



Title hunting

Tech, BYU prep for Big 12 championship game

- 1B



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'Divine gift of peace'

Pope Leo XIV appears alongside Lebanon's Christian and Muslim leaders

- 5A

Today's Outlook

High: 55
Low: 39
Sunny



DOWNTOWN TEMPLE



Jason Deckman/Special to the Telegram

Santa Claus waves to the crowd Monday night gathered along West Adams Avenue from atop a Temple Fire & Rescue vehicle during the 79th annual Christmas Parade in downtown Temple.

Cold winds and warm spirits as 79th annual Christmas Parade marches on

BY CAROLINE REED
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

The cold weather could not keep parade goers away from the annual Christmas parade, which brought spectators to the streets of downtown Temple on Monday evening despite the low temperature and a wind chill that made it feel like mid 30's.

The city of Temple celebrated its 79th annual Christmas Parade, a signature community event and one of many festive experiences featured in the month-long Holly Jolly holiday celebration.

The 1.4 mile parade themed "A Lone Star Christmas" celebrated Texas pride and the traditions that make the local community shine bright each holiday season.

This tradition brings residents from all over to celebrate the Christmas holiday as different organizations, schools, businesses and city leaders roll down the streets of Temple in style.

SunTex Roofing & Reconstruction joined the parade as a participant for the first time this year, excited to put together a Texas-themed float.

"We put together a little house, kind of like a storefront," Beth Keller said. "It represents the company, and then shingles on the roof, and then our lights. For the Lone Star theme, we've got a lit up Lone Star on the roof, cowboy hats, hay bales, all the fun stuff."

Last year, the city had 113 floats in the parade. According to a city spokesperson, there were 94 entries this year. Despite the lower number of par-



Jason Deckman/Special to the Telegram

A cowboy twirls a lasso of Christmas lights Monday night atop the Ralph Wilson Youth Center bus as it cruises along West Adams Avenue in downtown Temple during the 2025 Christmas Parade.

ticipants, spirits were holly and jolly as floaters lined up Eighth Street in preparation.

While floaters were putting together the final touches on their extravagant floats, parade watchers were already lining up the streets as the cold was nipping at their noses and toes.

The Hanke family braved the cold more than an hour before the parade began to get the best viewing seats for when the Grinch came by.

With two 10-year-olds and a 6-year old bundled up in blankets, it's a family tradition Michelle Hanke, a Temple native,

has been participating in for many years.

"It's always been a big deal to us," Hanke said. "Normally it isn't this cold though."

For others it's a new experience.

"We moved here last year from Killeen and just never heard about it, so this is our first year attending," Brittany Lund said.

Together Lund and Kai Riviera, who said he's most excited to see Santa come through, sat on bleachers set up by the city and drank their hot chocolate, grateful they thought ahead and brought their own.

For those not as thoughtful, there was no concern.

Where some saw the cold, Treno Pizzeria and Taproom saw a business opportunity, selling warm pizza and hot chocolate to cold spectators.

"We did this a few years ago, but decided to do it again this year," Jacob Bates, owners of Treno Pizzeria and Taproom, said as he set up his food truck. "Every year, I feel like people show up no matter what. The weather might damper some of that, but some hot chocolate and pizza would warm you right up."
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HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Cyber Monday

Shoppers scoured for deals online and delivered record sales for retailers worldwide

NEW YORK (AP) — Shoppers scoured for deals online on Cyber Monday, delivering strong sales for retailers and capping a five-day spending spree that kicked off on Thanksgiving.

Adobe Analytics reported that as of 5:30 p.m. Monday, U.S. consumers had already spent \$9.1 billion online for Cyber Monday, up 4.5% from the same day a year ago.

Adobe expects that when the final tally is in, consumers will spend between \$13.9 billion and \$14.2 billion for the day, making Cyber Monday the biggest online shopping day of the year— and setting records for that day.

Online spending is expected to peak between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. local time, with \$16 million to pass through online shopping carts every minute nationwide, Adobe said.

