauma facility. Ten pediatric clinics are located throughout Central Texas.

CLINICS

Baylor Scott & White Clinic-Killeen, 3801 Scott & White Drive, offers family medicine and pediatrics, including cardiology, hematology/oncology, pulmonology, nephrology, and gastroenterology. Services also include women's health, nephrology, psychology, adolescent medicine, chronic care, acute care for minor injuries, allergy care, preventive care that includes immunization and other vaccinations. Radiology and laboratory services are available. Clinic services are available by appointment for patients of all ages by calling 254-680-1100. Weekend clinic hours are available for pediatric



A new two-story, 27,800 square-foot facility at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Temple, allows patients to receive all cancer treatment in one location, officials said. Courtesy | Baylor Scott & White

patients. Call 254-724-5437 to schedule an appointment.

Baylor Scott & White Clinic-Killeen Harker Heights, 5702 E. Central Texas Expressway, is staffed by family medicine providers. Services offered include primary care, family medicine including infant and child specializations, women's health (OB/Gyn), as well as X-ray and laboratory services. It is open Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. & Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 254-680-7650.

Baylor Scott & White Clinic-Killeen West, 4501 Clear Creek Road, is staffed by family medicine providers. The clinic features 24 exam rooms and two treatment rooms. Services offered include primary care, family medicine including infant and child specializations, women's health (OB/Gyn), as well as X-ray and laboratory services. It is open from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. Call 254-501-6400.

Baylor Scott & White Specialty Clinic-

Killeen Hemingway, 2405 S. Clear Creek Road, is home to 14 specialty clinics with adult services for pain management, cardiology, cosmetic surgery, gastroenterology, general surgery, neurology, women's health, orthopedics, podiatry, pulmonary, radiology, and urology. General pediatric services are offered. Some Baylor Scott & White physicians provide services nearby at AdventHealth Central Texas.

Baylor Scott & White Cancer Center-Killeen is in the Ledger-Smith Professional Building at 2207 S. Clear Creek Road, Suite 101, on the AdventHealth Central Texas campus. The center provides chemotherapy, radiation therapy, anticoagulation, and other professional services for patients in Killeen, Harker Heights, Nolanville, Copperas Cove, Lampasas and beyond. Call 254-200-3200.

Baylor Scott & White Dialysis Center-Killeen, 3701 Scott & White Drive, is a 12-station facility. Services include

system in Texas

advanced dialysis equipment and heated seats in treatment areas. Hours of operations are 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call 254-680-1371.

Baylor Scott & White Dialysis Center-Killeen West, 2201 S. W.S. Young Drive, Suite 101B, is a 12-station facility. Hours of operations are 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended hours Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call 254-501-6467.

Baylor Scott & White Mental Health Clinic-Harker Heights, 326 Morgan St., provides outpatient mental health care to individuals, couples, families and groups. It is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Call 254-953-7600.

Baylor Scott & White Clinic-Copperas Cove, 239 W. U.S. Highway 190, is staffed by family medicine and internal medicine providers, as well as a cardiologist. The clinic has 24 exam rooms. Two treatment rooms offer services that include: primary care, family medicine including the care of infants and children, women's health (OB/Gyn), cardiology, as well as X-ray and laboratory services. It is open 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Call 254-542-9000.

Baylor Scott & White Eye Clinic-Harker Heights, part of the Baylor Scott & White Eye Institute, is at 201 E. Central Texas Expy, Suite 1270, in the Market Heights Shopping Center. With a full-time, board-certified optometrist, it offers comprehensive eye exams for ages 8 and over, and a full optical shop with the latest eyewear styles. It is open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Call 254-953-7650.

Baylor Scott & White Clinic-Salado, 3525 Farm-to-Market 2484, offers primary care, pediatric care, cancer screening, chronic disease management, office surgery, women's health, and preventive care and lab services. A Baylor Scott & White Pharmacy is in the same building. The facility is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Call 254-947-7500.

Virtual scheduling and appointments are available through the MyBSWHealth portal, or by phone at 1-844-BSW-DOCS. Create an account by downloading the MyBSWHealth app, texting BETTER to 88408 or visiting MyBSWHealth.com.

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights keeps setting standard for excellence

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights, a partnership between the Seton Healthcare Family in Austin and Ardent Health Services in Nashville, Tennessee, is a Joint Commission accredited, Catholic hospital proudly serving the greater Fort Hood area.

The hospital, at 850 W. Central Texas Expressway, has seen significant growth since its doors opened in 2012. With a staff of approximately 500, Seton Medical Center continues to provide exceptional quality care to patients.

Seton Medical Center is ready and able to manage all types of medical emergencies in a safe environment with outstanding medical expertise. Seton, an accredited chest pain center, strives to offer the newest methods and best practices in heart care.

Among only 60 other U.S. hospitals, Seton Medical Center received the American College of Cardiology's NCDR Chest Pain Registry Gold Performance Achievement Award in 2020.

Also designated as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center, the hospital provides exceptional stroke care driven by best practices. Seton Medical Center received the Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Bronze Plus Quality Achievement Award in 2020 from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

For the ninth time in four years, Seton Medical Center Harker Heights was awarded an 'A' for patient safety from the Leapfrog Group's Fall 2021 Hospital Safety Grade. This award recognizes achievements in protecting patients from errors, injuries, accidents and infections and providing safer health care.

After delivering 726 babies in 2021, Seton Medical Center Harker Heights was pleased to be named in Newsweek's 2021 list of Best

Maternity Care Hospitals. The distinction recognizes facilities that have excelled in providing care to mothers, newborns and their families.

The Pregnant Perks Program was created for expecting mothers to enjoy free childbirth education classes, a private birthing suite during delivery, a baby gift and a special meal with her partner.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services rated Seton Medical Center with four stars for overall quality in 2021.

Seton Medical Center is one of only 77 acute-care hospitals in Texas to receive four stars. The overall rating summarizes quality measures reflecting common conditions that hospitals treat, such as heart attacks or pneumonia.

Seton Medical Center's outpatient therapy program opened in 2016 in partnership with the Armed Services YMCA at the 54,000-square-foot wellness center in Harker Heights. The program offers expanded access to therapy services in the area.

URGENT CARE

Urgent care provides an important access point to health care in the community.

Seton Medical Center continues its partnership with Freedom Urgent Care. In addition to urgent primary care, this collaboration also provides access to occupational medicine services for on-the-job injuries, vaccinations, physicals, routine medical testing and OSHA-mandated exams for employees working in an industrial environment.

Freedom Urgent Care has two clinics conveniently located in Harker Heights and Killeen.

For more information, visit www.setonharkerheights.net.

To find a physician, go to <https://setonharkerheights.net/find-a-physician>.

Darnall ranked in top 5% of military health facilities

The Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center at Fort Hood recently joined the Defense Health Agency (DHA) as the new Central Texas Market, a critical milestone in once-in-a-generation Military Health System reform efforts to improve the readiness of the force and the health care service provided to warfighters, retirees and military families.

The Central Texas Market will enable greater collaboration across military hospitals and clinics in the Central Texas region to strengthen the medical readiness of service members and enable these facilities to deliver better care and a better patient experience.

The Central Texas Market serves 100,000 beneficiaries, and includes: One hospital, Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center; seven clinics on Fort Hood, Family Medicine Residency Clinic, Russell Collier Health Clinic, Thomas Moore Health Clinic, Bennett Health Clinic, Monroe Health Clinic, Troop Medical Clinic 12 (Aviation), Troop Medical Clinic 14; and four facilities in the surrounding communities, Copperas Cove Medical Home, Harker Heights Medical Home, Killeen Medical Home, and West Killeen Medical Home. Darnall has more than 40 medical specialties.

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center expanded and grew patient services in its new 1.6 million square-foot facility. Darnall has a 151-bed capacity. On an average day, Darnall sees 3,681 daily visitors, which equates to roughly 1 million encounters per year. Of those visits, about 1.2 million prescriptions keep its 13 pharmacies busy. The vision is “building a stronger community together through exceptional health care.” Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center’s mission CRDAMC generates increased readiness, better health and better care effectively and efficiently in support of the Fort Hood and Central Texas Market.

Darnall’s command team, led by commander Col. Daniel J. Moore, says providing quality, patient-centered care that promotes soldier readiness, as well as community health and resilience is the aim. Readiness is the priority.

Darnall has received recognition for its level of care. It’s ranked No. 2 of 42



Col. Daniel J. Moore is the commander of Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center.

military health system facilities, putting it in the top 5%. It ranked in the top 4% of U.S. hospitals in the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, and was awarded the 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award by Uniformed Services University. It also was rated number one for surgical safety by the National Surgical Quality Improvement-American College of Surgeons.

In 2020, Darnall received the Practice Greenhealth Top 25 award.

Darnall’s Women’s Health Clinic offers family-centered care before, during and after childbirth. Delivering babies is an important part of what happens at Darnall, with 2,316 babies born in 2019. A layette program ensures each baby delivered receives a unit-branded gift. The Women’s Health Clinic prides itself in the compassionate care it provides, such as respect for your emotional well-being, privacy and personal preferences and cultural beliefs; choices in treatment options for pain management, medications and tests; and the flexibility to welcome fathers, significant others and siblings to be part of the birth experience.

Darnall is affiliated with Texas A&M University health Science Center’s

College of Medicine, Baylor University, The University of Texas at Austin, Arlington and Houston; Texas Tech Nursing and School of Pharmacy and Texas Wesleyan University graduate medical education programs.

In addition, more than 3,526 prescriptions are filled daily, along with 693 radiology procedures and 3,065 laboratory procedures. The hospital is staffed by more than 3,608 military personnel, civilians and contractors.

TREATING INJURIES

To help soldiers dealing with fitness-related injuries, Darnall launched the Fort Hood Sparta Clinic, which is open during morning physical training. It provides early evaluation and treatment for acute musculoskeletal injuries.

In January 2016, the Fort Hood Intrepid Spirit center opened its doors and began patient treatment, caring for soldiers suffering from traumatic brain injuries, as well as post-traumatic stress and other psychological health conditions. The \$11 million facility was privately funded through the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. It is the fourth in a series of nine such facilities to open on military bases across the country.

Greater Killeen area offers substance abuse treatment services for those seeking help

Substance abuse treatment and recovery services are available to Killeen area residents, including residential and outpatient programs for drugs and alcohol.

Alcoholics Anonymous and **Narcotics Anonymous** meetings are held regularly in the Killeen area every day. Go to sober.com to find times and locations.

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, 1009 N. Georgetown St. in Round Rock, through a state program, services a 30-county Central Texas region that includes Bell, Coryell, Lampasas, and Williamson counties. The main line is 844-309-6385 and the crisis hotline is 800-841-1255. In Killeen, call 800-888-4036.

The **Scott & White Mental Health Center**, 2401 S. 31st St. in Temple, offers five-week evening outpatient sessions. Individual and group therapy are incorporated with seminars/presentations, therapeutic recreation, and 12-Step participation. A program for seniors is available. Call 254-724-2585.

Cedar Crest Hospital, 3500 S. Interstate 35 in Belton, offers inpatient and outpatient alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs for children, teens and adults. Call 877-220-8379.

Central Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse offers outpatient treatment, and provides educational programs for children. The center operates in Killeen, Harker Heights and Temple. Call 254-690-4455.

Christian Farms Treehouse, 3804 Riverside Trail in Temple, offers a Christian approach to treatment. It offers 30-, 60- and 90-day programs. Call 254-933-9400.

Abuse hotlines: Call 254-813-3313 in Copperas Cove and 254-213-2529 in Harker Heights.

