



CENTRAL TEXAS

WELCOME GUIDE | SPRING 2021

NEWCOMERS



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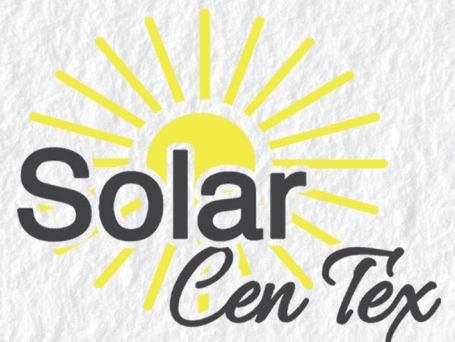
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Welcome to Central Texas

The Spring 2021 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 area's many service organizations.

Because of restrictions to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, some of the services and programs listed in this guide may be impacted. Please use the phone numbers and websites provided in the articles for the latest information.

The following Herald newsroom 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, Lauren Dodd, M. Clare Haefner, Emily Hilley-Sierzchula, Thaddeus Imerman, Hunter King, Dave Miller, Mark Miller, Clay Whittington and Steve Wilson.

CONTACT US

To subscribe to the Herald, call 254-501-7400.

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Register your vehicle within 30 days of moving to Texas

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. Vehicles must be inspected prior to registering or renewing a vehicle registration. 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 to the residency

DRIVER'S LICENSE OFFICES

KILLEEN

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

FORT HOOD

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.

TEMPLE

6612 S. General Bruce Drive
254-770-6734 (recording)
Monday, Wednesday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

LAMPASAS

1690 N. U.S. Highway 281
512-556-6871
Tuesday-Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION OFFICES

BELTON

550 E. Second Ave.
254-933-5318
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.,
by appointment only.

KILLEEN

307 Priest Drive
254-634-0265
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.,
by appointment and walk-ins allowed.

TEMPLE

205 E. Central Ave.
254-770-6828
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.,
by appointment only.

requirements, 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 in the state 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 Texas Department of Public Safety inspection 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.

Multiple post offices service Central Texas residents

Residents have plenty of options when it comes to sending and receiving mail. New residents can change addresses online or at a post office. Information may be obtained by calling 800-275-8777 or by going to www.usps.com.

In the northern part of Killeen, residents with the ZIP codes 76540, 76541, 76543 and 76544 are served by the Main Post Office at 300 N. 10th St. downtown. 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 the southern portion of

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, serving 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.

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.

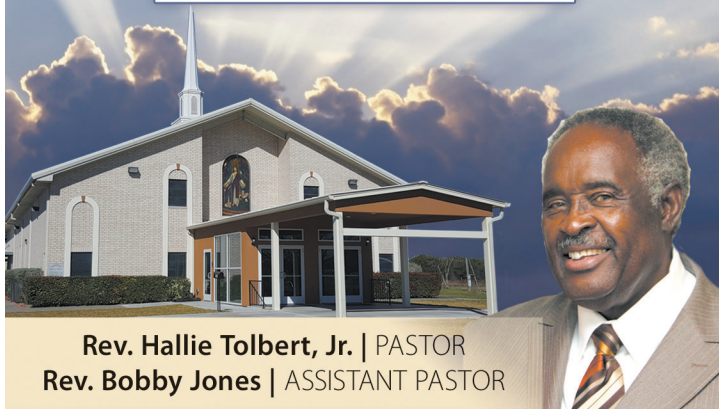
The Copperas Cove Post Office, serving ZIP code 76522, is at 802 E. Avenue D. It is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Call 254-547-3605.

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Tuesday Bible Study.	6:30PM
Wednesday Bible Study.	6:00PM
Thursday Choir Practice.	6:00PM



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254-680-3125

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www.ambitenergy.com

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CENTURYLINK

902-B W. Central Texas Expwy.
Killeen, TX 76541
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CONNECT MY NEW HOME

1507 W. Stan Schlueter Loop,
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DISH NETWORK

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GRANDE COMMUNICATIONS

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www.veteranenergy.us



From left, Killeen Mayor Jose Segarra and Council Members Rick Williams, Mellisa Brown and Ken Wilkerson were sworn in by Judge Bill Cooke in November.

Killeen approaching 140 years of growth

For the last 139 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. Recently, new artwork is displayed alongside its buildings.

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.

City has council-manager form of government

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

Although Mayor Jose L. Segarra is the chief elected officer, his administrative power is limited. He presides over the seven council members, who set policy.

The city manager, Kent Cagle, is the chief administrative officer, and is responsible for oversight of all operations of the organization.

Four council members represent Killeen's districts: Mayor Pro Tem Shirley Fleming represents District 1, Councilwoman Debbie Nash-King represents District 2, Councilman Terry Clark represents District 3, and Councilman Steve Harris represents 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 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 during 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.

City Hall is at 101 N. College St., and can be reached at 254-501-7600. Go to www.killeentexas.gov for agendas and minutes and more information.

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 as water and sewer; its customer service can be reached at 254-501-7785.

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

Harker Heights continues to attract residents, businesses

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. The city's population surpassed 30,500 in 2020, and city officials expect it to reach 45,000 to 50,000 people.

"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. The first phase is completed and extends from one mile west of Farm-to-Market 2410 (Knights Way) to just west of Indian Trail.

The second phase, currently under construction, will carry the project further eastward toward Simmons Road. The end goal is for I-14 to be a six-lane road section (three lanes each direction) all the way to I-35.

Housing developments continued to have strong demand. As of the end of 2020, the city had issued 109 residential permits; 85 single-family permits, and 24 two-family residential permits.

Cedar Brook Ridge, a new subdivision off FM 3481, began selling residential lots in 2018 and is the largest residential development currently underway.

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

The Parks and Recreation Department provides many opportunities for all citizens to be active. Parks offer disk golf, running, walking, exercise stations, basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, kids play areas and a dog park. An interactive map of park facilities can be found at <https://harkerheights.gov>.

It also offers sports leagues and non-traditional programs such as the "Go Heights" program, which teaches such things as camp fire building or wild land survival. The Ability Sports program provides activities for special-needs children and is supported by public and private donors.

Looking for an entertaining program



Rose Ramon, with the Harker Heights Pet Adoption Center, holds Cody at the fifth annual Harker Heights Paws in the Park event held at Purser Family Park in April.

Harker Heights' elected leaders

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

Place 1: Jennifer McCann, first term expires May 2022

Mayor Pro Tem: Michael Blomquist, first term expires May 2021

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

Place 4: Lynda Nash, first term expires May 2023

Place 5: Jody Nicholas, second term expires May 2021

City department leaders include:

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: Paul D. Sims, psims@harkerheights.gov

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

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

or event? Check out the library's website at <https://harkerheights.gov> for family friendly activities.

Harker Heights provides a full array 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 council meets at the Harker Heights City Hall in the Kitty Young Council Chambers at 305 Miller's

Crossing. Regular council meetings are held 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.

About 6,200 call Nolanville home

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 continuous upgrades to the city park and complete street infrastructure improvements. One focus for the past year was enforcing building standards and property maintenance codes.

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 in addition to 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. A six-member council convenes for regular meetings 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 David Williams and council members Joan Hinshaw, James Bilberry, Butch Reis and Patrick Ramsdell.

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

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

Nolanville Police Chief Michael Hatton guides 10 full-time officers and several reserve officers.

Kerry Phillip leads the Nolanville Economic Development Corporation, which uses 0.25% of the city sales tax for economic and industrial development.

Learn more about services on the city's website: www.nolanvilletx.gov.

Belton's July 4 parade attracts large crowd

As the county seat of Bell County, Belton really knows how to celebrate. The city's largest event of the year is the Fourth of July festival, which traditionally attracts over 50,000 people to the city with a population of more than 22,000. The festivities include a rodeo, a 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 on Nolan Creek. Parking is available just east of the bridge. The Downtown Belton Merchants Association hosts Belton Market Days, which is held the third weekend of each month. Downtown 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 the Courthouse Square. The two-day festival features blues bands, food trucks and breweries. The highlight of the festival is the bacon cook-off competition where teams compete to see who prepares the best bacon-inspired dish.

The city government consists of a mayor and a council with six members. Wayne Carpenter was elected mayor last year. The rest of the council is Mayor Pro Tem Dan Kirkley, David K. Leigh, John R. Holmes, Sr., Craig Pearson, Guy O'Banion and Daniel Bucher.

A handful of council seats will be up for reelection in May, including those held by Kirkley, Leigh, Holmes and Pearson.

Learn more at <http://www.beltontexas.gov>.

Elected officials govern Bell County

The backbone of Bell County financial administration is the commissioner's court, which is comprised of five elected officials: the county judge and four precinct commissioners. The court meets every Monday at 9 a.m. at the Bell County Courthouse at 101 Central Ave. in Belton. If there is a holiday, the court meets on the following Tuesday. Agendas, minutes back to 2010 and archived videos are available on the Bell County website. Since COVID-19 restrictions went into effect, meetings are livestreamed on the website.

"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 April, 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 CONTINUES TO INCREASE

The county budget has increased with the population. In 1960, the county's population was a little over 94,000. Now nearly 400,000 call Bell County home. More people means more costs, such as the number of autopsies, appointed attorneys and health care. In August, the commissioners approved a \$109.2 million budget for 2020-21. Revenues and expenditures are about \$2 million higher in Bell County's 2021 budget — which went into effect Oct. 1, 2020, and ends Sept. 30. The projected fund balance for 2021 is more than \$44.2 million.

Property taxes make up the lion's share of the county's income, accounting for more than 67% of revenue. Learn more online at www.bellcountytexas.com/county_government/commissioners_court.

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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.

Arts, antiques draw tourists to Salado

The Village of Salado is a mixture of small-town life against a rural backdrop in the Hill Country. The small town contains a wealth of activities for tourists and area residents alike.

From the annual Salado Christmas Stroll in December to the Wildflower Weekend in 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. The village is one of a handful of state-recognized Cultural Art Districts, earning this distinction, in part, because of the large number of acclaimed artists who have chosen Salado as the place for their creations.

Salado is home to the distinctive Tablerock Amphitheater, an acclaimed 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. Music fills the air in many of the food and beverage 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. Salado voters last year elected a new mayor, Michael Coggin, who had experience as an alderman. The current aldermen are Mayor Pro Tem Rodney Bell, Amber Dankert, John Cole, Paul Cox and Jason Howard.

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

Florence known for archaeological site

Did you know that Florence is known worldwide as 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, which now gives 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.

