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NORTHEAST NEWS



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 VOL. 46, NO. 34 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Battleship Texas safely sails to Galveston drydock

\$35 million restoration will take over a year

Job Fair in East Aldine Sept. 7

A Job Fair for those seeking employment, and for Employers looking to hire, will be held at the East Aldine District building, 2909 Amphitheatre Drive, on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 10am to 1pm.

Sponsors are the Buckner Family Hope Center, and the East Aldine District. For additional sponsors and participating employers.

You are invited to take your place among candidates submitting applications and meeting with potential employers from our community and region.

If you are an employer and wish to participate, contact Lance Dean at East Aldine District, 512-658-4985.

HOUSTON (Aug. 31, 2022) – The Battleship Texas Foundation announced that the iconic Battleship Texas completed a milestone journey on Wednesday, August 31 from the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site to Galveston. The Battleship Texas, commissioned in 1914, is the only surviving dreadnought to have served in both World War I and World II.

The historic ship will now undergo an extensive, \$35 million repair at Gulf Copper & Manufacturing Corporation's shipyard to fix the hull. The Battleship Texas Foundation selected Gulf Copper's shipyard in October 2021 as the repair location since they recently acquired a floating drydock that is capable of lifting the Battleship Tex-



TWO ICONS: Under tow, the iconic Battleship Texas passes under the iconic Harman Bridge on the way to a Galveston drydock for restoration work. More photos p.8

as out of the water. In addition, the location of the yard in Galveston significantly reduced the risks associated with towing the Battleship Texas due to sheltered waters and a short travel distance.

"It's an important piece of history. We feel like we're working for the people of the state of Texas so that they can be proud of their ship," said Tony Gregory, president and CEO of the Battleship Texas Foundation. "We are proud to have played a part in maintaining the integrity of the ship so future generations can continue to learn about her service and history."

The ship closed to the public in August 2019 to

Continued. See Battleship sails, Page 8

Lone Star College chancellor shares insight on college debt relief plan

ALDINE – The new federal program aimed at relieving some college tuition education debts for an estimated 43 million students could help thousands of Harris County students, including many enrolled at Lone Star College's East Aldine campus.

President Joe Biden recently announced details of a student debt relief plan designed to reduce the debt obligations of students from middle- and low-income families.

Among elected officials, educators and college graduates who have already paid off their loans, opinions about the loan forgiveness plan are divided.

Stephen C. Head, Lone Star Community College system chancellor, said officials there are still waiting for more details from the US Department of Education.

Head said about 6,000 Lone Star students carry college loan debts. Projected over the last 10 years, he said, about 60,000 past or present Lone Star students might qualify for student loan forgiveness.

Lone Star, which has about 75,000 students taking classes for academic credit and another 10,000 enrollees, has some of the lowest tuition rates in the coun-



DR. STEPHEN HEAD, Lone Star College Chancellor

try, "Certainly in the state of Texas," Head said.

The Lone Star system includes seven comprehensive campuses, an online college and 10 centers in Harris County.

Continued. See DEBT RELIEF, page 8

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 2:

Texans begin Lovie Smith Era; Texas gets first taste of SEC when it hosts No. 1-ranked Alabama

The Lovie Smith Era begins for the Texans on Sunday when they open the 2022 season under their new head coach when they host the Indianapolis Colts at NRG Stadium at noon on CBS.

Smith, the former head coach of the Chicago Bears and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, served as the Texans' defensive coordinator last year after one-and-done head coach David Culley.

After General Manager Nick Caserio interviewed a number of candidates, he realized he had his head coach already in house in Smith.

Smith led the Bears to the NFC title in 2006 before losing to the Colts and Peyton Manning in the Super Bowl. He led the Bears to three playoff appearances, two appearances in the NFC title game and brings an 89-87



record into his third stint as a head coach.

While Culley was a nice guy, he was in way over his head as a head coach. Smith brings experience and stability to his new duties and I expect the Texans to be much more competitive in 2022 after going 4-13 under Culley.

Yes, the Texans were 3-0 in pre-season play, but as I've stated in past columns, the 1989 Cowboys were 3-1 under Jimmy Johnson in his first season as the Cowboys head coach and finished 1-15 in the regular season. Texans'

fans should not pine their hopes on meaningless practice games. Then again, this team has the ability to be more competitive in 2022 thanks to a strong rookie class led by LSU cornerback Derek Stingley Jr., (LSU), offensive lineman Kenyon Green (Texas A&M), safety Jalen Pitre (Baylor) and running back Dameon Pierce (Florida). Peirce was the star of camp and pre-season and could be Houston's starting

Continued. See KEENEY'S KORNER, Page 7

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EVENTO GRATIS VEN A CELEBRAR

DÍA DE LA CONSTITUCIÓN DE LA CIUDADANÍA Y LA CIUDADANÍA NOSOTROS LA GENTE

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Únase a nosotros en la celebración de Día de la Constitución y la Ciudadanía. El desfile de inicio comenzará a las 9:30AM en la escuela secundaria MacArthur y terminará en el Anfiteatro East Aldine. Tendremos juegos, lectura de historias, registro de votantes y mucho más hasta las 2 PM.

Estacionamiento: Lone Star College - East Aldine Campus

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Free Exercise Classes for Seniors

FREE EXERCISE CLASSES for Seniors 55+ sponsored by Harris County Pct. 2 are being held at the Northeast Community Center on Bentley (James Driver Park) Monday thru Thursday.

- Indoors Walking 8:00 a.m.
- Modified Fitness 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Chair yoga 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Line Dancing starting soon!

Other programs/events/classes are offered. For more info, call 281-274-2222 or pick up a "calendar of events" at the center.

Pct. 3 Deputy Constable Omar Ursin killed in Atascocita while off-duty

ATASCOCITA – An investigation is underway after an off-duty deputy constable with Precinct 3 was fatally shot in Atascocita while returning home from picking up food for his family Sunday, authorities said.

Deputies with the Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Office responded to reports of a shooting in the 11900 block of Madera Run Parkway around 6:30 p.m. Deputies said the caller reportedly heard gunshots and said that someone was shot inside of a vehicle.

When deputies arrived at the scene, they found a small car crashed into a tree in the median of the roadway. The driver and lone occupant of the vehicle, who was identified as Pct. 3 Deputy Omar Ursin, 37, suffered at least one gunshot wound, investigators said. He was transported to the hospital, where deputies said he was pronounced dead.

According to investigators with HCSO Homicide and Crime Scene units, witnesses observed a dark-colored, newer model four-door sedan with tinted windows driving next to Ursin as they drove east-



DEPUTY OMAR URSIN

bound on Madera Run Parkway. The suspect shot into Ursin's car and struck the victim, deputies said. The suspect's vehicle then reportedly fled northbound on Olympic National Drive.

Investigators said Ursin was returning to his home after picking up food for his family immediately prior to the incident.

"We ask that you pray for Deputy Omar Ursin's family, friends and all of us who are devastated by the loss of our brother," Constable Sherman Eagleton said. "Rest In Peace Deputy Ursin, we've got it from here."

Anyone with information on this shooting is urged to contact the HCSO Homicide Unit at (713) 274-9100 or Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

Man killed in 2-vehicle crash in northeast Harris County

HOUSTON – An investigation is underway after a man was killed in a two-vehicle crash in northeast Harris County Friday, deputies said.

Deputies with Harris County Sheriff's Office received a call about a stalled vehicle in the moving lanes of traffic on Eastex and Little York around 1 a.m., Friday September 2.

Moments later, deputies said they received reports of a major two-vehicle crash in the same area. Units said they arrived and located a GMC Yukon that had struck a white Jaguar sedan.

According to investigators, the driver of the Jaguar, which was the vehicle that stalled, was pronounced dead at the scene. Deputies said there appeared to be no signs of intoxication.

The northbound lanes were closed for some time as an investigation ensued.

COMMUNITY WATCH

2nd Suspect Arrested, Charged in Fatal Shooting at 10300 Aldine Westfield Road

Charges have been filed against a second suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of two men at 10300 Aldine Westfield Road about 10:05 p.m. on July 27.

The suspect, Oscar R. Cabrera, 28, is charged with capital murder in the 174th State District Court. Another suspect, Kurt Whitten, 19, was previously arrested and charged with capital murder in the 337th State District Court.

Booking photos of Cabrera and Whitten are attached to this news release.

The victims are identified as Tomas Alvarado, 26, and Jeremiah Ponce, 20.

