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NORTHEAST NEWS

Jensen Jubilee Fall Festival



Linda and Pastor David Smith of the New Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church on Jensen are the organizers of the Jubilee and proponents of revitalizing the Neighborhood.

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 VOL. 47, NO. 42 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

NEWS NOTES

Papel Picado Workshop at East Aldine Nov. 18

The East Aldine Arts Council and the East Aldine District invite you to a Free Workshop on Saturday, November 18 from 1pm to 3pm at the District Offices, 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Drive.

This traditional perforated paper art form will be the basis for the design of the new Town Center Sculpture to be mounted in the Roundabout next to the District offices.

Join us to learn about papel picado and make your very own with Houston artist Guadalupe Hernandez. You'll also have a chance to provide input for the new Town Center Sculpture.

Unase a nosotros para aprender sobre papel picado y haga su propio con la artista de Houston Guadalupe Hernandez. Tambien tendras la oportunidad de dar tu opinion sobre la nueva escultura para el East Aldine Town Center.

Please RSVP to MCampos@HawesHill.com.

Voters approve Aldine ISD \$1.8b Bonds

All 4 Incumbent Trustees re-elected

Voters Approve \$1.8 Billion Bonds

By Mike Keeney

Aldine voters overwhelmingly approved all three bond propositions totaling approximately \$1.8 billion during the Nov. 7 election. It was the largest bond referendum in the history of Aldine ISD.

Proposition A passed with 8,696 votes for and 4,031 against (passing by 68.3%). There were 12,727



Randy Bates



Paul Shanklin



Kimberly Booker



Viola Garcia

votes cast in the Prop A election.

Proposition B passed with 8,198 votes for and 4,452 against (passing by 64.8%). There were 12,650

votes cast in the Prop B election.

Proposition C passed with 6,903 votes for and 5,617 against (passing by 55%). There were 12,520

votes cast in the Prop C election.

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M.

Continued. See BONDS, Page 2

4 Incumbents Returned to Board

All four incumbents were returned to their seats on the Aldine Board of Trustees following the Board election on Nov. 7

Voters in Aldine ISD went to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 7, and returned all four incumbents to their respective seats on the Aldine ISD Board of Education.

Continued. See TRUSTEES, Page 2

Community enjoys annual Jensen Jubilee

By G. Ashley Johnson
 UT Physicians

HOUSTON – For the sixth year, UT Physicians and UTHealth Houston participated as the platinum sponsors for the 2023 Jensen Jubilee Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 21, at Shady Lane Park, an annual gathering bringing together service organizations, community stakeholders, and residents for a day of entertainment, education, and empowerment.

An annual event since 2014, the event serves as a valuable opportunity for the university to be a part of community partnership and revitalization.

“Having an institution like UT Physicians in the neighborhood is huge. Despite being marginalized for decades, the Eastex/



\$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS SPONSORED BY UT HEALTH were presented to 5 students from the Jensen area. ABOVE, recipients included L to R, Kathryn Simpson, Aaron Dinh, Trinity Martin, Dashaun Pinesette, and Camron Lefries.

Behind the students and participating in the ceremonies were UT Health Xochitl Olguin, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, State Representative Armando Walle, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, UT Clinic Manager Marlon Stewart, UT Physicians Exec. Director of Clinics Jason Chavers, and Pastor David Smith, head of the Jensen Jubilee event.

Jensen community has found the spirit and drive to come together and create a signature event that residents would be proud of,” said Xochitl Olguin, project manager at UTHealth Houston Healthcare Transformation Initiatives. “Through the decision of UT Physicians to make an investment in the Jensen Jubilee, other businesses, and local entities have come on board to combine their resources.”

Activities that took place at the park included arts and crafts activities for youth, music and dance performances, food vendors, and an information pavilion of resource tables from Houston area organizations providing

Continued. See JENSEN JUBILEE, Page 2

Gun Buyback Event this Saturday Nov. 18

HARRIS COUNTY – The Harris County Sheriff's Office is partnering with the Office of Commissioner Lesley Briones, Precinct 4, to organize a gun buyback event. This event encourages residents to voluntarily turn in their firearms for gift cards just ahead of the holidays.

We hope to see everyone at the gun buyback event on Saturday, November 18, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Westchase Park and Ride, 11050 Harwin Dr, Houston, TX, 77072.

This event is a proactive community safety initiative and can



have positive outcomes in preventing accidents and promoting responsible gun ownership. There is \$170,000 in gift cards to hand out to the community and those cards are ready for immediate use.

All weapons collected during this buy back event will be destroyed and will not be resold or

kept by the Sheriff's Office.

For those planning to turn in firearms next week, do not sell your firearms to solicitors who may be outside the event. You never know if that firearm ends up in the wrong hands. Let our professionally trained staff safely dispose of the firearms.

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 12

Eagles, Chief meet in rematch of SB 56 on MNF: Texans look to ride Stroud's hot hand at Arizona

The folks at ESPN must be in hog heaven over this week's Monday Night Football game.

Joe and Troy and the gang get the pleasure of calling "The Game" of the year when the Philadelphia Eagles visit the Kansas City Chiefs on Monday Night Football in a rematch of their classic encounter in Super Bowl 56.

We all remember how that game went as Philly QB Jalen Hurts (374 total yards, four TDs, 3 rushing, 1 passing) and KC QB Patrick Mahomes (182 yards passing, 3 TDs) put on a show for the ages. The Chiefs won their second Lombardi Trophy in four years on Harrison Butker's 27-yard field goal with eight seconds left in the game.

It was one of the better Super Bowls ever played and Monday night's contest should be another good one and both teams will have an extra week to prepare as both enjoyed their byes last weekend.



KEENEY'S KORNER

By MIKE KEENEY

Mahomes (2,442 yards, 17 TDs) and Hurts (2,347 passing yards, 15 TDs/316 rushing yards, 7 TDs) are again having outstanding seasons, and should be ready to put on a show for a national TV audience heading into the Thanksgiving weekend.