Today, 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.

"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, alderwoman since 2012; Amanda Vance, who has been on the council since 2019; and Richard Moon, an alderman since 2013. The most recent addition to the council is Jesus "Jesse" Castillo, who joined the city council after the municipal election last year.

In the 2021 municipal election in May, the seats of Moon, Ragsdale and Vance will be up for election.

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 the greater Killeen area have multiple ways to get their voices heard. The area is served by two congressional districts.

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 to the House in 2003. 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 to the seat in November 2012. Williams' Austin district office is at 1005 Congress Ave., Suite 925 Austin, TX 78701. Call 512-473-8910 or fax 202-225-9692.



TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Five legislators represent the area at the state Capitol in Austin.

SENATE DISTRICT 24

Republican Dawn Buckingham represents Senate District 24. The Lakeway resident represents a multicounty region that includes Bell, Coryell and Lampasas counties. The district also contains two major military bases, Fort Hood in Killeen and Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene. She was elected in 2016. Call her office at 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.



HOUSE DISTRICT 54

In the House of Representatives, District 54 is represented by Republican Brad Buckley, a Killeen veterinarian and



Salado resident, elected in 2018 and reelected in 2020. The district includes much of western Bell County, as well as Lampasas County. Buckley's Capitol address is Room E1.316, 1100 Congress Ave. in Austin. The mailing address is P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768. Call 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.

HOUSE DISTRICT 55

District 55 is represented by Republican Hugh Shine, a retired Army officer, of Temple. He was elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2018 and 2020. Call 254-742-7616 or 512-463-0630. His address is Room GS.6 1100 Congress Ave. in Austin. The mailing address is P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768. His local office is at 4 S. First St., Temple.



HOUSE DISTRICT 59

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



REGISTER TO VOTE

As soon as residence is established, a person can register to vote. Register at least 30 days before an election.

In Bell County, register at the 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 control center.

In Coryell County, register at the County Courthouse at 620 E. Main St. in Gatesville or at the County Tax Office at 330 Cove Terrace in Copperas Cove.

In Lampasas County, register at the 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. It was established in 1999 after residents affirmed in a local election the taxing authority and thus approved the State Legislature's creation of the district.

"We want to protect 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," said Clearwater General Manager Dirk Aaron.

The district's website, cuwcd.org, provides updated information on the state of the county's underground water resources as well as a drought monitor and even a GIS map platform allowing citizens to know and understand their property's site specific geology in the county. The platform is also a repository of all known information about site specific wells across the county.

Clearwater also has an elaborate

monitor well network across the county due to the board of directors investing in several wells that are used only for research purposes. These allow Clearwater to take measurements of the groundwater in various areas of the district. Clearwater participates in a collaborative manner with the Texas Water Development Board. The TWDB has now combined all surface water, groundwater and weather stations to one website: waterdatafortexas.org.

Clearwater is a key partner with the governor's initiative to create the TexMesonet Weather System across Texas thus live data can be found at <https://www.texmesonet.org/>.

The district's educational features include a 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 with a variety of videos.

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



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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 governments 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 is made up of representatives from each of its municipalities. When representatives see a need in their district, they bring it before the entire group. At that point, the council decides what projects take priority. CTCOG serves nearly 489,000 residents in Central Texas. Representatives are chosen yearly. They elect the organization's 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 them to take advantage of some state-funded financial assistance.

CTCOG is at 2180 N. Main Street, Belton, and can be reached at 254-770-2200 or info@ctcog.org. For more information, go to ctcog.org.



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More than 37,000 troops call the Great Place home

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

With a little more than 37,000 troops and almost 220,000 acres of training ground, Fort Hood is big. In 2020, the Texas Comptroller’s Office said the post had an economic impact of more than \$29.8 billion statewide.

The post services more than 380,000 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. Robert “Pat” White currently commands III Corps and Fort Hood. He joined the Phantom Corps in June 2019.

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

Fort Hood’s deputy commander for operations is Maj. Gen. John B. Richardson IV. Fort Hood’s garrison commander is Col. Jason Wesbrock, who took command in May 2019, and the garrison senior enlisted adviser is Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew E. Ladd.

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 \$24 million Training Support Center was completed in 2017. It 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. Two urban training areas offer soldiers the



Soldiers gather in Hood Stadium to listen to Lt. Gen. Pat White, III Corps and Fort Hood commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Cliff Burgoyne, III Corps and Fort Hood senior enlisted adviser, address the results of an independent review into the post’s command climate and answer questions.

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)

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 remodeled Robert Gray Army Airfield radar approach control center opened in September 2017. The radar control tower controls airspace 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 under the temporary leadership of Brig. Gen. Brett Sylvia after Maj. Gen. Jeff Broadwater was suspended in December pending the outcome of a new Army Regulation 15-6 investigation of the division's command climate and Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program. 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 stationed at Fort Hood in 1971.

FIRST ARMY DIVISION WEST

First Army Division West has the 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. Richard Johnson. It has four training brigades at Fort Hood and other installations.

OPERATIONAL TEST COMMAND

U.S. Army Operational Test Command is headquartered at West Fort Hood and commanded by Col. 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



A fire team with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, clear an objective during NATO joint-force exercise Justice Eagle in Romania in March.

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. Access may be restricted amid heightened security measures amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

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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Phone: 254-287-3832

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Phone: 254-287-3905

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Wednesday: Closed; Thursday and

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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.

AUSA: A voice for the 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, the Association of the United States Army, 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."

Thanks to donations from the

community, AUSA provided \$62,000 in scholarships to about 60 local active-duty or retired soldiers, Department of the Army civilians employed at Fort Hood, and members of 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; as well as help educate the public about the needs for a strong national defense and the Army.

CTFH 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 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 the organization's website, 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 in the local communities which support 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.forthoodausa.org.

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 are told through their on-post museums and memorials and are open to the public with visitor passes acquired at the visitor center outside the main gate.

The 1st Cavalry Museum, Building 2218, is at 56th Street and 761st Tank Battalion Avenue. Call 254-287-3626 for more information.

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. Call 254-288-3590 or 254-287-8811 for more information.

MOUNTED WARRIOR MUSEUM

A museum to honor all of Fort Hood and Central Texas is in the building and fundraising stages. The 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 rich history, values and heritage of Killeen/Central Texas.

To learn more about the museum, go to <https://nmwfoundation.org/about-the-museum>.

Information fair welcomes new soldiers and their families

The Hood Howdy Information Fair is a twice-yearly 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 new soldiers and family members with the opportunity to become familiar with the installation

and community businesses and agencies. Many groups set up booths to provide information to the thousands of new Fort Hood residents who stop by.

The August Hood Howdy focuses on youth and schools to help families who just arrived on post get settled and ready for a new school year to being.

The February Hood Howdy highlights wellness for soldiers and their families as well as caregivers and local veterans, informing them about programs and

services that are free on the installation as well as in the community.

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 on any additional COVID-19 restrictions.



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Copperas Cove takes pride in its family friendliness

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.

Today, Copperas Cove touts itself as "The City Built for Family Living" and is the largest city in Coryell County. It is home to many retirees, active-duty military and families.

Copperas Cove has an estimated population of 36,615 residents as of Jan. 1. 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 municipal government.

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

Construction recently began on a TxDOT median project for the Business U.S. 190 corridor. It includes sidewalks, medians, turn lanes, bicycle lanes, pedestrian crossings, and upgraded drainage infrastructure from Avenue D to Constitution Drive. The Improvement Plan 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.

Copperas Cove has a variety of events and activities each year. Rabbit Fest brings an estimated 25,000 people to Copperas Cove in May and features a parade, carnival, car show and rabbit



Volunteers help pick up trash during the Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful waterway cleanup. During the event in March, 575 pounds of trash and 60 pounds of recyclables were collected.

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

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

show. 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 serves as a hub for information about events, tourism and business opportunities.

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. It also hosts a farmer's market on Thursdays in May through October.

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

Another huge event that takes place annually in Copperas Cove is the Five Hills Scholarship Pageant. It has been named one of the top three new events in the state by the Texas Festival and Events Association. 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.

Kempner touts its family values and rural lifestyle

Kempner says on its website that it is a community of rural living and traditional family values.

The city was founded in 1882, named after Harris Kempner, a Texas philanthropist, banker and railroad magnate. Despite that lengthy existence, Kempner was incorporated in 1997. The push to incorporate came when the Copperas Cove City Council annexed land that extended into Lampasas County, leaving residents to wonder if their community could be next, according to the city's website.

The area was rowdy and lawless in its early days around the 1850s. According to Kempner's website, there was friction with the Comanche. In 1882, the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway was built through the area, which was renamed Kempner after Harris Kempner, a Galveston merchant and director of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe.

Today, Kempner is a type A general law municipality with a police department, a volunteer fire department, justice of the peace, post office and city park.

The population is nearly 1,100 residents.

Keith Harvey was elected as Kempner's first Black mayor in 2019. He says his goals for the city are to help bring in new business and new jobs while maintaining the community's "heart." He points to the completion of having paved six city roads as signs that work is being done to improve the city's infrastructure and meet the expectations of residents.

Council members include Norm Parker, Jared Jones, John Wilkerson, Mack Ruskiewicz, Melba Vandever. The council meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 12288 E. Highway 190.

More information is available at cityofkempner.org.

Coryell County established in 1854

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 35,000. The county seat of Gatesville has just over 12,000 residents, according to 2018 U.S. Census estimates, and is home to five state prisons and one state 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 estimated at a little less than 76,000 residents within an area of 1,057 square miles.

The county government is administered by the Coryell County Commissioners' Court consisting of five members: 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 the 'Spur Capital of Texas'

Gatesville is located north of central Coryell County on the east side of the Leon River. The city is 40 miles from Waco and halfway between Austin and Fort Worth.

Traversed by U.S. Route 84 and Texas State Highway 36, the city is easily accessible to neighboring cities. The U.S. Census Bureau identifies the city as 8.9 square miles in total acreage and .05% covered by water.

Shortly after Texas became a state, the U.S. Army built a chain of frontier forts between the Rio Grande and Red Rivers to protect area settlers. In 1849, when a major Comanche Indian trail was discovered in the Coryell Creek valley, Fort Gates was established five miles south of the current city.

Gatesville serves as the county seat of Coryell County and in 2001 was designated the "Spur Capital of Texas" due to the collection of Loyd and Madge Mitchell's 10,000 spurs in the Coryell County Museum.

