

Waco Tribune-Herald

La Vega's Varela rides 44 goals, 34 assists to Super Centex soccer honor

PAGE B3



Miller adding Hall of Fame induction to still-expanding football resume

PAGE B1



Saturday, April 18, 2026

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

In God We Trust • wacotrib.com

HINTS OF HISTORY CLOSE TO HOME



ROD AYDELLOTTE, TRIBUNE-HERALD FILE PHOTOS

Pieces of Waco history stand in stone and concrete markers such as the 143rd Regiment marker near the Texas Ranger Museum, clockwise from bottom left; the Freedom Fountain outside the Waco Convention Center; the Shakespeare Club marker near the University Parks Drive entrance to Cameron Park; and the Waco Tornado Memorial near Fourth Street and Austin Avenue.

Memorials, markers point to stories that shape Waco's place in nation

BY CARL HOOVER
choover@wacotrib.com

The United States celebrates its 250th anniversary this year, the sort of historical milestone that encourages a look back at that time, what has followed and what that tells the country about itself.

While Waco's modern municipal history only overlaps with 175 of those 250 years, most residents pass by pieces of Waco history in the form of memorials, markers and monuments on a regular basis without reflection. But attention to those pieces teaches something about the diverse, colorful and eclectic people and times that brought Waco's place in the nation to where it is today.

More than 360 state historical or antiquities markers, national register properties, cemeteries, courthouses and museums are listed for McLennan County in the Texas Historical Commission's Historic Sites Atlas.

United States at 250: The story still unfolding

This story is part of an ongoing series exploring the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026.

Beyond those well-catalogued sites, even more stone or concrete markers and memorials dot the city, intended to remind the generations following. Here are a few of those stone or concrete markers, some well-remembered, some often overlooked:

Please see 250TH, Page A5

■ **More Coverage:** Baylor holds Declaration of Independence reading as 250th anniversary observances pick up steam, see Page A3.

Iran says Strait of Hormuz is open

Trump promises deal to end war 'soon'; ceasefire holding

HUMEYRA PAMUK, SAAD SAYEED AND AZIZ TAHER
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said Friday the Strait of Hormuz was open after a ceasefire agreement in Lebanon, while U.S. President Donald Trump said talks could take place this weekend and he believed a deal to end the Iran war would come "soon."

Araqchi said in a post on social media the strait was open for all commercial vessels for the remainder of the U.S.-brokered 10-day truce that was agreed on Thursday between Israel and Lebanon to halt fighting between Israeli forces and Iran-backed Hezbollah militants.

Shortly after Araqchi's statement, Trump posted on social media: "IRAN HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT THE STRAIT OF IRAN IS FULLY OPEN AND READY FOR PASSAGE."

But statements from both sides left uncertainty over how quickly shipping could resume. Trump said a U.S. blockade of ships sailing to Iranian ports — announced after talks with Tehran last weekend ended without agreement — would remain until "our transaction with Iran is 100% complete."

Iran responded sharply, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei warning that Tehran would take "necessary reciprocal measures" if a maritime blockade continued.

Vessel traffic data showed a group of about 20 ships, including container ships, bulk carriers and tankers, moving through the Persian Gulf toward the Strait of Hormuz. It was unclear whether they would be stopped or allowed to pass.

It also was unclear how the two sides would address Iran's nuclear program, which was a key sticking point in talks so far.

Trump said Friday the U.S. will work with Iran to recover its enriched uranium and bring it back to the United States as part of a deal to end the war.

A senior Iranian official said differences between the two sides remained, that "no agreement has been reached on the details of the nuclear issues" and serious negotiations were required to overcome differences.

Please see IRAN, Page A6

BELLMEAD CITY COUNCIL

Incumbent faces 3 challengers May 2

Candidates talk city communication, infrastructure needs

BY BLAKE HOLLINGSWORTH
bhollingsworth@wacotrib.com

A longtime Bellmead City Council member is facing three challengers May 2 who say they want to emphasize infrastructure improvements and improved



Forrest



Gomez



Love



Moore

engagement between residents and city leadership. Incumbent Gary Moore, who

Alfreda Love in the election for the at-large seat. Early voting begins Monday.

has served since 2012 and twice as mayor, will face challengers Katrina Forrest, A nita Gomez and

Love

Love, 47, pointed to several years of prior service on the council through 2021, including time as mayor pro tem, saying the experience gives her an edge in understanding city budgeting. She also

Please see CANDIDATES, Page A6

■ **More Coverage:** Crawford council challenger taking on 3 incumbents, see Page A6.

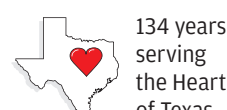


Congress extends surveillance program 10 days as long-term wrangling continues

PAGE A7

Inside

CLASSIFIEDS	B9	OBITUARIES	A4-5	RELIGION	A2
COMICS/PUZZLES/LIVELY	2-6	OPINION	A8	SPORTS	B1
NEIL SPERRY	A2	NATION & WORLD	A7	WEATHER	A10



WacoTrib.com
Central Texas News. All Day

Weather

A t-storm: breezy, cooler
High 67 • Low 43
Forecast • A10

