



Different era
HS quarterbacks face
tougher battles in college
— 1B



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Middle East
Israeli airstrikes on Lebanese village kill 12;
Iran increases gas price for some consumers
— 5A

Today's Outlook
High: 97
Low: 76
Sunny

HOUSING

‘I want to shut the door at night and be able to sleep’

The poorest in the US can’t find housing even as low-income units sit empty

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Mathew Davis, who lives in a homeless shelter in Austin, would love an apartment of his own. But with the little money he makes donating blood plasma, even a \$450-a-month tiny home with no running water and a communal bathroom would be a stretch.

Meanwhile, over 4,500 units the city classifies as affordable — nearly 16% — sit empty.

“I don’t make enough money really

to afford anything,” Davis, 49, said of the few hundred dollars he earns a month. “I just keep trying to swim uphill.”

The poorest people in the U.S. face the most acute shortages of affordable homes. But the majority of low-income housing financed in recent years is for those earning 50% of an area’s median income or above, according to a survey of state housing agencies.

Some cities are now seeing an uptick in vacancies as rents for these units approach market rates. The result: Apartments designated as affordable sit empty because the poorest of the poor cannot afford them.

Meanwhile, some people are forced into homelessness and others into desperate circumstances to pay for housing they can’t afford.

There are only about 4 million af-

fordable rental units available for the country’s 11 million extremely low-income renter households, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s most recent annual report.

These are people with annual incomes either below the federal poverty guidelines — just under \$16,000 for a single-person household — or 30% of the median income in their area, whichever is higher. They com-

prise about a quarter of U.S. renter households, and include many people working low-wage jobs, seniors and those with disabilities living on fixed incomes.

About three-quarters of extremely low-income renter households pay over half their income on rent and utilities, the report said, leaving little leftover for other necessities.

Please see HOUSING, 3A

Chalk it up to generational interests



Nan Dickson/Special to the Telegram

Bonnie Casper, left, Tyler DeMont and Liana DeMont create chalk drawings Saturday on the parking lot during the Heart of Texas Corvette Club car show at Don Ringler Chevrolet in Temple.

TEMPLE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Foundation gives out more than \$776,000 in local scholarships

BY SAM SCHAFFER
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER



Education systems are tasked with meeting students where they are, and not all students are at four-year universities.

For those who want higher education without the daunting costs and commitments that go with traditional schools, community colleges provide an option.

As the name implies, community colleges support, and are supported by, the community.

This year, the Temple College Foundation is supporting local students with 806 scholarships totaling \$776,350 for the 2026-27 school year, according to a news release from Temple College.

The Foundation was established in 1982 to support Temple College, according to its website.

“Scholarships are a powerful way to communicate confidence in students’ success. I can think of no better way to encourage students who may need it,” stated Dana Riegel, executive director of the foundation.

This year, 41% of recipients are first-generation college students and 21% are single parents, she added.

Please see TC, 3A

BAYLOR SCOTT & WHITE

McLane Children’s Medical Center announces new president

BY IAN CAMACHO
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER



BENITEZ

Baylor Scott & White Health named Bonifacio “Ben” Benitez III president of Baylor Scott & White McLane Children’s Medical Center, effective Sept. 28.

Benitez succeeds longtime President Dell Ingram-Walker, who died in March. Greg Haralson, president of Baylor Scott & White Medical Center–Temple and the Central Texas Region, has served as interim president during the transition, according to a news release.

Benitez joins the Temple hospital from CHRISTUS Children’s in San Antonio, where he served as vice president of operations since 2018.

“Ben is an accomplished and thoughtful leader who shares our commitment to putting children and families first,” Haralson stated. “Ben’s operational experience, collaborative leadership style and dedication to expanding access to pediatric care will

serve Baylor Scott & White McLane Children’s well. We look forward to welcoming him to Central Texas as he builds on the strong foundation established by Dell Ingram-Walker.”

In his new role, Benitez will direct clinical and operational initiatives for Central Texas’ only children’s hospital. The facility houses a Level IV neonatal intensive care unit and a verified Level II pediatric trauma center.

“Baylor Scott & White McLane Children’s is a special

Please see BENITEZ, 3A

TEMPLE ISD

TISD administrator to advise on special ed policy across Texas

BY SAM SCHAFFER
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER



SOLIS

The education system has a responsibility to cater to the needs of every student, and students with special needs require special attention.

That’s where the Texas Education Agency (TEA) District SPED Leadership Council comes in.

The council is responsible for providing early insight on emerging TEA priorities and policies. Moving forward, Angela Solis of the Temple Independent School District

will be a member of the council, according to a news release from the district.

Solis, who serves as the Temple ISD executive director of special education, was appointed to the council and will join a statewide group of district special education leaders to provide early advice and input on special education initiatives, policies and program design, according to the release.

“I am honored to have been selected to serve on the Texas Education Agency’s District SPED Leadership Council,” Solis stated.

“This opportunity allows me to bring the experiences and perspectives of Temple ISD to statewide conversations while also learning alongside special education leaders from across Texas,” she stated.

To be selected for the council, applicants must complete a competitive review process, according to the release.

Please see SOLIS, 3A

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Temple Fire & Rescue urges residents to prepare for emergencies

BY IAN CAMACHO
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

It’s never been a better time to be a prepper, as the Temple Fire & Rescue team observes National Preparedness Month by encouraging residents to prepare for emergencies before they happen.

The department also is holding a free community preparedness seminar.

Mayor Tim Davis issued a proclamation on Thursday recognizing National Preparedness Month in September, a national campaign that equips individuals, families and communities to prepare for natural and human-caused disasters.

“Temple Fire & Rescue encourages residents to engage in National Prepared-

ness Month by preparing for emergencies before they happen. With a plan in place, you are better prepared to get yourself and your family to safety in an emergency,” Temple Fire Chief Christopher Perez stated in a news release.

The department’s Emergency Management Division will partner with Central Counties Services to present “Together Today, Ready Tomorrow” 6-8 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Temple Fire Training Center, 7268 Airport Road.

The seminar will help residents prepare themselves, their families and their neighborhoods for emergencies. Participants will explore local risks, disaster preparedness strategies and ways to cope with disaster-related stress.

“We hope that by engaging the community in this preparedness seminar,

they are better prepared to handle emergencies when they occur. You never know when simple training can have a significant impact,” Jennifer Henager, emergency management division director, stated.

The event is free and open to the public.

Residents can find preparedness resources, including flash flood information, emergency kit guidelines and severe weather information, on the city website Stay Safe Temple at <https://shorturl.at/14S4K>. They also may sign up for the city’s alert notification system, Alert Temple at <https://shorturl.at/k0Wqj>.

For more information about Temple Fire & Rescue, visit templetx.gov/fire.

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Courtesy photo

The American Red Cross is one of the agencies that encourages people to be ready for any emergency or disaster during National Preparedness Month in September. In this file photo, an inspector checks over a tornado-damaged home during the 2024 severe storm in Temple.



TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE
“Awake thou that sleepest,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give thee light.”
— Ephesians 5:14



Tourism

U.S. groups want to win Canadian
visitors back; trade war isn’t helping
— 4B

INSIDE TODAY

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