The main industries in Gatesville involve retail, manufacturing, and corrections.

Gatesville has many assets such as historic sites, progressive business and scenic beauty in the heart of central Texas. Gatesville also has a low cost of living and is located along major highways, making it accessible to multiple major cities and contributing to a tourism industry with festivals, parades, and an annual rodeo.

Gatesville offers visitors some unique experiences. The Last Drive-In Picture Show opened in 1950 and still offers first run movies seven nights a week. The Coryell Museum features exhibits and artifacts reflective of the history of the area, including the original Old Log Jail. Diners will enjoy the many local dining options featuring genuine flavors of Texas.

Find a full list of dining and shopping options along with events at VisitGatesvilleTX.com.



Motorcycle riders roll through Lampasas near the end of the 28th annual Tri-County Toy Run in December. The event supports nonprofits in the region.

Lampasas offers lots of small-town rustic charm

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

Lampasas — about 30 miles west of Killeen — was founded in 1883, and is run by a council-manager style of government led by Mayor Misti Talbert, Mayor Pro Tem TJ Monroe, and council members Randy Clark, Delana Keele-Toups, Chuck Williamson, Bob Goodart and Cathy Kuehne, as well as City Manager Finley deGraffenried.

Council members and the mayor are elected at-large for two-year terms. Lampasas typically holds elections for city council members every two years, 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.,

Lampasas County a gateway to the Hill Country

Lampasas County lies as a gateway to the Texas Hill Country. Famous for the natural mineral springs that flow water into Sulphur Creek and the Lampasas River, 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 around the historic courthouse in downtown Lampasas on Saturdays from March to December, or play golf at the Municipal Golf Course along Sulphur Creek.

Whether you're just visiting for the day, making a move, or looking for a great place to retire, Lampasas County has it all. For more information, go to www.lampasaschamber.org.

is responsible for adopting budgets, determining policies, appointing the city manager and approving legislation.

A major attraction is the annual Spring Ho Festival, which is 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 the city at www.lampasas.org.



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Road projects improve transit across Central Texas

The Waco District of the Texas Department of Transportation plans, designs, builds and maintains the state highways. Current and upcoming projects in the greater Fort Hood area put a focus on safety by dedicating more than \$200 million on roadway upgrades, added capacity, seal-coating and overlays. About 81% of Waco District projects are completed on time, while 91% are finished on budget.

INTERSTATE 14

The area's main east-west thoroughfare — U.S. Highway 190 — became Interstate 14 in January 2017. The 25-mile stretch from Belton to Copperas Cove 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 completion set for winter 2021. Further expansion east to I-35 in Belton is set to end in the summer of 2023.

A west-to-east I-14 turnaround at FM 2410 in Harker Heights is under construction and scheduled for completion in the winter of 2022. A project to add two lanes to the roadway from Clarke Road, west of Killeen, to the Coryell/Lampasas County line, is also tentatively planned for 2026.

INTERSTATE 35

The construction, widening and safety-proofing of Texas' primary north-south interstate is officially complete in Bell County. The \$2.5 billion TxDOT project, from Salado to Hillsboro, also improved frontage roads and ramps, reconstructed 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 and Hill counties.

STATE HIGHWAY 195

A \$8.4 million project was completed



Motorists drive through a construction zone on Interstate 14 in Nolanville. Work continues on the three-phase widening project for highway, with completion set to end in summer 2023.

in March 2020, adding a turnaround underpass for north and south traffic on SH195 at FM 3470 (Stan Schlueter Loop), milling and resurfacing the roadway and replacing cable barriers from FM 3470 to the Bell/Williamson County line.

STATE HIGHWAY 36

An \$11.1 million project to rehabilitate a portion of SH 36 in Bell and Coryell counties, began in October 2018 and was completed this year. The project, designed to increase safety along SH 36, included resurfacing and widening 11 miles of the existing roadway from FM 931 at Flat, east of Gatesville, to the west side of the SH 36 bridge at Belton Lake in Bell County. Intermittent passing lanes were also added.

STATE HIGHWAY 95

A \$3.5 million project to rehabilitate a portion of SH 95, in Bell County, designed to increase safety along SH 95, resurfaced just over five miles of the existing roadway from Loop 363, southeast of Temple, south to FM 436

at Little River Academy started in July 2019 and was completed in the fall.

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 is expected to be completed by summer 2022.

STATE HIGHWAY 9

A \$4.8 million project will add an exit ramp to Tank Destroyer Boulevard and an entrance ramp from Old Georgetown Road. It is currently in the design phase, with bids possibly received in late 2021. A \$14 million safety improvement project to add an overpass at SH 9 and FM 116 in Copperas Cove is in the design phase, with a completion date unknown. It is scheduled to let in April 2022.

LOOP 121

Scheduled to let in late summer is a project to upgrade Loop 121 to a four-lane divided road with a raised median from FM 439 to I-14 in Belton.

Killeen-Fort Hood airport connects travelers to larger hubs

The Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport provides regional and local travelers with access to two major airline hubs, making most destinations a quick hop away.

American Airlines and United offer flights daily to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport, respectively.

The airport, at 8101 S. Clear Creek Road, is easily accessed via area highways. Paid short- and long-term parking is adjacent to the terminal; the first half hour is free. Disabled veterans and military award recipients who qualify are exempt. Rental car companies as well as taxis and shuttles provide ground transportation.

The Ted C. Connell Terminal Building has new concessions — Rotor and Wings Grill/Co-Pilot Coffee and Cantina, and Boarding Time Gifts along with an ATM. The terminal's namesake brought commercial air service to Killeen in 1966.

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

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



The Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport has new concessions inside the terminal and work is under way to build a new hangar that will house CSI Aviation, which conducts medical flights in the area.

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 an 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 Saturday Friday, except major holidays.

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

The HOP provides urban, rural bus transit for residents

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.

The HOP operates nine fixed routes indicated by numbered signs along area streets, and each bus stop has map and schedule information. Urban services operate from approximately 5:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. weekdays. No weekend service is offered.

Multiride tickets and monthly passes can be purchased at the Killeen City Library at 205 E. Church Ave. or in person or by mail through the Belton office. Bus passes also can be purchased at Copperas Cove Library, at Harker Heights City Hall, at Temple City Hall, at the Temple Visitor's Center, and at Belton City Hall.

Each year, riders on The HOP make approximately 850,000 trips.

In the rural service areas, riders make more than 11,100 rides each month.

In urban service areas, riders make nearly 46,000 trips using the fixed route bus service, and more than 13,500 trips are scheduled each month using the Special Transit Service, a door-to-door service provided by The HOP in these urban areas.

Route and schedule information is also available on The HOP website at www.takethehop.com or by calling 254-933-3700.

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Killeen ISD provides quality education to students

Killeen Independent School District is committed to providing rigorous in-person learning for all students.

If funded by state legislators, and allowed by the Texas Education Agency, Killeen ISD plans to offer virtual learning to students who meet the eligibility requirements in grades 3-12 during the 2021-22 school year. Students who learn virtually next year must log in daily and engage with their teacher during the school day to be counted present.

Parents of 4- and 5-year-olds are encouraged to enroll in our free, full-day programs that are available to all students who live in KISD. Enrollment is guaranteed if the child meets the criteria. Details regarding pre-K and kindergarten programs is available online at www.killeenisd.org/enroll_ec.

Across the sprawling school district that stretches from Nolanville to Fort Hood, construction projects are ongoing, many connected to a \$426 million bond issue voters approved in 2018.

In 2019, district and community leaders celebrated the biggest project contained in the bond program, with a groundbreaking ceremony for KISD's sixth high school, Chaparral High School. Located in the growing south corridor bordering Killeen and Harker Heights, construction continues on the campus with a completion timeline of 2022.

In August, the district opened a second middle school STEM site within the new Nolan Middle School and hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The campus is KISD's newest middle school and is located on Warriors Path in Harker Heights.

In January, the doors of the new Pershing Park Elementary School opened to students, and in the summer the staff from Sugar Loaf Elementary School will move in to welcome students from both campuses in the fall of 2021.

Students from the former East Ward and West Ward campuses will come together under one roof in the fall as the district opens Killeen Elementary School.

Clifton Park Elementary School, a consolidation campus of the former



At Pershing Park Elementary School, third-grade teacher Bertha Hernandez leads students in math lessons on Jan. 6, the first day of operation for the new school in Killeen and the first day of classes following the holiday break.

Clifton Park and Bellaire elementary schools, will open its doors in August to students.

Pat Carney Elementary School will welcome students to the new campus in the fall of 2021. Named for a popular former educator killed in the 1991 Luby's Cafeteria shooting, the campus will be located just south of Estancia West and to the west of Clear Creek Road.

In other bond-funded projects, Killeen High School occupied newly constructed

administrative space, library, auditorium, choir and art rooms, and special education space. The massive ongoing renovation project is scheduled to continue through 2022.

Killeen ISD features a new Military Families section on its website for transitioning families with an assortment of resources for all grade levels.

Learn more about the district and the its opportunities for students by visiting www.killeenisd.org.



Copperas Cove High School actors Christina Smith, Katarina Leone, Parker Reed, Ne'Vaeh Tillman, Haylee Myers, and Danielle Watt rehearse a scene from "Steel Magnolias" at Lea Ledger Auditorium.

Copperas Cove ISD sees rapid enrollment 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 8,300 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.

The school district encompasses one pre-K school, six elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools with more than 1,400 staff members.

CCISD students currently have the option of learning on-campus or at-home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately 75% of students are learning on campus with 25% choosing to learn at-home or through a hybrid model to include UIL activities.

Because CCISD is located 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% 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, theater 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 2019-

20 school year. Copperas Cove High School's graduation rate for the 2019-20 school year was 95.6%, more than 10% higher than the national average and 6% higher than the state average.

CCISD has a budget slightly higher than \$78 million for the 2020-21 school year. This budget reflects a \$3 million increase over last year's budget.

The CCISD school board consists of eight members: Mike Wilburn, John Gallen, Ann Davis, Jeff Gorres, Vice President Inez Faison, President Joan Manning, Secretary Dr. Karen Harrison, and Superintendent Joe Burns. The CCISD Board of Trustees was named the 2019 Region 12 School Board of the Year, the second time the board has received the honor. Burns is also a former Superintendent of the Year.

Parents must register all new students in-person to provide documentation before attending school.

Returning students may register online at their schools' respective websites.