HPD Homicide Division Sergeants K. Daignault and M. Burrow reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to a shooting call at the intersection of Aldine Westfield Road and Parker Road and found two unresponsive men lying in the roadway next to a white Honda Accord.



OSCAR CABRERA



KURT WHITTEN

Houston Fire Department paramedics responded to the scene and pronounced the men deceased from gunshot wounds. A preliminary investigation indicated the unknown suspect(s) fled the scene in a black pickup truck of unknown make or model.

Detectives learned an altercation occurred between the victims and a suspect a short time before the shooting. At some point, the suspect, in a black Ford F-150 pickup truck, went searching for the victims. He found

them as they were traveling at the above address. The suspect fired numerous shots, fatally striking both men. The pickup truck then fled the scene.

Further investigation identified Whitten as the suspect in this case. He was taken into custody on August 2 without incident and subsequently charged.

Subsequent investigation also identified Cabrera as a suspect in this case and, on Wednesday (August 31), he was arrested without incident.

Aldine ISD student charged after bringing knives to Stovall MS

HOUSTON – A student has been charged after officials say he brought two knives to Stovall Middle School on Wednesday.

The principal of Stovall Middle School said the child was charged with unlawful possession of a knife on school property after he was found with two knives on campus.

Officials said a fellow student reported the incident to school administrators, and luckily no one was injured.

Stovall Middle School released the following statement regarding the incident:

"A student was found to be in possession of two weapons on campus this morning. A fellow student reported the incident to school administrators. The student who possessed the weapons will be dealt with according to the district's student code of conduct, as well as having charges filed against him by the Aldine ISD Police Department. No students or staff were at any time placed in any danger.

I want to commend the student who reported this incident. Parents and guardians, please remind your children that they

should not bring weapons of any kind to school, and that if they do so, there will be consequences for their actions. Safety and security will continue to remain a priority in Aldine ISD and at Stovall Middle School.

Our focus will remain to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff. If you have any questions concerning this incident, please contact me at (281) 878-0670. Again, this has been an important message from Stovall Middle principal Elsa Wright."

HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY NEWS

HM COMMUNITY COOKBOOK:

The library is creating a community cookbook to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Submit your recipes to the library beginning on September 1st to be included in our first annual community cookbook.

ESL CLASSES:

The library offers free ESL Classes to adults. In September, we will begin Introductory, Conversational, and Online Level 2 ESL Classes. If you are interested in joining a class, please contact us today to register.

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES:

Our Citizenship classes are now in person. Prepare for the Citizenship test with our free classes.

SENIOR GAMES:

Senior Adults are welcome to our weekly senior games morning. Every Wednesday at 10am, you are invited to play table-top games with us. Light refreshments provided.

THE ART THING FOR TEENS:

Every Wednesday at 3pm, we channel our creativity through different art projects. This program is for teens/young adults looking to make quick and incredible pieces of art!

OTAKU OUTPOST:

Otaku Outpost has moved to Tuesdays at 3pm. Celebrate all things manga and anime with

our weekly club!

ADULTING 101:

Every Thursday at 3pm, we will offer an Adulting class for teens. Join us to learn about important life skills.

QUEST RPG:

Love RPG and want to try your hand at playing? Tweens are welcome to join this exciting fantasy adventure roleplaying game for ages 10-14.

PJ PALS:

Pajama storytime is back. We welcome children to our evening story time on Monday, September 12th. Join us for stories, songs, and more!

PINT-SIZED SCIENTIST:

Explore the world of science in this new program. Every Tuesday at 4:30pm.

BUBBLY BABIES:

A lap-sit story time designed for our youngest library users ages 0-12 months. Listen to stories, sing songs, and do a craft with us! Every Thursday at 1:00pm.

TODDLER TALES:

A story time program designed for toddlers ages 18 months to 3 years old. Listen to stories, sing songs, and do a craft with us! Every Thursday at 1:30pm.

ROBLOX TOURNAMENT:

We will be hosting a Roblox Tournament on September 23rd. Registra-

tion for this tournament begins on Friday, September 9th. Call us to register.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We are in search of volunteers to help us with a variety of projects from shelving to teaching literacy classes. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Jennifer at jennifer.nandlal@hcpl.net.

GRADCAFÉ:

Every Tuesday we will have representatives from GRADcafé at the High Meadows Library. GRADcafé is a one-stop-shop offering free services to help you decide on a career, explore education and training options, apply to college, and find the financial aid you need. Whether you want to attend college to get a degree or work on a certificate in a professional trade, we are here to guide you through every step. You're never too young or old to get started. Services are available in English or Spanish.

For information on any of the above events or programs, please call us at 832-927-5540 or stop by the library.

JENNIFER NANDLAL
SR ADULT PROGRAM SPECIALIST
HIGH MEADOWS LIBRARY
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HOUSTON, TX 77039

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

BILINGUAL STORYTIME

Join us back in the library for storytime in English and Spanish **Wednesdays at 10:30am!**

KIDS CLUB

Kids Club is back this **Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 4:30pm!** Come and have some fun!

TEEN THURSDAYS

Teen Thursdays are back! Join us on **Thursday afternoons** starting at **3:30pm**. Drop on in!

COMPUTER CLASSES

In addition to our online computer classes in both English and Spanish we will now be offering computer classes in person at the library. If you want to participate, **call us to register: 832-927-5410.**

Tuesdays: various topics (Spanish computer class), 5-7pm, at the library

Wednesdays: Beyond the Basics with Office 365 plus Google Apps, (English computer class), 5-7pm, online

Thursdays: Beyond the Basics with Office 365 plus Google Apps (Spanish computer class), 5-7pm, at the library

BOOK CHALLENGE BOOK CLUB FOR ADULTS

This is the book club for people who hate book clubs! Accept the chal-

lenge and choose the book YOU want that meets the challenge. This month's challenge is Choose a Book with an Animal on the Cover! We meet at 11am, Sept. 10 in the library for light refreshments and bookish conversation.

GET READY TO VOTE!

Get ready to vote! Daniel Meza from Harris County Elections Office will be joining us on **Saturday, September 10th at 2pm** to talk about voting in the upcoming election. Test out voting machines and the website www.harrisvotes.com/

LENA START - NEW SESSION

LENA Start is a program that teaches parents and caregivers how talk builds babies' brains!

All parents of **babies born between March 1, 2020 and May 1, 2021** (16 to 30 months old) are invited to apply.

LENA Start en español empezara **martes, el 13 de Septiembre, a las 11:30 am.**

English LENA Start sessions begin **Saturday September 17 at 11 am.**

Receive \$100 for participating.

CALL FOR LITERACY TUTORS

Would you like to be a part of making an impact on people's lives? If you are

interested in becoming a literacy tutor at the Aldine Branch Library, we want to talk to you! We are looking for volunteers to teach English language classes in person and virtually. **Call 832-927-5410 or email for info: ald@hcpl.net**

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you need to earn volunteer hours or are just looking for a meaningful way to spend your time? Volunteer at the library! Pick up an application at the Aldine Branch Library or call 832-927-5410.

PASSPORT SERVICES

Do have plans to travel out of the country soon? Get on the ball and make sure you get your passport in order NOW! You can make an appointment for passport services at Aldine Branch - <https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services>

E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up to get our newsletter delivered straight to your mailbox each month! <http://eepurl.com/h3wOXH>

MICHELLE PICHON
LIBRARY PROGRAM SPECIALIST
HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ALDINE BRANCH LIBRARY
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HOUSTON, TX 77037
832-927-5410

SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

AISD's Finance Department earns Certificate of Achievement from GFOA



The Aldine ISD Finance Department has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

The Finance Department earned this honor due to its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2021. The report was judged by an impartial panel of judges and met the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government entity and its management.

The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare annual comprehensive financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeeded in achieving that goal.

Aldine ISD's Finance Department consists of Stan Osborne, Chief Financial Officer, Alexia Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Perla Davila, Director of Consolidated Programs, Desiree Smith, Director of Accounting and Business Services, Dr. Demetra Skinner, Director of Federal and State Compliance, Carlotta Nicholas, Director of Purchasing and Stacey Smith, Director of Special Programs.

Online Learning is Helping Curve a Pathway for Aldine Students, Providing Choices and Opportunities

The effects of an impromptu switch from traditional in-class learning to online learning during the pandemic led to many Aldine ISD students falling behind in class, which led to the loss of credits and the jeopardy of graduating on time. However, unconventional difficulties call for unconventional solutions, and online credit recovery has been innovative in giving Aldine students an opportunity for choices. Spearheaded by Shanaya Anderson, the online learning department created an easier way for students to regain credits they may not have earned in a traditional classroom.