While the national spotlight will be on that game, locally Texans fans are still raving about the performance rookie quarterback C.J. Stroud put on two weeks ago to rally his team to an exciting 39-37 win over Tampa Bay at NRG Stadium. Stroud, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2023 NFL Draft, set an NFL rookie passing record by

throwing for 470 yards and five touchdowns. He threw the game winner to fellow rookie Tank Dell with six seconds left in the game. Stroud drove his team 75 yards in 7 plays with just 40 seconds left in the game to produce the game-winning points.

This week, Stroud and the Texans host Arizona and take on a one-win Cardinals team that should have Tyler Murray back at quarterback. Murray has missed the first nine weeks of the season recovering from a

CONTINUED. SEE KEENEY'S KORNER, PAGE 5

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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE



Message From the Superintendent, November 10, 2023

Dear Aldine Community, It has been an exciting and busy fall semester in Aldine, highlighted by the passing of Bond 2023. The Aldine ISD community spoke loud and clear on election day on Nov. 7, overwhelmingly passing all three of the bond propositions. Congratulations, and thank you to everyone who put time, energy, and heart into this effort. I also want to thank all the volunteers who shared our message and a special thank you to those who voted. The voter-approved propositions mark a momentous milestone in Aldine ISD history. We will continue our legacy of positively impacting students who walk through the halls of Aldine ISD buildings now and in the future. Voters also returned all four of our incumbent Trustees to their respective seats. The community re-elected Randy Bates, Paul Shanklin, Dr. Kimberley Booker, and Dr. Viola M. Garcia to Positions 1, 6, and 7, respectively. I look forward to working with our entire Board as we move Aldine forward. In this issue, you will find hyperlinks to new district stories, including information about Nimitz facing Willis in the Bi-District Class 6A football playoffs (the game is TODAY, Friday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m.), a story about NewSchools' video features our Choice School La Promesa, and more! With Aldine Pride!

Handwritten signature of Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Superintendent of Schools Aldine ISD

Aldine ISD Holds Annual State of the District Breakfast

More than 200 business and community partners joined Aldine ISD administrators and students for the annual State of the District Breakfast on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Hilton North Houston Hotel to learn more about the district's accomplishments this past year.



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney shares a laugh with Carroll Elementary Principal Sergio Medina during a Q&A session at the State of the District Breakfast.

Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney was joined by Carroll Elementary principal and 2009 Aldine High School graduate Sergio Medina for a conversation in which she provided various district updates and highlighted their accomplishments. Several district leaders, including Chief HR Officer Marcia Herrera, Chief of Staff Sheleah Reed, and Chief Financial Officer Stan Osborne, provided information regarding student achievement, recruitment and retention efforts, safety and security, outreach and engagement and the 2023 Bond Referendum. "Our people — students, staff, partners — are the backbone of our communi-

ty and the reason we are here this morning," said Superintendent Dr. Goffney, who welcomed the district's Board of Trustees as well as elected officials and several present community partners including Prairie View A&M University, Hope Clinic, the City of Houston, and the Memorial Hermann Health System. District students and staff provided additional support and entertainment before and during the event. Live performances were provided by

the MacArthur Jazz Band and the Conley Elementary LADS Step Team, and student-created art pieces were on display for viewing. The recently formed Aldine ISD Police Department Color Guard kicked off the program with the presentation of colors. Additionally, several students from the Superintendent Student Ambassador Program, comprised of junior and senior high school student leaders, welcomed and networked with guests.

La Promesa: NewSchools' Video Features How the School Builds a Culture Where Students Excel

The Aldine ISD campus' student attendance rates and math scores far exceed their peers in the district and state.

NewSchools, a nonprofit venture philanthropy working to reimagine public education so that all children have the opportunity to succeed, supported Aldine ISD in developing and creating La Promesa, which means "The Promise" in English. The newcomer and dual language experience Choice School opened in August 2021 as a stand-alone school housed within Aldine High School. The Class of 2025 will be the first group of graduates from La Promesa.

Since opening, the campus has shined. In the state's standardized testing system, STAAR, La Promesa student attendance rates, and math scores far exceed their peers in the district and state. It was among the top-rated campuses in the district in 2022, testing, too, earning a B rating within its first year of opening. Due to the success of La Promesa, NewSchools created a video featuring the campus and a student's personal and inspiring journey.

LA PROMESA: NEWCOMER AND DUAL LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE

La Promesa specializes in working with students new to the U.S. (for students who have lived in the U.S. for three years or less) learning English and students who know English but want to strengthen their Spanish skills. In addition to college and career readiness, students learning English and Spanish will sharpen their reading and writing through our innovative dual language program; students receive 50% of their instruction in English and 50% in Spanish. To be considered for admission into the dual program, students must have either already exited the bilingual program or received Spanish instruction previously. Students advancing from a Spanish-English dual language program can also apply for admission.

All students learn in an environment that celebrates diversity and leverages cultural experiences to enhance learning and develop their skill set for today's interconnected world. La Promesa provides a strong sense of community by building positive relationships with students to ensure strong communication to support their academic and social-emotional needs. We promise to empower students and give them access to high-quality learning experiences and opportunities to help them achieve their dreams and determine their future as high school graduates and bi-literate citizens.

La Promesa Offers

- Rigorous academics and college-career-readiness
Innovative dual language program to perform at or above grade level in academic areas in both languages
Career exploration and college field trips
Graduate with Seal of Biliteracy — bi-literate, bilingual, and bicultural
Sports, competitions, student organizations, and more
Social services for families based on need (e.g., health screenings, counseling services, housing assistance)

CAMPUS HISTORY



The ribbon-cutting ceremony of La Promesa in the fall of 2021.

When it opened in the fall of 2021, La Promesa had 150 ninth graders. Starting in the fall of 2023, La Promesa has nearly 350 ninth-, 10th-, and 11th-grade students. The campus has been increasing one-grade level each school year until it becomes a Grade 9-12 program in the 2024-2025 school year.