For more information about CCISD, call the district office at 254-547-1227, go to www.ccisd.com or follow the district's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Belton ISD opens campuses to accommodate growth

Belton Independent School District is one of the fastest growing public school districts in Texas, with families joining the Big Red Community from across the state each year.

To accommodate this growth, the district opened its second comprehensive high school in September. Lake Belton High School serves ninth- and 10th-grade students and will add additional grade levels the following two years. The 385,000-square-foot campus is located in west Temple.

Renovations were completed last fall on a new fine arts facility at Belton High School. The orchestra addition includes 3,200 square feet for a dedicated orchestra rehearsal hall, sectional room and three practice rooms, along with renovations to 1,200 square feet of existing band hall, instructor office space and the band music library. This project also added an updated look to the main entrance of the campus.

This spring, Belton ISD students will enjoy spruced up elementary playgrounds. Improvements include 76 swings, 13 playscapes, 17 shaded structures and 33,876 square feet of synthetic fall protection among the district's 10 elementary campuses and the Belton Early Childhood School.

Even in a year marked by challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Belton ISD students excelled



Lake Belton High School's Stampede marching band competed at the UIL Class 4A state contest.

in academic, athletic and fine arts competitions.

Belton ISD, under the leadership of Superintendent Matt Smith, is reflecting on its mission, values and beliefs as it makes plans for the future. The process began in the fall with the adoption of 2020-21 district goals by the board of trustees. The district also developed a collective vision that articulates the community's aspirations for students in Belton ISD. This vision, called Journey of a Graduate, unites the district with

a shared outlook and will inform future decisions, from student learning experiences to facility designs to staff needs and more.

With input from the entire Big Red Community, a strategic plan is being created to map out how the district will implement the community's collective vision of what education in Belton ISD should look like.

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

Florence ISD completes renovations across the district

According to Superintendent Paul Michalewicz, Florence Independent School District recently completed work from a \$7.5 million bond project.

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 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.

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

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

Florence ISD continues to see growth in the student population.

"We have seen roughly a 4% increase in student population over the past 5 years," he 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.

"While the COVID-19 crisis has altered the way teaching and learning take place, Florence ISD continues to serve the academic needs of our students," Michalewicz said.

At this time, roughly 80% students receive instruction in-person on campus, with others learning remotely.

Florence ISD is refining plans for the 2021-22 school year. Detailed information regarding procedures and protocols for next year will be released in the coming weeks. Learn more at florenceisd.net.

Salado ISD enrollment grows

The Salado Independent School District is having another great school year in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. About 90% of students are attending in-person classes, officials said, with the rest learning remotely.

The district's enrollment is 2,123 students, which is an increase of 775 students (or 55%) over the past eight years. This is the highest percentage increase of all 76 school districts in the Waco region during that time period, officials said.

Salado ISD students have a long tradition of excellence in academics and activities. The district's high school has won three Lone Star Cups, which is the highest UIL award for academics, athletics, and fine arts. Out of 1,357 high schools in Texas, only 42 have won a Lone Star Cup and only 10 have won more than Salado High School.

Salado ISD has won nine state championships in UIL academics. Only two high schools in Texas have won more state championships.

"There are 56 high schools in our region and we have won the Regional Championship in UIL academics 29 consecutive years," Superintendent Michael Novotny said.

"We have four teachers at Salado High School that have won the UIL Sponsor Excellence award: Dennis Cabaniss, Tim Cook, Alan Haire, and JJ Jonas. We are the only high school in Texas with four recipients of this award," he added.

"Our district received the highest possible rating (Superior) and a perfect score of 100 on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST)."

Salado ISD serves students on three campuses. The district is governed by its board of trustees. Current members include President Dr. Kim Bird, Vice President Jeff Kelley, Secretary Troy Smith, Savannah Hennig, Dr. Bobbie Ann White, Jim Hodgins and Amy McLane. Elections are held in May.

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

MCEC helps military children be college and workforce ready

The Military Child Education Coalition serves the children of those who serve us all.

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 visit militarychild.org.

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Gatesville ISD serves nearly 3,000 students on five campuses

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 nearly 3,000 students and budgeted close to \$30 million to operate this school year. A major renovation of the high school campus is set to be completed in July.

There are seven school board members including: Mary Ann Leib, board president; Charles Alderson, vice president; Cheyenne Kizer, secretary;



Gatesville's Allaiya Jones (10) shoots a long jumper against Lampasas in January.

and Jimmie Ferguson, Calvin Ford, Charles Ament and Linda Maxwell. The seats occupied by Alderson and Maxwell are up for election this year.

The administration building is at 311 S. Lovers Lane.

For more information, call 254-865-7251 or go to www.gatesvilleisd.org.

Lampasas ISD focuses on improving 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 in close proximity to modern conveniences.

In addition to Superintendent Chane Rascoe, the district is overseen by a seven-member school board: President David Millican, Bill Brister, Dan Claussen, 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.

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 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,” Rascoe said.

Learn more at www.lisdtx.org.

Charter, private schools serve area students

Several charter and private schools serve as an alternative option for parents seeking to enroll their children outside of standard public 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. 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 of Texas.

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



The Memorial Christian Academy boys basketball team won the Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship Division II state championship.

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, are offered.

Call 254-526-5403 or go to www.mcawarriors.com. The academy is at 4001 Trimmier Road, Killeen.

Communities in Schools serves 56 campuses across six districts

Since its founding in 1992, Communities In Schools of Greater Central Texas has grown to serve 56 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 school districts in Central Texas, 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."

CIS partners with businesses, social service agencies, health care providers and volunteers.

In these uncertain and challenging times presented by COVID-19, 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."

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

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

Texas A&M University-Central Texas is the 10th of 11 universities in The Texas A&M University System, one of the largest and highly ranked university systems in the U.S.

As Texas's only transfer-level university and one of two transfer institutions in the U.S., A&M-Central Texas is focused on degree completion for students who have begun, but not yet completed, their higher education goals.

A&M-Central Texas offers 28 bachelor's degrees (seven completely online) and 18 graduate degrees (seven completely online). Average tuition and fees at A&M-Central Texas are among the most affordable offered by public universities in Texas. A&M-Central Texas offers a tuition guarantee that allows students to lock in tuition and fees, as well as a tuition cap that allows students to take between 12 and 21 credit hours without incurring additional tuition charges (specific rules apply).

A&M-Central Texas's programs are recognized and ranked as among the top 10% of the most diverse student populations in the U.S. and Texas by College Factual. In 2019, several



Brittany Graham gets her diploma from Texas A&M University-Central Texas President Marc Nigliazzo.

programs — criminal justice, business, human resources, CIS, and psychology — were notably ranked by U.S. News & World Report and CollegeFactual.com.

A&M-Central Texas faculty enjoy challenging students to be confident, high-performing professionals within their fields of study and to actively participate in relevant, thought-provoking learning activities.

A robust variety of student activities and support services include recreational sports, student government, opportunities for student

publication and creative writing, the university library, and career and professional development.

A&M-Central Texas admissions criteria requires a 2.0 GPA and a minimum of 30 hours of college-level coursework to be admitted as an undergraduate student. Graduate program admissions vary; interested students may contact the A&M-Central Texas Graduate School.

A&M-Central Texas sits on a 672-acre campus at 1001 Leadership Place in Killeen. Learn more at tamuct.edu.

Mary Hardin-Baylor prepares students for the future

Founded in 1845, the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor has traditionally been known for producing excellent educators, nurses, business leaders and missionaries.

That has not changed, but today UMHB is also earning recognition for its talented science and music graduates, and for top-notch graduate programs in counseling, occupational therapy, physician's assistant, physical therapy and more.

The university prepares students for leadership, service and faith-informed discernment in a global society. Academic excellence, personal attention, broad-based scholarship and a commitment to a Baptist vision for education distinguish its Christ-centered learning community.

The university has an enrollment of approximately 3,900 students from 35 states and 32 countries. Even as the size of UMHB has grown, it has continued to offer students the personal attention that has been a cornerstone of the UMHB experience for 176 years.

The university has a low 18:1 student-to-faculty ratio and is ranked in the Top 50 in Best Value Schools by U.S. News

and World Report in the category of Regional Universities (West). The university currently offers undergraduate degrees in 51 majors, 11 master's degree programs, and two doctoral degrees (Doctor of Education and Doctor of Physical Therapy).

The university respects each student as a unique individual who has a distinct perspective on the world.

Therefore, UMHB welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and understands that exposure to different cultures and experiences within a Christian environment enriches the educational process.

The university strives to create an atmosphere where every student is an integral part of our learning community. UMHB places student achievement first and emphasizes this through personal attention, small class sizes, teaching excellence, campus activities, athletic programs, and leadership opportunities.

The university is committed to encouraging each student to reach his or her potential spiritually, academically, socially and physically.

Learn more at go.umhb.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 in the area as more than 20% of local high school students come to CTC. Local students can save nearly \$15,000 in tuition and fees by completing an associate degree with CTC before moving on to a four-year university.

With more than 100 associate degrees and certificates of completion available in many diverse fields, 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.

NEW PROGRAMS

Several new programs of study were introduced in the past year, including the Fire Service Administration degree program, the Network Cloud Support and Cybersecurity curriculum, and a Cyberdefense-Information Assurance program.

CTC also initiated training programs to 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 (STEM). 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 that can be completed entirely online. Recent additions include degree and certificate programs in the areas of business, information technology, early child development, logistics, cyber defense and mental health services.

STRONG TIES TO FORT HOOD

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 fiscal year 2019 figures, CTC is currently 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's Continuing Education program expands each semester with new classes in a variety of areas. A variety of exercise/fitness classes are also available along with numerous arts, hobby and crafting classes. 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.

Moving forward, CTC looks to continue enhancing its alliances with the local school districts and the community through its dual credit programs, the Early College High School, STEM Academy and Early College program.

Learn more at about.programs.and.enrollment.at/www.ctcd.edu.



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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.

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 facilities.

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 and MRI scanning, digital mammography, cardiopulmonary services with EKG and stress testing, sleep disorder center and bone density testing. Cardiology, orthopedics, podiatry, general surgery and advanced wound care are 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, giving it the ability to meet the educational needs of children while in inpatient or partial hospitalization care.



Runners start the 34th Annual Silver Classic 5K in March at the AdventHealth campus in Killeen.

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONS

AdventHealth Family Medicine Rural Clinic in Copperas Cove and Lampasas:

With 13 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 cardiology, women's health, general surgery, podiatry 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, speech/language pathology, and lymphedema management services are available.

