



Rockets win
Durant helps Houston beat pistons

– 1B



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Minneapolis

Federals officers detain 5-year-old who a school official says was used as “bait”

– 5B

Today's Outlook

High: 33
Low: 22
90% rain



SEVERE WEATHER

Massive storm threatens more than half the US

DALLAS (AP) — Freezing rain fell in parts of Texas on Friday as a huge, dayslong winter storm began a trek that threatened to bring snow, sleet, ice, bone-chilling temperatures and extensive power outages to about half the U.S. population. Forecasters warned that catastrophic damage, especially in areas pounded by ice, could rival that of a hurricane.

Schools in Chicago and other Midwestern cities called off classes, airlines canceled thousands of weekend flights, churches moved Sunday services online and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn., decided to hold its Saturday night radio performance without fans. Carnival parades in

Louisiana were canceled or rescheduled.

At least 182 million people were under watches or warnings for ice and snow, and more than 210 million were under cold weather advisories or warnings. In many places those overlapped.

Utility companies braced for power outages because ice-coated trees and power lines can keep falling long after a storm has passed.

“It’s going to be a big storm,” Maricela Resendiz said as she picked up chicken, eggs and pizzas at a Dallas store to get her, her 5-year-old son and her boyfriend through the weekend. Her plans: “Staying in, just be-

Inside
As winter storms approach, Texas officials say state is ready, won’t repeat 2021 catastrophe. 2A
Temple residents can expect freezing rain, sleet this weekend. 8A

ing out of the way.”

Freezing rain slickened roads in Lubbock in the afternoon as temperatures dropped.

After sliding into the South, the storm was expected to move into

the Northeast, dumping about a foot of snow from Washington through New York and Boston, the National Weather Service predicted.

Arctic air was the first piece to fall in place

Frigid air that spilled down from Canada prompted the cancellations of classes at schools throughout the Midwest. Wind chills as low as minus 40 degrees meant that frostbite could set in within 10 minutes, making it too dangerous to walk to school or wait for the bus.

In Bismarck, N.D., where the wind chill was minus 41, Colin Cross cleaned out an empty unit for the apartment complex where he works.

“I’ve been here awhile and my brain stopped working,” said Cross, bundled up in long johns, two long-sleeve shirts, a jacket, hat, hood, gloves and boots.

Despite the bitter cold, a protest over an immigration crackdown went on as planned in Minnesota, with thousands demonstrating in downtown Minneapolis.

Nationwide, nearly 5,000 flights were delayed or canceled Friday, many of them in Dallas and Chicago, according to the flight tracking website FlightAware. About 2,800 were called off for Saturday.

Please see **STORM, 3A**



A person walks by a vehicle that was plowed in by snow Friday in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Joel Bissell, Kalamazoo Gazette/AP

A wintery mix

Chances of precipitation, freezing temperatures high for weekend as Temple closes some facilities

BY BELLA CASEY
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Previous snow chances are absent from the weekend forecast as severe winter weather is predicted to move into Central Texas.

National Weather Service officials predict chilly daytime highs and frigid nighttime lows will follow the light rain and fog that rolled into the area Friday morning.

Snow chances faded as the weekend neared and only sleet and winter mix are predicted to affect residents in and around Temple.

The National Weather Service predicts temperatures will climb to just above freezing today at a high of 33 degrees with

a chance of wintery mix and a low of 22 degrees tonight.

Sunday’s high is predicted to be 26 degrees with a slight chance of sleet then partially sunny conditions. Sunday night temperatures are forecast to drop to a low of 18 degrees.

The Monday daytime high is predicted to be 30 with a nighttime low of 14 degrees. Updated forecasts show no chances of sleet or snow Monday.

City of Belton Spokesperson Paul Romer said the Belton Public Library, a city building where people can shelter, will be closed Saturday. City officials will make decisions about Monday closures on Sunday.

Please see **TEMPLE, 3A**

TAX APPRAISAL DISTRICT OF BELL COUNTY

Bell property owners get two extra days to pay property taxes

BY IAN CAMACHO
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER



BELTON — Bell County property owners have two extra days to pay their property taxes this year.

