



Moving forward
Aggies put last season's ending behind them

— 1B



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Film review
Pickleball is the star of sports comedy 'The Dink'

— 7A

Today's Outlook

High: 97
Low: 77
35% chance of showers



EDUCATION

Temple ISD staff receive 2% pay raises

Bus drivers get 4%; some specialty workers to be paid added stipends

BY SAM SCHAFFER
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Teachers and staff across Temple Independent School District are set to receive a 2% raise after the board of trustees approved the 2026-27 budget in June, while employees in some specialties will receive more.

At the time, Superintendent Bobby Ott declined to discuss the specifics of the district's compensation package for staff, saying staff would receive a raise, but would not clarify how much. Now, weeks after the board of trustees passed the budget that included a compensation package for staff and teachers, he said the time has come that

he's willing to reveal the information to the public. "The reason why we don't share our compensation plan the day after we approve the budget is because we are one of very few school districts in this area that have a fiscal year that starts July 1, not September 1," Ott said, noting he opts to wait and disclose specifics on

pay increases once districts with later fiscal years disclose theirs. Ott said he does this in the interest of remaining competitive. In the past, when Temple ISD disclosed raise information before other districts, it lost teachers because surrounding districts were able to up their raises to appear better than Temple ISD, Ott said.

"As a superintendent, I want the very best teachers in front of my kids," Ott said. "And I'm not being competitive if I play my hand way before everybody else and allow them to poach my people, so I play my hand when everybody else does."

Please see TISD, 5A

Staying cool



Nan Dickson/Special to the Telegram

Anthony Jackson gets doused with water by his son, Kayson, who was wielding an orb water feature at the Jaycee splash pad in South Temple on Wednesday. Today's forecast calls for a 35 percent chance of showers with a high of 97 degrees. Higher temperatures will return to Temple over the weekend and into early next week with Sunday's forecast calling for a high of 101 degrees and Monday's high reaching 103 degrees. For more weather details see Page 8B.

TEMPLE ISD

Holistic behavioral healthcare set up for TISD students

BY SAM SCHAFFER
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Temple Independent School District students will have a new way to access care that aims to address their social and emotional needs in the upcoming school year. The Temple ISD board of trustees approved a partnership with McHur Care at a meeting earlier this month to provide students and families an additional avenue to address behavioral health. Parents may opt students into the program for help with behavioral and mental health needs. "McHur Care is an outside agency who is going to be able to provide services to students on campus," Tijuana Hudson, assistant superintendent of student services, said. "This is a partnership that we have for students who may need additional behavior support. It does not

replace any counseling services that we do on our campuses." Hudson added that the agreement provides students a way to access care at school if they are unable to access it outside of school due to any number of financial or transportation constraints. If a student's parents opt them into the program, McHur will coordinate with school counselors to schedule time with students that does not conflict with their time in core subject areas. McHur may meet with students during extracurricular courses or after school, Hudson said. The program provides an option to pursue the causes of behavioral issues, but it also is there for students who just need a little extra help. Jill Clark, regional manager for McHur Care, said the program can address concerns such as anxiety or trauma.

Please see HOLISTIC, 5A

POLITICS

AI data center backlash dividing rural Republicans

AMARILLO (AP) — When Gina Hinojosa, the Democratic nominee for Texas governor, began her campaign last year, candidates weren't talking about — or hearing about — data centers that power artificial intelligence. But with barely three months until November's contest, the perceived threat to rural life, ranch land and dwindling water supplies could become a defining issue for her long-shot challenge to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, dividing conservative rural areas that have traditionally served as a counterweight to Democrats' urban strongholds. The backlash to energy-guzzling server warehouses is shaping other statewide campaigns from

Arizona to Ohio to New York, and even giving Democrats a glimmer of hope in Texas, where Republicans have dominated for three decades. "There is this little issue that I recently started hearing about that I wanted to tell you about, in case you don't know," Hinojosa quipped to a Democratic Party-organized crowd of about 160 seated on fold-out chairs at an Amarillo social club in Texas' Panhandle. "It's this issue of data centers." The crowd boomed, and she went on: "They are owned by the richest men in the world. We're all footing the bill. There are no rules. It is the wild west of data centers."

Please see BACKLASH, 5A

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Temple charter petition drive seeks easier recalls, shorter term limits

BY IAN CAMACHO
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

With a Friday deadline looming, Temple Stands Together is making a final push to collect enough signatures to place two city charter amendments on the November ballot. The grassroots group, which formed this year in opposition to data center development in Temple, is seeking about 3,000 signatures through what it calls "Petition Round #2: Change the City." One petition would lower the threshold for recalling the Temple mayor or a City Council member from 30% of registered voters to 50% of votes cast in the most recent non-runoff election. The second petition would reduce City Council term limits from three terms to two and limit the mayor to a single term.

Please see PETITION, 5A



Ian Camacho/Telegram

Nancy Parrish, second from left, signs a petition as her husband Gregory Parrish waits for her to finish. Joe and Sarah Royer look on from the other side of the table.

WORLD

Trump: Saudis must normalize Israel relations for nuke deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday appeared to add a condition to the newly signed agreement with Saudi Arabia for a civilian nuclear program, saying the deal would require the kingdom to normalize its relations with Israel through the Abraham Accords. When the deal was announced Wednesday, neither the U.S. Energy

Department nor the Saudi government made any mention of it being contingent on the kingdom's relations with Israel. Trump's social media post a day later asserting that the agreement was subject to the Saudis joining the accords was unexpected and almost certain to complicate any final approval. The accords approved in

2020 expanded the number of Arab and Muslim-majority nations with diplomatic ties with Israel. Getting Saudi Arabia to join would be a monumental diplomatic achievement. The Saudis have previously made clear that normalizing relations with Israel would first require the establishment of a clear path for Palestinian statehood.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected the idea of Palestinian statehood as being untenable for his country's security. The Republican president also said the pact does not allow for enrichment of uranium. Nonproliferation experts have raised concerns that the deal fails to include guardrails to prevent enrichment of uranium to

weapons-grade levels. Trump said the agreement "will be approved, but is totally subject to Saudi Arabia joining the very respected and successful Abraham Accords." He added that the U.S. "is not opposed to Civil (Non-Enriched) Nuclear Facilities."

Please see SAUDIS, 5A



TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE
"A faithful man shall abound with blessings."
— Proverbs 28:20



MARKET REPORT Complete coverage Page 3A	Dow Jones Industrials	-506.93
		51,711.65
	Nasdaq composite	-553.21
		25,137.69

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