AdventHealth Imaging Harker Heights: Offering state-of-the-art technology with the MAGNETOM Skyra 3T Open Bore MRI, the AdventHealth imaging facility in Harker Heights can accommodate the need of any patient. The features of the MAGNETOM Skyra, combined with 3 Tesla (T) magnet strength — the

strongest clinically available — means that AdventHealth patients will enjoy an extensive array of imaging options with high-quality images and less exposure time.

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

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

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

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

Community Wellness: Each year, the Wellness Department provides various free services for the community, such as support groups, parenting classes, exercise classes, immunization and flu clinics, and health screenings.

For more information, go to AdventHealthCentralTexas.com.

Seton Medical Center continues to set 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 269 employees. Now, with a staff of approximately 500, Seton continues to provide exceptional patient care.

In addition to demonstrating top-tier safety protocols in the hospital and publicly promoting mask wearing, social distancing and other preventive safety measures, Seton Medical Center is taking the next step in stopping the spread of the COVID-19 by offering COVID-19 vaccinations. For more information or to request a vaccine appointment, please visit: setonharkerheights.net/coronavirus.

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights is an accredited chest pain center and strives to offer the newest methods and best practices in heart care.

Also designated an Advanced Primary Stroke Center, the hospital provides stroke care driven by best practices. Keeping quality patient care as a top priority, Seton Medical Center is ready and able to manage all types of medical emergencies in a safe environment with outstanding medical expertise.

ACCOLADES

The readers of the Killeen Daily Herald named Seton Medical Center the Best Hospital in 2020. Every caregiver at the facility plays an integral role in this award.

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights is the only hospital in Bell County to be awarded an 'A' for patient safety from the Leapfrog Group's 2020 Hospital Safety Grade. Leapfrog's hospital safety grades recognize achievements in protecting patients from harm and providing safer healthcare.

"Being recognized as a top-ranking

hospital for patient safety directly correlates to our organization's mission of providing quality care in Christian love, service and dignity," said Patrick Swindle, Seton Medical Center Harker Heights chief executive officer. "Receiving this prestigious award highlights our team's passion and commitment to our patients. Our employees and physicians achieve excellent results in a safe environment."

Seton Medical Center was also named to 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, as verified by the 2020vLeapfrog Hospital Survey. Best Maternity Care Hospitals is part of Newsweek's Best Health Care series, powered by data from The Leapfrog Group.

OTHER SERVICES

Outpatient services are another key focus for the hospital. 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 provides an important access point to healthcare for the community. Seton Medical Center continues to partner with Freedom Urgent Care. In addition to urgent care, this collaboration provides a venue for occupational medicine services for on-the-job injuries, vaccinations, physicals, routine medical testing and OSHA-mandated exams for employees working in industrial environments. Freedom Urgent Care has two clinics conveniently located in Harker Heights and Killeen.

For more information, visit www.setonharkerheights.net.

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

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.

“I wouldn’t be here without AdventHealth’s ER.”

— Greg
Stroke survivor



Surviving an emergency is no accident.

To Greg, road trips mean freedom. But after suffering a stroke at age 43, his whole life changed. He realized how every second counts, especially when it comes to an emergency. AdventHealth’s ER experts responded fast – and today, Greg is back on the road again.

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[AdventHealthCentralTexas.com/ER](https://www.adventhealthcentraltexas.com/ER)



Baylor Scott & White offers care throughout region

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

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 that includes a five-story children’s specialty clinic. At the only medical center exclusively for children between Dallas and Austin, a range of subspecialists are available, as well as a surgical team that is on site and 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 Health has several locations in the Killeen area including: **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



Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Medical Center social worker Laura Ingram, left, and Gigi visit with a young patient and her family.

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 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 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 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 clinic is at 3525 Farm-to-Market 2484. It is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Appointments can be scheduled by calling any individual clinic. Non-acute care appointments can be made online at <https://www.bswhealth.com/find-care>. Call 1-844-279-3627.

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Darnall ranked in top 5% of military health facilities

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center at Fort Hood is expanding and growing patient services after more than two years in its 1.6 million-square-foot facility.

The vision is to be the Premier Readiness Center — An Exceptional Experience — Every Single Time. Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center's mission is "Enabling Phantom Readiness by partnering to Improve Health and Save Lives."

The hospital system serves over 100,000 beneficiaries, and consists of the main hospital with primary care and emergency services along with inpatient medical and behavioral health services.

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.

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

In addition to the main hospital on post, Darnall's primary care clinics are on the installation and within neighboring communities. Of the primary care clinics, four are patient-centered medical homes, four are soldier-centered medical homes, and four are community-based medical homes. Darnall has more than 40 medical specialties on the team.

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

This year has been an exceptional year for Darnall. Darnall received the Practice Greenhealth Top 25 award.

Darnall's Women's Health Clinic offers family-centered care before, during and after childbirth. Delivering



Medical workers and soldiers line up for COVID-19 vaccines at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center.

Darnall has four family-practice clinics

Fort Hood's Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center offers four U.S. Army Medical Homes in the community to provide medical care off-post for active-duty soldiers, retirees and their families.

- The Killeen facility is at 3404 Kaydence Court, off Elms Road near Stan Schlueter Loop.
- The West Killeen Medical Home is at 5200 Bunny Trail.
- The Harker Heights Medical Home is in the Market Heights shopping center at 201 E. Central Texas Expressway, Suite 200.
- The Copperas Cove Medical Home Clinic is at 458 Town Square on West Business Highway 190.

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.

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 a wide variety of contraceptive methods), 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 and Temple are open from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday. The Killeen office is at 309 N. Second St. and the district's Temple office is at 820 N. 31st St.

Call 254-526-8371 in Killeen and 254-778-4766 in Temple. Services are based on family size and income and are either walk-in or appointment based.

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



From left, Bekki Lara, Chelo Elliott, Diana Olivares and Norberta Martinez chat at the front desk of the Bell County Public Health District's Temple Clinic.

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 Darnall 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

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

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

Community clinic helps meet health needs of Killeen residents

The Killeen Community Clinic celebrates 27 years of serving the community this year. 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 718 N. Second St., Suite A (inside the Killeen Arts and Activities Center complex) opened less than a year later in November 1994, and continues to provide primary health care to children and adults who are impoverished, uninsured, or who have limited health care access. The clinic is nonprofit and volunteer based, and is open Monday through Thursday.

Patients are seen on a first-come, first-served basis. Patients are asked to make a contribution to their care based on their income. Waivers are granted on a case-by-case basis. Check-in is 3:30 p.m. on Monday and Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Simple conditions are treated, such as rash, ear infections, and bladder infections. The clinic also treats minor injuries,

such as sprains or strains, and does care of simple wounds and administers tetanus shots.

The Well Women's Clinic provides services to women older than 44 who need gynecological care outside of family planning. Women get an exam and a free screening mammogram; it is available by appointment only.

The Chronic Care program 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. Chronic Care is by appointment only.

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

Free Zumba classes, Lunch n' Learn and The Walk Club are open to the community at no charge, and are included in the Health Promotion program.

Call 254-618-4211 or visit www.gkfclinic.org to learn more about services at the clinic.

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.

The BBB's vision is to promote an ethical marketplace where buyers and sellers can trust each other. As a nonprofit organization, BBB provides a significant amount of free consumer and business education information, as well as tips and alerts on scams and "bad players" in the marketplace.

There are more than 100 BBB offices across the U.S. and Canada. The BBB serving the Heart of Texas covers the Greater Killeen area. The regional office serves 14 counties, including the cities of Copperas Cove, Gatesville, Lampasas, Hillsboro, Killeen, Salado, Temple, Waco and Fort Hood. The regional office provides a variety of services, including a free speaker's bureau for civic organizations and other groups.

BBB offers the following basic information and services:

Business Reviews: Information on businesses' performance in the marketplace on both accredited and non-accredited businesses.

Charity Reports: Information on charities and other nonprofits that seek public donations.

Dispute Resolution: Help in resolving complaints against businesses using conciliation, mediation and arbitration.

Consumer Information Clearinghouse: Brochures, books, videos and Internet advisories on many important topics to assist consumers and businesses in making wise purchasing decisions.

Fighting Fraud: Information for consumers and law enforcement agencies about current marketplace scams and frauds.

Go to www.bbb.org/central-texas or call 800-580-8477 for more information.

Regional Director Amy Rasor can be reached at 817-304-8049.

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 membership and economic development 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 by appointment only until social distancing precautions cease. After that, normal operating hours are 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 600. 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, 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 14 Forward, an aggressive five-year campaign designed to help grow the region's economy. Visit killeenchamber.com/forward for more information.

The Killeen Economic Development Corporation 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. KEDC 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 sponsorships. Go to KilleenChamber.com or call 254-526-9551.

Heights chamber promotes partnerships

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

"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, chamber president and CEO.

With more than 600 members, the chamber provides access to the premier business leaders in the county, as well as a multitude of opportunities to network, further careers, hear success stories, stay up to date on community/industry news and socialize.

As the voice of business in the community, the chamber strives to understand the legislative issues important to its members. Key to this effort is building and maintaining strong relationships with our local, state, and federal elected officials.

Graduates of the chamber's Vision

XXI Leadership program are serving in leadership positions throughout our community.

The Harker Heights Chamber Visitor's Center provides resources that highlight the great amenities and attractions in the community. The next event is Spring Fest Harker Heights on May 1 offering vendors, artists, outdoor activities and a duck race at Carl Levin Park.

Come celebrate the HH Food, Wine & Brew Fest attracting thousands of wine and food aficionados to our area each year. This fall we will celebrate the festival a little differently due to COVID, but fun will be had by all.

If you love to fish, hike or camp you must experience Dana Peak Park. 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

Connecting employers to skilled employees and helping job hunters are two of the most important missions of Workforce Solutions of Central Texas.

The organization supports training in skilled, high-wage jobs that are predicted to have a consistent or growing need for employees. Data provided by Workforce Solutions show that 71,942 job seekers were provided with employment services in 2020, including 2,843 veterans. The organization also serves 22,456 children through child care services.

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas partners with economic development organizations, city and county offices, chambers of commerce, businesses, colleges, and universities of the region committed to building economic success in Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, San Saba, and Mills counties.

They are committed to customer's success, from career exploration to assistance earning degrees and certifications and into finding employment and building a sustainable career.

Resources for military and military-connected job seekers and businesses 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.

