



In the spotlight
Features on football players from Temple, Belton, Lake Belton — **1B**



More coverage online
More state, national and world stories are available on www.tdtnews.com.



Outdoors
Quail surveys raise expectations for quality hunting season
— **8A**

Today's Outlook
High: 84
Low: 68
25% chance of showers

CRIME

NBA coach, player charged in betting cases

NEW YORK (AP) — The head coach of the Portland Trail Blazers and a player for the Miami Heat were arrested Thursday along with more than 30 other people in a takedown of two sprawling gambling operations that authorities said leaked inside information about NBA athletes and rigged poker games backed by Mafia families.

Portland coach Chauncey Billups was charged with participating in a conspiracy to fix high-stakes card games tied to La Cosa Nostra organized crime families that cheated unsuspecting gamblers out of at least \$7 million. Heat guard Terry Rozier was accused in a separate scheme of exploiting private information about players to win bets on NBA games.

The two indictments unsealed in New York create a massive cloud for the NBA — which opened its season last week — and show how certain types of wagers are vulnerable to massive fraud in the growing, multibillion-dollar legal sports-betting industry. Joseph Nocella, the top federal prosecutor for the Eastern District of New York, called it “one of the most brazen sports corruption schemes since online sports betting became widely legalized in the United States.”

“My message to the defendants who’ve been rounded up today is this: Your winning streak has ended,” Nocella said. “Your luck has run out.”

Both men face money laundering and wire fraud conspiracy charges. Also charged was former NBA assistant coach and player Damon Jones, who stands accused of participating in both schemes.

“The fraud is mind boggling,” FBI Director Kash Patel told reporters. “We’re talking about tens of millions

Please see **GAMBLING, 3A**

TEMPLE FIRE & RESCUE

Practice makes perfect



Caroline Reed/Telegram

Firefighters work with the “Jaws of Life” during training Thursday at Temple Fire & Rescue Station 8.

Temple emergency personnel train for life-saving rescues

BY CAROLINE REED
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Emergency services professionals took time last week to “play” a little as they practiced various skills to help them save lives.

Also online

For more photos from this training event, see the gallery on www.tdtnews.com.

Temple Fire & Rescue Station 8 fire, medical and air evacuation crews focused their training for the next highway emergency.

“It’s just an opportunity for us to train with AMR (American Medical Response) and PHI (medical) air evac because there’s not a lot of training for that,” Ronnie



Caroline Reed/Telegram

Medical and fire crews place a neck brace on a dummy following a automobile crash scenario during a training exercise on Thursday at Temple Fire & Rescue Station 8.

Salter, battalion chief of the training division, said. “It’s time for everybody to come out and kind of play together.”

Without the high stakes of real-world incidents, crews were able to walk through

the best way to extract people from car wrecks. First responders often must respond quickly to crashes and work in a small area along the side of a road or highway.

“They are using the jaws of life, spreaders, gutters together to open up the door so we can get people out,” Salter said.

For most this was their first experience being able to practice extractions from start to finish within the open space that Fire Station 8, off of Airport Road in West Temple, offers.

“Some are newer firefighters, but most are not,” Salter said. “I can tell you, I’ve been here 18 years and we haven’t had the chance to do this type of training with PHI and everyone here.”

Please see **TRAINING, 3A**

BELL COUNTY

Democrats argue, call cops on each other at meeting

BY KEVIN LIMITI
FME NEWS SERVICE

A Bell County Democratic Party meeting at the Bell County Courthouse last week devolved into chaos and ended with Bell County deputies taking statements from various attendees.

Mikhail Gray, chairwoman of the Bell County Democratic Party, and a representative of the Texas Democratic Party’s State Democratic Executive Committee argued with each other at the meeting in Belton Monday about electing a parliamentarian. Gray was apparently blocking a vote for a parliamentarian.

The state committee member, Stephan Zaparolli, in a video obtained by FME News

See the videos

View videos of meeting obtained by FME News Service at www.tdtnews.com

Service, argued with Gray, saying that the chair needed to vote in the parliamentarian and that she could not just appoint one.

“You cannot just assume power,” he said.

Gray attempted to have Zaparolli removed by a security guard, who some have said were hired by her. However, Zaparolli said the guard had no power over him and asked attendees to start recording with their phones. Some did.

When reached by phone

Please see **DEMOCRATS, 3A**

WEATHER

90% chance of rain predicted

BY JADA HOLCOMB
FME NEWS SERVICE

The National Weather Service reported that there will be chances of rain amounting up to five inches from Friday to Saturday night in the Killeen-Temple area. The National Weather Service sent out a flood watch warning Thursday with additional details on their official website.

“Flooding caused by excessive rainfall is possible. Portions of North and Central Texas along and east of the I-35 corridor. ... From Friday evening through Saturday afternoon. Excessive runoff may result in flooding of rivers, creeks, streams, and other low-lying and flood-prone locations. Flooding may occur in poor-drainage and urban areas. Creeks and streams may rise

out of their banks,” weather service staff wrote on Thursday.

According to the weather services daily forecast, there’s a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms Friday after 1 p.m. Gusts of winds can reach as high as 25 mph with a high temperature of 85. Throughout the night, rainfall chances will increase to 90% with gusts decreasing to 20 mph.

On Saturday, showers and thunderstorm chances will start at 90% throughout the day, decreasing to 50% around night-fall.

National Weather Service is asking the community to monitor later forecasts and be alert for possible flood warnings at <https://forecast.weather.gov/>. Those living in areas prone to flooding should be prepared to take action should flooding develop.

TEMPLE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM

Ex-White House designer provides decoration details at local fundraiser

BY BELLA CASEY
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

The televised reveal of the White House Christmas decorations was Amanda Barkley’s Super Bowl growing up, and flowers were in her blood as a third-generation florist.

So when an opportunity to volunteer for White House Christmas decorating became available in 2015, she and her sister eagerly applied.

She had to “pay her way” as a volunteer, but her talent caught staff members’ attention and it turned into a paid gig that allowed her to gain an insider perspective on past and current administrations: the Obamas kept the

White House hot, and First Lady Melania Trump loved simple ribbons for decoration.

Barkley, a former floral designer for the White House and freelance florist, broke in the newly renovated Arcadia Theater on Thursday for a Christmas-themed Temple Children’s Museum fundraiser as part the Cultivator Speaker Series.

Nearly 200 attendees got into the Christmas spirit for Barkley’s speech, a floral demonstration, a silent auction and lunch.

Temple Children’s Museum fundraiser organizer Amee Tuggle met Barkley years ago at a craft event, and the two kept in touch and became friends. When Tuggle invited Barkley to speak at the fundraising event, she didn’t hesitate to take the stage.

“It’s fun to talk about what I’m passionate about,” Barkley told the Telegram after she finished building a Ralph-Lauren-themed display in front of the audience.

Although Barkley is not currently a White House Christmas designer, she shares design and craft tips with others through social media and decorates for freelance jobs. She explained to attendees how they could repurpose items they owned to decorate their homes for the holidays, something attendee Deanna Naidar said she liked about the presentation.

“I’m going home now and putting my tree up,” Naidar said.

Please see **DESIGNER, 3A**



Bella Casey/Telegram

Amanda Barkley told attendees how her volunteering at the White House turned into a job. She was speaking at a Temple Children’s Museum fundraising event Thursday.



TODAY’S BIBLE VERSE
“If any man serve me, him will my Father honor.”
— John 12:26



MARKET REPORT Complete coverage Page 5B	Dow Jones Industrials	144.20
		46,734.61
	Nasdaq composite	201.40
		22,941.80

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