

All about the team

Temple running back Wilson keeps optimistic approach
Also: Belton's Henderson shining
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COMING FRIDAY

FOOTBALL PREVIEWS: Sports gives you the information you need to know.



A Far Cry set to perform at CAC

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Today's Outlook

20% Showers



High: 93 | Low: 76

High water, high stakes, high drama

1 killed as Tropical Storm Hermine inundates Central Texas

BY STEPHANYE GILYARD
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

One person died and dozens of residents were evacuated from their homes Wednesday as Tropical Storm Hermine dumped as much as 9 inches of rain on parts of Bell County.

As Hermine's leftover bands moved across the state in the early morning hours, flash flood watches and warnings were issued in the county, which remains under a flash flood watch today.

Rainfall included 9.7 inches at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir and 7.6 inches at Lake Belton as of 4:45 p.m., according to The



Mitch Green/Telegram

Greg Moore, a local business owner, rides a personal watercraft down Central Avenue in Belton on Wednesday morning to access his flooded business after Tropical Storm Hermine dumped rain on the area.

Roiling Nolan Creek damages Belton businesses, forces evacuations

BY PAUL A. ROMER
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

BELTON — Flooding along Nolan Creek in Belton on Wednesday inundated businesses along Central Avenue and led to 40 evacuations, mostly in the Shirrtail Bend area east of Interstate 35.

By 8:37 a.m. debris on Central Avenue indicated the water had crested, but much of the damage had already been done. Residents, business owners, government employees and onlookers all said essentially the same thing: "I have never seen it this high."

The damage to homes and business is significant, although nobody would put a dollar figure on the losses Wednesday.

Most of the businesses on Central Avenue from I-35 to Wall Street took on water. After the waters receded, the sidewalks and streets were covered with up to three inches of mud.

Jalisco's Mexican Restaurant had water up to the base of its windows. The onslaught of water destroyed a large storage shed at the back of the business, parts of which were later found in Confederate Park.

Susan Robison, manager of Scott & White Hospice Thrift Store on Central Avenue, said a nearby shop owner who was evacuated by boat told her that the last thing he saw was the thrift store's upright piano floating down the creek. It was being stored in front of the building.

Please see BELTON, 8A

INSIDE

- Temple family awakens to flooded house. 3A
- Milam County avoids heavy flooding — for now. 8A
- Remnants of Hermine flood Texas, buffet Oklahoma. 3A

National Weather Service in Dallas/Fort Worth.

A 19-year-old Killeen resident died when her vehicle was submerged off Reese Creek Road in Killeen.

Officials recovered the body of Rashima Shaquel Copeland at 7:46 a.m. Wednesday after they were able to get to her submerged Mitsubishi Eclipse. She was pronounced dead by Justice of the Peace Garland Potvin at 8:03 a.m.

Officials were called to the scene of the one-vehicle accident

Please see FLOODING, 8A



Rusty Schramm/Telegram

Shop owner J. Sullivan talks on the phone Wednesday morning as the flood waters of Salado Creek rush by his new business, which has yet to open.



Rusty Schramm/Telegram

Salado visitors snap photos of a submerged truck under the Main Street bridge Wednesday morning as the waters begin to recede.

Salado Creek exceeds 100-year flood mark

BY HARPER SCOTT CLARK
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

SALADO — In the wee hours Wednesday the heavens opened and dropped more than nine inches of rain on Salado and the Salado Creek basin in less than two hours.

The resulting wall of water that ran down Salado Creek caused unprecedented damage. One year ago almost to the day — on Sept. 11, 2009 — a flash flood swamped Salado at high noon knocking out

bridges and flooding homes.

Wednesday's flood delivered more water in less time, hitting between 2 and 2:30 a.m. when most residents were sleeping.

Fire Chief Charles Young with the Salado Volunteer Fire Department said he and his firefighters were out after 2 a.m. beating on doors and warning residents to get out of their homes.