La Promesa has students from over a dozen countries, including Argentina, Honduras, Mexico, Venezuela, and more. The school also has staff from various Latino and Vietnamese backgrounds. Vietnamese is Aldine ISD's second-largest newcomer student group.



Principal Flores-Bolivar shared that every day, she sees joy in students' eyes as they walk our hallways with confidence. Flores-Bolivar shared that students know every staff member at La Promesa has their back and is rooting for them. I can speak for the whole team when I say this is not a job; this is a calling. Every teacher here has their story, their own experience, and their reason for being at La Promesa.

Flores-Bolivar promises every student at La Promesa that the school, which provides a one-of-a-kind experience, will build a solid foundation that prepares them for their future.

For Flores-Bolivar, multiculturalism is the future. Not just here, in the world. The principal and district leaders see La Promesa as an opportunity to be the blueprint for the future. The principal believes that Aldine ISD and La Promesa are creating something special. Everyone knows that "history has its eyes on us, and we will not disappoint."

CHOICE SCHOOLS APPLICATION FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Applications are available online for parents/legal guardians to apply. Find the best school for your child. The programs are open to all students who live in Aldine and the surrounding districts. Our First Choice Schools Lottery is on December 13, 2023. The deadline to guarantee entry into the lottery is December 6, 2023.

Advertisement for Generation Texas Week (November 13-17). It lists daily themes: Monday 13 'College Spirit Day', Tuesday 14 'Go Wild for Education', Wednesday 15 'Switcheroo Day', Thursday 16 'Your Future is Bright', and Friday 17 'Hats off to College'. It includes the 'Rock Your Future TX' logo.

Advertisement for La Promesa featuring a student in a Puma hoodie. Text includes: 'It was tough for Javier to flee Honduras. But La Promesa, Aldine ISD's newcomer and dual-language high school supported by NewSchools, gave Javier hope. See how the school helps students thrive academically and embrace their identities. Click on the image to watch the film.' It also features the La Promesa logo and the Aldine Independent School District logo.

OPINION PAGE

OPINION
By **BILL KING**



Democrats Should Propose Alternative Offsets

Last week, Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives passed a \$14.3 billion aid package to Israel, paired with a corresponding cut in the increased funding for the IRS included in the Inflation Control Act passed last year. The bill was almost unanimously opposed by Democrats, who lashed out at the new speaker and Republicans for holding aid to Israel hostage to providing tax cuts to the wealthy.

The bill, which will be dead on arrival at the U.S. Senate, was mostly partisan theatrics, with Republicans attempting to placate their base that is pro-Israel but hates more funding for the IRS. Democrats, however, played along with the theatrics when they could have begun a serious conversation about our national debt. After all, it did just exceed \$33 trillion and now equates to 123% of our gross domestic product. While that is down slightly from stratospheric levels at the height of the pandemic, these are levels we have not seen since WWII.

So, I am completely okay with members of Congress insisting that any new spending be offset by cutting spending somewhere else. However, I do not agree with the Republicans' proposal to reduce IRS enforcement which almost certainly make the deficit worse. I pay my taxes and I suspect that the vast majority of you do as well. When someone is not paying their taxes that means that you and I must pay more.

Many economists estimate that as much as 10% of our economy is conducted underground and is never taxed. Much of this is in the illicit drug and human trafficking trades. But there is also a large independent contractor community that largely does not pay the same income and payroll taxes that you and I do. At a GDP of about \$28 trillion, if the 10% estimates are accurate, that is \$2.8 trillion escaping taxation. The federal government collects about 20% for every dollar of GDP, so taxing the \$2.8 trillion in the underground economy could yield as much as \$500-600 billion annually. By the way, that would be enough to cut our current annual deficit in half.

But beyond those completely avoiding taxation in the shadows, there is plenty of other fudging that goes on in the preparation of tax returns. For many years, I practiced commercial litigation. In a number of cases, I had the opportunity to review tax returns of prominent and successful individuals as part of the discovery process. I saw all kinds of schemes to reduce their tax bills that would not stand up in an audit. I saw one case where a couple owned a vacation home in a family limited partnership and wrote off the expenses as if it was a business. I saw another where the owners of a private company wrote off all of the expenses of their corporate jet, yet the logs showed that it was routinely used for purely personal trips.

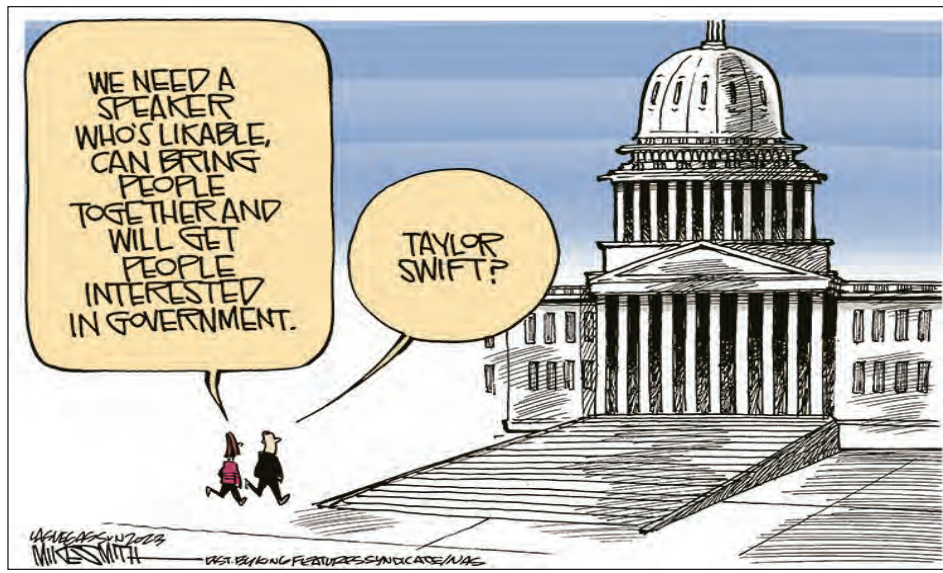
Those in the underground economy and those fudging their tax returns do so, and almost always get away with it, because the IRS is overwhelmed and only audits a tiny fraction, about .04% of returns filed. I am perfectly fine with Congress setting limits on the kinds of returns that can be audited – say only those over \$500,000 and those failing to report their income altogether. But to just say we are going to starve the IRS of resources so they cannot enforce our tax laws is self-defeating and grossly unfair to those of us who do pay our taxes.

