

## COMING SATURDAY

A re-cap of tonight's playoff action involving local high school football teams.



## Tigers back at it

Belton battles South Garland in second round of playoffs/1C  
Similar Rogers, Blanco clash/1C



## Predicting PTSD

Military experiment looks for clues to who will be affected  
— Page 3D

## Today's Outlook

Thunderstorms  
High: 61 | Low: 48



Jerry Prickett/Telegram

Joe McMann, center, a volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul Pantry in Temple, picks up food Thursday that was collected by Temple College students for the Food for Families drive. The drive, which collects non-perishable food items, is 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today at the Scott & White Memorial Hospital parking lot in Temple. Ruth Bridges, left, who helped with the Temple College effort, and Amanda Koiner, right, president of the United Way Collegiate Leadership, helped McMann load 350 to 400 pounds of food into the truck.

# I-35 funds approved

### I-35 projects

Central Texas Interstate 35 widening projects approved Thursday:

### Bell County

- FM 2843 to FM 2484 (this crosses Salado Creek)
- North Loop 363 to North Troy city limit
- North Troy city limit to Woodlawn Road

NOTE: Section of Interstate 35 from FM 2484 in Salado to U.S. 190 in Belton will be widened with federal stimulus funds.

### McLennan County

- Woodlawn Road to FM 2063 in Hewitt
- North Loop 340 to FM 1858 in West

### Hill County

- FM 1858 in West to FM 1304

## Conflict of interest debate resurfaces at council meeting

After abstentions and illness, not enough councilmembers left to vote on fire station construction contract

BY FRED AFFLERBACH  
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Approving a contract for the construction of Temple's \$3.4 million Central Fire Station was postponed at a regular city council meeting Thursday evening because one councilman was absent and two planned to abstain from voting due to a potential conflict of interest.

Before discussion on the fire station could begin, city attorney Jonathan Graham pointed out that only two councilmembers present could vote and it

takes three votes to authorize the contract.

Councilman Russell Schneider said he was abstaining because his company, R.T. Schneider Construction, could work as a subcontractor on the fire station.

Councilman Marty Janczak said he was abstaining on the advice of Graham. Janczak owns Earthstones, a company that fabricates and installs granite and marble counter tops. He said his company would not be a subcontractor on the fire station, but he had previous discussions with a half-dozen companies that had bid on the project.

Reached by telephone after the meeting, councilman Tony Jeter said he did not attend because he was ill.

Please see CITY COUNCIL, 6A

## Survey finds 30% of Bell Co. is obese

ATLANTA — The first county-by-county survey of obesity says that Bell County ranks third in Texas in the rate of incidence of diabetes among adults.

The survey also reflects past studies that show the rate of obesity is highest in the Southeast and Appalachia. In Texas, more than 30 percent of Bell County residents are said to be obese, again placing the county near the top of the list in the state.

High rates of obesity and diabetes were reported in more than 80 percent of counties in the Appalachian region that

### Adult rates of diabetes

Bell	11.3%
Coryell	9.8%
Falls	9.7%
Lampasas	7.9%
McLennan	9.9%
Milam	9.6%
Williamson	8.1%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Diabetes Surveillance System

includes Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia, according to the new research from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and

Please see OBESITY RATES, 6A



Clint Bittenbinder/Telegram

Sharla Winkler models a Christmas dress during Altrusa's Taste of the Holidays fashion show Thursday at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center in Temple. The annual event is a fundraiser for Altrusa, a service organization. For more on the fashion show, see Page 1D.

## Expansion could begin in spring 2011

BY FRED AFFLERBACH  
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

AUSTIN — The days are numbered for those short, harrowing Interstate 35 entry and exit ramps at Salado, Troy and other locations in Bell County.

The Texas Transportation Commission unanimously voted Thursday morning to spend about \$2 billion in highway projects, including \$418 million to expand the interstate through Bell County. The money comes from Proposition 12 bond proceeds, which voters approved in 2007 and the Legislature authorized earlier this year.