"Online learning is placed across all high school campuses. Students are placed in a lab and work on a course to regain credit. The course is designed to cover all of the content for a particular class, and the student is able to work on the course at their own pace, which allows them to work on more than one class," said Anderson when asked how the process of online credit recovery works.

This past school year, numbers show an increase in success with online credit recovery since the spring of 2020, when Aldine saw a drop in the recovery completion, going from 46 percent to 86 percent, with nearly 12,000 students earning half credits this past year. The online alternative allows students to balance school and personal lives by giving them choices and opportunities. The

students who are enrolled in the program have access to work 24 hours a day. The open availability helps AISD students that might work nights get ahead and also serves as an introduction to college since the coursework is offered online. Also, of the neighboring districts, Aldine offers the most labs, providing students that are enrolled in the program for the initial course credit an opportunity to catch up. Those students will also have a lab teacher and a virtual teacher.

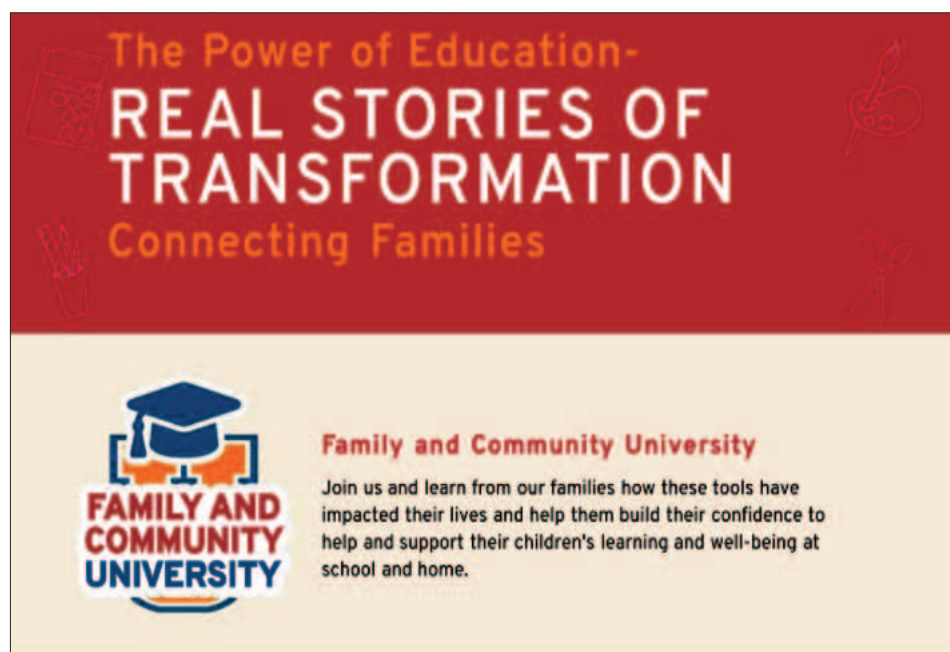
Anderson and her team go above and beyond to ensure the students enrolled in the program are served correctly by "searching for teachers that are motivators, and that come with a coaching mentality."

When asked about Anderson and the online learning department, Chief Academic Officer Todd Davis spoke very highly of her and what the department does for Aldine students.

"She flies under the radar, but she has a huge impact, and sometimes the program doesn't get the recognition it deserves," Dr. Davis said. "Online learning saves the students from not falling off the tracks. They are designing the structure and providing all the support to help get students over the hump within the program."

Students can register for the credit recovery program by contacting their counselors at their respective campuses.

Aldine ISD to Hold Informational Sessions for the Family and Community University's Second Year



The start of the new school year also means the start for the Family and Community University, a program created by the Family and Community Engagement Department (FACE), which focuses on helping parents of Aldine ISD students by providing knowledge and resources to build confidence and empower families to support students academically, socially and emotionally. Of the multiple successes from FCU's first year, some of the highlights were the first-ever Community University graduating class of 84 parents, with some going on to register for ESL, GED exam preparation and Spanish Conversion classes at Lone Star College. Also, several graduates went on to become substitute teachers and paraprofessionals for AISD. The 2022-23 school year will mark the second year of the program, and FACE is looking to build off the successes of the previous year.

Insight to parents interested in enrolling into the program, FACE will be holding three separate sessions. Some of last year's graduates will provide testimonials, share their firsthand experience with the program, and touch on how it has impacted and benefited not only them, but their families as well.

The first of the three sessions will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 7, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at La Promesa, 11101 Airline Drive, Houston, TX. 77037. The following sessions will be held on Sept. 14 and 21, at Houston Academy, 8103 Carver Road, Houston, TX. 77088, and Cypresswood Elementary, 6901 Cypresswood Point Ave. Humble, TX. 77338, respectively. These sessions are free to those interested in being a part of the 2022-23 class.

Individuals interested in registering or learning more about FCUniversity should click here to be directed to their website.

Aldine ISD celebrated "National College Colors Day last Friday.



OPINION PAGE

OPINION
By **BILL KING**



Examining Harris County Funding for Law Enforcement

For the most part, I find the “defunding the police” debate little more than partisan rhetoric which serves more to obfuscate than elucidate any meaningful discussion about the appropriate level of law enforcement funding. This is especially true in the current back and forth between Democrats and Republicans on Harris County’s funding of law enforcement.

Unfortunately, an attempt to describe how the current County administration has funded law enforcement involves unpacking the County’s Byzantine accounting practices. It is even more complicated by the fact that the County recently changed its fiscal year, which resulted in a “short year” accounting period of seven months this year.

But after studying the numbers in some detail, here are my three takeaways:

- The County does not spend anywhere close to two-thirds of its budget on law enforcement as Judge Hidalgo has claimed.
- Prior to 2021, Commissioners Courts, under both Republican and Democratic control, increased the County’s law enforcement budget by about 5% each year. Since inflation for most of the time was running at about 2%, those increases represented real increases in capacity. However, in 2021, the Commissioners Court only increased the law enforcement by about 2% when inflation was running at 7%, thereby, cutting the budgets by 5% in real economic terms. This also coincided with a dramatic increase in crime.
- This year, in the face of intense public pressure over an exploding crime wave, Commissioners Court granted some one-time funding increases to law enforcement. These fell during the short-year budget. If those one-time funding grants are annualized, they would represent about a 10-11% increase. However, the proposed budget for next year rolls back about half of those increases. Therefore, funding available to law enforcement next year will be less than what they have this year.

The “Two-Thirds” Claim

The claim that Harris County spends two-thirds of its budget on law enforcement is based on excluding the County’s spending on flood control, the toll road system and public health. The expenditures for those areas are technically separate entities but ones which are governed by the Commissioners Court and their budgets are consolidated with other County spending for accounting purposes. It also includes a host of expenditures that most people would not consider a law enforcement function.

According to the County’s most recent audit, about 34% of the County expenditures were for the “Administration of Justice,” of which law enforcement would be a subset. Therefore, the County’s spending on law enforcement is clearly less than one-third, not two-thirds, of its total spending.

Law Enforcement Expenditures Since 2019

District Attorney

The first two years the Democrats controlled the Commissioners Court, they increased the District Attorney’s budget a little over 6% each year. However, in the third year, a year in which crime had begun to explode and the backlog of cases at the courthouse was growing exponentially, they only increased her budget by 1%.

In the face of intense public pressure, the Court added about \$10 million in funding to the District Attorney’s budget this year (FY2022 short year), which on an annualized basis would represent a 13% increase.² However, the proposed budget for the coming year rolls back almost half of that increase.

Since the Democrats have taken control of the Commissioners Court, they have increased the District Attorney’s budget by 26%. During the same time, they have increased the budget for the Public Defender’s office by 217%

Constables

Total funding for the Constables has followed a very similar pattern to that of the District Attorney. Funding was increased modestly the first two years then cut back significantly in the third. They too received a one-time increase in 2022 that is mostly rolled back in the proposed budget.

Sheriff

The Sheriff’s Department has also followed the same general pattern but has fared somewhat better on its funding due to the County being forced to deal with the ongoing disaster at the County jail, which is included in the Sheriff’s budget.