And it's not like there aren't plenty of other places to cut or loopholes to plug — loopholes which ultimately have the same effect as spending. For example, the carried interest loophole, which allows private equity investors to treat an interest they receive for putting to together a deal as a capital gain instead of regular income, costs the federal government as much as \$18 billion annually – enough to fund the aid to Israel by itself.

Of course, the cost of the aid to Israel, even if you throw in the aid to Ukraine and some money for the southern border (all of which enjoy widespread, bi-partisan support), are a rounding error on our national debt and deficits going forward. The Congressional Budget Office's current baseline projections are that the federal government will run up another \$15 trillion in debt this decade, mostly driven by the rising costs of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. The entire package proposed by Biden for Israel, Ukraine, and the border is only about 7% of the deficit this year and .05% of the deficit projected for this decade.

Until we start talking about the fact that Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are not sustainable in their current forms, any discussion about the national debt and deficits is mostly partisan noise. But you must start somewhere. So, let's hear it, Democrats. What is your alternative proposed offset to provide this aid to Israel and Ukraine and to strengthen our southern border?

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.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By **Gary Borders**



Legislature Gets to Work in Fourth Special Session

The Texas Legislature, conceived as a part-time body to meet every other year for 140 days, is now in its record fifth session (counting the regular session). When the impeachment trial of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is included, legislators have been in Austin pretty much the entire year, as the Texas Tribune noted. While legislators are paid just \$7,200 a year in salary, per diem payments – meant to cover their expenses while in Austin – have mounted. If the fourth special session goes a full 30 days, taxpayers will have spent \$4.8 million keeping lawmakers in Austin.

The Senate quickly passed measures last week allocating \$1.54 billion for segments of a border wall, a school finance bill that increases per-student funding, teacher retention bonuses for teachers and vouchers to parents who elect to send their children to private schools, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Once again, the onus is on the House, which has been reluctant to pass a school choice bill. The measure, being strongly pushed by Gov. Greg Abbott, is largely opposed by Democratic members and rural Republican legislators. On Friday, the latest plan was approved by the House Select Committee.

VOTER TURNOUT IN AMENDMENT ELECTION WAS 14.4%

Voter turnout in the Nov. 7 election reached 14.4% of registered voters. The good news is that is the highest turnout for a constitutional amendment election since 2005, according to the Texas Secretary of State's office. The bad news: well, it was just 14.4% of the electorate.

Voters approved all but one of the 14 propositions on the ballot, the lone loser being a bid to raise the mandatory retirement age for judges from 75 years to 79. Measures providing property tax relief and a boost in teacher retirement pay passed overwhelmingly.

Also receiving approval was Proposition 5, which establishes a \$3.9 billion permanent endowment for research in eligible universities. Those include Texas State University, the University of North Texas, Texas Tech University and the University of Houston.

"We feel like we won the Super Bowl," Texas State University president Kelly Dampousse told the Statesman.



TEA RELEASES FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS

The Texas Education Agency has released its 2022-2023 financial accountability ratings for Texas public schools, with 88% receiving a "Superior Achievement" rating. The rating system, established in 2001, "encourages school systems to improve financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes."

Only eight public schools and three charter schools received substandard achievement ratings. The eight public school districts receiving an "F" were Holliday, Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco, Keene, Priddy, Denver City, Tioga, Matagorda and Sunray ISDs. The three charter schools receiving an "F" were Education Center International Academy in Sunnyvale; St. Anthony School in Carrollton; and Texas Preparatory School.

TEXAS MEDICAID RECIPIENTS WERE VICTIMS OF DATA BREACH

A data breach of a data file transfer company has exposed Texas Medicaid recipients, whose names and Social Security numbers were obtained in the hack. The breach occurred in late May when hackers obtained files being transferred using the MOVEit platform, The Dallas Morning News reported. A total of 67 million people in multiple countries had their personal information illegally obtained, including the Texas Medicaid recipients.

Anyone concerned about being affected by the hack can call UMass Chan, which was providing services directly to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, to find out. That number is 855-457-6006.

MILLIONS OFFERED FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS

Texas A&M Forest Service is offering \$16.65 million in grant funding to boost urban

and community forest initiatives in communities throughout the state.

"The initiatives supported by this grant funding will prioritize communities and neighborhoods in areas of greatest need based on environmental and social data," said Gretchen Riley of the forest service. "By focusing on these areas, we can ensure that the benefits of urban forestry are distributed where they can make the most impact."

The funding comes from the federal Inflation Reduction Act. It is intended to help the state "expand its urban forest canopy, improve air and water quality, reduce energy consumption and enhance the health and well-being of residents," according to the news release.

Grant applications will be accepted from Dec. 11 through Feb. 16, 2024. More information can be found at this link:

<https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/CFG/>

OCTOBER RAIN REDUCES DROUGHT CONDITIONS

About half the state received above-normal precipitation in October, which reduced drought conditions to 65%, down 16 percentage points, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. Central Texas and much of Deep East Texas have the most severe drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

"El Niño conditions, warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the eastern Equatorial Pacific, are in place and expected to persist into next year. El Niño typically brings Texas wetter and cooler-than-normal conditions during fall and winter. Those conditions are at least partially responsible for the improvements we saw in October," Wentzel wrote.

TEXAS ROAD FATALITY STREAK SURPASSES 23 YEARS

On an average day for more than two decades, a dozen people have been killed on Texas roadways. That streak nearly ended in February on a day when Texas experienced just one traffic fatality, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. The streak of daily deaths on Texas highways has continued since Nov. 7, 2000, despite the state investing \$17 billion in safety improvements through its 10-year plan.

