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Southern News Group

Nonstop flights from Houston for summer travel 2019



Inside C2

Thursday, April 4, 2019

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Ethiopia to issue first Boeing investigation report

ADDIS ABABA/SEATTLE/PARIS (Reuters) - Investigators will release a keenly awaited report on the deadly crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jet on Thursday, Ethiopia's transport ministry said, giving the first official clues to the second crash of a new Boeing 737 MAX in five months.

Some 35 nationalities were among the 157 passengers and crew who died when the nearly full plane crashed six minutes after take-off from the capital Addis Ababa in clear conditions.

The March 10 disaster prompted the worldwide grounding of Boeing's best-selling plane and scrutiny of its certification process.

"The 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) press conference is to present the preliminary report," Ethiopian transport ministry spokesman Musie Yehyies said.

The report may shed light on how a piece of cockpit software came back to life after pilots initially switched it off as they tried to save the doomed jet, people familiar with the matter said, placing both technology and crew in the spotlight.

The Ethiopian-led investigation has begun piecing together details of flight 302, starting with faulty sensor data on take-off from Addis Ababa, questions over the Boeing 737 MAX's high speed and a nosedive coinciding with the software re-activation.

The aircraft's high speed and initial climb suggests the engines were running at a higher than usual thrust, experts say.

The so-called MCAS anti-stall software is at the center of accident probes in both the Ethiopian crash and October's Lion Air accident in Indonesia that have together killed 346 people.

MCAS was designed to help prevent an aerodynamic stall by issuing commands to push the plane's nose lower. However, in both cases it is suspected of firing up in response to faulty airflow data from a single sensor designed to measure the 'angle of attack,' a parameter needed to avoid stalling or losing lift.

Echoing the fate of the Lion Air jet, initial evidence suggests the Ethiopian Airlines jet experienced sensor problems shortly after take-off, causing the MCAS software to begin lowering the nose to grab air under the wings. Unlike the Lion Air crew, who were flying at a time when pilots had been told little about the MCAS software, the Ethiopian crew used switches to turn the automatic system off but it later re-engaged, people familiar with the matter said.

Although aircraft experts say MCAS cannot turn back on by itself, the report is expected to shed light on whether and why the crew chose to restore electrical power to the system at the risk of setting off more automated nose-down movements.

Aerospace analyst Bjorn Fehrm said in a blog post for Leeham News that pilots may have deliberately re-activated the system in order to make it easier to trim or control the aircraft only to be overwhelmed by rapid counter-moves from MCAS.

Investigators will also look at whether the crew carried out all necessary procedures, including a recommendation to stabilize the plane using the trim system before turning the crucial software off.

The pilots maneuvered the plane upwards at least two times before hitting the stabilizer cut-out switches to disable the system, one person familiar with the matter said.

However, initial flight data indicates the aircraft was flying nose-heavy andnot in a "neutral" attitude when pilots hit the cut-out switches, the person added, making the situation harder to manage.

Cockpit procedures call for pilots to leave the MCAS system off for the rest of the flight once it has been disengaged.

Safety experts stress the investigation is far from complete and most aviation disasters are caused by a unique combination of human and technical factors.

In a statement, Boeing said: "We urge caution against speculating and drawing conclusions on the findings prior to the release of the flight data and the preliminary report."



FILE PHOTO: Airplane engine parts are seen at the scene of the Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET 302 plane crash, near the town of Bishoftu



FILE PHOTO: An Air Canada Boeing 787 airplane is pictured at Vancouver's international airport in Richmond,



## 肩頸腰痛可能是脊椎軟骨突出所造成

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## **WORLD NEWS**

# Nonstop flights from Houston for

summer travel

With summer just around the corner, now's the time to making travel plans.

Since traveling without layovers in between destinations is the ideal form of getting around, we've compiled a roundup of some great direct flights that leave from both Hobby Airport and George **Bush Intercontinental Airport** 

Among the most exciting travel developments in Houston: there are now flights from Houston to Honolulu that depart from Hobby Airport. Southwest Airlines announced the new route in March, but said they would not offer nonstop flights.