I think it would be hard to describe the Commissioners Court funding of law enforcement over the last four years as anything other than anemic, especially considering the significant surge in crime we have seen in our area. During that crime wave, the County was awash with about \$1.4 billion in federal COVID funding. Many other local governments used significant portions of those funds to shore up law enforcement to deal with the crime wave that we have seen across nearly the entire country. Harris County did not.

With a proposed budget that quickly retreats from the one-off funding increases this year, the current majority on Commissioners’ Court has clearly signaled their intention to continue funding law enforcement at minimal levels if re-elected. I think that is why you see virtually every law enforcement group lining up in opposition to the Democratic candidates in the upcoming election.

But while Harris County residents may be increasingly alarmed about crime, many also have grave reservations about a Republican Party whose views are becoming increasing out of step with theirs.

As a result, the upcoming election, in my view, will turn on whether voters’ concerns about national partisan issues, like 2020 election denial and abortion, outweigh their concern the troubling policies of Commissioners’ Court over the last four years on local issues like public safety funding. Of course, County government has little to do with those national issues but everything to do with public safety.

Note 1 - For the purposes of this discussion, I am only going to look at the funding levels for the Sheriff, the Constables, and the District Attorney. While there are certainly other expenditures that relate to the criminal justice system, it is the budget of these departments that



THE POSTSCRIPT
By **Carrie Classon**

“Not Much of a Joke”

It wasn’t much of a joke, as far as jokes go.

I saw the man wearing two hats, one on top of the other. The second hat may have been for his wife. It was decorated with intricate drawings. He was walking with her, a third hat tied to the handle of a stroller, and the family was making its way through the artisan market, where hats and ceramics and glass and handwoven, hand-carved, handmade items of all types are sold.

The man had his hands full, guiding the stroller loaded with purchases and keeping an eye on his wife, who was darting in and out of the artists’ stalls and, as I passed him, noting his two hats, I gave him a serious look and said, “I believe you need another hat.”

The man touched his hand to his hat, remembered he was wearing two and burst into laughter.

It was a real laugh, a belly laugh. He suddenly realized he looked silly, and he thought it was funny that I was bringing this to his attention in such a serious voice. And I was ridiculously pleased because I’d made the joke in Spanish.

Language is so tricky.

For decades, I’ve been able to ask where the bathroom is located and how much something costs. I’ve steadily picked up vocabulary because so many cognates are shared between Spanish and English. But then I’ve gotten stuck. I have to plan sentences before I say them. I have to ask people to speak more slowly or to repeat themselves three times. I do better with cab drivers and hotel employees because they have made it their life’s work to understand the fractured sentences of tourists and can make a reasonable guess as to what I’ve said.

But I’ve never been able to make a spontaneous joke.

I reached the conclusion about 10 years ago that I was never going to be fluent, so there wasn’t much point in trying. I’d become a writer, and I realized in a new way how inadequate my Spanish was, how far I was from being able to say anything important or meaningful. And so I quit.

But coming back to San Miguel de Allende has changed my mind. Because at its core, language is not about putting together beautiful sentences or showing off my vocabulary and grammatical skills.

Language is about connecting with people.

I will never understand Spanish as clearly as I would like. I won’t get the subtle inferences, the implied meanings. I’ll always be a little naive and clueless and have to have things spelled out for me. But, as I think about this, I realize I’m a little like this all the time—in any language.

What matters is that last night, I overheard two elderly Mexican tourists who could not find their way back to their hotel. The hotel was only a block and a half away. It was not an emergency. But I understood their confusion and said, “I know where that is. I am going there.”

They looked a little skeptical. This blond woman did not look like a local. But they slowly followed me (one had a cane) and, when we finally made it to their hotel, I was absurdly pleased.

My progress in Spanish is slow. I lose hope on a regular basis.

But yesterday, I helped two old women find their way. And the day before that, I made a joke. It wasn’t much of a joke, but somebody laughed—and at least for today—that is all the motivation I need.

Till next time,

Carrie

Photos from the column and a link to YouTube videos can be found at CarrieClasson.com.

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Flooding in Dallas prompts Disaster Declaration

Heavy rains through Texas last week caused flooding, particularly in the Dallas area, prompting Gov. Greg Abbott to issue a disaster declaration for 23 affected counties. Texans who were affected by the rain, which dumped more than 10 inches in Dallas, are encouraged to file insurance claims with their providers and to complete the voluntary Self Reporting Damage Survey issued by the Texas Department of Emergency Management by visiting damage.tdem.texas.gov. The survey helps the state identify damage across Texas to gain an understanding of what areas were affected during the recent severe weather.

Counties included in the disaster declaration are Camp, Culberson, Dallas, Duval, Ellis, El Paso, Henderson, Hopkins, Hudspeth, Kaufman, Kerr, Live Oak, Marion, Montague, Navarro, Pecos, Rains, Smith, Tarrant, Upshur, Van Zandt, Webb and Wood. Additional counties could be added as damage is assessed.

BURN BANS LIFTED; FIRE DANGER DROPS

The heavy rains across a chunk of the state have reduced the wildfire risk, with the Texas A&M Forest Service for the first time in months not responding to any active wildfires. The number of counties with burn bans has dropped to 166. At its high point, 224 counties in the state were under burn bans.

The number of counties under extreme or exceptional drought has



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

dropped as well. The percentage of Texas in the “exceptional drought” category dropped by more than half to 12.4%, according to kut.org.

BATTLESHIP TEXAS HEADED TO GALVESTON FOR REPAIRS

The Battleship Texas will leave its home at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site on Aug. 31 and make its way to the Galveston Shipyard for repairs, weather and tides permitting. A livestream video of the departure will be available to the public on the Battleship Texas Foundation’s YouTube channel and Facebook group page.

The former U.S. Navy battleship was launched on May 19, 1912, and saw action in World War I. It also escorted war convoys across the Atlantic during World War II, fought at Normandy on D-Day, and provided naval gunfire support in the Pacific during the Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The ship was decommissioned in 1948.

While in dry dock, the ship’s hull will be repaired or replaced from four feet above the waterline down

to the bottom, thanks to \$35 million in funding provided by the 2019 Texas Legislature. The grand re-opening of Battleship Texas is expected to be sometime in 2024.

COASTAL POLICYHOLDERS PROTECTED BY EMERGENCY RULE

An emergency rule issued by the Texas Department of Insurance will protect Weston Property & Casualty Insurance Company policyholders who live along the Texas coast. Weston, a Florida insurance company licensed in Texas, is in liquidation and has been ordered to end its operations by Sept. 7, possibly leaving Texas policyholders in danger of not being covered against wind and hail damage.

More than 23,000 Weston policyholders live in possibly affected areas, according to TDI. They will be eligible to be insured through the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association for free for three months, after which a payment plan can be set up. Homeowners are encouraged to work with their insurance agent to find coverage.

CONDITIONS HEATING UP FOR DOVE SEASON

An especially scorching summer might make it trickier for dove hunters with the season opening just around the corner.

“Hunters will likely see larger concentrations of birds at watering holes and food sources than they have in the past due to limited resources,” said Owen Fitzsimmons with Texas Parks & Wildlife. “Agriculture production has been hit hard by drought so birds may be more reliant on native foods this September. Look for stands of common sunflower, croton and other native annual forbs and grasses.”

In general, dove season begins on Sept. 1, depending on the geographic zone. Go to the TPW website at tpwd.texas.gov for specific dates.

PUC CREATES OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Public Utility Commission has created an Office of Public Engagement to “provide a single point of contact for consumers, stakeholders, legislators, and other affected parties to make their voices heard at the PUC.”

“We’re very excited to build a team dedicated to bringing together all the parties and all the resources necessary to resolve what are often complex issues in a way that emphasizes collaboration among everyone involved and ultimately benefits customers and rate payers,” Peter Lake, PUC chairman, said.

NORTHEAST NEWS
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Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to nenewsroom@aol.com

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most directly affect the ability to actually take criminals off the street.

Note 2 - The District Attorney’s Office maintains that they have not actually received all of the promised funds. Because the County’s monthly financial statements are so far out of date (latest available at this time is April), I cannot verify whether they have or not.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Opinions expressed here are not necessarily that of this newspaper or its staff. YOUR OPINION is welcome. Send a letter for possible publication to Grafikpress Newspapers, 5906 Star Lane, Houston TX 77057 or an email to GRAFIKSTAR@aol.com. Please limit your words to about 200. Letters will be subject to editing. Thank you.

Metallica Scholars grant rocks Lone Star College workforce programs



Lone Star College has been selected to receive a Metallica Scholars grant from legendary rock band Metallica through its All Within My Hands Foundation for the fourth year in row.