Annual property taxes normally come due Jan. 31, but this year that date falls on a Saturday, shifting the deadline to the next business day, Monday, Feb. 2.

The Tax Appraisal District of Bell County will accept all payments for 2025 taxes received or postmarked by Feb. 2 without penalty or interest. Penalty and interest charges begin to accrue immediately for payments received or postmarked after that date, and the district will consider such payments delinquent.

The 2025 increase in the homestead exemption for

school taxes provides homeowners with tax relief.

Gov. Greg Abbott has made property tax reform a priority for the next legislative session, which begins in 2027.

To avoid fees, pay with cash or a physical check.

Taxpayers may pay in person with cash, check or credit card at three locations from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.: 205 E. Central Ave. in Temple, 411 E. Central Ave. in Belton and 301 Priest Drive in Killeen.

Unlike nearby counties that no longer provide pennies in change, Bell will give pennies to cash-paying customers.

Please see **TAXES, 3A**

TEMPLE ISD

Rockin’ Roadrunners Robotics Team first from TISD to compete in decade

BY BELLA CASEY
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

A group of Western Hills Elementary School students are skipping recess, missing their specialized classes and staying after school to spend time in a classroom that isn’t their homeroom.

The nine students — one fifth-grader and eight fourth-graders — go to third-grade teacher Jordan Nelson’s classroom, where a plastic bucket of colorful LEGOs greets them at the door, and the stuffed animals and LEGO creations lining classroom shelves watch like colorful gargoyles as they put the finishing touches on the coding project they worked on for weeks.

The group of rookie coders was the first Temple Independent School District elementary robotics team in at least a decade to compete in a FIRST LEGO League Challenge last weekend, a news release stated. The Waco competition challenged Texas fourth-through eighth-graders to de-



Courtesy

Rockin’ Roadrunners Robotics Team members work together to finish missions and earn points at the competition.

sign, build and code a LEGO robot to complete a series of missions.

Nelson thought the competition could be too tough for her group of young students when her sister, who is a mid-

dle school teacher in Florida, urged her to start a coding program the past two years. She hosted a LEGO camp last summer to gauge interest in the idea.

“Seeing that camp and see-

ing how excited they were about it, I was like, ‘OK, we can do this,’” Nelson said.

The camp recruited one member with previous coding experience and eight curious LEGO lovers.

Colton and Heidi Elliott, two fourth-grade twins, joined together.

Colton dreams of buying a “Back to the Future” LEGO set — a \$170 set, not including tax, he said — and incorporates LEGOs into games when playing with his sister.

Clara Bruns, a fourth-grader, didn’t know what coding was before participating in the camp. Now she loves it.

And fourth-grader Clementine Eaton was hooked on just the idea of coding after learning about it at a spring science, technology, engineering and math event the district held. She turned to her father and told him she really wanted to try it.

That led to the Rockin’ Roadrunners Robotics Team.

Please see **ROBOTICS, 3A**

CRIME

Temple Police arrest man following hours-long standoff

BY CAROLINE REED
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

A standoff that began late Friday morning ended mid-afternoon when Temple Police officers made entry into an apartment and arrested a man

wanted on a violation of bond conditions.

Temple Police Department said the man, who was not identified, was taken into custody at 3:15 pm.

The standoff began after a report of shots fired about

11:30 a.m. at the Canyon Creek Townhomes, 1476 Canyon Creek Drive in South Temple in the area of Sam’s Club and Academy Sports + Outdoors.

After arriving on scene, officers located a specific

apartment unit where they believed an armed man was barricaded.

The Temple Police Department is continuing its investigation into this incident to determine if any additional charges will be filed.

Due to the investigation, police stated no other information will be released at this time.

Anyone with information about this incident may contact the Temple Police Department at 254-298-5500, or

the Bell County Crime Stoppers at 254-526-8477, where callers may report anonymously.

Tips also may be submitted anonymously at bellcounty-crimestoppers.com.
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TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

“Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

— Psalm 37:4



MARKET REPORT
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Dow Jones Industrials
49,098.71

Nasdaq composite
23,501.24

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