HoustonChronicle: Botanic Garden, coming in 2020, will celebrate Houston's biodiversity

Southwest Airlines earlier this year made another big announcement. In January the airline said it would suspend flights from Houston to Mexico City in March. The last Houston-Mexico City trip was March 30. According to the Houston Chronicle's Andrea Leinfelder, the decision was made because leisure trips outperformed business flights, and Mexico City was deemed a work-travel destination.

Nonstop flights from Houston to Mexico City are still available from George Bush Intercontinental Airport.



Travelers walk toward the baggage claim at William P. Hobby Airport, Monday, Jan. 29, 2018, in Houston. (Mark Mulligan / Houston Chronicle)

### DA to dismiss murder charge against deputy in strangulation case

Citing a lack of evidence, Harris County prosecutors on Wednesday said they plan to dismiss a murder charge against a former Harris County sheriff's deputy after a man was strangled outside a Denny's restaurant in 2017. Prosecutors said that after reviewing the evidence, they could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that former deputy Chauna

Thompson had committed a crime in the death of John Hernandez outside the restaurant in Crosby. Thompson's husband, Terry Thompson, was

also charged with murder and was convicted last year. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

"Our action today is based on the lack of evidence to convict somebody and our ethical obligation not to go forward," First Assistant

Tom Berg said in a news release from the district attorney's office. "To be clear, Ms. Thompson's former employment as a deputy sheriff played no role in our decision to dismiss, just as it played no role in our original decision to present the case to a grand jury."

Authorities met with Hernandez's widow and parents before they decided to request the dismissal, the office said in the news release. They also reviewed evidence from Terry Thompson's two murder trials, they said.

"We hope that sparing the Hernandez family the ordeal of a third trial will help them move on with their lives, though we know this does not bring back their loved one," Berg said.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office said in a written statement that it was aware of the decision of the district attorney's office.



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Dr. Jeanie Ling completed her medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine and her residency in Ophthalmology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. She also completed her Fellowship in glaucoma at The University of Texas Houston Health Science Center at Houston. Her special clinic interests include diagnosing glaucoma, glaucoma surgery, eyelid and laser surgery.

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## **Editor's Choice**



Soccer Football - Premier League - Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace - Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London, Britain - April 3, 2019 Fans before the match REUTERS/Dylan Martinez .



Former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden appears in a video in which he pledges to be "more mindful about respecting personal space in the future\



FILE PHOTO: An Illy Caffee can is seen in a coffee shop in Rome, Italy, May 3, 2016. To match Interview COFFEE-ILLY/ REUTERS/Alessandro Bianchi/File Photo



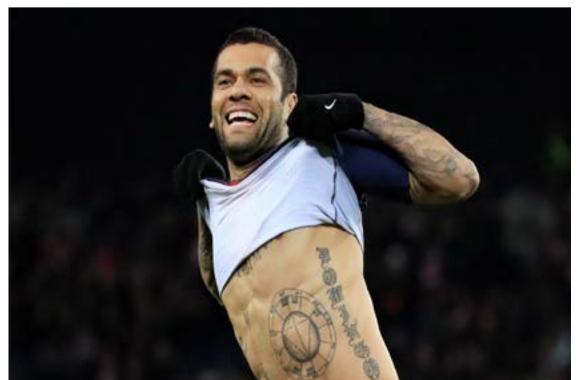
A woman looks at an electronic board showing the graph of the recent fluctuations of market indices on the floor of Brazil's B3 Stock Exchange in Sao Paulo



Weapons destroyed by soldiers after being delivered by citizens as part of a voluntary disarmament program, are pictured in Mexico City



A soldier destroys weapons delivered by citizens as part of a voluntary disarmament program in Mexico City



Soccer Football - Coupe de France - Semi Final - Paris St Germain v FC Nantes - Parc des Princes, Paris, France - April 3, 2019 Paris St Germain's Dani Alves celebrates scoring their third goal REUTERS/ Gonzalo Fuentes