Houston (Aug. 18, 2022) – Legendary rock band Metallica selected Lone Star College from a competitive field of community colleges across the country to receive funding through their All Within My Hands (AWMH) Foundation. The money will support students while also elevating the importance of career and technical education.

"We are so grateful for the continued generosity of Metallica and their All Within My Hands Foundation," said Linda Leto Head, LSC Senior Associate Vice Chancellor External and Employer Relations. "They are to be commended for supporting the community by obtaining technical skill and certification to get a great job."

This is the fourth year in a row that Lone Star College was awarded an AWMH grant in conjunction with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

Direct impact on job and wage growth drives the Metallica Scholars Initiative. On average, students who complete the program see new job opportunities

and increased salary potential up to three times higher than pre-program. Lone Star College will focus its efforts on preparing students to become welders and work with a different type of heavy metal, or enter the performing arts industry setting up lighting, sound and stages for entertainers such as Metallica by completing the Live Entertainment Technology program. The college's goal is to elevate students' skill sets by meeting industry standards and raising the level of certificate programs offered.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports employment of welders is projected to grow 8% from 2020 to 2030.

"The Lone Star College Live Entertainment Technology program trains students the skills to work with audio, video and lighting for live music events or Broadway shows," said Katie Gruenhagen, LSC-Montgomery Live Entertainment Technology Program Director. "Graduates of the program will be able to design, maintain, and operate technology systems in en-

tertainment and sporting venues, churches, auditoriums, theatres, convention hotels and trade shows."

"Our goal for the Metallica Scholars Initiative is to shine a light on workforce education and support the next generation of tradespeople," said Pete Delgrosso, Executive Director, All Within My Hands. "With the addition of the 2022-2023 Metallica Scholars program, our grants will reach over 2,000 men and women in 32 community colleges across 27 states."

In addition to funds from AWMH, Lone Star College Foundation is matching the award to provide even more financial resources for students.

"We are so excited to be partnering with Metallica and the All Within My Hands Foundation," said Nicole Robinson Gauthier, CFRE, Lone Star College Foundation Executive Director. "This is a wonderful opportunity to help our students receive world-class training and be prepared to enter the workforce."

Fall registration is underway. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/Metallica.

celebrity extra by Dana Jackson

Q: Is the TV series "Big Sky" coming back this fall, or next year? I can't keep track of all my favorite shows, since they don't all start during the fall TV season. — L.Y.

A: Yes, "Big Sky" will return to ABC on Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 10 p.m. ET. With each season having a separate storyline, there will also be an expanded title this season — "Big Sky: Deadly Trails." Constance Zimmer is expected, but not confirmed, to be returning, since last season's story left viewers hanging.

According to Precinct TV.com, Zimmer isn't a series regular and is quite busy, so "this could lead to her not being available to film 'Big Sky' season three." However, I can confirm several big stars who are joining the show this season on a contract basis. Jensen Ackles ("Supernatural") debuted as Beau Arlen at the end of season two, but will be back, along with Jamie-Lynn Sigler ("The Sopranos"). Singer/actress Reba McEntire will play Sunny Bricker, the owner of a "glamping" business whose customers disappear.



Kylie Bunbury portrays Cassie Dewell in ABC's "Big Sky."

Her real-life beau, Rex Linn ("Better Call Saul"), will play opposite her as Sunny's husband, Buck. Rosanna Arquette ("Pulp Fiction") has also signed on to play a con-artist mom. Despite the show's main plot changing each season, the two main characters, Jenny Hoyt (Katheryn Winnick) and Cassie Dewell (Kylie Bunbury), will continue as the prime investigators.

*** Q: I saw a preview for a new movie starring Jon Hamm, with the name "Fletcher" in it. Is it a remake

of the Chevy Chase film of the same name from years ago? — J.G. A: "Confess, Fletch," the upcoming movie directed by Greg Mottola, is not a remake of 1985's "Fletch" or its sequel, "Fletch Lives," but it is the same character originally portrayed by Chase. In the 2022 version, Fletch, as played by Jon Hamm, is a semi-retired investigative journalist who finds himself accused of a string of murders. Hamm's "Mad Men" co-star, John Slattery, also stars in the movie as Fletch's newspaper editor.

According to Mottola, the two characters have a love-hate relationship. Even before Chase stepped into Fletch's shoes decades ago, the character was originally conceived by author Gregory McDonald in a series of books. His novel "Confess, Fletch" was actually published in 1976. The new film is based closer to the character from the books, rather than Chase's portrayal, as Hamm didn't want to just mimic the legendary comedic actor's mannerisms. Look for "Confess, Fletch" in theaters and on-demand beginning Sept. 16.

Save the Date

9th Annual M.B. "Sonny" Donaldson Golf Tournament
Supporting the Aldine Education Foundation

TOUR 18

Thursday,
October 27, 2022

Raising funds to support the students of Aldine ISD

AldineEducationFoundation.org/golf
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Amber Waves



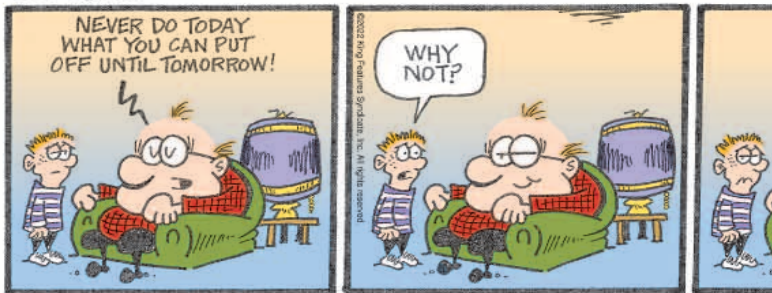
by Dave T. Phipps

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	3		6			4		
8				7	5			9
		9			2		7	
2			8	4				5
	4			1			9	
	7	1	5			8		
6					3	2	1	
			7	8				3
	1			6				4

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

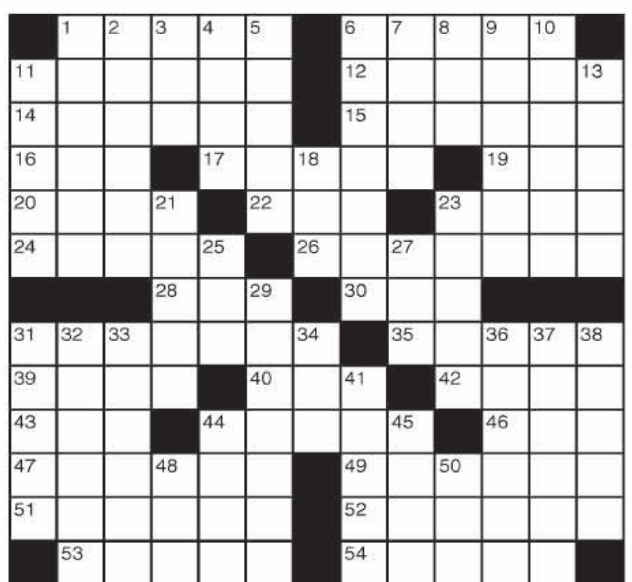
Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Bow is smaller. 2. Ball is moved. 3. Cake is different. 4. Cap is reversed. 5. Shirt is smaller. 6. Sneaker is different.