Go to dshs.texas.gov/sa-search/ for additional resources.

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Community clinic helps meet health needs of Killeen residents

The Greater Killeen Community Clinic is in its 27th year of providing quality health care services to a vulnerable population.

The story behind the clinic began in 1993, after an assessment determined that the needs of social service clients could be better met with more affordable medical care.

The facility at 309 N. Second St. (inside the Bell County Health Department) opened less than a year later in November 1994 as a once-a-week acute care clinic.

Since then, the clinic has expanded its services and continues to provide primary medical needs to children and adults who are underserved, uninsured, and who have limited or no access to health care services. The clinic is nonprofit and volunteer based.

It is open Monday through Thursday, and patients are seen by appointment only.

Patients are asked to make a contribution to their care based on their income. Waivers are granted on a case-by-case basis.



TaNeika Driver-Moultrie is the executive director of the Greater Killeen Community Clinic.

Acute Care Clinic is on Monday from 3 to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m.

Simple conditions such as a rash, ear infections, and bladder infections are seen through the acute clinic. In

addition, minor injuries such as sprains, strains, and simple wounds are seen as well.

The Chronic Care Clinic is available Tuesday through Thursday by appointment. This Clinic provides treatment for patients diagnosed with diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, asthma/COPD and thyroid disease. It includes a mandatory education component. Patients receive free medications through enrollment in the Prescription Assistance Program.

The Clinic also sees patients through the Bell County Indigent Health Care Program; they see cardiology patients and behavioral health patients.

Patients seeking services must provide a photo ID, proof of residency and household income for the previous month.

The clinic has also started back up its Lunch and Learn classes, which are open to the community at no charge and are included in the Health Promotion program.

Call 254-618-4211 or go to www.gkfclinic.org for more information.

Bell County Public Health District offers services, programs

The motto of the Bell County Public Health District is “promote, prevent and protect.” The organization offers a wide array of services to help people maintain their health.

CLINICAL SERVICES

The health district offers well-woman exams (including issuing contraceptives), immunizations, travel vaccines, pregnancy testing (to include proof of pregnancy for Medicaid), sexually transmitted disease testing/treatment and tuberculosis testing/treatment.

The clinics in Killeen (309 N. Second St.) and Temple (820 N. 31st St.) are open from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friday. Call 254-526-8371 in Killeen and 254-778-4766 in Temple.

Services are based on family size

and income. Services are walk-in or appointment based, depending on the type of treatment needed.

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM

The WIC Program provides the services, support and inspiration for families to eat right, have a healthy pregnancy and breast-feed successfully.

Call for information or to make an appointment at one of the following four sites: Temple: 820 N. 31st St., 254-778-1511; Killeen: 111 Santa Fe Plaza, 254-526-2033; Fort Hood: Building 36000 Darnall Loop (the second floor of the old hospital), 254-532-8680; Copperas Cove: 213 W. Avenue D, 254-547-9571.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health Division services include routine inspections of food establishments, day-care

facilities and foster homes; food safety education, permitting of on-site sewage facilities and investigations of public health complaints.

The Killeen office can be reached at 254-526-3197. Contact food protection at 254-771-2106 or environmental at 254-778-7557 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

PREPAREDNESS DIVISION

Preparedness Division prepares for threats such as infectious disease outbreak, bioterrorism event, chemical spill, contamination of drinking water and natural disasters.

Contact preparedness at 254-773-4457 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday.

For more information, go to www.bellcountyhealth.org.



Kevin Shepherd updates members of the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce on Verdunity's comprehensive plan for the city during a March meeting at the Courtyard by Marriott in Killeen.

Killeen chamber supports businesses

The mission of the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce is to provide vision, leadership and support to business and community leaders to create economic prosperity.

This is accomplished through a variety of programs, including the Killeen Economic Development Corporation, Business Resource Center, Greater Killeen Young Professionals and 14 Forward Foundation.

The chamber's office at 1 Santa Fe Plaza in downtown Killeen is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday.

The organization is governed by a board of directors elected from its membership of more than 500.

The chamber's full-time staff specializes in economic development, military relations, public policy, and community and talent development.

The chamber offers a variety of products, services and events throughout the year to benefit member businesses and the community, such as monthly mixers, Chamber Networking and News, Leadercast, Flavors of Central Texas, Leadership Killeen, the annual membership banquet, and informative workshops.

The Greater Killeen Young Professionals offers networking and professional development for young entrepreneurs and professionals. For more information, visit gkyp.org.

In 2017, the chamber launched the Fort Hood Regional Economic Development campaign, an aggressive five-year

campaign designed to help grow the region's economy. It is currently in the process of organizing a second five-year campaign. Go to killeenchamber.com/forged_ctx for more information.

The Killeen EDC is housed at the chamber and acts on behalf of the City of Killeen in the promotion and development of commercial, industrial and manufacturing enterprises and to promote and encourage employment and public welfare. It also provides demographic and industry data at killeenedc.com or upon request.

The chamber offers businesses exposure through ribbon-cutting and groundbreaking ceremonies, directory listings, event promotions, advertising and sponsorship options. Go to KilleenChamber.com or call 254-526-9551 for more information.

INNOVATION BLACK CHAMBER

The Innovation Black Chamber of Commerce provides economic and community development programs for Black- and veteran-owned businesses in Killeen. Its primary goals are to implement a social currency strategy to improve wealth building and engagements, to encourage commercial borrowers and savings associations to help meet the needs of the IBCC's borrowers, and to secure partnerships and alliances with dedicated corporations to ensure compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Voting Rights Act.

To contact the organization, visit the IBCC at 324 E. Avenue D in Killeen, go to innovationbcc.org or call 254-415-9951.

Better Business Bureau a valuable source of information

The Better Business Bureau is a valuable resource Central Texas residents can turn to for objective, unbiased information on local businesses and charities.

As a nonprofit organization, BBB provides free consumer and business education resources, as well as tips tailored toward promoting ethical business practices and alerts of trending consumer scams.

There are more than 100 BBB offices across North America. The BBB serving the Heart of Texas covers 14 counties in the Greater Killeen area, including Copperas Cove, Gatesville, Lampasas, Hillsboro, Killeen, Salado, Temple, Waco and Fort Hood.

BBB provides a variety of services, including a free Speakers' Bureau for civic organizations and other groups.

Business Reviews: Information about the performance of a business in the marketplace, whether BBB Accredited or not, can be accessed online at BBB.org. Read customer reviews, complaints and check its BBB rating to help you determine which businesses to interact with.

Dispute Resolutions: If you've encountered an issue with a Central Texas business, file an official complaint with BBB and an expert will assist your communication efforts using conciliation, mediation and arbitration services.

Scam Tracker: Report your experience or view other reports of scams and unethical business practices in your area at BBB.org/ScamTracker. BBB's interactive map allows users to easily scan and pinpoint trending scams across North America and is an invaluable resource to help consumers steer clear of fraudulent businesses.

For more information about BBB and consumer-related news, follow BBB on Facebook or Twitter @CentralTexasBBB.

Cove chamber and EDC help local businesses flourish

The Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau was formed in 1956 to promote commerce, economic growth and tourism through various partnerships and initiatives.

The chamber provides leadership and assistance with an emphasis on representing a unified team that fosters a cooperative business climate, supports professional and economic development through the collective efforts of chamber staff, chamber members, community leaders and individual volunteers to create and maintain an enhanced quality of life for Copperas Cove residents.

The chamber actively promotes annual city events such as the Easter Egg Roundup, Farmer's Market, and the Food Truck Festival. The chamber also promotes events by other community organizations and chamber members.

Chamber-sponsored events include the annual Rabbit Fest, the Jack Rabbit Run, H-E-B Summer Run to Fun, the Gallop or Trot and the Krist Kindl Markt.

Information about those events and others can be found on the chamber's website, www.copperascove.com.

COPPERAS COVE EDC

Thinking of starting or expanding your business? The Copperas Cove Economic Development Corporation offers start-up counseling, workshops and networking to introduce you and your company to the community. In addition to marketing Copperas Cove to new industry, the EDC — working with its community partners — fully supports retention and expansion projects for new and small businesses.

The Copperas Cove EDC is at 113 W. Avenue D, Copperas Cove. Stop by in person, visit coveedc.com or call 254-547-7874 for more information.



Harker Heights Jr. Knights youth sports organization members cheer on the playoff-bound Harker Heights High School Knights football team in November at a spirit rally hosted by the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce.

Heights chamber promotes partnerships

The Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce is a vital part of the ongoing growth that is taking place in the Bell County area.

“The chamber is focused on working together to enhance the economic vitality of our members and the quality of life in Harker Heights,” said Gina Pence, president and CEO.

With more than 600 members, the chamber is proud to partner in the area's economic success, ensuring that Harker Heights is the foremost location for economic development and business prosperity.

The Harker Heights Chamber has diligently fulfilled its mission as the advocate for business excellence in Bell County. It brings value to its members through the tourism division, education, governmental relations, community resources, business and professional development, economic development, and members services.

Graduates of the chamber's Vision XXI Leadership program are serving in leadership positions throughout our community. The course builds organizational effectiveness within the philanthropic community. High school

students have the unique opportunity to experience how volunteerism and philanthropy coexist to serve the community in our Vision XXI Leadership program.

The Harker Heights Chamber Visitor's Center provides visitors and new residents resources that highlight the great amenities and attractions in the community.

Harker Heights annually hosts Frost Fest, a free family event held in December offering vendors, farmers market, artists, holiday festivities and Santa arrives on a firetruck to greet the children of our great community.

Under the chamber's tourism division, the Mug Run 5K showcases Texas craft beers. On the second Saturday in September, the HH Food, Wine & Brew Fest attracts thousands of wine and food aficionados to our area offering live music, vendors, food, artist, Texas local goods, craft brew and wine.

Visit www.DiscoverHarkerHeights.com to learn more about outdoor recreational activities offered in our community.

Learn more about the chamber at www.hhchamber.com.

Workforce Solutions helps job seekers and employers

Connecting employers to skilled employees and helping job seekers are two of the most important missions of Workforce Solutions of Central Texas. The organization supports training in high-demand jobs that are projected as a growing need for Central Texas employers.

Data provided by Workforce Solutions shows that 45,722 job seekers were provided with employment services in 2021, including 2,043 veterans. The organization also serves 17,480 children through child care services. That supports the ability of parents to further their education or career.

Workforce Solutions partners with economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, employers and education partners in the region to build economic success in Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, San Saba, and Mills counties. They are committed to the employer's success by assisting customers with career



Workforce Solutions helps job seekers prepare for interviews and build skills needed for new careers.

exploration, assistance in earning degrees and industry certifications that lead individuals to employment, and building a sustainable career. Resources for services members and their families are abundant.

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas

is governed by a board of 27 members, each representing a spectrum of business, education, and community interests. Offices are in Lampasas, Killeen, Temple, and Rockdale. Go to www.Workforcesolutionsctx.com or call 254-200-2021 for more information.

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Food banks provide resources to struggling families

KILLEEN FOOD CARE CENTER

The Killeen Food Care Center serves more than 84,000 clients and distributes more than 2.4 million pounds of food a month. It is operated by Executive Director Raymond Cockrell. Donations of \$1 provide seven meals, and they can be made on the website or by check to P.O. Box 1656, Killeen, TX, 76540-1656.

No requirements have to be met to receive food from the center at 210 N. 16th St. in Killeen.

Call 254-554-3400 or visit www.foodcare.org. Clients may visit the food pantry once per month.

OPERATION PHANTOM SUPPORT

Operation Phantom Support's food pantry serves soldiers, veterans, first responders and their families. There is an open pantry for the community every third Saturday of the month.

