



**Doubleheader**  
Temple College settles for split with Grayson  
- 1B



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**Weekend**  
Area events include Easter egg hunts, live music and more  
- 8B

**Today's Outlook**  
**High: 79**  
**Low: 68**  
**70% chance of showers**

## UNIVERSITY OF MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR

# Passionate performance



Nan Dickson/Special to the Telegram

Jesus, portrayed by Jonathan Diaz, shows the scars in his hands after his victory over death and the grave during the 87th annual Easter pageant on Wednesday at Luther Memorial on the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor campus in Belton.

## Annual pageant tells story of Christ's sacrifice, resurrection

BY BELLA CASEY  
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

**BELTON** — A sea of people covered the lawn in the center of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor campus, sitting beneath the sun's beating rays to observe a beloved school tradition.

Approximately 6,000 people visited campus Wednesday, nearly double the number of students enrolled at the university.

The 87th annual UMHB Easter Pageant, a student-led reenactment of the Holy Week, drew the crowd. The narrated production — which students performed at 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. — depicted scenes such as Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection.

"It brings that honor and glory to Him (Jesus) that He so deserves because of His sacrifice," Kendra Lindsey, who attended the first performance, said.

Lindsey said the performance was an opportunity for her young granddaughter to see a visual representation of the Gospel.

Youngsters enjoyed a front row seat to the performance. Some spread out on picnic blankets or sat in the grass,



Bella Casey/Telegram

Jonathan Diaz, a senior at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, portrayed Jesus during the UMHB 87th Easter Pageant. In this scene, he holds a child, portrayed by Mia O'Rear, who was healed.

stretching their hands toward Jonathan Diaz, a senior accounting major who portrayed Jesus.

"This role is not for me, and it's not to glorify who I am," Diaz told the Tele-

gram before the performance. "But to glorify who He (Jesus) is and just allowing that to happen through me."

Please see PAGEANT, 5A

## TEMPLE

# Seeking transparency

### City officials clarify open records data following residents' concerns

BY IAN CAMACHO  
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Following residents' concerns about transparency at a recent City Council meeting, Temple officials claim the city website information cited was outdated and inaccurate.

At the March 19 council meeting, resident Sarah Royer said the city reduced its fulfillment of public information requests by roughly 70% since 2021, after the city hired City Attorney Kathryn Davis.

When asked where she obtained this number, Royer pointed to the city website, which displayed 3,457 "processed" requests in fiscal year 2021 and 1,012 in fiscal year 2022.

The Telegram contacted the city for more information.

"We appreciate this being brought to our attention and apologize for any confusion," Assistant City Attorney Charla Thomas emailed. "This dash-

board is an outdated section of the website, which should not have been publicly accessible and did not reflect current or accurate information."

Thomas explained these older dashboards are no longer maintained or in use.

"When we became aware this was errantly displayed on the public facing page, we took immediate steps to begin removal of this information on this departmental webpage and all others," Thomas stated.

Despite Thomas's email, the city website still displayed the outdated information on Wednesday evening.

City spokesperson Megan Price said the city started using NextRequest, an open records request portal, in November 2019. The city received 215 requests before implementing the portal in fiscal year 2020.

The city provided the following records request totals:

Please see REQUESTS, 5A

## SPACE EXPLORATION

# We have liftoff

### Artemis 2 launches into space on mission to fly around moon

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** (AP) — Four astronauts embarked on a high-stakes flight around the moon Wednesday, humanity's first lunar voyage in more than half a century and the thrilling leadoff in NASA's push toward a landing in two years.

Carrying three Americans and one Canadian, the 32-story rocket rose from NASA's Kennedy Space Center where tens of thousands gathered to witness the dawn of this new era. Crowds also jammed the surrounding roads and beaches, reminiscent of the Apollo moonshots in the 1960s and '70s. It is NASA's biggest step yet toward establishing a per-

manent lunar presence.

Artemis II set sail from the same Florida launch site that sent Apollo's explorers to the moon so long ago. The hand-ful still alive cheered this next generation's grand adventure as the Space Launch System rocket thundered into the early evening sky, a nearly full moon beckoning some 248,000 miles away.

Artemis II commander Reid Wiseman led the charge into space with "Let's go to the moon!" accompanied by pilot Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canada's Jeremy Hansen. It was the most diverse lunar

Please see ARTEMIS, 5A

## EDUCATION

# Data: White families make up bulk of school voucher applicants

BY JADEN EDISON  
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Most of Texas' school voucher applications come from white families and children who previously attended a private school or home-school.

The Texas comptroller's office, which manages the program, released preliminary data before applications for families interested in vouchers closed Tuesday night. The program will allow them to use taxpayer funds to pay for private school or home-schooling costs.

Of the 256,700 Texans who applied as of late March, 45% are white, 23% are Hispanic and 11% are black. Low-income families make up 36%

**Also inside**  
Texas' school voucher applications close after judge declines to extend deadline a second time.  
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of applicants — defined as a family of four earning \$66,000 or less per year.

For comparison, 24% of Texas public school students are white, 54% are Hispanic and 13% are Black. About 60% of public school students are considered low-income — defined as a family of four earning \$66,000 or less annually.

Please see VOUCHERS, 5A

## TEMPLE ISD

# Temple High School students qualify for national business conference

STAFF REPORT

Hard work paid off for a group of Temple High School students.

Six of them qualified last month to compete at the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference, school officials announced this week.

Three students advanced as national qualifiers, and another three qualified as alternates to triple the number of students who qualified last year, according to a press release.

Carlos Gamez finished second in server administration using Microsoft to qualify, and Atharv Garg earned sixth place for his banking and finance performance to earn a spot at nationals. Mason Abbey advanced after finishing eighth in intermediate word processing skills.

Abbey, who qualified for the second consecutive year, stat-



Courtesy photo

Houston Martin, left, Atharv Garg, Nevaeh Tobe, Ashley Huete, Mason Abbey and Carlos Gamez qualified to attend the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in May.

ed the national competition is an opportunity to absorb information and network with other professionals.

"You get to meet so many people from across the country, and I want to make sure

that everyone takes full advantage of the opportunities that are there," Abbey stated. "It feels great to be a qualifier again and it means the hard work and practice that I put in paid off in a competitive envi-

ronment." Houston Martin is an alternate after placing fifth in entrepreneurship. Nevaeh Tobe and Ashley Huete finished in

Please see STUDENTS, 5A



**TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE**  
"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."  
— Psalm 37:5



**MARKET REPORT**  
Complete coverage  
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