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September 5, 2022 Posting Date King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Milan's La —
 - 6 Mops the deck
 - 11 First game of the season
 - 12 Fortune-telling decks
 - 14 Gift giver's words
 - 15 Not level
 - 16 Italian "three"
 - 17 Trombone part
 - 19 Coach Parseghian
 - 20 Coup d' —
 - 22 Summer on the Seine
 - 23 Not kosher
 - 24 Hose material
 - 26 1955 Platters hit
 - 28 — -di-dah
 - 30 Pinnacle
 - 31 "Pretty please?"
 - 35 From the area
 - 39 Writer Kingsley
 - 40 Highland hat
 - 42 "Elephant Boy" actor
 - 43 UV ray-blocking stat
 - 44 James — Garfield
 - 46 Stanley Cup org.
- DOWN**
- 1 Stylish
 - 2 Breakfast bowlful
 - 3 Whatever amount
 - 4 Late July babies
 - 5 As — (usually)
 - 6 Pupil
 - 7 Diminish
 - 8 "Right you —!"
 - 9 Emma of fiction
 - 10 Sound system
 - 11 Frequently
 - 13 Major mix-up
 - 18 "Am — blame?"
 - 21 Bridge fees
 - 23 Printing errors
 - 25 Aye undoer
 - 27 Texter's chuckle
 - 29 Sites of rapid growth
 - 31 Squander
 - 32 Chevy model
 - 33 Boost
 - 34 Eg. and Syr., once
 - 36 Big gorge
 - 37 Loathes
 - 38 Humdingers
 - 41 Taj —
 - 44 Out of the storm
 - 45 Simple
 - 48 Pro Bowl stats
 - 50 Singer Sumac



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: What is the only country in the world without an official capital city?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which Chinese zodiac animal is celebrated in the year 2022?
- BUSINESS: When did the auction site eBay launch?
- HISTORY: How many years has Queen Elizabeth been on the throne?
- MOVIES: Who played Wolverine in the X-Men movie series?
- U.S. STATES: Which state's motto is "Mountaineers are always free"?
- ASTRONOMY: What is the only planet in our solar system that isn't named after a Greek-Roman deity?
- MYTHOLOGY: Which Egyptian god has the head of a jackal?
- TELEVISION: How many times has the hospital's name changed in the drama "Grey's Anatomy"?
- RELIGION: Where was the founder of Buddhism born?

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

King Crossword

Trivia Test Answers

1. Nauru, an island nation in the Pacific Ocean.
2. The Year of the Tiger.
3. 1995.
4. 70.
5. High Jackman.
6. The just celebrated her Platinum Jubilee.
7. Earth.
8. Anubis, god of death.
9. Three.
10. Buddha was born in what is modern-day Nepal.

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SPORTS PAGE

FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 2:

Texans begin Lovie Smith Era; Texas gets first taste of SEC when it hosts No. 1-ranked Alabama

running back against the Colts.

While much has changed for the Texans, the Colts also made a change for the better at quarterback when they traded for Matt Ryan in the offseason. Ryan is definitely a big upgrade over Carson Wentz who was one and done in Indy. Ryan should be the missing touch to a very good Colts offense.

While the Texans begin their season on Sunday, the NFL kicks off its 2022 season on Thursday when the defending Super Bowl champs the Los Angeles Rams host Buffalo, who many are picking to win it all this year, in prime time on NBC. That should be a heck of an opener.

Other key games in Week 1 features Kansas City visiting Arizona, while the Cowboys will host Tom Brady and Tampa Bay on Sunday Night Football. Week 1 concludes on Monday Night Football with Russell Wilson returning to Seattle to lead his new team, the Denver Broncos, against his former team the Seahawks. The MNF opener will also be the debut of Joe Buck and Troy Aikman as the new voices of Monday Night Football.

While the NFL will take top billing this weekend, there are a couple of interesting college games on tap in the Lone Star State.

Texas gets its first look at what life will be like when they join the SEC when Steve Sarkisian's team hosts Nick Saban and his No. 1-ranked Alabama Crimson Tide in Austin on Saturday.

Texas and Oklahoma will join the SEC in 2025, if not before, and this game should give UT fans a preview of what lies ahead for their team. Texas is 7-1-1 all-time against the Tide. The last time these two met was in the BCS title game in 2010 following the 2009 season which Saban's team won 37-21 to give him the first of his six national titles in Tuscaloosa.

The game will be nationally televised on FOX with a noon kickoff.

While Texas hosts Alabama, the Houston Cougars will trek to Lubbock to take on the Red Raiders. These two teams met a year ago with UH jumping out to a 21-7 halftime lead before Tech outscored Dana Holgerson's team 31-0 in the second half to secure a 38-21 victory. Red Raider fans are excited about first-year head coach Joey McGuire and the life he has pumped back into the mediocre program. McGuire hit the ground running and had a nice first recruiting class and is putting together a top-20 2023 class. This will be a big test for his young team, while Holgerson and the Coogs will look for a win to keep their College Football Playoff hopes alive.

It should be an interesting weekend, so without further ado, let's take a look at what's in store for us this weekend.

HIGH SCHOOL

Nimitz at Cy-Park: Cornelius Harmon's Cougars face a stern test against a Cy-Park team that finished 9-2 a year ago, but returns just two starters on offense and defense. Nimitz lost a tough one in their opener, falling to Grand Oak, 31-26. My pick, Nimitz 26, Cy-Park 23

Eisenhower at Tomball Memorial: Eric Jackson's Eagles take on



KEENEY'S KORNER
By
MIKE KEENEY

Tomball Memorial in Tomball on Thursday evening. The Eagles lost a tough one in their opener, falling to Morton Ranch 21-19. Look for wide receiver Ryan Niblett to be the difference maker in this game as the Eagles pick up the win against a Tomball Memorial team that finished 2-8 a year ago and return eight offensive and eight defensive starters. My pick, Eisenhower 30, Tomball Memorial 23

Davis vs. Westside: Scott Joseph's Falcons take on Houston ISD Westside on Friday evening. At Dyer Stadium. The Falcons dropped their opener to Katy Jordan and face a Westside team that finished 6-3 a year ago and returns four offensive and six defensive starters. My pick, Westside 23, Davis 20

MacArthur at Cy-Lakes: Wayne Crawford's Generals will look to pick up a win when they visit Cy-Lakes on Friday evening. Cy-Lakes finished 0-10 a year ago and returns five offensive and five defensive starters. My pick, MacArthur 20, Cy-Lakes 17

Aldine vs. Sam Houston : Cirilo Ojeda's Mustangs take on Sam Houston on Saturday evening at Delmar Stadium. The Mustangs dropped their season opener to Alvin and face a Sam Houston team that finished 2-7 a year ago and returns six offensive and five defensive starters. My pick, Aldine 16, Sam Houston 15

NCAA

Alabama at Texas: Texas fans will get an idea of what life will be like in the SEC when they host No. 1-ranked Alabama on Saturday in Royal Memorial Stadium. UT head coach Steve Sarkisian served as Nick Saban's offensive coordinator for a number of years and knows how he operates. That might help a bit, but he'd better hope his players put forth their best effort or it could turn into a long day in the Capitol City. The Crimson Tide finished 13-2 a year ago and, in a rebuilding, year reached the CFP national title game, where they lost to fellow SEC foe Georgia. That loss still rankles Saban and his team and you had better believe they want to send a message to the rest of the SEC and those in Columbus, Ohio, and points beyond that they intend to be the top dog when the 2022 season concludes in Los Angeles' SoFi Stadium and the CFP title game in January of 2023. Texas struggled on defense last year and if that unit isn't improved this year, 'Bama QB Bryce Young (4,872 yards, 47 TDs), the reigning Heisman Trophy winner, will slice and dice UT up come Saturday. Young in breaking in a new set of receivers, but they don't rebuild in Tuscaloosa, they reload replacing a group of five-star wideouts with another group of five-star wideouts. The Alabama Alabama game got a boost with the addition of former Georgia Tech back Jahmyr Gibbs (746 rushing yards, 35 receptions, 465 yards, 6 total TDs). Texas must establish star running back Bijan Robinson (1,127 yards, 15 total TDs in 190 games) to take pressure off of QB Quinn Ewers,

who will be making only his second start in college football after transferring from Ohio State. A rebuilt UT offensive line will have its hands full with All-American linebacker Will Anderson Jr. (17.5 sacks in 2022) and his teammates. UT may hang around in this one, but look for Young and the Alabama offense to pull away in the second half to send Horns fans home unhappy. My pick, Alabama 36, Texas 20

Houston at Texas Tech: Dana Holgerson returns to Lubbock where he served on former Tech head coach Mike Leach's staff as a young offensive coach. He returns with a team that many believe can contend for a spot in the CFP playoffs, but in order to do so, they need to run the table, which means winning in Lubbock on Saturday. Houston finished 12-2 a year ago and returns starting QB Clayton Tune (3,544 yards, 30 TDs) and star wide receiver Nathan Dell (90 receptions, 1,329 yards, 12 TDs), but will be without the services of freshman star running back Alton McCaskill (961 yards, 18 total TDs), who suffered a season-ending knee injury during spring drills. As stated earlier, Tech fans are juiced about new head coach Joey McGuire. McGuire was the assistant head coach at Baylor and prior to that won three state championship at Cedar Hill High School, played in another title game and forged a 141-42 record in 12 years at the Dallas-suburb school. McGuire is enthusiastic about being the Tech head coach and will turn the offense over to QB Tyler Shough (872 passing yards, 3 TDs in 4 games in 2022) and running back SaRodrick Thomas (500 yards, 10 TDs). Look for the Tech defense to be much improved led by former Eisenhower star cornerback Adrian Frye. UH knows if it can get a win on the road in Lubbock, then it could very well run the table. My pick, Houston 33, Texas Tech 28