The food pantry is at 401 N. Eighth St. in Killeen and is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Go to www.operationphantomsupport.org.

SOUTHSIDE FOOD PANTRY

Southside Food Pantry is at 1505 Trimmier Road in Killeen. Applications are required. The pantry is open from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday and Saturday.

Call 254-526-3041 or visit www.killeenchurch.org/capital.html.

REFUGE MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The Refuge Mobile Food Pantry typically serves more than 500 families per month. It is a ministry of the Christian House of Prayer in Killeen. Food distribution events are conducted on the third Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/refugemobile> for information on the location.

GREATER CHRIST GOSPEL

Greater Christ Gospel, 200 S. Gray St. in Killeen, operates a food pantry from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. Call 254-466-1520.

BAPTIST BENEVOLENCE MINISTRY

Baptist Benevolence Ministry is a collection of five Copperas Cove Baptist churches through which families



Volunteers from the Killeen Food Care Center and the Military Family Advisory Network distribute groceries to military families during a drive-thru event at the Killeen Food Care Center in December.

can get food, clothing and financial assistance. It is open every weekday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Help is limited to those in the Copperas Cove area. It operates at 507 N. Fifth St. Go to <https://www.fbccove.net/> baptist-benevolence or call 254-542-6780.

COPPERAS COVE LITTLE HOUSE

The Copperas Cove Little House is operated by the Church of Christ and offers clothing items for all ages, household goods and emergency food. It is at 305 W. Avenue D, Copperas Cove. Go to <https://covechurchofchrist.org/about/our-ministries>.

MY BROTHER'S HOUSE FOOD PANTRY

My Brother's House Food Pantry is operated by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Holy Family Catholic Church.

It is open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Assistance is limited to residents of

Copperas Cove and Kempner. Applicants must have proof of residence and ID.

It is at 107 Lyons St. in Copperas Cove. Call 254-547-5206 to volunteer or go to www.hf-cc.org/st-vincent-de-paul-svdp.

HOUSE OF MERCY

House of Mercy, 627 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd., in Harker Heights, has a food pantry open from 8 to 11 a.m. every Monday for people who need food to come by and pick something up. Food is eligible once a month and bags are pre-packaged.

For more information, go to <https://www.ecpowerhouse.org/ministry/outreach/food-pantry>.

NOLANVILLE FOOD PANTRY

Nolanville Food Pantry is operated through the Central Texas Food Bank. It is at 200 N. Main St.

It is open every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 2 to 6 p.m.

Call 254-698-6820.

Central Texas shelters offer assistance to those in need

FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Families In Crisis, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit United Way organization that houses, supports and empowers people experiencing family violence, sexual violence and homelessness in Bell, Coryell and Hamilton counties, including Fort Hood.

Formed in 1980 and located at 1305 E. Rancier Ave., it has evolved into a widely recognized community partner offering services to residents affected by family violence, sexual assault, homelessness and housing assistance.

The FIC domestic violence shelters offers emergency safe shelter to survivors at a 65-bed facility in Killeen and a 15-bed facility in Temple.

Outreach services are available to family violence survivors who are not seeking shelter, or who have already left one of the agency's shelters. Services to family violence survivors also include crisis intervention and case management, safety planning, hospital accompaniment, life skills classes,

provision of food and necessary items, referrals and transitional housing assistance.

In 1983, FIC merged with the Central Texas Rape Crisis Center to offer comprehensive services to women.

In 2009, it began offering rental assistance and supportive services to very low income veterans and their families, youth aging out of foster care, and the general homeless population. A hallmark achievement in 2012 was the establishment of the family violence survivor transitional housing program.

For homeless residents, FIC operates Friends in Crisis, 412 E. Sprott St., Killeen. The 78-bed facility has room for 54 men and 24 women/families.

Clients can check in at 3 p.m. and check out is 7 a.m. The shelter has laundry and shower facilities. It also provides an evening meal every night.

FIC's 24-hour family violence/sexual assault hotline can be reached at 1-888-799-SAFE. For more information about services or volunteer opportunities, call

254-634-1184 in Killeen, 254-773-7765 in Temple, or go to familiesincrisis.net.

COVE HOUSE

For more than 25 years, the Cove House Emergency Homeless Shelter Inc., at 108 E. Halstead Ave. in Copperas Cove, has provided shelter and support for homeless residents in Bell and Coryell counties. Those wishing to stay must meet the shelter's requirements and will be put on the schedule.

The shelter is equipped with one men's and one women's house, as well as two family homes. Shelter office hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. The shelter accepts baby supplies, household goods, food items and financial donations. Go to www.covehouse.org or call 254-547-4673.

In 2013, Cove House opened a free clinic. Open on Tuesdays, the clinic is by appointment only and is in the Lovett Ledger Medical Plaza at 806 E. Avenue D, Suite H. Email clinicappointments@covehouse.org to make an appointment.

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Adoption centers help animals find permanent homes in Central Texas

Central Texans love their pets, which means plenty of services are available, whether you want to adopt, volunteer or resolve an animal-related issue.

KILLEEN

Killeen's Animal Services Division handles all animal-related issues for the city, including barking dogs, dangerous animals, strays and neglect. The division also runs the Killeen Animal Shelter at 3118 Commerce Drive. The shelter is open for adoptions from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.

Adoption and microchip fees total \$55 for all animals. Animal Services officers respond to calls between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Concerns and complaints may be called in at 254-526-4455 or reported to animalcontrol@killeentexas.gov.

The shelter provides 24-hour service, as on-call employees will respond after hours for emergencies.

There is no fee for stray animals to be deposited at the shelter during normal business hours. Anyone considering adoption or relinquishment of an animal should be prepared to present government-issued identification. Volunteers are welcome. For photos of animals ready for adoption and a list of ordinances, services and fees go to www.killeentexas.gov/233/Animal-Services.

HARKER HEIGHTS

Harker Heights Pet Adoption Center is at 403 Indian Trail. Adoption hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. The adoption center also has microchipping services for \$15. Call 254-953-5472. For animal-related emergencies after normal business hours, contact the Harker Heights Police Department at 254-953-5400.

COPPERAS COVE

The Animal Control Facility is at 1601 N. First St. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Call 254-547-5584.



A dog waits for adoption in Harker Heights.

After-hours calls are routed to the police department at 254-547-8222.

TEXAS HUMANE HEROES

The Second Chance Animal Shelter merged with the Humane Society of Williamson County to create Texas Humane Heroes, which already has adopted out more than 300 pets so far this year. The no-kill shelter is at 5501 Clear Creek Road in Killeen. Hours are from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. Call 512-260-3602 or go to www.texashumaneheroes.org.

FORT HOOD

The Fort Hood Stray Facility is on 80th Street and Engineer Drive in Building 4902, across from the Fort Hood Veterinary Center. It is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Call 254-287-4675.

BELL COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

The Bell County Animal Shelter, a joint effort between the county and city of Belton, is at 2509 S. Loop 121, Belton. It is open Monday through Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Adoption fees range from \$20 for unsterilized cats to \$60 for sterilized cats and dogs. Call 254-933-6780.

TEMPLE ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Temple Animal Services Department is at 620 Mama Dog Circle, Temple. It is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday noon to 4 p.m. Call 254-298-5732.

Red Cross responds to emergencies

With offices in Waco, Killeen, Austin and Bryan/College Station, the Red Cross is able to serve victims of any type of disaster in Central Texas. The Heart of Texas Area Chapter provides services to 17 Texas counties, including Bell, Coryell and Lampasas, as well as Fort Hood. Volunteers of all ages, skills and backgrounds are always needed. The Red Cross also provides training in CPR, first aid, water safety and babysitting.

The organization's Home Fire Campaign is dedicated to ending the loss of lives from home fires by installing free smoke alarms.

The Red Cross also provides 40% of the blood supply in the United States. Sign up to donate at www.redcrossblood.org.

Access services, information and volunteer opportunities at www.redcross.org or call the local Red Cross at 254-523-4985. The office is at 9205 Oak Creek Drive, Woodway.

Salvation Army helps families in need

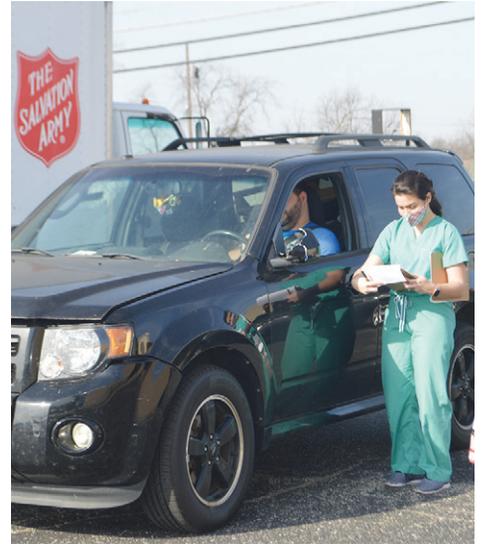
The Salvation Army is an international movement and is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Operations in Killeen are coordinated by the Salvation Army of Bell County's office in Temple.

The social services office offers help to area residents going through difficult times, providing food, clothing, rent and utilities assistance (when funding is available), Back to School and Christmas assistance.

Worship services are held at The Salvation Army in Temple, 419 W. Avenue G., with Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship at 11 a.m.

Donations help provide these services and more for those in need. The Salvation Army also assists during disasters through its Emergency and Disaster Services mobile feeding vehicle.



The Salvation Army collected donations from residents during a drive-thru event in February.

Volunteers are needed for its annual Angel Tree Program, Red Kettle fundraising at Christmas, and at its food pantry and clothing closet year-round.

For more information, call 254-774-9996.

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United Way supports variety of local organizations

The mission of the United Way is to increase the organized capacity of the community to address the health and human service needs in the area.

The Greater Fort Hood Area United Way assists a wide range of local organizations, from substance abuse centers to special-needs child care facilities. Annual campaigns raise money and awareness.

Aaron Montemayor, executive director of the United Way of the Greater Fort Hood Area, said the organization uses the funds it receives to help provide human service programs to area residents in a timely manner.

“Most processes are six months to a year to apply for funding,” Montemayor said. “We can respond, based on the need, very quickly.”

United Way supports many charitable programs through its member agencies.

The programs align with the organization’s four areas of focus — basic needs, education, financial independence and health.

The United Way office is at 208 W. Avenue A, Killeen. It can be reached at 254-634-0660 or go to www.unitedway-gfha.org.

SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN RED CROSS, HEART OF TEXAS AREA CHAPTER: The American Red Cross serves Fort Hood, Bell, Coryell, Lampasas, and Hamilton Counties by providing Armed Forces Emergency Services, community disaster services, CPR, First Aid, aquatics, youth programs and volunteer opportunities. Contact: 512-928-4271, www.waco.redcross.org

ARMED SERVICES YMCA: The YMCA is a Human Service Organization that provides educational, preventive and social development programs for both the military and civilian populations throughout Central Texas. Contact: 254-634-5445, www.asymca.net

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA-LONGHORN COUNCIL: The council provides a comprehensive youth development program for boys ages 7-15 and young men ages 15-20 years. Contact: 245-772-8932,

www.longhorncouncil.org

BRING EVERYONE IN THE ZONE: The organization provides peer support, resources and basic needs to our service members, veterans, and dependents to help improve their quality of life. Contact: 254-681-9112, www.bringeveryoneinthezone.org

CENTRAL TEXAS 4-C: High quality, comprehensive child development program for low-income children ages 0-5 and their families is provided by this organization. Services include health, disabilities, education, nutrition, literacy, mental health, and other family services. Contact: 254-501-9232, www.ct4c.org

CENTRAL TEXAS YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU: The Youth Services Bureau provides the following no cost services to children and youth 0-21 years of age: emergency shelter, maternity group home, transitional/independent living programs and street outreach. Call the hotline at 1-800-421-TEEN (8336). Contact: 254-939-3466, www.centraltexasyouthservices.org

CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER OF CENTRAL TEXAS: The center provides collaborative, investigative and therapeutic services to victims of child abuse in order to lessen trauma, heal and enhance their quality of life. Contact: 254-939-2946, www.cacct.com

CASA OF BELL AND CORYELL COUNTIES: CASA screens, trains and supervises community volunteers as the leading voice for safe, permanent and nurturing homes for abused and neglected children in the court system. Contact: 254-774-1881, www.casabellcoryell.org

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS of GREATER CENTRAL TEXAS: CIS closely monitors academics, behavior and attendance of at-risk youth with the goal of keeping kids in school until they graduate, improving their chances for success in life. Contact: 254-554-2132, www.cis-tx.org

COVE HOUSE EMERGENCY HOMELESS SHELTER: Provides free emergency shelter for homeless individuals and families. They also provide a free clinic for the community. Contact: 254-547-4673, www.covehouse.org

FAMILIES IN CRISIS: Provides safe shelter, crisis intervention, and outreach services for victims of family violence and sexual assault. It is free and confidential. Call the 24-hour hotline at 1-888-799-SAFE. Contact: 254-634-1184, www.familiesin crisis.net

FOOD CARE CENTER: Provides supplemental assistance with food, clothing, and household items for low-to-moderate income families, both civilian and military. Contact: 254-554-3400, www.foodcare.org

FORT HOOD AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: This national Christian Housing Ministry is dedicated to eliminating poverty by building houses (built by volunteers) that are sold to low-income families at 0% interest. Contact: 254-680-4007, www.fhahfh.org

GIRL SCOUTS OF CENTRAL TEXAS: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Contact: 800-733-0011, www.gsctx.org

GREATER KILLEEN COMMUNITY CLINIC: The clinic provides medical treatment, medications and specialty referral to low income, uninsured children and adults. Limited dental and mental health services, case management and health promotion programs are available. Contact: 254-618-4211, www.gkfclinic.org

HERITAGE HOUSE OF CENTRAL TEXAS: Provides direct services to the homeless and people at risk of becoming homeless. Services are designed to help people achieve stable and independent lives. Contact: 254-226-4072, www.hhct.weebly.com

HILL COUNTRY COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION: The Senior Nutrition Program provides congregate and home delivered meals to eligible elderly, age 60+, and disabled participants five days a week, Monday through Friday. Contact: 254-699-8888, www.hccaa.com

THE REFUGE CORPORATION: The Refuge helps to preserve family and community by providing a shelter for women and children, and health education programs in Central Texas. Contact: 254-5476753, www.refugecorporation.org



A volunteer helps set up backpacks for the Killeen NAACP's annual backpack giveaway in July at Greater Peace Christian Center in Killeen.

LULAC, NAACP support area's Black and Latino communities

Three organizations in Killeen work to improve Black and Latin American communities, including the Killeen branch of the NAACP and two branches of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

NAACP KILLEEN BRANCH 6189

For nearly 52 years, the Killeen branch of the NAACP has been working in the community.

Outreach efforts have included education, economic development, voting rights and engagement and combating health disparities in the black and brown communities. Most recently, it has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by assisting other organizations with vaccine clinics.

The Killeen branch meets on the third Monday of every month at Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church at 4201 Zephyr Road, starting at 5:30 p.m. with the executive board meeting and 7 p.m. for the general membership meeting. Meetings are open to the public.

The organization holds a Freedom Fund Banquet every year to raise money for its local outreach efforts.

To learn more, call 254-286-9211 or go to naacpkilleen.org.

LULAC HERENCIA COUNCIL 4297

The mission of the Herencia Council is to inspire, nurture, and support the educational attainment of members of

the Hispanic community and elevate those in need.

Every March, the organization hosts the "My Heritage, My Legacy Gala."

Monthly meetings are held at the Harker Heights Recreation Center on the second Monday of the month, from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn more: facebook.com/LULACHerenciaCouncil4297.

KILLEEN-FORT HOOD LULAC COUNCIL 4535

The oldest LULAC Council in Bell County is continuing to provide scholarships and classes in citizenship and ESL. The council hands out \$20,000 in scholarships each year to graduating seniors from Killeen and Copperas Cove school districts, as well as for current students at Central Texas College and Texas A&M University-Central Texas, so students should see their counselors for more information.

The organization also provides outreaches into the community, often partnering with other organizations to host events such as Smiles for Vets.

One of the annual highlights is the organization's annual banquet, where the Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year are recognized.

The LULAC Council 4535 Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. For more information on scholarships, banquets, tickets or membership, call 1-800-KILLEEN or visit <https://www.facebook.com/LULAC4535/>.

Welcome to our Community!



254-699-6271 

Harker Heights United Methodist Church
www.hhumc.org

Spark Wednesday Ministries
Youth/Children meet 5:30 pm
United Worship Sunday 9:00 am
Facebook Live at 9:00 am

208 W. Cardinal at South Harley
Harker Heights




Bible Way Missionary Baptist Church
2306 South FM 116 P. O. Box 774
Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Holy Communion (Each First Sunday)

Bible Study.....Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Reverend W.G. (Will) Jackson II, Pastor
Reverend George E. Blake, Assistant Pastor

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Killeen, TX 76542
254-554-8506**

Armed Services YMCA programs are for all ages

There's always something new and fun going on at the Armed Services YMCA in Harker Heights.

The YMCA is known for its summer camps, and registration is open for this year's "Adventure Awaits" day and specialty camps for children.

The ASYMCA is not just about kids. Registration is underway for the first co-ed adult leagues for volleyball, basketball and pickleball. Play begins May 19.

The Before and After School Child Care Program runs at many schools in the Killeen, Copperas Cove, Lampasas, Florence and Belton school districts.

Chef Class, Creative Canvas, Theatre, Homeschool physical fitness classes, morning pre-K classes and a range of swimming classes are popular.

The Armed Services YMCA Killeen also provides child care during

Thanksgiving, Christmas and spring break. Financial assistance is available for all child care programs.

A program center is at 100 E. Beeline in Harker Heights for preschool age and up. It provides activities, field trips and programs. The adjacent ASYMCA Aquatic Center includes a swimming pool and spray pad that opens to the public during the summer.

The ASYMCA also offers Kids Night Out, which gives parents a night out while their children are in a safe and nurturing environment, offering activities for ages 6 months to 13.

The nonprofit organization is known throughout the world for its fitness centers. The Harker Heights Wellness Center, 110 Mountain Lion Road, is a 54,000-square-foot facility and open seven days a week. It has a heated 10-lane lap pool, warm water therapy pool,

7,000-square-foot fitness floor, group exercise classes, personal training, child watch, basketball court, indoor running track, swim lessons and a café.

Operation Little Learners program is held in Copperas Cove and Harker Heights; this program is a parent and child class that emphasizes kindergarten readiness, socialization and positive parent/child interaction.

Another partner, Seton Medical Center Harker Heights, provides outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapy.

Call 254-690-YMCA to reach the Wellness Center in Heights. To find out more about the Armed Services YMCA, go to www.asymca.net.

The national Armed Services YMCA was established during the Civil War to support service members and their families.

Area senior centers offer exercise classes, low-cost meals

KILLEEN

Killeen has two senior centers but only one is operational at the moment.

The Senior Center at Lions Club Park, 1700-B E. Stan Schlueter Loop, is open weekdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 254-501-6399.

There are many fun and engaging activities, including weekly dances; daily exercise classes, like aerobics, circuit training, and Zumba, yoga, and tai chi, along with state-of-the-art exercise equipment in the Gary Purser Jr. Fitness Room.

Arts and crafts classes include pottery, ceramics, scrapbooking and knitting, crocheting, quilting, plus many seasonal crafts. Seniors can also enjoy playing a variety of board games, taking computer classes, driver safety, grief counseling, and billiards, pickle ball, and day trips.

During the year, the centers host many parties and celebrations, among other activities.

The Bob Gilmore Center, at 2205 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd., closed in 2019 and will be replaced by another

center in the Rosa Hereford Killeen Community Center in summer 2023 after a \$5.8 million renovation project is completed.

Membership is free, regardless of residency, to ages 55 and older. A person under 55 may join if their spouse is a member.

COPPERAS COVE

The Copperas Cove Senior Activity Center is temporarily open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays while the city searches for a full-time community outreach specialist. "Programming will remain limited until the full-time position may be filled; however, seniors are welcomed to stop by to visit with friends," said Kevin A. Keller, the city's public relations director.

The city's senior center usually is hopping with classes in rock painting and other crafts, parties, get-togethers and meetings. It provides seniors with enrichment programs that encourage social interaction and fun, new experiences.

Located in the Human Resources

Building at 1012 North Drive, Suite 5, the center accepts individuals age 55 and older. The programs include daily meals and a potluck once a month. Community sponsors perform monthly health checks, exercise classes are offered three times a week, along with a yoga class. Recreational activities include games, crochet, knitting, cards, dominoes, gardening and crafts during the week. The center has a pool table, lending library and treadmills, plus weekly time for fellowship. Occasional field trips are offered. Call 254-547-6049.

HARKER HEIGHTS

The Harker Heights Senior Recreation Program is designed for ages 50 and up. Most activities are held at the city's Activities Center at 400 Indian Trail.

With over 400 members, seniors enjoy taking monthly day trips, playing Granny Basketball, Pickleball and getting crafty with art classes.

Activities range from line dancing and watercolor painting to bunco and bingo. Call 254-953-5465.



Parents of Cub Scouts from Pack 251 of Copperas Cove present arrows of light to their Scouts during a February ceremony before the Scouts cross over into Boy Scouts.

Scouting keeps kids active, engaged

Parents and kids don't see eye-to-eye on everything; but all agree that kids want to be active, engaged and, most of all, having fun. Two organizations in Central Texas that provide all that and more: Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

BOY SCOUTS

Local boys and girls who are kindergarten through age 20 get to experience the many benefits of the diverse programs offered by the Leon Valley District, Longhorn Council of the Boy Scouts.

The Family Scouting program includes girls in grades K-5 who want the opportunity to join Cub Scouts. The district includes Fort Hood, Killeen, Harker Heights and Copperas Cove. Gatesville, Belton, Temple and Salado are a part of the Chisholm Trail District.

The Leon Valley District's programs achieve the Boy Scout objectives of developing character, citizenship and personal fitness. Some of the programs include a STEM Center, space simulators, reptile shows, aquatic programs and summer camps, plus many more.

Go to www.beascout.org or call Chisholm Trail District Executive Tim Hays at 254-772-8932 ext. 303 or email timothyhays@scouting.org for more information.

Another popular program within

Scouting is Venturing, which is available for ages 14 through 20. This program provides hobbies that teach leadership skills, sports, high adventure and gives youth the opportunity to teach and mentor each other.

Additionally, there is the career exploration co-ed program through the Killeen Police Department for youth ages 14 to 21. Contact Julian Martinez at 254-200-7930 or email jmartinez2@killeentexas.gov for more information.

"Police Explorers" is chartered through Learning for Life, which is a subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America.

GIRL SCOUTS

The mission of the Girl Scouts is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, and it is open to girls in kindergarten through 12th grade. Girls experience learning opportunities in all areas, such as STEM, outdoors activities and life skills and entrepreneurship.

