



NBA

Spurs, Thunder knotted at two games apiece

- 1B



More coverage online

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

Central Texas

Area schools announce valedictorians, salutatorians

- 2A

Today's Outlook

High: **87**
Low: **70**
Partly cloudy



MEMORIAL DAY IN CENTRAL TEXAS



Jason Deckman/Special to the Telegram

Adrian "Chief" Munoz places a bouquet of flowers on his father's grave Monday at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen. Crucified Motorcycle Ministry organized a Memorial Day Remember and Honor Run from the Cadence Bank Center in Belton to the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery.

'You have to give them credit'

American Legion Post 133 in Temple honors service members in moving ceremony Monday

BY BELLA CASEY
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Tears streamed down Donna Lawrence's face Monday as she heard the ding of a bell and the calling of her husband's name at a Memorial Day event.

Each ding of the bell represented an American Legion Post 133 member who died in the past year. Jeff Bolton on Monday placed 11 new names on the Post Everlasting wall, a display that honors deceased American Legion Post 133 members.

Lawrence's husband, Harry Lawrence, was among those honored on the Post Everlasting wall during the emotional Memorial Day ceremony. The ceremony also recognized all other service members and included a speech from Army veteran and former state representative Hugh Shine before attendees were served a free



Bella Casey/Telegram

The American Legion Post 133 Memorial Day ceremony in Temple featured a free meal, a speech from veteran and former state representative Hugh Shine, boy scout troop recognitions and a flag retirement ceremony.

meal.

It was a lot for Donna Lawrence to take in, considering her husband, Harry Lawrence, just died in October.

She showed up anyway — for her husband, her relatives who were service members

and for all veterans. Because they didn't have to leave their families to serve their country, and some of them, like her husband, didn't have any choice but to do so after they were drafted.

"That has to be hard, so you

have to give them credit for that," she said.

Most attendees and members of American Legion Post 133 in Temple are Vietnam War veterans, Commander John Potts said.

All except an individual Potts dubbed "his 101."

James Abbott, 101, served as a paratrooper in World War II. Other veterans and attendees stopped to thank him for his service after the ceremony, marveling at his status as one of the country's oldest veterans.

Less than 0.5% of the 16.4 million Americans who served during World War II are still alive, according to The National World War II Museum.

So celebrating Memorial Day takes on a special meaning for him: "It means I'm still alive," Abbott said with a laugh.

Please see HONORS, 3A

Boy Scout Troop 101 retires American flags during Memorial Day ceremony

BY BELLA CASEY
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

A small plume of smoke rose from behind the American Legion Post 133 building as the last of Memorial Day event attendees walked to their cars.

A few U.S. flags waved in the wind for the last time as Boy Scout Troop 101 members gently placed them into a brick firepit.

The flag retirement ceremony, and the firepit itself, was a culmination of years of work for Billy Thompson, the Boy Scout who helped bring it all together as part of his Eagle Scout Service Project. He and other members of his troop Monday retired the flags following a Memorial Day event



Bella Casey/Telegram

Boy Scout Troop 101 member Billy Thompson built a flag retirement firepit at American Legion Post 133 as part of his Eagle Scout Service Project.

at American Legion Post 133. "With the help from outside people and companies, we

were able to put together the firepit," Thompson said at the ceremony. "And it is now ac-

tive for you."

Flags that show signs of significant wear and tear are deemed ready for retirement, according to Flags USA. The lifespan of a flag flown 24 hours a day is about 90 days.

"They (those retiring flags) have to cut a certain part of it, then after they do the first one (flag), the rest of them can be burned in a certain way, not just thrown in the fire," Legion Commander John Potts explained.

The retirement ceremony was the inaugural use of the firepit Thompson built for the specific purpose.

Thompson will be honored for the project and his distinction as Eagle Scout at a future American Legion 133 event.

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ELECTION 2026

Voting scheduled today for primary runoff elections

STAFF REPORT

Today is Election Day for primary runoff races in Texas, and voters who did not cast their ballots in early voting will be tallying their marks at local voting centers.

All polling locations in Bell, Coryell and Milam counties will be open to voters from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. today. All voters in these counties will be able to cast their ballots at any of their county polling locations, regardless of precinct.

In the Republican primary, voters will choose between incumbent Sen. John Cornyn and Attorney General Ken Paxton for the GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate seat.

The winner will face state Rep. James Talarico in the November general election.

Facing off in the runoff for



state attorney general are state Sen. Mayes Middleton and U.S. Rep. Chip Roy.

Incumbent Railroad Commissioner Jim Wright defends his seat against former Tarrant County Republican Party Chairman Bo French.

In the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals District 3 race, Al-ison Fox faces Thomas Smith.

Locally, Richard Sapp faces Michael Tice in the Republican primary runoff for Bell County justice of the peace, Precinct 2.

Please see VOTING, 3A

BELTON ISD



Courtesy Belton ISD

Belton High School senior Malachi Santana, 18, was named Best Lead Male Performer by Heller Awards officials.

Belton HS senior earns musical theater award

BY BELLA CASEY
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

BELTON — Malachi Santana's phone flooded with congratulatory messages, but he wasn't initially sure what he won.

"You're nominated," most of the messages said.

Sanatana, 18, earned Best Lead Performer Male at the 13th annual Heller Awards for Young Artists for his performance in "Seussical," school officials announced.

This is the first time Belton

High School participated in the program, which Texas Performing Arts and Impact Arts collaborate to host in recognition of excellence in acting, music, design and technical theater from Central Texas students.

"I didn't even know that we were competing in this thing," Santana said with a laugh. "And so when I found out that I was nominated, I did a little research, and then I found out it was a huge, huge deal."

Please see SANTANA, 3A

TEMPLE

Lighting the way Water plant first in Texas using UV-only virus treatment

BY IAN CAMACHO
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Temple has a new first: The first facility in Texas approved to use only ultraviolet (UV) light to meet state requirements for inactivating viruses in drinking water at the Temple Membrane Water Treatment Plant.

Most treatment plants use a

combination of chlorine and UV light to meet regulatory standards. City spokesperson Megan Price explained how the main challenge for Temple involved achieving the high UV doses the Environmental Protection Agency requires for virus inactivation.

Please see UV, 3A



TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed."
— John 8:31



Russia-Ukraine war

Leaders keep a wary eye on Belarus for signs it might aid Russia

- 4B

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