"Each life lost means a family, neighborhood and community are impacted for a lifetime, and we take safety very seriously as we work to end this horrible streak," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "But it's going to take all of us working together to get this done."

Among those safety changes are wider pavement striping, rumble strips on centerlines to alert drivers when they cross over, and roundabout intersections. Drivers can make a difference as well by not operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs and fastening their seatbelts. TxDOT reports 48% of deaths on Texas roads come from people not buckling up.

THE POSTSCRIPT
By **Carrie Classon**

Dietary Choices

I just spent a wonderful long weekend with my sister and her son, Beau, "up north" at my parents' cabin.

Stubby the red squirrel is doing well. Since the tragic loss of the end of his tail (and his subsequent unofficial adoption by my mother), he has flourished. The end of his tail, while still cut off at a sharp angle, has sprouted an impressive line of dark fur, and he looks dapper, sitting on the railing, shaking his tail and showing off his new plumage.

Mom still dutifully feeds him every day, usually bird food, although he recently had some leftover pasta shells, which he seemed to enjoy very much. Even without my mother's offerings, he is kept busy this time of year with pine cones and acorns and the many other good things there are to be found in the forest.

My mother is an intrepid gardener, braving the cold temperatures, lack of sun and marauding forest wildlife to keep the flowers in her many flowerpots growing and beautiful for much of the year. It is a neverending job, as the deer and, more recently, the wild turkeys love the tasty treats she has cultivated and placed around the house like a free salad bar. A pack of turkeys decimated her begonias earlier in the fall. She sent me a photo of her begonias, pre- and post-turkey invasion, and it was not a pretty sight.

My sister brought the family dog, Mabel, who gets along well with my parents' cat, Katie, and Mabel kept the turkeys and deer at bay. But that didn't mean we were free of animal drama.

My nephew and my dad went down to haul in the dock before the lake froze. My sister and mother and I followed them down to the water's edge, where we discovered the site of a recent raccoon feast.

"They must have been eating crayfish," my father guessed when he saw the enormous pile of fragrant poop at the end of the dock.

"Oh, no!" I yelled, because—at that moment—Mabel discovered the pile of poop and was eating it as quickly as she could.

Mabel was immediately banished to the house (with very stinky breath) while the dock was hauled in and, sometime in there, a door was left open just long enough for Katie the cat to escape, kill a songbird and bite off its head.

"Katie!" my mother scolded. "That was very, very bad!"

Katie looked mighty pleased with herself, and Mabel looked a little relieved because—although she hadn't gotten to eat as much raccoon poop as she thought she was entitled to—at least she was no longer the pet in the most trouble.

That night, we went out to dinner. My sister and nephew and father all had big burgers with bacon and ham and cheese or some combination of all three. I don't eat meat, and I haven't for most of my life, but I don't care what anyone else eats.

Beau, looking at his gigantic burger, told me, "I think we killed enough animals to make up for any that you saved!"

I tried to tell him that I don't make dietary choices for anyone but myself. But then I realized this was not quite true.

Because I did not agree with the dietary choices of Katie, eating songbirds' heads, or Mabel, eating raccoon poop off the dock, or even those turkeys, eating my mother's begonias.

I make a lot of judgments, all the time. And some of them I'm sticking with.

Till next time,
Carrie

NORTHEAST NEWS
5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057
(713) 266-3444 • FAX (713) 977-1188
email: nenewsroom@aol.com
website: www.nenewsroom.com

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Gilbert Hoffman.....Editor & Publisher
Mei-Ing Hoffman.....Associate Publisher
David Taylor.....Managing Editor
Willie G Glasgow.....Marketing Executive
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Contributing Writers: Mike Keeney, Charlotte Jackson, Allan Jamail, Kristan Hoffman

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SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 12

Eagles, Chief meet in rematch of SB 56 on MNF: Texans look to ride Stroud's hot hand at Arizona

knee injury he suffered last December. This is a game the Texans should win, and they can't afford to look past the lowly Cardinals. Dallas did it in Week 3 and it cost them a victory.

Other interesting matchups in Week 11 features the red hot Cincinnati Bengals visiting the equally hot Baltimore Ravens in a key AFC North contest. The Steelers will visit the Browns in another big AFC North contest, while Dallas, coming off a 28-23 loss at Philadelphia two weeks ago, hits the road again to take on the struggling Carolina Panthers and No. 1 overall pick Bryce Young. Cowboy fans are hoping their team learned in that loss to Arizona that they can't take any team for granted, especially on the road.

Jacksonville entertains Tennessee, while Tampa Bay plays at San Francisco and newly-acquired defensive end Chase Young (the 49ers acquired Young in a trade with the Commanders on Oct. 31). SF fans are hoping Young helps stabilize a struggling SF defense.

The Sunday Night Football matchup pits Minnesota at Denver.

The college schedule is pretty bland as most of the big national rivalries will be played Thanksgiving weekend. No. 7-ranked Texas plays at Iowa State in a game UT needs to win to stay alive in the Big 12 title chase, while No. 19 UCLA takes on crosstown rival USC. No. 1-ranked Georgia has a tough test at No. 14 Tennessee and Kansas State and Kansas take on one another for bragging rights in the Sunflower State.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 9-3 week brought the season record to 72-38 (655).

Now, onto this weekend's game.

NCAA

Texas at Iowa State: Sometimes it helps to be lucky,



KEENEY'S KORNER BY MIKE KEENEY

and was that ever the case two weeks ago when Texas stopped Kansas State at its four-yard line to preserve a 33-30 overtime win in Austin. Kansas State could have kicked the tying field goal to force a second OT, but head coach Chris Klieman decided to go for the win and UT fans were glad he did. This week, Steve Sarkisian's team will face a tough Iowa State team on the road in what will probably be chilly conditions. The UT offense is playing well with backup Maalik Murphy (465 yards, 3 TDs) under center and if starter Quinn Ewers is back, that should only help the 'Horns. Look for a big day from running back Jonathon Brooks (1,035 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receivers Xavier Worthy (49 receptions, 620 yards, 4 TDs) and Adonai Mitchell (37 receptions, 576 yards, 8 TDs) as Texas looks to punch its tickets to the Big 12 title game.