The Central Texas council is one of seven high-performing councils in the state. There are four units in this large area, covering the Temple-Killeen-Waco area to Austin.

Volunteers are always welcome to help with individual programs, serving on committees and manage cookie sales.

The Killeen Girl Scouts Service Center is at 2909 Lake Road. Call 800-733-0011 or go to www.gsctx.org.

Boys & Girls Clubs provide services for local youth

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Texas provides opportunities for children to explore. Most annual memberships are \$20 and free for military-connected youth. Learn more at bgctx.org.

CLEMENTS TEEN CENTER (AGE 13-18): 2900 E. Elms Road in Killeen. Call 254-224-5330.

WOODY HALL UNIT (AGE 7-12): 5100 Trimmier Road in Killeen. Call 254-634-0308.

NOLANVILLE UNIT (AGE 6-12): 400 Gold Star Avenue in the city's Mary Marie MultiUse Center. Annual membership is free for all youth thanks to a partnership with the city. Call 254-275-8166.

McLAURIN-BOYD FAMILY CLUBHOUSE (AGE 6-12): The clubhouse is at the old First Texas Bank building at 703 N. Eighth St., Killeen. The \$3 million center includes a new state-of-the-art clubhouse, the administrative headquarters for BGCTX, a gymnasium, College & Career Center for teens, ESL classes, a police substation and a Family Counseling & Therapy Center in partnership with Texas A&M University-Central Texas. Call 254-699-5808.

KILLEEN ISD CLUB SITES (AGE 11-18) Nolanville, Harker Heights, and Killeen: Clements Boys & Girls Clubs, the local affiliate of BGCTX, operates sites at 17 campuses across Killeen, Harker Heights and Copperas Cove. Call 254-699-5808.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF COPPERAS COVE (AGE 6-12): 206 Laura St. in Copperas Cove. The membership fee is \$100 per year. It's free for military-connected youth. Call 254-547-5578.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF LAMPASAS (AGE 6-18): 107 N. Main St. in Lampasas. Call 512-564-1669.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GATESVILLE (AGE 6-12): 2533 E. Main St. in Gatesville. Call 254-865-8347.

Many fairs, festivals offer year-round entertainment

Central Texas has something going on throughout the year, from rodeos, food and wine festivals, to arts and craft fairs, sporting events, and plenty more. All events could vary because of the COVID-19 pandemic, so confirm before attending. Here's a sampling:

MAY

Farmers Markets: The Killeen Farmer's Market is active from 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays at the Rosa Hereford Killeen Community Center, 2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd.

Harker Heights' Farmers Market is on Saturdays from May to October, 8 a.m. to noon at the Harker Heights City Hall parking lot, 305 Millers Crossing.

Copperas Cove's Farmers Market takes place on Thursday evenings, May to October, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the corner of Avenue D and Second Street.

Celebrate Killeen: This festival celebrates Killeen's diversity. It features many international foods, multicultural entertainment performed by local artists, a statewide slow-pitch softball tournament, a 5K fun run and a car show.

Go to: killeentexas.gov/Calendar.aspx

Rabbit Fest, Copperas Cove: Rabbit Fest is a four-day arts and crafts festival that draws more than 30,000 people annually. The family-friendly festival offers a live rabbit display, a parade, carnival rides, food and craft vendors and live entertainment.

Go to: copperascove.com/rabbit-fest

Rodeo Killeen: Rodeo lovers kick up their spurs for this family favorite event. PRCA riders compete in bareback riding, barrel racing, and bronc riding, bull riding and steer roping. Additional events include a children's stick horse parade and a Rodeo Queen competition.

Go to their Facebook page for more information.

JUNE

Florence Friendship Days Festival, Florence: The quaint town of Florence loves to celebrate its friendliness. Events include the Miss Friendship Pageant and baby pageant, a live auction, a Kiddie Parade and parade down Main Street, a washer tournament and Cow Chip Con-



Find fresh produce in farmers markets from May to October across Central Texas.

test. Vendor booths feature arts, crafts, food and more. A street dance with live music caps off the festival.

Go to: florencechamberofcommerce.org

JULY

Fourth of July Celebration & PRCA Rodeo & Festival, Belton: Fourth of July in Belton is a weekend of All-American fun. More than 30,000 spectators watch the annual parade filled with decorated vehicles, antique cars and floats and marching bands. The PRCA Rodeo has some of the best bull riders, barrel racers and ropers competing. The Festival on Nolan Creek is held at Yettie Polk Park offering crafts, food and live music.

Go to: rodeobelton.com

AUGUST

The Flavors of Central Texas, Killeen: Many of the area's best restaurants and caterers gather under one roof, so everyone can sample their finest dishes. There is also a cooking competition, cooking demonstrations and a silent auction.

Go to: killeenchamber.com

Pooch Pool PAW-TY, Harker Heights: It is the dog days of summer, and the outdoor pool at Carl Levin Park has gone to the dogs. Owners and their pets can enjoy swimming in the pool. Dogs

are required to be on a leash outside the pool area.

Go to: www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us

SEPTEMBER

The Central Texas Food, Wine & Brew Festival, Harker Heights: A little bit of everything is available at the area's largest food and wine festival. Learn wine basics at the Wine 101 class and sample Texas craft beers. The event features live culinary chef demonstrations and a people's choice beer and wine competition.

Go to: hhfoodandwine.com

Four Winds Intertribal Society Powwow, Temple: Providing a unique cultural and educational experience, the annual powwow showcases Native American life. More than 15 different nations are represented with eight dance competitions and Indian arts and crafts vendors.

Call: 254-721-1442 or go to their Facebook page for more info.

OCTOBER

Monster Dash: The Rotary Clubs of Copperas Cove, Harker Heights and Killeen join to raise funds for youth oriented, local projects. Participants can select the Monster Dash 5K walk/run, or 5K team competition or the 1/3-mile Little Monster Dash for children 10 years old and under. Children 10 years old and younger can participate in a costume competition.

Go to: www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us

Halloween Hoopla: Harker Heights offers area residents a safe alternative to door-to-door trick or treating. Families can dress up in costume and enjoy a spooky evening with inflatables, games, candy and more.

Go to: www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us

Annual Herb & Art Festival, Lampasas: This free event takes place at the unique Sculpture Garden in Campbell Park. Festivities include over 100 arts and crafts booths, great food, herbal gardening booths and a children's play area and live music.

Go to: lampasaschamber.org

DECEMBER

Frost Fest, Harker Heights: Santa comes to town to help kick off the Christmas



A group performs a Korean drum dance during the annual International Festival in October in Killeen.

season. The free event includes tasty treats with plenty of hot chocolate, music and Christmas light displays.

Go to: www.ci.harkerheights.tx.us

Krist Kindl Markt, Copperas Cove: The first weekend in December comes to life in downtown Copperas Cove with the charm of a German Christmas. A parade, food, arts and crafts and entertainment highlight the weekend festivities.

Go to: copperascove.com/specialevents/krist-kindl-markt

Santa Fest Holiday Market, Temple: Get in the spirit of the season and enjoy arts

& crafts vendors, food trucks, and free entertainment. Admission to the market is free.

Go to: discovertemple.com

Georgetown Christmas Stroll, Georgetown: Downtown Georgetown Square transforms into a Norman Rockwell-picturesque scene with window displays, carolers, yummy goodie and local vendors. Visit the live nativity at the Bethlehem Village, tease the Grinch at the Whoo-Village and Santa makes an appearance at the parade on Saturday.

Go to: thegeorgetownsquare.com

MARCH

Paws in the Park, Harker Heights: Paws in the Park at Purser Family Park is one of two annual dog-friendly events. Sponsored by the Harker Heights Parks & Recreation, the event celebrates all things canine, including contests for Best Dog Trick, Dog & Owner Look-A-Like, Best Dressed with dog-friendly vendors, too. The event also raises awareness about the city's pet adoption center and the park's dog facilities.

Go to: www.ci.harker-heights.tx.us

Wildflower Art Fair & Festival, Salado: Enjoy a weekend of art and nature strolling the grounds of Pace Park at this family-friendly event featuring 50 tents of art, entertainment and food. Activities include scrapbooking to oil, acrylics, watercolors, pastels and woodwork, sculpture and jewelry.

Go to: salado.com

APRIL

Bloomin' Fest, Lampasas: Springtime gardening is the focus of this free event held in Historical Downtown Lampasas at Courtyard Square. The festival offers gardening information and exhibits as well as plant, flower and craft vendors. There is a children's area on the grounds, and bandstand entertainment throughout the day.

Go to: lampasaschamber.org

Look for more events in the Killeen Daily Herald's Weekender section on Fridays.

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LENDER

Arts abound in Central Texas with local theaters

When times are tough, the arts can make life brighter.

The performing arts like theater, concerts and symphonies are a vibrant part of life in Central Texas, where residents can enjoy shows at nonprofit community-based venues.

CENTRAL TEXAS THEATRE

Since 1976, Vive Les Arts Theatre has remained the premiere community theater in the Fort Hood-Killeen area. It now is known as Central Texas Theatre.

Jami Salter, who was a teacher for three decades, is the executive director.

“We’ve always been committed to producing current works that are in line with what’s just coming off Broadway,” she said.

It recently began offering workshops to give residents an opportunity to hone their skills in dance, voice, improv, auditions and technical skills such as lighting and costume design.

The 400-seat theater has a proscenium stage and is equipped with state-of-the-art lighting and audio instruments and large TVs in the theater and lobby. Funding comes from a variety of sources, like Killeen’s hotel and motel taxes, grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts, season memberships, fundraisers and contributions from local businesses. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so all contributions are tax-deductible.

Central Texas Theatre is at 3401 S. W.S. Young Drive, Killeen. Call 254-526-9090 or go to www.vlakilleen.org.

TEMPLE CIVIC THEATRE

The Temple Civic Theatre has staged entertaining, family-friendly performances for decades. It recently celebrated its 300th Main Stage production. Founded as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation in 1965, the theater worked under Temple’s Cultural Activities Center until becoming its own entity in 1974. In 1977, it built a theater — an 11,000-square-foot facility with a 228-seat auditorium that offers patrons an excellent view from every seat.

In addition to its main stage, the Temple Civic Theatre also offers a youth program for kids ages 7-18. The theatre

Movie theaters

Call for show times and hours of operation.

REGAL-KILLEEN STADIUM 14

2501 E. Central Texas Expressway
Killeen
254-953-3991

CINEMARK AT MARKET HEIGHTS

201 E. Central Texas Expressway
Suite 100
Harker Heights
254-690-4581

CINERGY CINEMAS

402 Constitution Drive
Copperas Cove
254-542-3861

THE BELTONIAN THEATRE

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Belton
254-9831-3161

GRAND AVENUE THEATRE

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Belton
254-939-5000

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254-791-3900

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2912 S. State Highway 36
Gatesville
254-865-8445

is at 2413 S. 13th St., Temple. Call 254-778-4751 or go to templecivictheatre.com for more information.

TABLE ROCK

A true Central Texas original, Tablerock in Salado is famous for its outdoor venues such as the Goodnight Amphitheater. The nonprofit’s largest production is “Salado Legends,” an epic musical/historical drama with a cast and crew of more than 100 people, plus livestock, pyrotechnics, singing and

dancing. A “Young Writers Contest” and “Central Texas Poetry and Prose Readings” spotlight local writing talent.

A Halloween classic is the annual “Fright Trail.” With the help of tons of volunteers, a guide takes visitors on a half-mile walk through scenes from Dracula, Frankenstein and Phantom of the Opera, with excerpts from Edgar Allan Poe. The 30th annual production of Charles Dickens “A Christmas Carol” will be this December.