The office is at 300 Cheyenne Drive in Killeen. It is open Monday through Friday. Go to www.Workforcesolutionsctx.com or call 254-200-2021 for more information.

Workforce Solutions serves all of Central Texas with locations in Temple, Belton, Lampasas and Rockdale.

Chamber, EDC help business flourish in Copperas Cove

The Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1956, as the Copperas Cove Chamber & Visitors Bureau, it is our mission and purpose to promote commerce, economic growth, and tourism through various partnerships and initiatives to advance the general welfare and success of Copperas Cove so that all areas of the community shall prosper.

The Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce provides the membership 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, current and future chamber members, community leaders and individual volunteers to create and maintain an enhanced quality of life for the Copperas Cove citizens to live, work, and play.

The chamber actively promotes annual city events such as the Polar Bear Plunge, 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 Market. Information about those events and others can be found on the Chamber's website, www.copperascove.com.

The Copperas Cove Economic Development Corporation supports existing businesses on retention and expansion projects, new and small businesses starting or beginning to grow, working with companies considering expansions into Copperas Cove and developing infrastructure to help create jobs.

The Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was formed in 1990, but recently was reorganized and fully staffed with a new mission statement and program of work.

The EDC is at 113. W. Avenue D downtown and can be reached at 254-547-7874 or coveedc.com.

Welcome to our Community!

254-699-6271



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www.hhumc.org

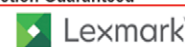
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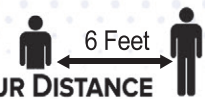
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Area shelters offer assistance to those in need

FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Many families across the state and the country are suffering, whether it be due to homelessness, violence or some other factor. These families often need help, and fortunately there are several places in Central Texas that offer it.

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.

Additionally, outreach services are available to family violence survivors who are not seeking shelter, or who have already left one of the agency's shelters. In addition to shelter, services to family violence survivors 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 keeping with its history of responding to the needs of the community, FIC has expanded services over the years to include other underserved populations and unmet community needs.

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

In 2009, FIC 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 through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program.

FIC continues to offer rental assistance and supportive services to very-low-income veterans and their families through funds from



Volunteers help giveaway clothes at Friends In Crisis on Sprott Avenue in Killeen in August.

the Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Services for Veteran Families and the Texas Veteran's Commission.

A hallmark achievement in 2012 was the establishment of the agency's family violence survivor transitional housing program, which significantly expanded the agency's capacity to provide housing options to family violence survivors.

FRIENDS IN CRISIS

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. every day and check out is 7 a.m. every day. The shelter has laundry and shower facilities. It also provides an evening meal every night.

In 2019, the Killeen domestic violence shelter averaged 56.2 people per night. Temple averaged 8.2 people per night, and the homeless shelter averaged 74.9 people per night.

Also, in 2019, FIC provided assistance to 486 people for transition housing. For the shelters, there were 6,987 hotline calls and 207 sexual assault calls in 2019.

FIC offers clients assistance, encouragement, and empowerment throughout the rebuilding process, helping them discover the tools within themselves to recover from violence and/or homelessness and lead stable,

independent, economically viable lives.

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 www.familiesincrisis.net.

COVE HOUSE

For more than 20 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 at the temporary emergency shelter must meet the shelter's requirements and will be put on the schedule. This is the 25th year the Cove House has been in operation. Call 254-547-4673 to find out the requirements.

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, sign-in is from 5 to 6 p.m. The free clinic is in the Lovett Ledger Medical Plaza at 806 E. Avenue D, Suite H, in Copperas Cove. Patients are served on a first-come, first-served basis.

Adoption centers help animals find permanent homes

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 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays. Adoption and microchip fees are \$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 animal@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 to help care for pets at the shelter as are donations.

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 located 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. Call 254-953-5472.

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. It is closed on Sundays and holidays. Call 254-547-5584.

TEXAS HUMANE HEROES

The Second Chance Animal Shelter merged with the Humane Society of Williamson County to create Texas

Humane Heroes. 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 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call 512-260-3602 or go to www.texas humaneheroes.org.

FORT HOOD

The Fort Hood Stray Facility is on 80th Street and Engineer Drive in Building 4902. It is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 to noon Saturday. For more information, call 254-287-4675.

BELL COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

The Bell County Animal Shelter is at 2509 S. Loop 121, Belton. It is open Monday through Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 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 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 254-298-5732.

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The Refuge Mobile Food Pantry distributes around 20,000 pounds of food each month. The March event was in Copperas Cove, but locations vary.

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 every year.

It is operated by Executive Director Raymond Cockrell. Donations of \$1 are able to provide seven meals for their clients, and they can be made on the website or by check to their mailing address: P.O. Box 1656, Killeen.

No requirements have to be met to receive food from the center, 210 N. 16th St. in Killeen. Call 254-554-3400 or visit www.foodcare.org.

OPERATION PHANTOM SUPPORT

Operation Phantom Support's food pantry serves soldiers, veterans, first responders and their families. The food pantry is at 401 N. Eighth St. in downtown Killeen. Go to www.operationphantomsupport.org.

SOUTHSIDE FOOD PANTRY

Southside Food Pantry is at 1505 Trimmier Road in Killeen. Applications are required.

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 at its food distribution events. 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. Locations can vary. Follow the mobile pantry at <https://www.facebook.com/refugemobile> for information on the location of each month's event.

GREATER CHRIST GOSPEL

Greater Christ Gospel, 200 S. Gray St. in Killeen, operates a food pantry from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Call 254-466-1520.

BAPTIST BENEVOLENCE MINISTRY

Baptist Benevolence Ministry is a collection of five Copperas Cove Baptist churches through which Copperas Cove families can get food, clothing and financial assistance. It operates at 300 W. Avenue B. 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. Call 254-547-3509.

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 at 107 Lyons St. in Copperas Cove. Contact the church office at 254-547-5206 to volunteer, or go to www.hf-cc.org/st-vincent-de-paul-svpd.

HOUSE OF MERCY

House of Mercy, 627 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd., in Harker Heights, has a food pantry open from 8 to 10 a.m. every Thursday for people who need clothes or food to come by and pick something up.

Anyone interested in making donations can call 254-699-6920 for more information.

NOLANVILLE FOOD PANTRY

Nolanville Food Pantry is operated by Mary Faye McDonald through Capital Area Food Bank. It is at 200 N. Main St. Call 254-698-6820.

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.

Salvation Army operations in Killeen are coordinated out of the organization's Temple office, which houses Salvation Army of Bell County.

The Social Services office offers help to area residents suffering through difficult times, with 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.

The Salvation Army also assists during disasters through its Emergency and Disaster Services mobile feeding vehicle.

Donations to the Salvation Army



Volunteers drop off food donations at the Salvation Army's location in Temple in February.

help provide these services and more for those in need. The Salvation Army accepts volunteers for its annual Angel Tree Program, Red Kettle fundraising at Christmas, and in the Family Store year-round.

For more information, call the Temple location at 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 Central Texas.

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. The United Way supports these 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



Tiffany Guevara, troop leader for Girl Scout Troop 20123, hands a ball of dirt and a bluebonnet seed to one of her Scouts during a wildflower planting day.

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. Hotline 1-800-421-TEEN. 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.

CENIKOR FOUNDATION — CARE COUNSELING SERVICES: Cenikor provides substance abuse services to people on an outpatient basis. A pregnant and postpartum intervention program assists women who are high risk for substance abuse. Contact: 888-236-4567 — www.cenikor.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. It also provides a free clinic for the community on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. 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.familiesincrisis.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 zero percent interest. Contact: 254-680-4007 — www.bellcohabitat-forhumanity.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.

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.

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.

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.



Myrna Banzon, left, and Julia Villaronga, with the LULAC Council 4535 make face masks to donate.

LULAC, NAACP support area's Black and Latino communities

Three organizations in Killeen continue to work in Central Texas 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

Killeen Branch #6189, which was chartered on July 2, 1970, celebrated its half-century mark last year. Outreach efforts have included education, economic development, voting rights and engagement and combating health disparities in the black and brown communities.

Meetings are held 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 at 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.

Meetings are held at the Harker Heights Recreation Center on the second Monday of the month, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The organization posts regularly on its Facebook page: 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. The organization also provides numerous outreaches into the community, often partnering with other organizations to host events such as Smiles for Vets.

All donations are fully tax deductible. For more information on scholarships, banquets, tickets or membership, call 1-800-KILLEEN or visit their Facebook page.

Scouting teaches leadership skills to area youth

Local boys and girls in kindergarten through age 20 can experience 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 in 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 662ChisholmTrail@bsamail.org.

Another popular program is Venturing, which is available for ages



Stephanie Burgar, left, of Boy Scout Troop 150 helps Isabell Gonzales with a necklace as Sammie Gonzales looks on at a festival in Salado. 14 to 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.

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

GIRL SCOUTS

The mission of the Girls 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 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. The Temple Service Center is at 2721 Exchange Place. For more info, call 800-733-0011 or visit the website: www.gsctx.org.

Centers offer exercise classes, low-cost meals for senior adults

Central Texans who are 55 and older have plenty of opportunities to enjoy an active lifestyle provided by several senior centers, although services may be impacted by COVID-19 precautions.

KILLEEN

The Senior Center at Lions Club Park, 1700-B E. Stan Schlueter Loop, is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and hot lunches are served. Call 254-501-6399. Membership is free, regardless of residency, to a person 55 years or older. A person under 55 may join if their spouse is 55 and a member.

There are many 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 play a variety of board games, take computer

classes, driver safety, grief counseling, and billiards, pickle ball, and day trips. The centers host many parties and celebrations, among other activities.

The Bob Gilmore Senior Center closed in 2019 but seniors on the north side of Killeen will have activities again in 2022 after renovations to the Rosa Hereford Community Center.

COPPERAS COVE

The Copperas Cove Senior Activity Center hopes to reopen May 1, said Community Outreach Specialist Jeri Wood. The center was damaged by storms in February.

Located in the Human Resources Building at 1012 North Drive, Suite 5, the center accepts individuals age 55 and older. The programs include meals twice a week with a breakfast 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, and 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 for ages 50 and up. Closed because of COVID-19, activities are slowly resuming.

“We have an exercise class starting up April 20 and more classes starting in May. We’re finalizing the details and then we’ll be updating the website,” said Nichole Broemer with the city’s Parks and Recreation Department.

With over 400 members, seniors enjoy taking monthly day trips, playing Granny Basketball and getting crafty with art classes. When in full swing, programs are offered Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Activities Center, 400 Indian Trail. Call 254-953-5465 or go to harkerheights.gov.