UCLA at USC: Chip Kelly's Bruins will look to continue USC's late-season woes when they take on the Trojans in the LA Coliseum on Saturday. The Bruins will be led by QB Dante Moore (1,344 yards, 10 TDs) and running back Carson Steele (711 yards, 6 TDs) and will look to pile on a woeful USC defense that gave up 52 points at home to Washington two weeks ago. USC is potent on offense led by QB Caleb Williams (2,958 yards, 28 TDs/149 rushing yards, 10 TDs), running back MarShawn Lloyd (766 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receiver Tahj Washington (43 receptions, 833 yards, 6 TDs). Look for another high-scoring affair with Williams being the difference maker on Saturday. My pick, USC 43, UCLA 40

Kansas State at Kansas: Kansas has a good shot to enter

this game with an 8-2 record (they hosted Texas Tech last week and the Red Raiders are not a good road team) when they face their in-state rival Kansas St. The Jayhawks can put points on the board led by QB Jason Bean (1,418 yards, 10 TDs) and running back Devin Neal (828 yards, 9 TDs). The offense will get tested by a tough KSU defense that has a penchant for forcing turnovers. The Wildcats play hard. They overcame a 20-point fourth-quarter deficit at Texas two weeks ago to tie the game and send it to OT. KSU is led by QB Will Howard (1,955 yards, 18 TDs). Look for the Jayhawks magical season to continue as they win another big one on Saturday. My pick, Kansas 31, Kansas State 27

Georgia at Tennessee: The big one in the SEC pits the No. 1-ranked Bulldogs against the No. 14-ranked Volunteers in Knoxville. Two weeks ago, Kirby Smart's 'Dawgs survived a home scare against Missouri, 30-21. This could be a tough road test for first-year starting QB Carson Beck (2,716 yards, 16 TDs). How he handles the big crowd in Knoxville will be interesting. He will get help from running back Daijun Edwards (632 yards, 8 TDs) and wide receiver Dominic Lovett (39 receptions, 398 yards, 2 TDs). The Georgia defense will get tested by Vols QB Joe Milton III (2,017 yards, 15 TDs), running back Jaylen Wright (826 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Squirrel White (46 receptions, 557 yards, 2 TDs). Look for Georgia's big-game experience, and defense, to be the difference maker in this one. My pick, Georgia 26, Tennessee 23

NFL

Cincinnati at Baltimore: Two of the NFL's hottest teams meet in Baltimore on Sunday in what should be a highly-competitive game. The Bengals have won five of their last six games heading into last Sunday's home game against Houston, while the Ravens have won four straight heading into last Sunday's game against Cleveland. The Ravens have averaged 35 points and have allowed just 12 in their last three games. QB Lamar Jackson (1,954 passing yards, 9 TDs/440 rushing yards, 5 TDs), running back Gus Edwards (478 yards, 7 TDs) and tight end Mark Andrews (41 receptions, 477 yards, 6 TDs) are rolling. The Bengals are led by QB Joe Burrow (1,861 yards, 12 TDs), running back Joe Mixon (490 yards, 2 TDs) and wide receivers Ja'Marr Chase (64 receptions, 697 yards, 4 TDs) and Tee Higgins (27 receptions, 328 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Ravens defense to be the difference maker late in this one as Baltimore continues its roll. My pick, Baltimore 24, Cincinnati 18

Arizona at Houston: Look for another big day from Stroud (2,270 yards, 14 TDs) and wide receivers Nico Collins (36 receptions, 631 yards, 4 TDs) and Tank Dell (25 receptions, 454 yards, 4 TDs) as the Texans look to remain in the AFC Wild Card race. Head coach DeMeco Ryans know his team can't look past the Cardinals, especially is dual-threat QB Kyle Murray returns from an injury that has sidelined him most of the season. The Texans will take care of business and look forward to hosting AFC South leader Jacksonville on Nov. 26. My pick, Houston 32, Arizona 13

Dallas at Carolina: The Cowboys head to Charlotte to face a Panthers team that lost seven of their first eight games. As stated earlier, the Cowboys can't play down to the Panthers or it could cost them and they have little room for error from here on out. Dak Prescott (2,011 yards, 13 TDS) needs to take the starch out of Carolina early with strikes to CeeDee Lamb (57 receptions, 824 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Jake Ferguson (32 receptions, 328 yards, 3 TDs). If they are successful throwing the

ball, that should open up the rushing game for Tony Pollard (474 yards, 3 TDs). Look for Micah Parsons and the Dallas defense to pressure rookie QB Bryce Young (1,375 yards, 8 TDs/7 interceptions) early and often as the Cowboys take care of business and head home for their Thanksgiving Day game against Washington. My pick, Dallas 33, Carolina 13

Pittsburgh at Cleveland: This should be a defensive struggle as both teams have issues on offense. These are two of the best defenses in the NFL so the team that makes the fewest mistakes will come out on top. The Steelers offense has been pedestrian, but they have won five of their first eight games. QB Kenny Pickett (1,490 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver George Pickens (30 receptions, 521 yards, 3 TDs) need to make some plays downfield against a Browns defense that has 27 sacks (led by Myles Garrett's 9.5) in its first eight games. The Steelers defense has recorded 19. It appears Deshaun Watson (920 yards, 6 TDs in four games) is back for the Browns. He will look to make plays downfield to Amari Cooper (35 receptions, 617 yards, 2 TDs). Look for the Cleveland defense and home field advantage to be the difference maker in this one as the Browns pick up a big win on Sunday. My pick, Cleveland 17, Pittsburgh 13