The nine-acre Tablerock space is at Royal Street and Tablerock Road in Salado. Call 254-308-2200 or go to tablerock.org for information.

CENTRAL TEXAS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

The Central Texas Orchestral Society offers performances by internationally known artists. CTOS, which is part of Temple’s Cultural Activities Center, also provides a venue where patrons are able to closely interact with artists.

It is the parent organization of the Wildflower Belle and Junior Cotillion programs that aim to teach students appropriate social and concert etiquette while fostering an appreciation for classical music.

Performances usually take place at Temple’s Azalee Marshall Cultural Activities Center at 3011 N. Third St., Temple. Call 254-773-9926, email cac.ctos@gmail.com or go to ctosarts.org for more information.

TEMPLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

It’s the 29th season for the Temple Symphony Orchestra, which has six concerts planned at several locations in Central Texas.

“The value this dynamic group of musicians brings in terms of entertainment and education to Central Texas is immense,” said Executive Director Jan Salzman.

All performances, except the Van Cliburn Recital, occur at the Mary Alice Marshall Performing Arts Center at Temple College. The Recital is held at the Sue and Frank Mayborn Performing Arts Center at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton. For tickets and more information, call 254-778-6683 or go to templesymphony.org.

Bell County Expo Center hosts events large and small

One of the prime venues for a variety of events in the area is the Bell County Expo Center, located off Loop 121 along Interstate 35 in Belton.

Livestock events are a popular attraction, which is why the Expo Center touts its air-conditioned equestrian and livestock complex with 220,000 square feet that can seat around 1,000 people.

The complex includes a performance arena, warm-up arena, bar and grill, concourse and stock pens.

The Expo Center, which is the home of the Central Texas State Fair, is marking its 25th year in 2022.

The center has been the site of big-name concerts such as Willie Nelson, Casting Crowns, Bone Thugs N Harmony, ZZ Top and Alan Jackson. The Expo Center also hosts rodeos, trade shows, conferences and more.

Built in 1987, the county-owned facility hosts up to 400 events annually. The main arena, which seats about 8,000 people in concert seating, is the site of rodeos, horse shows, concerts and conventions of all types. It hosts area school graduations each spring.

Musical acts include big-name rock, country, Christian and rhythm and



Paisley Bowen, 7, smiles as she picks up a baby chick in February from a display at the Mother Earth News Fair at the Bell County Expo Center. "Chicks make me so happy; they are so cute," she said.

blues groups. Other events include circuses and arts and crafts shows.

The Central Texas State Fair is a major attraction on Labor Day weekend, and draws 20,000 to 30,000 people.

Other facilities include the assembly

hall that can seat 800 people. It is used for banquets, trade shows and other events.

For booking or more information, go to www.bellcountyexpo.com or call 254-933-5353.

Killeen Civic and Conference Center offers space for events

The Killeen Civic and Conference Center is a multi-functional and accessible meeting space with a comfortable and flexible floor plan capable of hosting public and private events of any size.

The Conference Center, at 3601 S. W.S. Young Drive, boasts 64,000 square feet of space, and offers a variety of rooms to accommodate intimate parties and theater-style seating for up to 2,000 people. A large ballroom can be arranged for banquet seating, up to 1,000 guests, or 100 to 750 in smaller spaces.

The 3,500 square-foot Special Events Room is an elegant semi-round room and can accommodate up to 125 people

banquet seating, has floor-to-ceiling windows, and crystal chandeliers.

The Executive Board room offers sophistication with a large granite table, and comfortable leather chairs. A grand lobby and full kitchen ensures that the needs of all types of events are met.

Technology is embedded throughout the complex and provides several capabilities, including internet-connected rooms and Wi-Fi access, video-conferencing media projectors, smart TV connections and sound.

The conference center complex anchors the city's community engagement events, which is also home to the Special Events Center with

53,000 square feet capable of hosting auctions, food drives, community garage sales and more.

The Killeen Rodeo Arena Grounds hosts the city's annual PRCA Rodeo event in May.

In addition, the complex proudly features the Nov. 5, 2009, Fort Hood Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Korean Pagoda and Community Garden.

Staff are experienced and ready to help with scheduling, room layouts, and event details — everything you would expect from an event facility to make your special occasion successful.

Go to KilleenCivicCenter.com for more information or call 254-501-3888.

Mayborn Science Theater features 60-foot domed screen

The Mayborn Science Theater, on the campus of Central Texas College in Killeen, opened in 2003 and is the only full-scale digital entertainment venue in the area.

After a million-dollar digital upgrade in 2009, the Mayborn Science Theater delivers state-of-the-art technology for projecting images on its 60-foot domed screen for an immersive experience with its full-dome shows and laser light shows that combine 3-D graphics, laser-generated colors and 15,000 watts of digitally reproduced sound.

The Mayborn Science Theater offers seven shows on Saturday, weekday matinees on Wednesday, Laser Fridays the last Friday of the month and monthly star tours of the night sky.

Currently, seating is limited to 90 people for each show in order to maintain appropriate social distancing and other safety protocol regarding COVID-19.

When the campus fully reopens after the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayborn Science Theater will resume its schedule of fun-filled science classes for youngsters and educational science exhibits.

The facility will also then be able to host group shows, field trips, birthday parties and school programs. Groups of up to 180 people may then reserve the theater for private showings, meetings or functions.

Membership is available. Benefits include free admission to shows, members-only invites to premieres, special screenings and events, guest passes and discounted or free admissions to more than 250 museums, ASTC science centers, arboretums and aquaria across the country.

The ticket counter is available only during scheduled shows, opening 30 minutes before showtime.

Call 254-526-1800 for the show schedule or visit www.starsatnight.org.



“Private Charles J. Miller: WWII Paintings from the South Pacific” is on display through June 10 at the Bell County Museum on Belton.

Bell County Museum keeps area’s history alive

The Bell County Museum is a popular tourist attraction and a fun place to learn about Texas history.

The 16,000-square-foot facility in downtown Belton has both permanent and temporary exhibits and educational programs for students, families, and adults of all ages.

The museum has a collection of over 17,000 objects related to Bell County history and prehistory, regularly rotating artifacts and exhibits. They also host events, big and small, throughout the year, including Parent’s Day Out and Homeschool Days, summer camps and even a Victorian Lemonade Party in May. Permanent exhibits focus on the history and prehistory of Bell County.

The five permanent collections are: Discover Bell County, Gault Prehistoric Site Exhibit, Marshall Family Cabin, Moustache Teacup Collection and the Miniature House Collection.

The Moustache Tea Cup Collection is the largest publicly held collection of the tea cups in the country.

“Discover Bell County” is on the first floor of the historic Belton Carnegie Library, part of the museum complex. The exhibit features the history of Bell County and answers the questions, “Why did people come to Bell County? What did they do once they got here?” The exhibit opened in October 2020.

“The Gault Project: An Adventure in Time” is a permanent exhibit featuring large murals, discovery drawers, microscopes and a film funded by the

Texas Historical Foundation. People also can sign up for tours of the famous Bell County archaeology site. The museum also rotates new traveling exhibits every two to three months to provide new and engaging exhibits, along with permanent ones, all blending regional with national interests.

“Private Charles J. Miller: WWII Paintings from the South Pacific” will be on display through June 10. This captivating set of paintings were done by Private Miller while he served in the Pacific Theater during WWII. The museum will also have items from its WWII collection on display for the temporary exhibit.

Following the “WWII Art of Charles Miller” exhibit, visitors will have an opportunity to learn about the museum’s historic technology collection and the impact of electricity coming to our area in “Electric Bell County,” a temporary exhibit curated and produced by museum staff.

Call 254-933-5243 or go to www.bellcountymuseum.org for more information or to become a Friend of the Museum. Friends receive gift shop discounts, invitations to exhibit openings, and a North American Reciprocal Museum membership, with free admission to over 1,120 museums across the country.

The museum, at 201 N. Main St. in Belton, is open noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

City parks and rec programs have plenty to offer

KILLEEN

Killeen has a hike and bike trail that is six miles long and includes a pedestrian bridge over Nolan Creek. It extends from South W.S. Young Drive to East Avenue G in downtown Killeen.

It is one of the fitness experiences that Killeen Parks and Recreation has to offer. There are 20 parks scattered throughout the city, including five community parks and 15 neighborhood parks, an athletic complex and swimming pools.

The Killeen Parks and Recreation Department also provides activities such as art, fitness and dance classes.

Five community parks — Conder Park, Lions Club Park, Community Center Complex, Long Branch Park and Fowler Park — are heavily used with events.

Two hike and bike trails, including the 1.4-mile-long Lions Club Park Hike and Bike Trail, are part of the region's ambitious long-range vision to build a series of trails linking Killeen's nearby lakes: Belton and Stillhouse Hollow.

Athletic fields host many regional and national tournaments for youth and adult sports, including soccer, football and baseball.

In 2008, the city opened the Lions Club Park — a campus that houses the Family Recreation Center, Senior Center and Aquatics Center. It is at 1700 E. Stan Schlueter Loop.

The Family Recreation Center gym is called Tommie Harris Fitness Center after the Killeen native who played football for the Oklahoma Sooners and Chicago Bears.

Harris donated almost \$200,000 of gym equipment to the city. For more information, call 254-501-6390.

A wide variety of learning opportunities are available at the Rosa Hereford Killeen Community Center at 2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd.

Classes include salsa dance for beginners, yoga, intermediate belly dancing, smooth cool line dancers, low-impact aerobics, kids Zumba, tai chi, oil painting, American ninjutsu, adult self defense and taekwondo.

For schedules and more information, go to KilleenTexas.gov.



Dana Johansan watches her children play with hula hoops at Carl Levin Park in July.

HARKER HEIGHTS

Harker Heights Parks and Recreation has plenty of options for all ages with its long list of facilities and programs.

After creating an adaptive sports program in 2010, Harker Heights Parks and Recreation continues to provide a diverse set of activities for groups and individuals from children to adults.

Harker Heights Ability Sports is for youth with physical and visual disabilities and children with mental impairments, who want to participate in athletics.

There are also free adaptive sports programs for disabled residents, including wheelchair basketball, hand cycling and adaptive rock climbing. The programs also include wheelchair archery and bocce.

Community Park houses eight baseball and softball fields, a batting cage, a concession stand, walking trail, covered playground, picnic tables and more. Other facilities include the 4,300-square-foot Activities Center at 400 Indian Trail and the Harker Heights Community Park at 1501 E. Farm-to-Market 2410.

The Recreation Center at 307 Miller's Crossing houses the Parks and Recreation Department offices, which is where residents can sign up for sports leagues or other recreation programs. It is also the location for activities like

yoga, hapkido, taekwondo, ballet and Zumba.

Among the youth sports leagues available to residents are winter soccer and basketball, spring baseball/softball and volleyball in the summer. Adults have their own activities, including year-round softball.

Carl Levin Park comprises 35 acres and features picnic tables, grills, a basketball court, a walking and jogging trail, playground equipment, an outdoor pool, exercise stations, a fishing pond, a 40-by-60 foot pavilion, gazebo and amphitheater.

Other parks under Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department include Kern Field, Kern Park,

Cardinal Park, Booker Park and Purser Family Park, which features a disc golf course.

COPPERAS COVE

Copperas Cove owns and operates seven parks. South Park offers a hike and bike trail, swimming pool, splash pad for kids, two sand volleyball courts and two youth soccer fields.

Ogletree Gap Park offers plenty of acreage for walking and exploring.