NFL

Buffalo at Los Angeles Rams: What an opener for the 2022 season! The defending Super Bowl champs host the team many are picking to win it all in 2023, the Buffalo Bills. The Rams finished 12-5 a year ago en route to their big game win over the Bengals in their home stadium. Head coach Sean McVay's team will be looking to become the first team since the 2004 and 2005 New England Patriots to win the Lombardi Trophy two years in a row. The Rams return a strong nucleus led by quarterback Matthew Stafford (4,886 yards, 41 TDs) and wide receiver Cooper Kupp (145 receptions, 1,947 yards, 16 TDs). They added another capable receiver in Allen Robinson, who languished with the Bears for a number of years. Robinson should flourish in McVay's offense and with a real QB in Stafford. While the defense took a hit with the loss of Von Miller, who ironically signed with Buffalo in the offseason, the Rams still have three-time Defensive MVP Aaron Donald (12 sacks) wreaking havoc in the middle. Donald and his teammates will get a good test

in Game 1 with a Buffalo offense that is loaded and led by perhaps the best young QB in the game in Josh Allen (4,407 passing yards, 34 TDs/763 rushing yards, 6 TDs). Allen should be in store for a huge season, as well as dependable wide receiver Stefon Diggs (103 receptions, 1,225 yards, 10 TDs). The Bills are also excited about the prospects of fellow wide receiver Gabriel Davis (35 receptions, 549 yards, 6 TDs) who announced his big-game capabilities in the AFC Divisional playoff loss to Kansas City with eight catches for 201 yards and four touchdowns.

Miller should give the Bills another solid defender to go along with a top 5 defense and should provide a spark coming off the edge. This should be a wild game, but I'm going with the defending champs to pull it out late. Maybe, just maybe, these two teams will meet once again come February in Arizona in Super Bowl XVI. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 36, Buffalo 33

Indianapolis at Houston: The Texans and their new head coach host AFC South division rival Indianapolis and their new QB Matt Ryan on Sunday at NRG Stadium. Houston fans will get an early look on how much Lovie Smith and his staff have improved what was a horrible defense in 2021. The secondary has been upgraded with draft picks Stingley at corner and Pitre at safety and those two will get a real test in their first pro games when they face the veteran Ryan (3,698 yards, 20 TDs in his last year in Atlanta) and the NFL's leading rusher in 2021 in Jonathan Taylor (1,811 yards, 20 total TDs). They will also have to contend with an up-and-coming wide receiver in Michael Pittman Jr. (88 receptions, 1,082 yards, 6 TDs) and one of the league's best offensive lines. On offense, the Texans have handed the QB job to second-year man Davis Mills (2,664 yards, 16 TDs). His top target will continue to be productive Brandin Cooks (90 receptions, 1,037 yards, 6 TDs), and he should have a better running game with the signing of former Colts RB Marlon Mack and rookie sensation Damien Pierce, who lit it up in the preseason. I think the Texans hang around in this one, but look for Ryan and Taylor to be the difference makers in the fourth quarter. My pick, Indianapolis 26, Houston 23

Kansas City at Arizona: This should be a fun game to watch with plenty of offense as KC QB Patrick Mahomes (4,839 yards, 37 TDs) and Arizona QB Kyler Murray (3,787 passing yards, 24 TDs/423 rushing yards, 5 TDs) fill the Arizona air with footballs and big plays all afternoon. The Chiefs will see what life is like without speedy WR Tyreek Hill (111 receptions, 1,239 yards, 9 TDs), but KC still has the league's best tight end in Travis Kelce (92 receptions, 1,125 yards, 10 TDs). Look for Kelce to have a monster season. Hill's absence should open things up for speedy WR Mecole Hardman (59



Aldine ISD FOOTBALL News
Nimitz(1-1) beats Cypress Ridge(0-2) 54-0 behind a collective effort on the ground, as they rushed for 269 yards along with five TDs. Junior RB Ladon Jenkins led the backfield with 102

receptions, 693 yards, 2 TDs) to step up and prove he can fill Hill's void. Hardman is a speedster like Hill, but has yet to excel in the KC offense. Look for Mahomes to spread the ball to a lot of other pass catchers, which might make the Chiefs even tougher to stop on offense. Murray won't have his top receiver, DeAndre Hopkins (42 receptions, 572 yards, 8 TDs in just 10 games) for the first six games of the season. Hopkins will serve a suspension for taking an illegal substance. To help out the offense, the Cards traded for former Baltimore wide receiver Marquise Brown (91 receptions, 1,008 yards, 6 TDs) to be Murray's deep threat. Arizona will also have running back James Conner (752 rushing yards, 37 receptions, 375 yards, 18 total TDs) to help out in the running game. This should be an offensive shootout. My pick, Kansas City 33, Arizona 30

Tampa Bay at Dallas: For the second straight year, the Bucs and Cowboys meet in the season opener. Tom Brady (5,316 yards, 43 TDs) returned after a 42-day "retirement." During the offseason and training camp, the Buc lost three starting offensive linemen, which means second-year Dallas linebacker Micah Parsons (12 sacks as a rookie) should be licking his chops at the prospects of sacking the GOAT. On offense, Dallas QB Dak Prescott (4,449 yards, 37 TDs) has only one proven wide receiver to throw to in CeeDee Lamb (79 receptions, 1,102 yards, 6 TDs) now that Amari Cooper is playing for Cleveland. Look for tight end Dalton Schultz to play a bigger role in the Dallas offense this season and in this game. Prescott may also be running for his life now that starting left tackle Tyrone Smith is out at least until December with hamstring and knee injuries. With only two proven options to throw to in Lamb and Schultz, look for Dallas to try and get

running backs Ezekiel Elliott (1,002 yards, 12 total TDs) and Tony Pollard (719 rushing yards, 39 receptions, 337 yards, 2 total TDs) going early in this game. Pollard should be used in the slot because he's a good pass catcher with blazing speed. Brady will look to make plays to wide receiver Mike Evans (74 receptions, 1,035 yards, 14 TDs) and if Chris Godwin (98 receptions, 1,103 yards, 6 TDs) returns for this game after rehabbing a late-season knee injury, the Bucs could go after a suspect Dallas secondary. This should be a fun game to watch, but this time around, Prescott makes the plays down the stretch to lead his team to victory. My pick, Dallas 31, Tampa Bay 29

Denver at Seattle: Russell Wilson returns to the place that made his career and with his new team the Denver Broncos. Wilson (3,113 yards, 25 TDs in 13 games) is a definite upgrade at QB for Denver, which hasn't sniffed the playoffs since Peyton Manning and Von Miller led them to victory in Super Bowl 50. Wilson has the weapons on offense to compete with Mahomes, Justin Herbert and Derek Carr in the highly-competitive AFC West. He has a rising star at running back in second-year man Javonte Williams (903 yards, 43 receptions, 316 yards, 7 total TDs) and young, but talented wide receivers in Courtland Sutton (55 receptions, 776 yards, 2 TDs) and Jerry Jeudy (38 receptions, 467 yards). Look for Jeudy to have a breakout season in Year 2 now that he has a real QB throwing to him. Seattle will start Geno Smith, which can't really thrill Seahawk fans. Smith still has two solid WRs in D.K. Metcalf (75 receptions, 967 yards, 12 TDs) and Tyler Lockett (73 receptions, 1,175 yards, 8 TDs) to throw to, but there are still issues with the offensive line. Wilson returns home and heads back to Denver with his first win as the Broncos QB. My pick, Denver 26, Seattle 13



Dr. Head on Debt Relief,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Lone Star College East Aldine campus

About Biden's plan, "The question we're getting from various sources is whether the president has the legal authority to do this," Head said. "... Does he have the authority to approve it, or does it need to go before Congress? We've already been told that it could end up before the courts."

Head, who holds bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in history, remarked: "The problem in this country right now is that everything breaks down into partisan politics. And the two sides are not talking to each other. It just didn't used to be that way."

He said many college leaders see a need for some relief from student loan debt. But how much?

"Our basic feeling about this, especially people from Texas, are in favor of loan forgiveness if you're taking a job or you're already employed in public service. For example, the military, or in the medical field, or teaching. Anything in public service for a certain number of years should be a way to get credit for college debt,"

Head said.