FILE PHOTO: Lyft supporters gather for the Lyft IPO as the company lists its shares on the Nasdaq in the first-ever ride-hailing initial public offering, in Los Angeles



## COMMUNITY

#### Alief Community Leader And Retired Lt. Col. Ervin Rees Has Passed Away

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Retired Lt. Col. Ervin Rees

Alief community leader and retired Lt. Funeral Services at Forest Park Colonel Ervin Rees has passed away. Rees was a life-long resident of Alief and attended Alief High School in 1941. Rees spent his later years in service to others with his participation in many groups including the Alief AARP chapter, the Alief Community Association, the Boy Scouts and the Alief Community Church.

An article published in 2007 in the *Hous*ton Chronicle highlighting the life and service of Mr. Rees is reprinted below. Funeral arrangements include Viewing/ Visitation at Forest Park Westheimer Funeral Home, Westheimer at Dairy Ashford, Wednesday, April 3, 2019, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Westheimer Funeral Home, Westheimer at Dairy Ashford Thursday, April 4, 2019, at 10:00 am

Burial at Houston National Cemetery at 2:00 pm following the funeral services Reception at Alief Community Church, 4137 G Street in Alief, 4:00 pm following return from burial service

In Tribute To And Memory Of Retired Lt. Col. Ervin Rees, Southern Daily Republishes The Following Article

Ervin Rees Finds The Time To Help Out In Community

**Resident Keeps Commitment To** Alief, Country By BETTY L. MARTIN **Copyright 2007 Houston Chronicle** Published 6:30 am CST, Wednesday, **November 7, 2007** 

For many seniors decades beyond the half-century mark, theirs is a time to settle in a favorite chair or porch swing, enjoy restful pursuits with remaining friends, and remember friends and family who have departed the earth before them.

At 83 years old, Ervin Rees visits the Alief Cemetery at Dairy Ashford and Bellaire - not just to visit old Rees is a member of the parent group of the cemetery association, the Alief Community Association, and also heads Alief's AARP chapter.

He participated in Boy Scouts and the Alief Community Church in previous years, and was a substitute teacher at Alief Hastings and friends, but to pull weeds, spruce up the place and generally help the Alief Historical Cemetery Association, one of several organizations in which he

Every third Sunday in May, he organizes the annual Alief Old Timers Reunion at Youens Elementary School, 12141 High Star Drive.



The Alief Cemetery at Dairy Ashford and Bellaire.

He also volunteers his time for veterans' causes and at Flem Rees Elementary School, 16305 Kensley Drive, named for his father who died in 1959 after working in a blacksmith shop with Frank Petrosky and serving on the Alief school district board from 1931-40. Rees still tends to his Alief home, and his cattle and oil and gas leases in Colorado County on a 42-acre slice next door to the 42-acre plat owned by his sister and former Alief school district superintendent's wife, Virginia Glaze.

Both plats of farmland are about 12 miles south of Weimer, part of what was once Jim Bowie's vast estate.

After graduating from Alief High School, which has since been torn down, in 1941, he studied aircraft under the National Youth Administration, a New Deal agency that operated from 1935-43.

He worked as a mechanic in a Corpus Christi aircraft assembly plant, then entered the U.S. Air Force Army Air Corps and began training as a pilot. At the University of Houston, he joined the reserves and earned bachelor's degrees in math and mechanical engineering before his unit was called to Okinawa and the Korean War. "That was where they sent the bombers before they were on their way to bomb something," Rees said.

#### **Recognized At Minute Maid Park**

On September 26, 2013, Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Ervin Rees was recognized for his military service at the Astros/Yankees game in Houston's Minute Maid Park. During the 3rd. inning, Rees was on the giant screens of the stadium.

After his service, he returned to the Houston area, teaching meteorology at Ellington Air Force Base before his roughest flying assignments — piloting B-29 aircraft into tropical storms and hurricanes to gauge the pressure, or through toxic clouds to measure radiation.