Tennessee at Jacksonville: The Jags will look to keep rolling when they host the best up Titans on Sunday. Jacksonville had a five-game winning streak heading into last Sunday's home game against the 49ers. QB Trevor Lawrence (1,935 yards, 9 TDs), running back Travis Etienne (583 yards, 8 total TDs) and wide receiver Christian Kirk (43 receptions, 520 yards, 3 TDs) should continue the good times for Jag fans as they roll to an easy win. My pick, Jacksonville 31, Tennessee 14

Tampa Bay at San Francisco: The 49ers host the struggling Bucs on Sunday looking to get things back on track. SF entered its bye week riding a three-game losing streak and had a tough road game at Jacksonville last Sunday. Look for Brock Purdy (2,033 yards, 12 TDs), Christian McCaffrey (652

rushing yards, 9 TDs/32 receptions, 292 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk (35 receptions, 620 yards, 2 TDs) to get better against a TB team that was riding a four-game losing streak heading into last Sunday's game against Tennessee. My pick, San Francisco 34, Tampa Bay 16

Minnesota at Denver: This is kind of a stinker for the Sunday Night Football crew, but it is what it is. The Vikings won a big road game two weeks ago at Atlanta behind newly-acquired QB Josh Dobbs (158 yards, 2 passing TDs, 1 rushing TD) who was picked up to replace injured starter Kirk Cousins. The Vikings are a gritty bunch and will face a Denver team that could be putting things together behind QB Russell Wilson (1,613 yards, 16 TDs). Look for the Denver defense to get after Dobbs and force a turnover or two as the Broncos look to make a run for an AFC Wild Card slot. My pick, Denver 23, Minnesota 20

Philadelphia at Kansas City: This should be a fun game to watch on Monday night. It pits two high-scoring offenses and two better than average defenses. Philly is led by QB Jalen Hurts (2,247 passing yards, 15 TDS/316 rushing yards, 7 TDs), running back D'Andre Swift (614 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play wide receivers A.J. Brown (67 receptions, 1,005 yards, 6 TDs) and DeVonta Smith (42 receptions, 533 yards, 4 TDs). The defense can get after the QB (30 sacks), but they will have their hands full against Mahomes (2,442 yards, 17 TDs), running back Isiah Pacheco (525 yards, 3 TDs) and big-play tight end Travis Kelce (57 receptions, 597 yards, 4 TDs). The Chiefs defeated Miami 21-14 in Frankfurt, Germany two weeks ago and Mahomes said after the game that the offense will work out its kinks. Head coach Andy Reid had two weeks to work out the kinks and I have a feeling the veteran head coach will have a new wrinkle or two for the Eagles come Monday night. Look for another tight, high-scoring game with Mahomes making one or two more plays than does Hurt on Monday Night Football. My pick, Kansas City 34, Philadelphia 31

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CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ezekiel (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. A woman of this place is the only woman in the Bible (KJV) described as a wench. En-rogel, Gilead, Damascus, Ziba
3. Who met a man (or angel) and then wrestled him until the breaking of the day? Solomon, Goliath, Aaron, Jacob

4. What group of consecrated men did not cut their hair? Canaanites, Midianites, Nazarites, Hagarites
5. In Genesis 32, who/what was Mahanaim? Messenger, Mountain, Ford, Place
6. Who was the mother of Moses? Abigail, Jochebed, Elisheba, Athaliah

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) En-rogel, 3) Jacob, 4) Nazarites, 5) Place, 6) Jochebed
 Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

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PROVERBS 15:3

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

1 I GUESS HAL THE TURKEY IS WORRIED ABOUT THANKSGIVING.
2 I PERSONALLY DON'T SEE WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL.
3 US CHICKENS DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT DAY AT ALL.
4 NO, JUST EVERY OTHER DAY BEFORE AND AFTER THAT.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

1 READY, TIGER?
2
3
4 OKAY, ONCE MORE. THIS TIME WITH MY EYES OPEN.

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

1 I SLEPT LIKE A LOG LAST NIGHT.
2 THAT EXPLAINS WHY OUR BED WAS FULL OF SAWDUST.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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!

HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

November 13, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Mausoleum
- "Born Free" lioness
- Branch
- Ornamental jug
- Jupiter counterpart
- Sheepish remark
- Famed diarist
- Squeak stopper
- Historic times
- Grown-up
- Town square
- Tizzy
- Occupy the throne
- Imaginary
- Right angle
- Count with an orchestra
- Simile center
- Bloated, in a way
- Computer brand
- Literary Jane
- Puccini work
- Curry spice
- Roundish do
- Palindromic constellation
- Yearly charge
- Up to
- Oboe insert
- Cupid's realm
- Compass dir.
- Columnist Maureen
- Milky gem
- Beer ingredient
- Monk's title
- Cato's 502
- Get ready, briefly
- Humdinger
- Like the Supremes and the Pointer Sisters
- Use scissors
- Lose color
- Tempe sch.
- Addict
- Zhivago's love
- Novelist Malamud
- Memo letters
- Lunar program
- Mouths (Lat.)
- Felines
- "The Haj" author
- From the start
- Elmer of cartoons
- "The Matrix" role
- Dandy guy
- Actress Mendes
- Moray, for one

DOWN

- Earl Grey, e.g.
- Have
- Gents
- Light wind
- Poet Pound
- Meadows
- Day light
- With suspicion, as a look
- Complete reversal
- Banister

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Wilson

FOOTBALL SCORES & SCHEDULES

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

6A D1 PLAYOFFS
Galena Park North Shore 42, Deer Park 14
The Woodlands 35, Spring 0
Spring Westfield 35, Conroe 20

6A D2 PLAYOFFS
Willis 62, Aldine Nimitz 34
Conroe Oakridge 29, Spring DeKaney 28
Sheldon C.E. King 70, Channelview 21

5A D1 PLAYOFFS
Barbers Hill 43, McKinney North 21

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

6A D1 PLAYOFFS
Galena Park North Shore (11-0) vs. Clear Springs (7-4), 7 p.m., Friday at Challenger-Columbia Stadium in Webster, Texas