Although college officials are still waiting for more information about the loan program, Head said many students are ready to get started on their application for relief. Those students should go online to <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation>.

The targeted debt relief program outlined by Biden applies to people with incomes of less than \$125,000 (or \$250,000 for a married couple). It includes:

Up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation for Pell grant recipients with loans held by the US Department of Education, and up to \$10,000 in debt cancellation for non-Pell grant recipients.

Cutting monthly payments on undergraduate education loans to 5 percent of a borrower's discretionary income.

Continuing the "pause" on loan repayments that was started during the Covid 19 pandemic, until Dec. 31, 2023.

The program also calls for the federal agency to reform the Public Service

loan forgiveness program with new rules on appropriate rates for loan forgiveness for borrowers who work after graduation for a non-profit organization, in the military, or for a state, tribal or local government.

The typical college student graduates with nearly \$25,000 in debt.

In the last decade, the cost to attend the University of Texas at Austin has jumped more than 21 percent. In 2012, an undergraduate resident student spent a total of \$48,730 on tuition, fees, books and living expenses. Now the total is more than \$59,000.

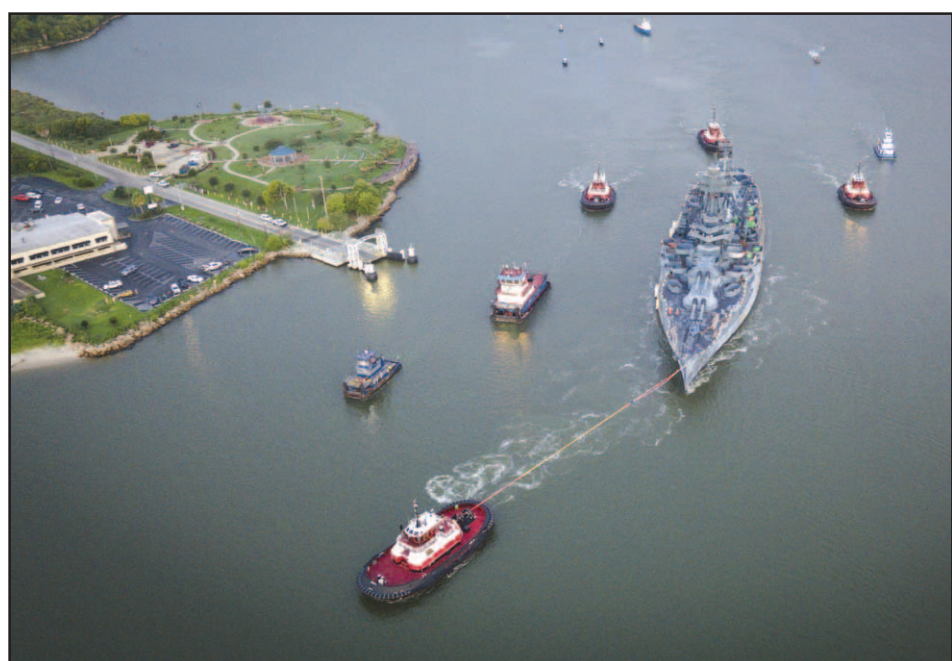
About 21 percent of people with college loan debts are under age 25; with 44 percent between the ages of 26 to 39, and another 30 percent are over age 40, including 5 percent who are senior citizens, according to the federal government.

The plan also provides that government debt relief would not be considered taxable income.

— By Anne Marie Kilday

Battleship Texas sails to Galveston,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Early Wednesday morning the Battleship Texas passes the Lynchburg Ferry south landing, and Seguin Park.

prepare for the restoration and required a dedicated project group consisting of the Battleship Texas Foundation, the operator of the ship, Valkor Energy Services, the project management and engineering firm for the ship repair, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the administrator of the ship. Resolve Marine Group was contracted in 2020 and coordinated with the Battleship Texas Foundation and Valkor Energy Services to reduce the amount of water leaking into the ship to help ensure a safe journey.

After an extensive campaign to save it from destruction, The Battleship Texas was decommissioned and commemorated as a museum at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site on April 21st, 1948 – 112 years to the day that the Texas Republic won its independence. The restoration project is expected to be completed between June and September 2023, after which the Battleship Texas will seek a new place to reside and reopen to the public.

ABOUT THE BATTLESHIP TEXAS

FOUNDATION
Formed in 1998, the Battleship Texas Foundation exists today as an advocate for Battleship Texas, and to help develop the historic ship into a premier hands-on museum and visitor attraction. The Battleship Texas Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; as of August 1st, 2020, Battleship Texas Foundation has taken the lead in the operations of Battleship Texas, with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department retaining an advisory and oversight role.



Battleship Texas is pulled by a tug boat in the ship channel, and guided by several others on its way to Galveston.

Lone Star College Honors College students present research projects at Rice University

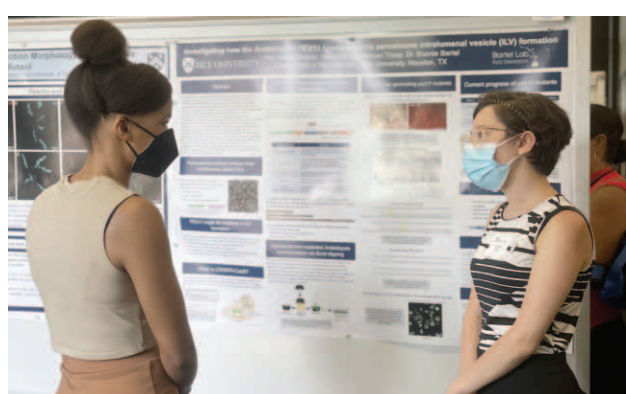
HOUSTON (Aug. 17, 2022) – Lone Star College students recently participated in the Research Experiences for Undergrads program at Rice University. The program provides research experiences for undergraduates and is open to students at colleges and universities from around the world.

Ivey Adara Knebel, LSC Honors graduate presented her research project "Investigating how the Arabidopsis PEX11 Family Impacts Peroxisome Intraluminal Vesicle (ILV) Formation" during a recent capstone research poster symposium held at Rice University.

"The Honors College at Lone Star College is a hidden gem," said Knebel. "I have had the opportunity to study abroad, present at research conferences at the local and regional level and learn from the perspectives of my peers."

Knebel graduated from LSC-CyFair with an Honors Associate of Science degree and Leadership Track Distinction last spring. Knebel was awarded the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship and will continue her education by transferring to the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center this fall.

Other LSC students who participated in the symposium were Angelica Penaloza, Bella Pianezzola, Angela Pi-



Lone Star College Honors College students took part in the Research Experiences for Undergrads program at Rice University. Pictured (right) is LSC Honors College graduate Ivey Knebel speaking with a symposium attendee.

non, Etienne Ndem, Katherine Dullen, Andrew Bierbower and Vincenzo De Vita Sifontes.

The LSC Honors College helps meet the needs of high-achieving students looking to enhance their college transcripts with challenging coursework provided across a broad range of disciplines. Courses are designed to engage and test students inside and outside the classroom with small classes and close interaction alongside dedicated faculty.

"We are so proud of all the Lone Star College students who took part in this very exciting program," said Katharine Caruso, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor, Honors and International Education. "Participating in the Research Experiences for

Undergrads program at Rice University will provide a solid learning foundation as they continue on their educational journey."

"I am pursuing a career as a forensic geneticist in tandem with a career in researching women's genetics and reproductive health," said Knebel. "I want to intermingle my love for science with activism. Whatever career I end up in, I will be sure to do just that."

The symposium is the culminating experience for LSC Honors College Stem Scholars participating in the Rice University Take Flight program which is a partnership between Rice and LSC to expand education access and increase the number of students who complete STEM

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WE THE PEOPLE CELEBRATION
- PARADE 2022 -

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SABADO 10:30AM UNTIL 2PM
MUSIC | STORIES | GAMES | VOTER REGISTRATION

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*** AND GET AN EARLY START ON THE FUN ***

KICKOFF PARADE
9:30AM
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MacArthur HS@4400 Aldine Mail Rt
Únase a nosotros en la celebración de Día de la Constitución y la Ciudadanía. El desfile de inicio comenzará a las 9:30AM en la escuela secundaria MacArthur y terminará en el Anfiteatro East Aldine. Tendremos juegos, lectura de historias, se podrá registrar para votar y mucho más hasta las 2 PM.

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