The B-29 aircraft.

"They were going to put me in the nose as an observer, but they needed pilots worse. So they transferred me to the cockpit, flying two missions a day — one south of Guam on the Equator, one up to Okinawa and the Marianas and Iwo Jima, then back to Guam," Rees said. "We'd fly in at 10,000 feet, hit the southeast corner of the storm, flying between the spokes, then hit the wall cloud and into the eye."

The Air Force lost a couple of airplanes in such hazardous duty. Rees was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal.

He spent the Cold War and much of the early 1950s at Kelly and Travis Air Force bases, supervising disaster preparations at loading stations that sent cargo to military

In the 1960s and early 1970s, Rees learned about ground electronics in Colorado and was stationed in Germany, then flew Jolly Green Giant HH-3E rescue helicopters, flying out of an Air Force base in Thailand into Vietnam to pick up downed pilots during the war.

A North Dakota base, another missile and bomber station and then England for two years finished Lt. Col. Rees's 26 1/2 years of active duty in 1975.



The Jolly Green Giant HH-3E rescue helicopter.

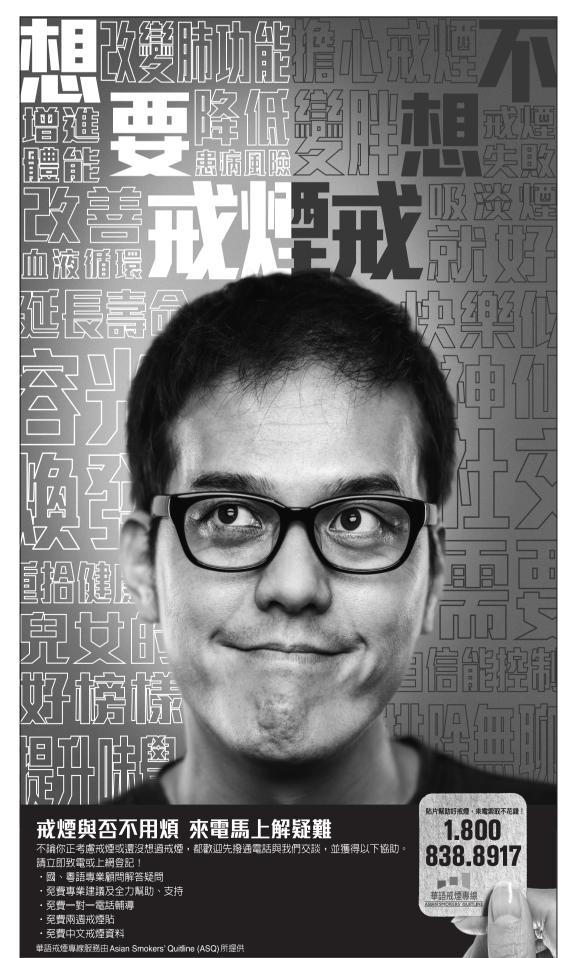
"I said that was enough," Rees said. "I shipped the kids and for 2 1/2 months, traveled around Europe."

Since his return to civilian life, he has faced personal tragedies, including the deaths of wife Estella three years ago, and his son Alan last year. But he has continued to participate in - and to try to better — his community, an involvement that has become a lifelong habit.

Rees said it seemed a natural fit when he and Betty Youngblood teamed up to coordinate the annual Alief pioneers' event.

It also seemed equally fitting, he said, that he would end up on the cemetery committee, as a former president of the Alief Historical Society and as a partner with Howard Hicks, who died at age 93, on the association's board when they started it in

"I know quite a few of the people buried there," Rees said. (Courtesy betty.martin@chron.com)



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## **BUSINESS**

AUSTIN — While most educators begin the school year amid the heat of summer, Desirae Jackson taught her fifth grade math class for the first time during the chill of February after another teacher abruptly quit to change careers.

"They were sad that he left," said Jackson, 25, now in her second year teaching at Bellaire Elementary in Harlandale Independent School District in San Antonio. "It hurts my heart for them to leave after kids have fallen in love with them."