The ASYMCA Harker Heights Wellness Center has a heated 10-lane lap pool.

ASYMCA has programs for all ages

The Armed Services YMCA has several significant programs to serve both the military and civilians of the greater Fort Hood area. The national ASYMCA was established during the Civil War to support service members and their families. One noteworthy local program is the Before and After School Child Care Program, which runs at many schools in the Killeen, Copperas Cove, Lampasas, Florence and Belton school districts.

One of the most popular new programs is the Children's Waiting Room, which served more than 3,600 children in 2020. The service provides two hours of free childcare for military parents to attend medical appointments.

Other youth programs have proven popular, including Chef Class, Creative Canvas, Theatre, Homeschool physical fitness classes, morning Pre-K classes and a range of swimming classes.

The ASYMCA Killeen also provides child care during Thanksgiving, Christmas, spring break and a summer for children in need of all-day care. Financial assistance is available.

A program center is at 100 E. Beeline in Harker Heights for preschool age and up that provides a safe place for children to enjoy activities, field trips and programs. Adjacent to the program center is the Armed Services YMCA Aquatic Center that includes a swimming pool and spray pad that

opens during the summer.

ASYMCA Specialty Camps are also available. These camps run during spring, winter and summer. Specialty camps are an alternative for children who do not need all-day child care, but would like to learn a craft, hone a skill or just have a good time.

Also, the ASYMCA offers Kids Night Out, which gives parents an opportunity to enjoy a night out while their children are in a safe and nurturing environment for an evening, offering activities for ages 6 months to 13 years old.

The nonprofit organization is known for its fitness centers. The Harker Heights Wellness Center, 110 Mountain Lion Road, is a 54,000-square-foot facility 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.

The 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 or go to www.asymca.net to learn more.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS PROVIDE SERVICES FOR LOCAL YOUTH

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Texas spans eight communities in the Central Texas area and serves approximately 21,000 youth per year at 29 club sites through its partners.

Members can enjoy a variety of programs and activities provided by professionally trained staff. Learn more at bgctx.org.

CLEMENTS TEEN CENTER (AGE 13-18) 2900 E. Elms Road in Killeen: Annual membership is \$20, and free for military-connected youth. Call 254-699-7406.

WOODY HALL UNIT (AGE 7-12) 5100 Trimmier Road in Killeen: Annual membership is \$20, and free for military-connected youth. Call 254-634-0308.

NOLANVILLE UNIT (AGE 6-12) 100 Gold Star Ave. in Nolanville: Located in the Mary Marie MultiUse Center. Annual membership is free for all youth thanks to a partnership with the city. Call 254-275-8166.

KILLEEN ISD CLUB SITES (AGE 11-18): Clements Boys & Girls Clubs, the local affiliate of BGCTX, operates sites at 15 campuses across Killeen, Harker Heights and Nolanville. Annual membership is \$20, and free for military-connected youth. Call 254-699-5808.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF COPPERAS COVE (AGE 6-12) 1202 Veterans Ave. in Copperas Cove: The membership fee is \$100 per year, and free for military-connected youth. Call 254-547-5578.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF LAMPASAS (AGE 6-18) 107 N. Main St. in Lampasas: Annual membership is \$20, and free for military-connected youth. Call 512-564-1669.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GATESVILLE (AGE 6-12) 2533 E. Main St. in Gatesville: Annual membership is \$20, and free for military-connected youth. 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 more. Here's a sampling, though the COVID-19 pandemic could change some activities:

MAY

Farmers Markets

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

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

Copperas Cove's Farmer's 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 international foods, multicultural entertainment by local artists, a slow-pitch softball tournament, a 5K fun run and a car show.

Go to: killeentexas.gov

Rabbit Fest, Copperas Cove — This four-day 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: rabbitfest.com

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: rodeokilleen.com

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 Contest. Vendor booths feature arts, crafts, food and more. A street dance caps off the festival.

Go to: florencechamberofcommerce.org



Tina Heine tries on a bracelet at Wildflower Art Festival in Salado in March.

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

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, Killeen — 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.

Go to: fourwindstx.blogspot.com

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 each year to help kick off the Christmas 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/speialevents/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

Christmas Stroll, Georgetown — Downtown Georgetown Square transforms into a Norman Rockwell-picturesque scene with window displays, carolers, yummy goodies 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

Take 190 West Art Festival, Killeen —

Take 190 West is a weeklong salute to the arts. The event attracts sculptors, painters and authors, and events include book signings by authors, a sculpture contest featuring professional sculptors and the Killeen ISD student Art Show.

Go to: take190west.com

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.harkerheights.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 What's Happening listings on Fridays.



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Nosotros hablamos Español

Arts abound in Central Texas with local theaters

Art is a vibrant part of life in Central Texas. From the performing arts to concerts and symphonies, residents can enjoy exciting shows at local nonprofit community-based venues.

VIVE LES ARTS

For 45 years, Vive Les Arts Theatre is the premiere community theater in the Fort Hood-Killeen area. Jami Salter, who was a teacher for three decades, is VLA's executive director.

"We've always been committed to producing current works that are in line with what's just coming off Broadway," she said.

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 the city of Killeen's hotel and motel taxes, grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts, season memberships, fundraisers and other contributions. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so all contributions are tax-deductible. Vive Les Arts Theatre is at 3401 S. W.S. Young Drive. For more information, call 254-526-9090 or go to www.vlakilleen.org. Check out their Facebook page for the latest on shows, auditions and other news.

TABLEROCK

A 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, and lots of 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 through scenes from Dracula, Frankenstein and Phantom of the Opera, with excerpts from Edgar Allen Poe. The annual production of Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" is a family-friendly staple each December. The spring and summer seasons



MOVIE THEATERS

Call for showtimes and hours of operation during COVID-19.

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

219 E. Central Ave.
Belton
254-9831-3161

GRAND AVENUE THEATRE

2809 Oakmark Drive
Belton
254-939-5000

PREMIERE CINEMA + IMAX

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254-791-3900

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4501 S. General Bruce Drive
Temple
254-773-8497

LAST DRIVE-IN PICTURE SHOW

2912 S. State Highway 36
Gatesville
254-865-8445

bring music to Salado with the Gospel Festival, Salado ISD Band Concert and Shakespeare On the Rock. The nine-

acre Tablerock space is at Royal Street and Tablerock Road in Salado. Call 254-947-9205 or go to tablerock.org for information.

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 both before and after concerts. 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 ctos@gmail.com or go to cacarts.org for more information.

TEMPLE CIVIC THEATRE

The Temple Civic Theatre has staged entertaining, family-friendly performances for more than 56 years. Founded as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 1965, the theater originally worked under the Cultural Activities Center until becoming its own entity in 1974. In 1977, it built its own theater — an 11,000-square-foot facility with a 228-seat auditorium that offers patrons an excellent view from every seat. The theater is at 2413 S. 13th St., Temple. Call 254-778-4751 or go to templecivictheatre.com for more information on shows or how to support the nonprofit.

TEMPLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Temple Symphony Orchestra has been performing more than 25 years. "The value this dynamic group of musicians brings in terms of entertainment and education to Central Texas is immense," said Executive Director Jan Salzman.

Concerts take place at the Mayborn Performing Arts Center, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, 810 N. Main St., Belton. For tickets and more information, call 254-778-6683 or go to templesymphony.org.

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Mayborn Science Theater features 60-foot domed screen

The Mayborn Science Theater, located on the campus of Central Texas College in Killeen, opened in 2003 and is the only full-scale digital entertainment venue in the area.

The 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 six shows Saturday morning and afternoon, 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 32 people in order to maintain appropriate social distancing. Patrons must follow all of the CTC safety protocols regarding COVID-19, which includes wearing face masks or coverings.

When the campus fully reopens after the pandemic, the Mayborn Science Theater will resume its schedule of fun-filled science classes for youngsters, educational science exhibits and hosting the Epically Geeky Expo.

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.

Killeen Civic and Conference Center offers space for events of all sizes

The Killeen Civic & Conference Center is a modern, multifunctional and accessible meeting space with a comfortable and flexible floor plan capable of hosting public and private events of any size.

The Conference Center, 3601 S. W.S. Young Drive, boasts 64,000 square feet, and offers a variety of meeting rooms to accommodate intimate parties and theater-style seating for up to 2,000 people. A large ballroom can be arranged to seat 1,000 guests, or 100-750 in smaller spaces.

Meeting rooms are flexible, too. Curved glass paneled walls adorn the view in a special events room; 3,500-square-feet to host 125 banquet seating or 250 theater-style. An executive board room offers sophistication. A grand lobby and full kitchen ensure that the needs of all types of events are met.

Technology is embedded throughout

the complex and provides several attractive capabilities, including internet-connected rooms and WiFi access, video-conferencing and satellite, and media projectors and sound.

The conference center anchors the city's entertainment complex, which is also home to the Special Events Center with 53,000 square feet capable of hosting auctions, food drives, roller derby and more.

The Killeen Rodeo Grounds hosts the city's annual rodeo event each May.

Finally, the complex proudly features the Nov. 5, 2009 Fort Hood Memorial and a Korean War Memorial.

Staff are experienced and ready to help with scheduling, room layouts, and catering — everything you expect from a full-service organization to make an event successful.

Go to KilleenCivicCenter.com for more information or call 254-501-3888.

Bell County Museum keeps 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 all ages.

The museum owns more than 12,000 objects related to Bell County and Central Texas, 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 the Bell County History Exhibit, Gault Prehistoric Site Exhibit, Marshall Family Cabin and the Miniature House Collection. The Moustache Tea Cup Collection is the largest publicly held collection of the tea cups in the country.

"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 traveling exhibits every two to three months to provide new and engaging exhibits, along with permanent ones, all blending regional with national interests. COVID-19 has impacted the availability of traveling exhibits.

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. on Saturdays.

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 along I-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 of area that can seat around 1,000 people.

The complex includes a performance arena, warmup arena, bar and grill, concourse and stock pens.

The center has been the site of big-name concerts such as Willie Nelson, Casting Crowns, 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.

The Central Texas State Fair is a



Ellison High School senior Leiana Lara tends to her sheep, Mulan, during the Bell County Youth Fair and Livestock Show in February in the Exposition Building at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton.

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.

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Connect Hearing

City parks and rec programs have plenty to offer

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 starred in 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 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, go to www.KilleenTexas.gov.