Electronics and apparel are leading the charge for Cyber Monday, Adobe reported.

The sales results are in line with Adobe Analytics prediction of \$14.2 billion online

Monday, or 6.3% more than in 2024.

U.S. consumers already spent \$11.8 billion online during Black Friday, \$6.4 billion on Thanksgiving Day and another \$11.8 billion over the weekend — exceeding Adobe's forecasts.

Adobe said Monday that it expects the five-day weekend to drive 17.2% of overall online sales this season, at \$43.7 billion, up 6.3% compared with the year-ago period.

Purchases made across Cyber Week — the five major shopping days between Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday — provides a strong indication of how much shoppers are willing to spend for the holidays.

"Cyber Week is off to a strong start," said Vivek Pandya, lead analyst at Adobe Digital Insights. "Discounts are set to remain elevated through Cyber Monday, which we expect will remain the biggest online shopping day of the season and year."

Please see CYBER, 3A

TRANSPORTATION

Certification trouble

Federal review finds 44% of US trucking schools don't comply with government rules

BY JOSH FUNK
AP TRANSPORTATION WRITER

Nearly 44% of the 16,000 truck driving schools in the U.S. may be forced to close if they lose their students after a review by the federal Transportation Department found they may not be complying with government requirements.

The Transportation Department said Monday that it plans to revoke the certification of nearly 3,000 schools unless they can comply with training requirements in the next 30 days. The targeted schools must notify students that their certification is in

jeopardy. Another 4,500 schools are being warned they may face similar action.

Schools that lose certification will no longer be able to issue the certificates showing a driver completed training that's required to get a license, so students are likely to abandon those schools.

Separately, the Department of Homeland Security is auditing trucking firms in California owned by immigrants to verify the status of their drivers and whether they are qualified to hold a commercial driver's license.

Please see SCHOOLS, 3A



AP file

A student driver gets into a truck Nov. 15, 2021, as the instructor watches in California.

TEMPLE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Foundation officials award record number of scholarships

STAFF REPORT

Hundreds of Temple College students earned scholarships totaling nearly half a million dollars following a successful fundraising season.

Temple College officials announced Monday that 427 students earned \$460,255 in Temple College Foundation scholarships, topping numbers from last year, according to a news release.

Last year, Temple College Foundation officials gave 389 scholarships, totaling \$372,350.

Temple College Foundation, established in 1982, supports the growth of Temple College, primarily through scholarships.

"This is a wonderful milestone to celebrate," Executive Director Dana Riegel stated. "We are so thankful for the incredible individuals, foundations and organizations who believe

in our students and invest in their success. For many of our students, these scholarships are truly life-changing. They make it possible for students to take the next step in their education — an opportunity that might not have been possible otherwise."

Temple College Foundation officials raised scholarship funds through events such as the Kentucky Derby fundraiser and The Johnson Brothers Golf Tournament.

The Kentucky Derby fundraiser, held in May, attracted more than 300 attendees, according to Temple College. Community members gathered to watch the annual Kentucky Derby, and enjoy dinner, drinks and activities to raise \$128,333.

The Johnson Brothers Golf Tournament, held at Wildflower Country Club in October, sold out to raise \$84,409.

"Thanks to generous sponsors and

supporters whose dedication made this year's Kentucky Derby fundraiser and Johnson Brothers Golf Tournament such remarkable successes," Lorenzo Reyes, vice president of resource development and external relations, stated. "These scholarships continue to open doors and create new opportunities for Temple College students."

Scholarship applications for the 2026-27 school year open in January.



TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"For with God nothing shall be impossible."

— Luke 1:37



Russia-Ukraine war

Land, security are main sticking points in peace proposal

- 4B

INSIDE TODAY

Classifieds	5B	Life	7A
Comics	6A	Obituaries	5A
Crossword	5B	Second Front	2A
Editorial	4A	Sports	1B
Health	8A	Weather	8B