



Astros Swept
Detroit trounces Houston
7-2 for series win

– 1B



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Weekend
Area events include Lego
night, live music and more

– 8B

Today's Outlook

High: 92
Low: 74
Mostly cloudy



LEGISLATURE

Texas House approves congressional districts

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

AUSTIN — Texas Republicans on Wednesday took the first step toward approving new congressional maps that would give their party as many as five new seats in the House of Representatives, spurring what's likely to be a national battle over redistricting. The approval by the Texas House of Representatives came at the urging of President Donald Trump, who pushed for the extraordinary mid-decade revision of congressional maps to give his party a better chance at holding

onto the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2026 midterm elections. The maps need to be approved by the GOP-controlled state Senate and signed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott before they become official. But the Texas House presented the best chance for Democrats to derail the redraw. Texas state legislative Democrats delayed the vote by two weeks by fleeing the state earlier this month in protest, and were assigned round-the-clock police monitoring upon

their return to ensure they attended Wednesday's session. The approval of the Texas maps on an 88-52 party-line vote is likely to prompt California's Democratic-controlled state Legislature last week to approve of a new House map creating five new Democratic-leaning districts. Unlike in Texas, the California map would require approval by voters in November before it becomes official. Democrats vowed to sue to challenge the new Texas map and com-

plained that Republicans made the political power move before passing legislation responding to deadly floods that swept the state last month. Republicans noted the flood legislation would have already passed if the Democrat representatives had not fled the state. Texas Republicans openly said they were acting in their party's interest. State Rep. Todd Hunter, who wrote the legislation formally creating the new map, noted that the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed politicians

to redraw districts for nakedly partisan purposes. "The underlying goal of this plan is straight forward: improve Republican political performance," Hunter, a Republican, said on the floor. After nearly eight hours of debate, Hunter took the floor again to sum up the entire dispute as nothing more than a partisan fight. "What's the difference, to the whole world listening? Republicans like it, and Democrats do not."

Please see REDISTRICTING, 5A

Digging in



Nan Dickson/Special to the Telegram

Workers use jackhammers, picks and shovels to remove a section of sidewalk Monday on Avenue M at South First Street in Temple.

BELL COUNTY

Shop owners jailed in mass raid suing for wrongful arrest

BY CAROLINE REED
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Three local retail shop owners caught up in a massive "evidentiary" raid from dozens of law enforcement officers want to revive their businesses, along with their dignity and reputations, and are fighting back with a \$1 million lawsuit. The lawsuit contends the lives of Imran Khan, Jamil Khan, and Michael Barnes were forever altered during the course of the dragnet that covered Temple and Belton. Police seized property and arrested three shop owners. The raid in question and the arrests came out of nowhere, according to the plaintiffs, and they say law enforcement has not been cooperative in explaining reasons behind the raid or helping them regain their businesses.

The raid of seven shops — six in Temple and one in Belton — was initially presented by law enforcement as ending with a letter of warning to each owner, but has since escalated into the arrests and now a counter lawsuit. The Temple shop owners who say they were wrongfully arrested following the raid of suspected THC and hemp products want answers and are claiming in the lawsuit that they were wrongfully targeted and the raid and arrests have caused irreparable effects on their businesses. The \$1 million lawsuit originally was filed in the 169th District Court of Bell County, but after a scheduled hearing was canceled, it was moved to federal court in the Western District of Texas, Waco Division.

Please see SUIT, 5A

TEMPLE COLLEGE

TC board sets hearing, proposes 2025 tax rate

BY BELLA CASEY
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Temple College is starting the new school year with new programs and buildings, but it has not established a new tax rate yet. The Temple College board of trustees unanimously voted Monday for a proposed tax rate for the 2025 tax year — one that would not require an election or petition if approved. The proposed tax rate is \$0.2017 per \$100 valuation. The no-new-revenue tax rate is \$0.1966 per \$100, and the voter-approval tax rate is \$0.2017 per \$100. Taxes owed under any of the tax rates can be calculated using the following formula: (tax rate) x (taxable value of a property)/100. A public hearing for the

tax rate will be held at the next regular board meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 25 at 2600 S. First Street. "Just to be clear, the board did not adopt a tax rate Monday," Chief Financial Officer Glenn Graham told the Telegram in a follow-up email regarding the meeting. "What they did was to vote on a proposed tax rate that will appear in the Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase to be published in the local newspaper." The board will vote to adopt a tax rate at the Aug. 25 meeting following the public hearing. The board can vote to adopt the \$0.2017 tax rate or a rate lower than that without triggering an election or petition because it is not greater than the voter-approved tax rate.

Please see TC, 5A

HEALTH & BIOSCIENCE DISTRICT

Bioscience tax rate at no new revenue; push for 'Blue Zone' moves forward

BY IAN CAMACHO
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

The Temple Health & Bioscience Economic Development District has proposed a no-new-revenue tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year. Currently, the property tax rate stands at 14.523 cents per \$100 valuation. The proposed no-new-revenue tax rate will drop the rate by 0.576 cents to 13.947 cents per \$100 valuation. For comparison, the voter approval rate, which adds the maintenance and operations tax rate plus a 3.5% increase and other factors, equals 15.122 cents. The news comes as certified property values in the district climbed to a total of \$12.76 billion, up from about \$11.4 billion last year. "It's tough times for everybody as far as financial (goes), so you want to be very cogni-



Ian Camacho /Telegram

The Temple Health & Bioscience District board members meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 20 in the Temple Economic Development Corporation boardroom discussed tax rates and "Blue Zone" designation.

zant of that," board member John Kiella said at the meeting. "I think we've done that through (lower) taxing, and that's a smart thing to do."

The no-new-revenue tax rate follows last year's increased tax rate, which resulted from a successful campaign by the district to improve the health

of local residents through a "Blue Zone" designation. The name "Blue Zones" Please see BIOSCIENCE, 5A

EDUCATION

Belton ISD board approves budget; tax rate remains same

BY BELLA CASEY
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

BELTON — Budget, taxes, state laws and firing a teacher were on the agenda for the Belton Independent School District board of trustees at the latest meeting. The board met Monday in a regular meeting to discuss the 2025-26 oper-

ational budget and tax rate, as well as respond to state legislation and terminate the contract of an employee. Trustees approved a new operational budget, but the tax rate didn't budge. State funding supports 66% of the newly-approved \$153,309,901 budget, while local revenue makes up 33% and federal revenue is 1%. The

approved budget is a 2% increase from the 2024-25 budget, which was \$150,859,691. Investments for the school year ahead include a new tiered service model in special education, expanded Career and Technical Education opportunities and targeted interventions in early literacy and math. House Bill 2, which passed over the

summer and established the Teacher Retention Allotment and Support Staff Retention Allotment, provided substantial salary increases for teachers and new allotments to specific programs and expenses, according to the district. "I've been in five different school districts in the Central Texas area," Superintendent Malinda Golden said

at the meeting. "I've never seen any school district able to actually have their plans developed, gone through coaching cycles and ready to go before students walk in the building. It's not uncommon school districts adopt campus enrichment plans in October and November."

Please see BISD, 5A



TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE
"God is with thee in all that thou doest."
— Genesis 21:22



MARKET REPORT Complete coverage Page 3A	Dow Jones Industrials	16.04
		44,938.31
	Nasdaq composite	-142.09
		21,172.86

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