The City Park Complex is an 88-acre park. The complex offers picnic areas, children's playscapes, soccer fields, baseball and softball fields, basketball and volleyball courts and an Olympic-sized swimming pool with a diving well, circular slide, mushroom fountain and a duck pond. The city maintains tennis courts at Martin Walker and Mae Stevens Elementary schools, Turkey Creek Activity Center and Copperas Cove High School.

Youth can register for cheerleading, tackle and flag football, boys and girls soccer, volleyball and track.

Adult sports include softball and flag football.

The department hosts the Polar Bear Swim event every January and Fishing in the Park in February.

Additionally, the department puts on its annual Easter Egg Round Up and annual Christmas tree lighting.

The Copperas Cove Parks and Recreation Department can be reached at 254-542-2719 or go to ccpard.com.

Roll into area's skate parks, skating rinks

The Mickey's Convenience Store Skate Park is in Long Branch Park at 1101 Branch Drive in Killeen.

The concrete pad is about 9,000 square feet and includes 14 obstacles, a lighted pavilion, restrooms and landscaping.

The obstacles include a 200-square-foot bowl with railing and ledges, multiple quarter pipes and a 360-degree concrete centerpiece with rail and stairs.

The park also sports several objects with steel-reinforced edges for grinding, including planter boxes, benches and a picnic table. The lighting also makes night skating possible at the facility.

Killeen also boasts a skate park in Conder Park, on the corner of Veterans Memorial Boulevard and Conder Street. The facility, managed by the City of Killeen Parks and Recreation Department is under renovation and is set to reopen this summer. Call 254-501-8889 for more information.

Fort Hood also has two skate parks, including one at the Bronco Youth Center on Tank Destroyer Boulevard. That facility sports a mini ramp, quarter pipes, a fun box and rails. The other is between Abrams Physical Fitness Center and Robertson Blood Center.

Temple also has a skate park at Seventh Street and Avenue B.

SKATING RINKS

The Killeen area also has several indoor skating rinks.

Texas Skateland, at 205 E. Cox Drive in Harker Heights, is the oldest continuously operated skating rink in the area. Hours are Friday from 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 and includes skates or roller blades.

Other local rinks are 254 Cascade, at 4400 Fort Hood St. in Killeen and Wheels Family Skating Center at 814 N. 31st St. in Temple.



Stillhouse Hollow Lake in Harker Heights is a great spot for boating or fishing.

Area lakes offer fishing, boating

Area residents have long enjoyed fishing, pitching tents, boating, swimming and grilling meat, and all five activities are occurring on area lakes.

Run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the lakes' facilities include recreational activities at campsites, boat ramps, swimming areas and much more.

Campsites cost between \$12 for primitive tents-only sites to \$24 to \$40 for RV sites and \$30 for the screen shelters. These prices are subject to change.

Federal discount passes are accepted.

Day-use fees are \$5 per car per day. And these fees can change as well.

People can register for campsites early by calling 877-444-6777, going online to Recreation.gov or in person at any gate house.

Both lakes are known for bass fishing. Tournament anglers enjoy fishing both lakes as do recreational anglers. Boating recreation, including water skiing and wake boarding, are also popular activities on the lakes.

STILLHOUSE HOLLOW LAKE

Stillhouse Hollow Lake has seven areas for recreational use, most of which include day use and camping areas, hiking and horse trails,

swimming areas, volleyball courts and horseshoe pits. Stillhouse Park is a day-use-only park and has several picnic areas and a swimming area. While the marina is open year-round, the day-use portion of the park is closed between Dec. 1 and March 1. Union Grove is a popular camping site on Stillhouse Hollow.

Call 254-939-2461 for information. For camping reservations, call 877-444-6777.

BELTON LAKE

There are 14 areas for recreational use on Belton Lake. Much like Stillhouse, they include campsites, boat docks and parks. Temple Park has the largest day use in the area.

Cedar Ridge Park is a popular site. It contains a marina, a large group camping area that will accommodate 12 RVs, about 68 regular campsites and eight screened-in shelters that campers who don't have tents can use.

BLORA — the Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area — on Sparta Road, six miles off Loop 121 North in

Belton, is run by Fort Hood's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department. Call 254-287-4907 or go to Hoodmwr.com/lake_activities.htm for more information.

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BJJ promotes the concept that a smaller, weaker person can successfully defend themselves or another against a bigger, stronger, heavier assailant by using proper technique, leverage, and most notably, taking the fight to the ground.



Pools, aquatic parks offer ways to keep cool in summer

There's no better way to beat the heat in the Texas summertime than a trip to one of the large lakes, refreshing swimming pools or aquatic parks. Many pools have lifeguards and aquatic staff on duty. Daily admission and season passes are available, with lessons offered at some pools.

KILLEEN

Family Aquatic Center at Lions Club

Park, 1800 E. Stan Schlueter Loop. The 10,360-square-foot multi-use pool also features a 25-meter lap pool (one-half the size of an Olympic pool) and has three water slides. This center is closed until Memorial Day Weekend. For more information, call 254-501-6390.

Long Branch Park Pool will be open from May 28 through Aug. 14 this year. The pool is at 1101 Branch Drive. Call 254-690-SWIM.

Right next to Long Branch is the **Junior Service League Spray Pad**, which opens for the season on May 30 and will be open until Sept. 5. The spray pad offers a zero-entry area with water features for young children. Call 254-690-6538.

HARKER HEIGHTS

Carl Levin City Park Pool, 400 Miller's Crossing. Call 254-953-1300. The outdoor pool opened in 1999 and holds 135,000 gallons of water. Opening day for the 2022 season is June 4.

YMCA Spray 'n' Play is zero-depth with a 7,000-square-foot spray and play park, 901 S. Ann Blvd. Call 254-680-1700.

COPPERAS COVE

Copperas Cove has two pools open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For more information, call 254-542-2719.

City Park Pool, 1200 W. Avenue B.

South Park Pool, 2602 Dennis St. It has a splash pad for youngsters.

BELTON

Belton does not operate a public swimming pool, but two splash pads are popular with residents. Splash pad season runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 254-933-5860.



A lifeguard watches over swimmers at the Family Aquatic Center at Lions Club Park in Killeen.

Harris Community Splash Pad is at 312 N. Alexander St.

South Wall Tiger Park Splash Pad, 1895 S. Wall St.

FORT HOOD

Fort Hood is dotted with swimming pools all over the post. All nine swimming pools on Fort Hood may be used by all active duty, National Guard and Reservist, retired military, family members and Department of Defense civilians and contract workers. Patrons will need to show ID and may sign in two guests.

Abrams Indoor Pool, at the intersection of 62nd Street and Support Avenue, Building 23001. Call 254-287-4648.

Comanche Pool, 52015 Tank Destroyer Boulevard, Building 52932, by the Comanche Youth Center. Call 254-287-7544.

Martin Pool, T.J. Mills Boulevard, Building 137, next to Fort Hood National Bank. Call 254-287-5037.

Patton Pool, at the intersection of 24th Street and Tank Destroyer Boulevard, Building 5774. Call 254-285-5837.

Thomas Pool, Building 193 on 37th Street. Call 254-287-8637.

1st Cavalry Division Pool, Hell on Wheels Avenue, Building 2479. Call 254-618-7336.

42nd Street Pool, Old Ironsides Avenue, Building 1676. Call 254-287-4094.

13th Sustainment Command Pool, Support Avenue, Building 2239. Call 254-287-3689.

West Fort Hood Pool, Headquarters Avenue, Building 91070. Call 254-288-9838.

LAMPASAS

Hanna Springs Swimming Pool Complex offers a 7,000 square-foot swimming pool and a 2,300 square-foot bath house. It is at 501 E. North Ave. Call 512-556-4048 or 512-556-6831 to reach the city's parks and recreation department.

Hancock Springs Free Flow Swim Area is the oldest, spring-fed pool in Texas. It is in Hancock Park, U.S. 281, in Lampasas.

GATESVILLE

The parks and recreation department in the city operates a swimming pool and a splash pad. Call 254-865-4012 to reach the department.

City Pool is at 300 S. Eighth St.

The city's **Splash Park** is in Raby Park at 910 Bridge St.

It's always a great time to play a round of golf

For those who enjoy golfing, there are several quality courses in the area.

Stonetree Golf Club was built in 1970 and renovated in 2005. Formerly operated by the City of Killeen, management was contracted out to Billy Casper Golf in 2019. BCG was rebranded as Indigo Golf Partners last year and acquired by Troon at the start of 2021. That gives Stonetree patrons access to the Troon Rewards program.

The layout expands over rolling terrain with a wide variety of trees and several small lakes with fountains.

Golfers face a good combination of tee shots at this course, with both narrow and wide fairways. There are five sets of tees to provide a challenging, but fair test to golfers of all skill levels. There is also a state-of-the-art practice facility, a double-ended driving range a huge putting green and a short-game area.

Make tee time reservations by calling 254-501-6575, go to stonetreegc.com to download the app.

Annual passes are also available.

The address is 1600 Stonetree Drive, Killeen.

The Courses of Clear Creek is on Battalion Avenue on Fort Hood is open



A golfer plays at Stonetree Golf Club in Killeen.

to the public, though civilians will need to obtain a visitor's pass at the main gate. To receive a pass, visitors must have a valid ID and, if driving onto the post, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. Passes issued are often good for a year.

The course is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and severe weather days. The pro shop can be reached at 254-287-4130.

There is an 18-hole championship

golf course and a free, four-hole course designed especially for youngsters.

Individual clinics with a golf professional are available, as well as specialized clinics designed for junior golfers and first-time golfers. The course has a 35-person driving range, short-game area and practice green. The 4,500-foot clubhouse has a full snack bar serving breakfast, lunch and drinks.

Annual passes are available. Full and half-sets of clubs are available for rent.

Hills of Cove Golf Course is an 18-hole facility at 1408 Golf Course Road in Copperas Cove. It is owned and operated by the City of Copperas Cove.

The original nine holes were built in 1972. A second nine was added in 1999. The par-71 layout winds its way through the rolling terrain of northeast Copperas Cove and features five par-3s.

Call 254-547-2606. Tee times can also be made at hillsofcovegc.com.

The course offers golf lessons, a full service pro shop, beer sales, lighted driving range, grill and a fleet of 40 golf carts.

Hills of Cove is open from dawn to dusk daily, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Hunting, fishing and hiking opportunities abound

Belton Lake and Stillhouse Hollow Lake are popular places to catch fish, whether competing in tournaments or angling for leisure.

There are plenty of small lakes at Fort Hood at which to cast your lines, as well.

HUNTING

Many local hunters lease land from ranchers. If you're looking for a lease or a group to join, you can check the classified sections of the Killeen Daily Herald and look online at websites such as TexasHuntingForum.com.

Public hunting land is available at wildlife management areas around the local lakes. Anyone who chooses to hunt on public land is required to have proof of a hunter's education class.

A Public Lands Hunting Permit is required and can be purchased at local license retailers of the Texas Parks

and Wildlife office. Once you purchase this permit, you will receive a map booklet detailing all the public lands administered by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Hunting is often ample at Fort Hood. A Fort Hood hunting permit is required and there are specific requirements governing access to these lands. Check with the Sportsmen's Center at FortHoodHunting.com or call 254-532-4552 for more information.

Whitetail deer hunting is the most popular type of hunting in the area. Be sure to check the Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual magazine, which is available wherever hunting licenses are sold, for specific regulations on bag limits and antler restrictions. You'll also want to make sure that you're only hunting during the legal season, and that information is in the magazine.

Feral hogs can be hunted at any time with no bag limits. The website for Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual is tpwd.texas.gov and the site will be helpful to make sure you hunt in each animal's legal season.