Young said fortunately there were no fatalities and to his

Please see SALADO, 2A

Excess water keeps Bell County employees busy

BY PAUL A. ROMER
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

BELTON — Emergency responders rescued 10 people in Bell County who became trapped on swift waterways overnight Tuesday and early Wednesday, said Dennis Baker, Bell County emergency management director.

One of those rescues was in Belton when two people riding Nolan Creek in inner tubes were pulled out of trees just west of Interstate 35, Belton of-

ficials said.

The flow on Nolan Creek caused flooding in downtown Belton, which damaged businesses, homes and government offices.

Offices for the Tax Appraisal District of Bell County and the Bell County Tax Assessor-Collector, which share the same building on Central Avenue, were closed Wednesday.

Sharon Long, county tax assessor, said every computer in

Please see BELL COUNTY, 2A

Belton residents barely escape rising water

BY JANICE GIBBS
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

BELTON — Bobbie Farmer wasn't overly concerned when she woke up at 6 a.m. Wednesday. It was raining, but it had been raining on and off all night.

By 6:40 a.m., Farmer had put her three children, ages 4, 5 and 9, into the car to take them to the bus stop and that's when she discovered she was in trouble.

"When I backed up the water

was coming up the road," Farmer said. "I went straight through, but the water was up to my headlights."

The car didn't die and Farmer was able to get her children to the bus stop. Once the children were picked up, Farmer tried walking back to her house on East Avenue B, where her husband and sister remained, but by then the water was up to her chin.

Please see RESIDENTS, 3A

Gulf oil spill: Anatomy of a disaster

Questions, worries, arguments preceded deadly April rig blast

BY RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Something was wrong. BP was preparing to plug its well 50 miles off the Louisiana coast, and longtime technical adviser Jesse Gagliano was running computer models to finalize details. It was April 15, five days before the well blew out, causing the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

"We have a potential problem here," the Halliburton employee told three colleagues he met in the hallway in BP PLC's Houston headquarters. He said his computer model was predicting a "serious gas flow problem" with BP's well aban-

donment plan.

His idea for addressing the issue would never be carried out. BP decided it wasn't necessary. In an internal report released Wednesday, the oil giant stood by that decision, saying it would not have stopped the April 20 explosion.

The disagreement was just one of several that emerged in the days and hours before the blast, according to BP's report and e-mails, documents and testimony gathered by federal investigators. Confusion surrounded crucial tasks and frustration rose among people involved.

The cause of the explosion, which killed 11 workers, remains under investigation by



U.S. Coast Guard/AP file

Fire boat response crews battle the blazing remnants of the offshore oil rig Deepwater Horizon on April 21.

federal authorities. But as more information trickles out, the image of a high-stakes, high-seas venture collapsing in dis-

array is sharpening. The mile-deep exploratory well was being capped with cement so it could be abandoned

until a production phase later.

BP operated the well, Transocean owned the rig and Halliburton carried out the cement job. They had to work together.

Yet key plans kept changing. Critical tests meant to ensure the well would be safely cemented were not going smoothly.

BP accepts some of the blame for decisions that led to the blowout, but its report also assigns fault to Transocean and Halliburton workers. Those companies, in turn, point the finger at BP's well design.

The head of the Deepwater Horizon rig, who was most familiar with its crew and operations, had left for training and was replaced by Bob Kaluza, who was less familiar with earlier problems surrounding the well. The operation was running 45 days late and millions

INSIDE

■ BP takes partial responsibility, blames partners for Gulf oil disaster. 7C

of dollars over budget.

Gagliano's computer model exposed yet another possible problem. The longtime technical adviser concluded the cementing operation needed more centralizers, devices designed to ensure that the casing — or drilling pipe — runs down the center of the wellbore to increase the chance for a perfect seal and prevent leaks. BP had planned to run six centralizers and had them onboard.

After a corridor chat with BP's senior drilling engineer,

Please see DISASTER, 8A



TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"I am the light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
— John 8:12



MARKET REPORT

Dow Jones Industrials +46.32
10,387.01
Nasdaq composite +19.98
2,228.87

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