Spring Westfield (9-2) vs. Klein Cain (8-3) 7 p.m., Friday at Tomball ISD Stadium in Tomball, Texas

6A D2 PLAYOFFS
Sheldon C. E. King (8-3) vs. Clear Falls (7-4) 7 p.m., Friday at Challenger-Columbia Stadium in Webster, Texas

5A D1 PLAYOFFS
Barbers Hill (9-2) vs. Richland (11-0) 7 p.m., Friday at Memorial Stadium in Hutto, Texas

1. Gale; 2. Four; California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas; 3. The Holy Grail; 4. Desperate Housewives; 5. Quid pro quo; 6. Saffish; 7. China; 8. Eight minutes; 9. Rhode Island; 10. Canker sore.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- LITERATURE: What is Dorothy's last name in "The Wizard of Oz"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. states share a border with Mexico?
- MOVIES: What are Indiana Jones and his father searching for in "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade"?
- TELEVISION: Which TV dramedy is set on Wisteria Lane?
- LANGUAGE: What is a common Latin phrase meaning "something for something"?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the fastest fish?
- INVENTIONS: Where was the first compass invented?
- SCIENCE: How long does it take for the sun's light to reach Earth?
- U.S. STATES: Which state is the smallest in land size?
- MEDICAL: What is a common name for aphthous stomatitis?

King Crossword
Solution time: 23 mins

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NOV 18

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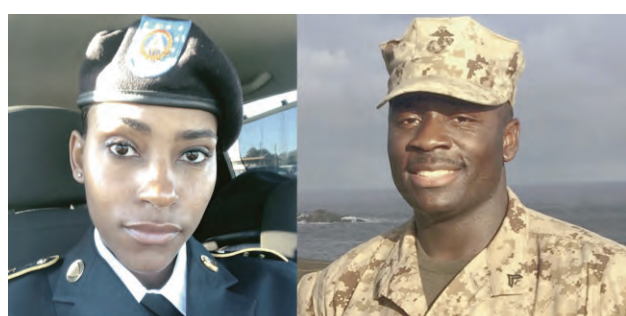
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Lone Star College helps military veterans transition to civilian life

HOUSTON (Nov. 10, 2023) – Veterans Day is a time to reflect and express gratitude to the brave men and women who served in the United States Military, resulting in the many freedoms enjoyed today. Lone Star College recognizes military personnel's sacrifices and works to offer specialized support, resources and educational opportunities to the 4,122 veterans enrolled in fall 2023.

"At Lone Star College, we salute the extraordinary dedication and commitment our veterans have displayed in serving our nation," said Gerald F. Napoles, Ph.D., LSC vice chancellor, Student Success. "We offer our heartfelt thanks and are committed to nurturing their academic and personal growth."

Veterans Day, which started in 1919 after the end of World War I, is celebrated Nov. 11 each year. At LSC, Veteran Services offers a comprehensive program (advising, benefits, financial aid and registration) to help veterans like Lovella Maxey and George McMillon, LSC-Kingwood students, pair their mili-



Lone Star College offers a comprehensive program to assist veterans in achieving their educational and career goals. Pictured are LSC-Kingwood students Lovella Maxey, a United States Army veteran and George McMillon, a United States Marine Corps veteran.

tary training with reliable college programs, leading to successful second careers.

"The greatest resource Lone Star College offers me is community services by giving me the space to meet people, acquire resources and simply be me," said Maxey. "The college is guiding me toward a bachelor's degree in human resources, which will fund my dream of becoming a writer."

Maxey enlisted in the United States Army and served four years as a human resources specialist before being medically discharged. She earned an Office Management certification before leaving the Army and then enrolled at LSC-Kingwood in spring 2023. Maxey is a work-study employee in Veteran Services, serves as a senator for the Veteran's Club and is the interim president for the Black Student Union. She plans to graduate in spring 2024 with an associate of science in Business Administration with a career track in human resources.

"I definitely encourage veterans to obtain their education because they have the benefits and today's working world simply wants employees with an educational background," said Maxey. "The harsh truth is depending on a veteran's job in the military, there may not be a place for them in the civilian world, which makes finding meaningful employment harder. Also, a degree will give them the same opportunities as those who didn't enlist in the military."

McMillon felt trapped and didn't know what he wanted to do in life. This path led him to join the United States Marine Corps. McMillon served five years as an administrative chief, was discharged and worked for five years in the civilian world. He quickly realized he needed a college education.

"After I left the Marines, I wanted to see the workforce, but once I did, I wasn't able to go too far without some type of higher education," said McMillon. "I encourage veterans to go to school, especially if they don't know what they want to do."

McMillon enrolled in LSC-Kingwood in fall 2023 and plans to graduate in 2026 or 2027 with an associate degree in human resources. He also works in the Veterans Center and is the treasurer for the Student Veteran's Club. McMillon's career goal is to be a head human resources representative.

"As an adult, I now see the value in education and without it, you can only expect the bare minimum," said McMillon. "Lone Star College is helping me to complete my basic classes and preparing me to earn a four-year degree."

Veterans interested in attending Lone Star College should attend an On the Spot Certification event where veteran advisors will help them with necessary certifications and resources to help them achieve their educational goals.

By providing a supportive and resource-rich environment, we aim to smooth their transition into higher education. Our goal is to empower these esteemed members of our community to build on their strengths, explore new horizons, and achieve success in their educational pursuits."

Visit LoneStar.edu/Veterans for upcoming events or to learn more about LSC Veteran Services.

Lone Star College enrolls over 80,000 students each semester providing high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Mario K. Castillo, J.D., serves as Chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area. LSC has been named a 2023 Great Colleges to Work For® institution by the Chronicle of Higher Education and recognized by Fortune Magazine and Great Place To Work® as one of this year's Best Workplaces in Texas™. LSC consists of eight colleges, seven centers, eight Workforce Centers of Excellence and Lone Star Corporate College. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.



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