HIKING

Hiking opportunities are available at Mother Neff State Park and Chalk Ridge Falls Park Trail.

Mother Neff State Park is at 1680 State Highway 236 in Moody. Daily entrance fees are \$2 for adults, and children get in free.

For more information, call 254-853-2389 or visit tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/mother-neff.

Chalk Ridge Falls Park Trail is a 2.5-mile, heavily trafficked, out-and-back trail at 5600 FM 1670 in Belton. Call 254-939-2461 for more information.

Fort Hood offers many recreation opportunities for soldiers, families

Whether you want to sit back and enjoy the game, burn a few calories, feel the rush of competition again or enjoy some fun with the kids, the Fort Hood Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation department has something for you.

The MWR enhances quality of life by providing recreation and numerous services designed to equal those of their civilian counterparts and encourages growth and a feeling of self-reliance within the military community.

November brings about Anniversary Bingo to celebrate 25 years of the Community Events and Bingo Center. The event is open to all Department of Defense ID card holders.

Those new to the area are welcome to a soldier and family newcomers orientation presented by III Corps at Club Hood. This is a free seminar for spouses with free on-site child care and free lunch, and service members may obtain more information at the USAG Reception Detachment, Building 16008 or Building 16011 or by calling 254-287-4549.

Fort Hood offers fee-based Zumba, spin and yoga fitness classes. Spin classes are offered at the Abrams Physical Fitness Center, Zumba classes are offered at the Applied Functional Fitness Center and West Fort Hood Physical Fitness Center, and yoga classes may be taken at the Applied Functional Fitness Center.

Fort Hood MWR offers a variety of league and varsity sports opportunities in bowling, basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball, golf, racquetball, flag football and even roller derby.

Go to hood.armymwr.com or call 254-287-4916 to learn more.

Aim to improve skills at gun ranges

FORT HOOD

Fort Hood has one open range and one skeet range. Both are open to the public, but all weapons must be registered at the visitor's center before they can be brought on post. The skeet range is at the Sportsmen's Center at 1937 Rod & Gun Loop. The range is Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 254-532-4552.

KILLEEN

The Gun Range, 2401 Fort Hood Street in Killeen, is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. The cost is \$30 for an all-day pass with a charge of \$15 for an additional shooter, and no reservations are needed. Firearm rentals vary between \$15 and \$25. An annual membership is available for \$64.99 a month plus tax with a one-time enrollment fee of \$100.

The facility includes 12 handgun lanes, four rifle lanes, a state-of-the-art simulator, a TV lounge of live feed of those shooting in the handgun range, a snack bar, a retail section and on-duty gunsmith. Sign-up is available in-person or online for classes including license to carry, beginning to advance handgun proficiencies and rifle reloading.

Mountain Creek Gun Range, 205 Mountain Creek Road in Killeen, is closed on Wednesdays but open all other weekdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Mountain Creek Range is an indoor facility with 20 lanes and offer NRA and LTC classes.

Gun and ammo sales are done on site and rentals are available. An all day shooting pass is \$20 and there is special pricing available. Call 254-312-0243.

FLORENCE

Lonestar Range & Academy, 10000 N. Highway 183 in Florence, is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on Mondays. The cost ranges from \$18 a day for adults to \$13 for children age 17 or younger.

An annual membership is available for \$300, and a biannual membership costs \$200 for six months. There are discounts for seniors, and TSRA and



A shooter fires a round at The Gun Range.

NRA members. The facility offers a 100-yard rifle range and a 25-yard pistol range. Group events are available, and the training academy has classes for a variety of subjects.

Call 512-516-7640.

COPPERAS COVE

EJ Firearms, 2901 Deer Flat Drive in Copperas Cove, is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through

Saturday and costs \$20 plus tax per shooter. Gun rentals are available. Hearing protection, safety glasses, staplers and seating and table are provided. There are five pistol ranges from 3 to 25 yards and one rifle lane at 100 yards. Call 254-547-8433.

GATESVILLE

One in the Chamber Sports Range, 717 County Road 148 in Gatesville, is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The range offers 10 pistol lanes up to 16 yards and 25 rifle lanes up to 600 yards. The range offers courses. Call 254-216-1443.

Holley Gun Range, 1502 Bald Knob Road, Gatesville, is open seven days a week. It is open from noon to 7 p.m. on Monday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Follow the gun range on Facebook or call 254-292-8941.

Hicksville Gun Range, 225 Dusty Lane, Gatesville, is open 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. seven days a week, weather permitting. The range offers pistol and rifle ranges. Go to hickvillegunrange.com/default.html or call 254-223-1362 or 254-679-1362.

Strike up some family fun – go bowling at local lanes

Killeen and Fort Hood both offer options for bowling.

The **Killeen Bowlerama** has been around since the 1950s and boasts a loyal customer base. The center hosts many leagues for adults, youth and senior bowlers. At 922 N. 38 th St., the 24-lane center also hosts the Killeen High School and Harker Heights High School bowling clubs.

Hallmark Lanes has been open for more than 30 years and has hosted the Professional Bowlers Association for more than two decades. The PBA Killeen Southwest Open brings the greatest bowlers in the world together for a three-day event that includes several competitions.

Located at 4203 Shawn Drive, Hallmark is modern and up-to-date after some remodeling work.

Remodeled restrooms, large-screen televisions at lane side and a newly paved parking lot are just a few of the renovations. The center also installed synthetic lane surfaces.

Hallmark also offers leagues for adults, youth and seniors and sponsors the Ellison, Copperas Cove, Shoemaker



Bowlers play a round at Killeen Bowlerama. The 23-lane center opened in the 1950s.

high schools and Memorial Christian Academy bowling clubs.

Phantom Warrior Lanes is at Building 49010 Clear Creek Road at Fort Hood and is the newest of the centers.

The 48-lane center is open to all active-duty and retired military, government employees and their spouses.

The center hosts all types of leagues and is a local stop for the Traveling Classic Bowling Association. The Greater Killeen-Fort Hood USBC Bowling Association conducts numerous tournaments throughout the year and rotates them between the centers.

Know the regulations about fireworks in Central Texas cities

Texas permits the use of fireworks approved by the Department of Transportation and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Section 2154.003 of Texas' firework laws ban the use of skyrocket and bottle rocket fireworks with propellant charges of less than 4 grams, a casing size of less than 5/8 of an inch for outside diameter and less than 3 1/2 inches in length, and an overall length of less than 15 inches.

Additionally, a person may not:

- Explode or ignite fireworks within 600 feet of a church, a hospital, an asylum, a licensed child care center, or a school
- Explode or ignite fireworks within 100 feet of a place where fireworks are stored or sold
- Sell, explode, or ignite fireworks

within 100 feet of a place where flammable liquids or flammable compressed gasses are stored or dispensed

- Ignite or discharge fireworks in or from a motor vehicle

All Central Texas cities prohibit the use of all fireworks within city limits. Many fireworks are allowed in the unincorporated areas, and this holds true for Bell and Coryell counties.

KILLEEN REGULATIONS

Killeen police remind residents that it's illegal to possess, sell or explode any fireworks in the city and up to 5,000 feet outside city limits. Those who do may be charged with a Class C misdemeanor, and fined up to \$2,000.

"The use of fireworks can put an unnecessary strain on police and fire

departments," Killeen police said in a news release.

Police focus on extra patrols during holidays that are typically accompanied by fireworks. Those extra patrols come from a grant called the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program from the Texas Department of Transportation.

COPPERAS COVE AND HARKER HEIGHTS

It is illegal to sell or store fireworks in the city, or within 5,000 feet of city limits, according to city ordinances.

In Copperas Cove, people can apply with the fire chief for fireworks display permits, but otherwise fireworks are illegal to possess.

In Harker Heights, possession or ignition of fireworks is illegal and punishable with a citation.

Killeen Daily Herald brings news, information to residents

Now in its 132nd year of publication, the award-winning Killeen Daily Herald is one of the oldest businesses in the Killeen-Fort Hood area.

First published as a small weekly publication in 1890, the newspaper has evolved into a thriving, multimedia company that is recognized as an important source of news and information across Central Texas.

The Herald offers a variety of products to serve the rapidly growing region, including daily print and online editions, as well as several niche publications and digital services.

The newspaper's online platforms continue to draw a growing number of readers from around the region — and around the world.

In March, the Herald's website generated more than 1.55 million page views for the month, including 1.13 million unique pageviews.

Through the KDH News app, Herald subscribers can have instant access to the latest news, sports and information. The app can be downloaded for free at the Apple App Store or on Google Play.

In addition, the Herald's text alert system provides readers with the latest breaking local news via text message to mobile devices.

The Herald offers streaming coverage of selected events and meetings via Facebook Live, as well as real-time Twitter updates, increasing reader accessibility and engagement.

The scope of the Herald's regional news coverage extends far beyond the immediate Killeen-Fort Hood area.

FME News Service — a joint collaboration of the Herald and its sister paper, the Temple Daily Telegram — brings readers a broader spectrum of news, sports and information spanning the coverage areas of both publications.

In addition, the Associated Press, The Washington Post and The Texas Tribune news services bring news and commentary on state, national and world events to Central Texas readers.

The Herald's commitment to timely, thorough and accurate reporting of local, regional and state news — along with compelling photography and creative design — has earned the



A newspaper is printed on the Killeen Daily Herald's press.

newspaper an array of prestigious journalism awards in recent years.

The Herald has been recognized as Newspaper of the Year for its circulation category three times since 2011. The honor is given by the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors at the group's annual conference.

In the last five years, the Herald has been recognized with nearly 100 individual and team awards from the Texas APME.

In addition to an award-winning daily newspaper, the Herald also continues to produce three weekly publications to better serve specific audiences within the Central Texas community.

The Fort Hood Herald, has been published each Wednesday since March 2004, providing soldiers and their families with in-depth news and information.

The Copperas Cove Herald, established in 2003, and the Harker Heights Herald, launched in 2010, both publish on Fridays, offering expanded coverage of news and events in their respective communities.

Another collaborative effort between the Temple Daily Telegram and the Killeen Daily Herald is Tex Appeal magazine, a publication about life and style in Central Texas.

The magazine, which publishes six times annually, features articles on food, fashion, health and people who make a difference throughout Central Texas.

The Herald's website, KDHnews.com, offers subscribers access to the latest news and sports, plus classified ads, interactive forums, links and contact information, as well as videos, photo slide shows and blogs. Readers also can connect with the Herald via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Readers can stay on top of the latest political news through the Herald's Center for Politics site, KDHnews.com/centerforpolitics. The site features articles, candidate video interviews and election information.

Local prep sports fans can access KDHPressbox.com for expanded coverage, scores and sports information.

KDH Digital Services provides small businesses with management of online reputation and social media, mobile marketing consulting and other services dedicated to increased visibility and revenue maximization.

The Herald also provides area residents with an established, full-service commercial printing service, offering everything from business cards, programs and fliers, to banners and plaques.

"The newspaper continues to grow with Central Texas, both in print and online," said Terry E. Gandy, the Herald's vice president and general manager. "We're very proud of the accomplishments of our news operation."

The newspaper was established as The Killeen Herald in June 1890 by W.E. Bennett.

J.T. Carter bought the paper in 1903. In 1953, communications pioneer Frank W. Mayborn bought the Herald and guided the newspaper for more than three decades until his death in 1987.

His wife, Sue Mayborn, assumed responsibilities as the owner, editor and publisher of both the Herald and the Telegram in 1987 and actively continues in that role today.

For print and digital subscriptions to the Herald, call 254-501-7400 or go to KDHnews.com.

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