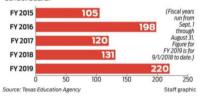
This school year, playing catch up in the classroom has become more common in Texas as state education officials have cited at least 220 teachers for leaving their jobs mid-school year and breaking their contracts, putting the teachers at risk of temporarily losing their licenses.



Poor school management and an emphasis on standardized testing are two major complaints that spur teachers to leave, said educators gathered at a recent Texas AFT union rally at the 'Texas Capitol. The Texas Education Agency opens a "contract abandonment" case every time a school district files a complaint about a teacher leaving his or her contract early. So far in the 2018-2019 school year, the state has opened more cases of teacher abandonment than in any year since 2014. What's unknown is the number of teachers who guit the classroom to take a promotion elsewhere in their schools or districts, or due to a medical condition, or to move for a spouse's new job or other reasons acceptable under Texas law.

#### Leaving in the middle

The Texas Education Agency has opened 220 cases against teachers accused of contract abandonment for leaving in the middle of the current school year. These figures do not include those who took promotions within their districts, or who left with the approval of their local school board.



# SPECIAL REPORT

'A Tough Job,' Getting Even Tougher

#### Texas Hits 5-Year High In Number Of Teachers Faulted For Leaving Mid-Year

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Zoe Jane Rodriguez, 6, of Edinburg, Texas, joins teachers and support staff at a rally at the State Capitol in Austin, Texas, Monday, March 11, 2019. A large crowd gathered at the capitol to urge the Texas Legislature for public school funding. (Photo/houstonchronicle.com)

The number of contract abandonment cases hints at a trend that teachers and education groups say they've noticed in recent years — that teacher turnover is continuing to creep up as more teachers call it quits.

'A tough job,' made even tougher
A look at more than a dozen cases shows
educators left their positions for a mix of
reasons. Some left for higher salaries or
better jobs. Others cited reasons like mental health, or the declining health of a rel-

ative. In several cases, teachers resigned just before the beginning of the school year, although state law requires they give at least 45-days notice before the first day of school if they plan to leave.



One in 10 teachers quit teaching in Texas schools after their first year, according to state records. Five years after earning their teaching certificate, three in 10 teachers are either no longer in the profession or have left the state.

The vast majority of teachers stay on the job throughout the year. Texas is home to more than 358,000 teachers, with less than 1 percent of them accused of abandoning their contracts in any given year. However, this year's spike of teachers

under investigation for breaking their contracts is a 68-percent increase over last year, when the state opened 131 cases of teacher abandonment. Texas opened 198 cases in the 2015-16 school year.

Most teachers who abandon their contracts do so at the beginning of the school year, said Paul Tapp, managing attorney for the Association of Texas Professional Educators who has represented teachers for more than 20 years. He said teachers deal with more negativity now than they did decades ago — from politicians, from the media, and even from some parents.



"Our public schools are failing." 'Teachers are failing.' It's been repeated so many times, it's just gotten to be a truism," said Tapp. "We've seen a lot of long-time educators just basically say, 'I don't enjoy it anymore. It's a tough job, it's always a tough job. I don't get the satisfaction I used to get out of it anymore. I'm leaving the profession." State rules generally allow teachers to terminate their contracts at least 45 days before the beginning of a school year. Those who break their contract outside of that 45-day window without good cause or approval of the local school board could face a suspension of their teaching license for up to one year. Lawmakers target low salaries

Rep. James Talarico, a Round Rock Democrat and former teacher, speculates the uptick may stem from increased expectations for student performance on end-of-year standardized tests and pay that lags behind the national average.

"Expecting more and giving less is difficult in any profession, especially a profession that is as difficult as teaching," said Talarico, who taught in middle school from 2011 to 2013.

The average salary for a Texas teacher is \$54,122, according to the Texas Education Agency. Nationally, teachers average \$60,483, according to a survey by the National Education Association. (Courtesy houstonchronicle.com)



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