A child plays at Lions Club Park in Killeen.

has plenty of options for all ages with its long list of facilities and programs.

After creating an adaptive sports program in 2010 and the Superhero Program in 2011, Harker Heights Parks and Recreation continues to provide a diverse set of activities for groups and individuals from children to adults.

The Superhero Program, now known as 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.

Harker Heights' most well known park is just down the street from the Recreation Center on Miller's Crossing. 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.

HARKER HEIGHTS

Harker Heights Parks and Recreation



Sam Rodriguez, of Belton, tries to reel in a few fish at Stillhouse Hollow Lake.

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 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.

Roll into area's skate parks, skating rinks

The Mickey's Convenience Store Skate Park opened in 2010 and 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 10,000-square-foot facility is a modular park and can accommodate about 30 skaters. The Conder Park facility features a mini ramp, a fun box, ledges, quarter pipes, flat rails and bank ramps all underneath a covered awning. Call 254-501-8889.

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.

Other local rinks are 254 Kascade, at 4400 Fort Hood St. in Killeen, and Wheels Family Skating Center, 814 N. 31st St. in Temple.

Pools, aquatic parks offer ways to keep cool in summer

Beating the summer heat in Killeen and its surrounding areas is easier with a trip to one of the large lakes, many refreshing swimming pools and also aquatic parks. Many pools have lifeguards and aquatic staff on duty.

Daily admission and season passes are available, with lessons at some pools. Call each pool for more information.

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 254-501-6537.

Long Branch Pool is closed until Memorial Day Weekend. The pool is at 1101 Branch Drive. Call 254-690-SWIM.

Junior Service League Spray Pad is closed until late spring. The spray pad is at 1101 Branch Drive. Call 254-690-SWIM.

BELTON

Belton splash pad season runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Harris Community Park offers a splash pad, 312 N. Alexander St.

South Wall Tiger Park splash pad, 1895 S. Wall St.

For more information, call the Parks

and Recreation Department at 254-933-2469 or 254-933-5860.

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. This pool area has a new splash pad for youngsters.

FORT HOOD

Fort Hood is dotted with swimming pools all over the post. All swimming pools on Fort Hood are authorized for use 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, 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.

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.

GATESVILLE

City Pool is at 300 S. Eighth St. Call 254-535-4794.

The city's **Splash Park** is in Raby Park at 910 Bridge St. Call 254-865-4012.

HARKER HEIGHTS

Carl Levin City Park Pool, 400 Miller's Crossing. Call 254-953-1300. The lap swim area measures 45 feet by 82 feet.

YMCA Spray 'n' Play is zero-depth with a 7,000-square-foot spray and play park, 901 S. Ann Blvd. Call 254-634-5445.

LAMPASAS

Hanna Springs Swimming Pool is 75 feet long with six lanes. 512 E. North Ave. Call 512-556-4048 or 512-556-6831.

Hancock Springs Free Flow Pool is the oldest, spring-fed pool in Texas. Hancock Park Highway, U.S. 281, Lampasas, TX 76550. Call 512-556-4048.

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 24 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.

For more information, go to hood.armymwr.com or call 254-287-4916.

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 of the club 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.

Tee time reservations can be made by calling 254-501-6575 or online at stonetreegc.com. Annual passes are also available. The address is 1600 Stonetree Drive, Killeen. For more information about Stonetree, go to stonetreegc.com.

The **Courses of Clear Creek** is on



Players warm up on the driving range at Stonetree Golf Club in Killeen for a March fundraiser.

Battalion Avenue in Fort Hood.

The course is open to the public, though civilians will need to obtain a visitor's pass at the main gate.

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 a 27-hole championship golf course and a free, four-hole course designed especially for youngsters.

According to hood.armymwr.com/

programs/courses-clear-creek, some COVID-19 protocols remain in place, notably the unavailability of rental clubs and the removal of water coolers from the course.

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.

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. 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 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.



Fireworks are illegal inside city limits, but are allowed in unincorporated areas.

Know the rules about fireworks

All Central Texas cities prohibit the use of all fireworks within city limits. But most fireworks are allowed in unincorporated areas of Texas counties, and this holds true for Bell County and Coryell County.

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 Copperas Cove and Harker Heights, or within 5,000 feet of city limits, according to the city ordinances.

In Copperas Cove, people can apply with the fire chief for display permits, but otherwise fireworks are illegal to possess.

In Harker Heights, possession or ignition of fireworks is illegal and punishable with a citation.

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 open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the weekend. 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 ranges from \$30 to \$35 an hour depending on the type of firearm. Firearm rentals vary between \$15 and \$25. An annual membership is available at three various packages ranging from \$35 a month to \$59 a month.

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 open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Mondays the facility is available for special events or by appointment only. 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 \$15 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 \$15 a day for adults to \$10 for children age 17 or younger.

An annual membership is available for \$250, and a biannual membership



Bullet holes cover a silhouetted target inside of Mountain Creek Gun Range in Killeen.

costs \$150 for six months. There are discounts for seniors, and TSRA and 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 \$16 plus tax per shooter. Gun rentals are \$9 plus tax. 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 and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The range is also open on holidays, but hours may vary. The range offers 10 pistol lanes up to 16 yards and 25 rifle lanes up to 600 yards. The range offers courses. Go to <https://oneinthechambersportsrange.com/> for dates and times. 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 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. seven days a week, weather permitting. The range offers pistol and rifle ranges. Go to <https://www.hicksvillegunrange.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. 38th 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



Phantom Warrior Lanes Bowling Center is open to active-duty and retired military and their families.

adults, youth and seniors and sponsors the Ellison, Copperas Cove, Shoemaker 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.

Cowboys show off skills at rodeos across the region

If you enjoy rodeos, you won't be disappointed. Whether you are a competitor, fan or just curious to see one of the wildly popular events firsthand, there are plenty of options in the area.

KILLEEN

The annual Rodeo Killeen is held just north of the Killeen Civic and Conference Center in May. Opening night is designated as Military Appreciation Night with reduced pricing for active-duty personnel and their dependents, as well as retirees.

In addition to the regularly scheduled activities, there are special demonstrations and performances. Learn more at RodeoKilleen.com.

BELTON

Belton hosts the Fourth of July Celebration and PRCA Rodeo every year in accordance with Independence Day at the Bell County Expo Center.

While the rodeo serves as the centerpiece, an entire array of events coincide with it. The rodeo, which has been an annual tradition since 1924, is the biggest draw, but the celebration includes a nationally acclaimed parade winding through the city's streets, a carnival, patriotic programs, a

kickoff barbecue and the Festival on Nolan Creek — a free event with vendors, entertainment and The Texas Old Time Fiddler's Contest.

The entire schedule and more about the rodeo and accompanying activities can be found at RodeoBelton.com.

LAMPASAS

The annual Lampasas Riata Roundup Rodeo has become a popular event in Central Texas every April. It gets underway with the Lampasas County Jackpot Team Roping on opening night with the top 10 teams advancing.

The following evenings consist of rodeo competitions, team roping finals, children's activities, dancing, live music and the crowning of a new Riata Round-up Rodeo Queen. Additional information on the rodeo can be found at LampasasChamber.org.

GATESVILLE

The annual Gatesville Riding Club Rodeo is in late July or early August at the Gatesville Riding Club Arena.

With special nightly events such as mutton busting, team mugging and wild cow milking, the rodeo is an attraction for all ages. For more information, go to GatesvilleRidingClub.org.

Killeen Daily Herald brings news, information to residents

Now in its 131st year of continuous operation, the award-winning Killeen Daily Herald is one of the oldest businesses in the Greater 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.

Herald subscribers can get instant access to the latest news, sports and information through the KDH News app, which 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 their smartphones.

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.

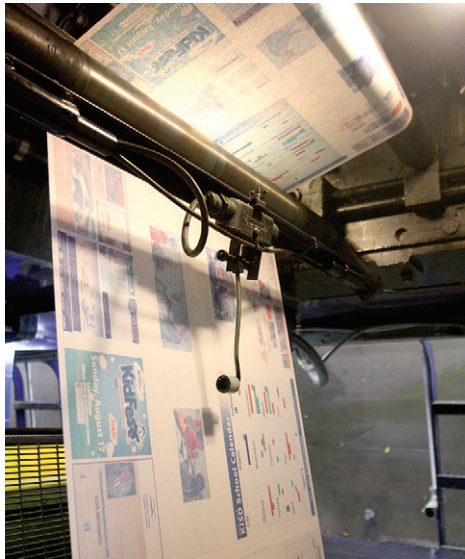
FME News Service — a joint collaboration of the Herald and its sister paper, the Temple Daily Telegram — brings readers a broader spectrum of news, sports and information spanning the coverage areas of both publications.

In addition, the Associated Press, Washington Post and Texas Tribune news services bring news and commentary on state, national and world events home to Central Texas readers.

AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM

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 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.

Last year, the Herald was recognized with 12 Texas APME awards, including third-place honors for both Newspaper of the Year and Newsroom of the Year.

The Herald's opinion editor has been recognized as Star Opinion Writer of the Year by the Texas AP Managing Editors for three consecutive years, from 2017 to 2019, and earned honorable mention recognition in that category last year.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS & SERVICES

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 four

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 flyers, 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."

HISTORY

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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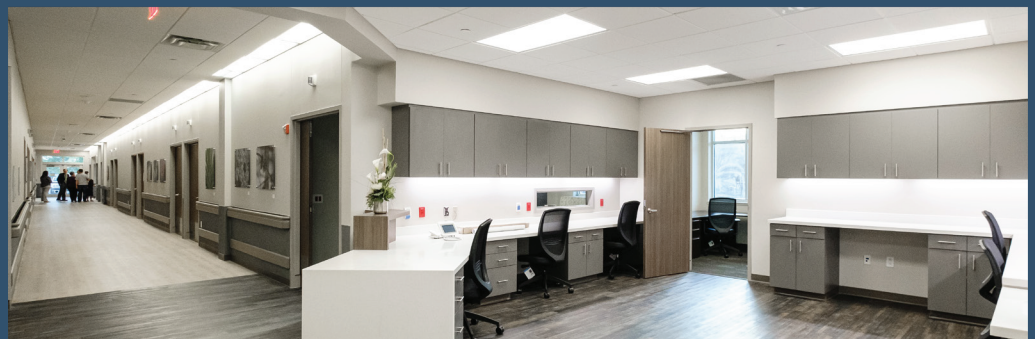
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