This means moving a lot of dirt and diverting a lot of traffic when construction begins in spring 2011.

Widening a freeway means more than just expanding the interstate from two to three lanes in both directions.

"Ramps have to be reconstructed, realign overpasses and all of those two-way frontage roads will be gone," said Ken Roberts, district spokesman for the Texas Department of Transportation. "And you'll have continuous frontage roads, all those things are part of widening."

Roberts said construction would likely take between 2½ to three years to complete — in other words, probably late 2013.

After the unanimous vote, commission chairman Deirdre Delisi said I-35 was the backbone of Texas.

"This decision reflects an understanding by this commission that I-35 is probably the most important piece of pavement we have in the state. It's our economic lifeblood, close to 40 percent of our population lives along the corridor," Delisi said. "There are a lot of safety concerns and there is a long-standing commitment from the state to make sure we have three lanes in each direction. This doesn't get us quite there, but it gets us almost all the way to fulfilling that."

On Wednesday, a North Texas transportation group unhappy with TxDOT staff's recommendation to approve these projects

Please see WIDENING I-35, 6A

## Initial health care vote set for Saturday night

WASHINGTON — The Senate will hold its first vote on health care legislation on Saturday night and Democrats will need 60 votes to prevail.

Majority Leader Harry Reid announced the schedule on the Senate floor, one day after unveiling a nearly \$1 trillion bill to expand health coverage.

Republicans have vowed to block passage of the measure, and Democrats must put up 60 votes to clear the way for a lengthy debate next month.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Bill may affect wealthy people

BY CARROLL WILSON  
TELEGRAM MANAGING EDITOR

The Senate version of health-care reform, unveiled this week, includes a tax increase for the wealthy that could affect about 2,000 Bell County families.

The House measure, still in the works, is said not to have that provision yet.

But, an Associated Press poll released this week indicated Americans think the rich should pay for the reforms.

And an influential study from a high-profile think tank last week issued a report favoring increased taxation on the wealthy to offset new health-

### BIG INCOMES IN CENTRAL TEXAS

	Bell #	Bell %	Metro #
Households making \$150-\$199K	2,231	2.3%	2,750
Families making \$150-\$199K	2,072	3.0%	2,558
Households making \$200K+	2,494	2.6%	3,091
Families making \$200K+	2,353	3.4%	2,822

Source: American Community Survey, 2006-08

care expenses.

The Senate proposes to increase the employee share of the Medicare payroll tax by half a percentage point to 1.95 percent on income over \$200,000 a year for individuals or \$250,000 for couples.

American Community Survey data, the most recent Census

Bureau information available, does not provide earnings information per person. Instead, the ACS produces a median per-capita number.

However, the ACS numbers on families and households helps point in the direction of the impact on Central Texas of such an increase.



AP

## Health overhaul may tax vanity

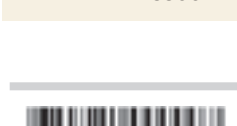
WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Senate Democrats have turned to a proposal to tax breast implants, tummy tucks, wrinkle-smoothing injections and other procedures as they search for ways to pay for costly health care overhaul plans.

Vanity was an easy target as lawmakers scraped for cash for the nearly \$1 trillion plan to expand health care to millions of Americans who lack insurance. But it's no joke to the drug makers and people who perform the cosmetic nips and tucks. And they're fighting back.

Skin-smoothing Botox injections could be hard-hit. There were some 4.7 million last year and an average cost per visit of about \$400, some including several injections.

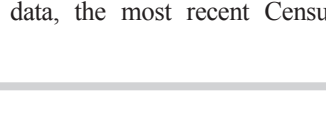
"It is a random hit on an easy target that is

Please see VANITY TAX, 6A



### TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"In the day of my trouble I will call upon Thee: for Thou wilt answer me."  
— Psalm 86:7



### MARKET REPORT

Dow Jones Industrials	-93.87
Complete coverage Page 2B	10,332.44
Nasdaq composite	-36.32
	2,156.82

### INSIDE TODAY

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