



Tigers win

Belton topples Waco University in district game — 1B



More coverage online

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

Severe weather

Tornadoes leave a trail of destruction across central US; at least 3 people killed — 5B

Today's Outlook

High: 69
Low: 60
60% chance of showers



VETERANS

Honoring sacrifices



Elliot Hemstreet/Telegram

Logan Glynn, 13, pays his respects Friday afternoon in front of a set of 9/11 and Afghanistan and Iraq warriors tribute panels at the William R. Courtney Texas State Veterans Home in Temple.

Central Texans visit traveling Vietnam Wall replica in Temple

BY ELLIOT HEMSTREET
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Belton resident Joy Burgar was on a quest Friday to pay her respects to high school friend Marine Lance Cpl. Jimmie H. Mantooth.

Burgar and other Central Texans came to the William R. Courtney Texas State Veterans Home, 1424 Martin Luther King Jr. Lane in Temple, to view a traveling replica of the Vietnam Wall and tributes for 9-11 and Afghanistan and Iraq warriors.

She was overcome with emotion when she finally found Mantooth's name on the Traveling Vietnam Wall after a long walk around the exhibit.

"It completes a memory," Burgar said. "I'll have the memory of this for the rest of my life."



Elliot Hemstreet/Telegram

Belton resident Joy Burgar searches for names Friday afternoon on the traveling Vietnam Wall at the William R. Courtney Texas State Veterans Home in Temple.

Please see WALL, 3A

BELTON

Volunteers continue search for missing man

BY JOEL VALLEY
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

The search for a missing 79-year-old Belton resident continued Friday evening with family and friends leading the charge in the area in and around Yettie Polk Park in Belton.

Rogelio Arias — a Spanish-speaker who does not have a cellphone and may experience difficulties with cognitive recall and information retention — went missing last Saturday morning after walking away from his family's home on Muelhouse Street.



ARIAS

"His family released Ring camera video showing him leave the house," Paul Romer, a city of Belton spokesman, said in a news release Wednesday. "The next confirmed sighting of him was recorded on the security camera of a private business near I-35 and Central Avenue around noon on Saturday."

In each video, he was pictured wearing a gray hat with "CJ" on it, a black cross necklace, a black jacket and a pair of cuffed blue jeans.

"Those videos helped us get a grid system to search in and try to find him," Romer told the Telegram on Friday. "From the way it was described to me from our detectives, given his age and mobility, they had a good idea where he might have been physically able to go. But that was unsuccessful. So on Monday, we had drones and helicopters up in the air to search for him. The area we concentrated on was the frontage road area and then we kind of branched out from there."

Please see MISSING, 3A

TEMPLE

Residents mixed on HOP fare increases for micro-transit service

BY ELLIOT HEMSTREET
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Temple resident Dianne Romero is looking forward to the new Hill Country Transit District's transition to micro-transit services — except for the prices.

"I wish it was \$25 instead of \$50," Romero said, referring to the monthly pass rate.

Romero and 44 other Temple resi-

dents gathered at the Temple Public Library's third-floor McLane Room to learn more about the upcoming the HOP's transition from fixed routes.

The service — which is intended to compete against Uber and Lyft with the exception that it could be a shared ride — is expected to launch in May or June following software system selection, city input and planning, community input and pub-

lic hearings, and a Fort Cavazos internal circulator launch this month.

Although riders will be able to call for a ride via a phone call or the internet, an app offers several interactive features, including the ability to see where the vehicle currently is on a map.

Darrell Burtner, the director of urban operations for Hill Country Transit District, explained that the agency is planning to double all of

the current prices of fares and passes to accommodate for inflation and to help fund the new transition.

However, various discounts for seniors over 65, students, those in the military and special needs individuals can still be applied and a majority of the attendees were in support of the price increase.

Burtner also announced a new potential fee that will be introduced.

Burtner explained that Temple and

Belton combined are a small urbanized area while Killeen, Harker Heights and Copperas Cove are a large urbanized area with the only difference being total population.

"If you go from this zone to that zone, there's a gap right here (between the areas). If you cross that gap, it would be a \$4 fee," Burtner said.

Please see HOP, 3A

GEORGIA

Prosecutor leaves election interference case against Trump

BY KATE BRUMBACK AND ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

ATLANTA — A special prosecutor who had a romantic relationship with Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis formally withdrew Friday from the Georgia election interference case against Donald Trump after a judge ruled he had to leave or Willis couldn't continue to pursue the charges.

Attorney Nathan Wade's resignation allows Willis to remain on the most sprawling of four criminal cases against the presumptive Republican nominee in the 2024 presidential election.

But the long-term damage to the public perception of the prosecution remains unclear, particularly in light of Trump's relentless barrage of attacks on the pair who pledged to hold Trump accountable but found their own actions under a public microscope.

Wade offered his resignation in a letter to Willis, saying he was doing so "in the

interest of democracy, in dedication to the American public and to move this case forward as quickly as possible."

"I am sure that the case, and the team, will be in good hands moving forward and justice will be served," Wade wrote.

Willis complimented Wade's "professionalism and dignity" in a letter accepting his resignation, effective immediately. She said he had endured threats against himself and his family, as well as "unjustified attacks" in the media and in court on his reputation as a lawyer.

"I will always remember — and will remind everyone — that you were brave enough to step forward and take on the investigation and prosecution of the allegations that the defendants in this case engaged in a conspiracy to overturn Georgia's 2020 Presidential Election," Willis wrote.

Trump's team felt differently.

Please see WADE, 3A

SUNSHINE WEEK

Area underground water districts increase public education efforts

BY SHANE MONACO AND ERIC E. GARCIA
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITERS



Navigating the laws regarding underground water rights — and the best ways to drill wells to access that water — can be confusing for many without the help of local water conservation districts.

Two area districts — the Belton-based Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District and the Milano-based Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District — work to make that process easier. Both groups have made efforts to make their information and staff available for questions to those interested

in the topic and wanting to learn more.

In recent months, staff at the Post Oak Savannah district made efforts to increase communication with the public, sending out periodic news releases about what they are doing.

Jaclyn Wise, spokeswoman for the district, said that the district has been hosting workshops, school programs and community events to help educate the public.

Please see WATER, 3A



Courtesy

Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District's 24-foot mobile classroom features a drop-down awning, a fully operational aquifer model, a well model and an indoor conservation lab.



TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"At the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee."

— Isaiah 30:19



MARKET REPORT Complete coverage Page 6A	Dow Jones	-190.89
	Industrials	38,714.77
	Nasdaq composite	-155.36
		15,973.17

INSIDE TODAY

Classifieds.....	5B	Life.....	7A
Comics.....	4B	Obituaries.....	5A
Crossword.....	6B	Second Front.....	2A
Editorial.....	4A	Sports.....	1B
Faith.....	7A	Weather.....	8A