

## Out-of-state school may get voucher

Possible loophole permits entities 'acting as a vendor'

By Elizabeth Sander  
STAFF WRITER

A Florida-based virtual school could receive Texas taxpayer funds through the state's new \$1 billion private school voucher program despite provisions in the law meant to block out-of-state schools from joining the program.

State records show that the Texas Comptroller's Office approved NFC Academy — North Forest Baptist Church Academy, based in Tallahassee — to participate in the voucher program on March 13. The school, which teaches a biblical worldview to students in grades K-12, had been "pursuing approval" for the Texas program, according to its website.  
*School continues on A4*



Jason Fochtman/Houston Chronicle file photo  
Marcia Pena works in February in Houston to apply for a state private school voucher for her daughter's Catholic school.

Most families ruled eligible for funds likely to lose out

By Benjamin Wermund  
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The state has deemed nearly 250,000 families eligible for the new \$1 billion private school voucher program, according to data released after the application window closed this week. But most of them will likely be turned away because the program is estimated to provide state-funded tuition subsidies to between 90,000 and 100,000 students.

The comptroller's office, which oversees the program, said Thursday that it expects the funding to be exhausted in the first two tiers of a lottery system weighted to pri-  
*Vouchers continues on A4*

## Artemis II members settle in on Orion



NASA  
Artemis II crew members, from left, Jeremy Hansen, Reid Wiseman, Christina Hammock Koch and Victor Glover answer questions from reporters during their first live video appearance Thursday night from the Orion spacecraft.

Crew deals with sleeping in microgravity, fixing toilet on way to moon

By Andrea Leinfelder  
STAFF WRITER

The Artemis II rocket was smoother than its astronauts expected.

When the solid rocket boosters ignited, the crew thought the intense shaking would make it difficult to see telemetry or touch switches. But that wasn't the case. The ride was very smooth.

An even bigger surprise was that NASA's Space Launch System rocket left the pad on its first attempt on Wednesday.

"One of the things that surprised all of us is when those solid rocket boosters actually lit," said Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen, a mission specialist on Artemis II. "It was just a moment of disbelief. The fact that we launched. It just totally takes you by surprise  
*Moon continues on A4*



Reid Wiseman/NASA  
Artemis II Commander Reid Wiseman took this picture of Earth from Orion's window Thursday after igniting the main engine to propel them toward the moon.

## One flyer rescued after Iran downs two U.S. planes

By Sam Mednick,  
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ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Iran shot down two U.S. military planes in separate attacks Friday, with one service member rescued and at least one missing, in a dramatic escalation since the war began nearly five weeks ago.

It was the first time U.S. aircraft have been downed in the conflict and came just two days after President Donald Trump said in a national address that the United States has "beaten and completely decimated Iran" and was "going to finish the job, and we're going to finish it very fast."

One fighter jet was shot down in Iran, officials said. A crew member from that plane was rescued, but a second was missing, and a U.S. military search and rescue operation was underway.

Neither the White House nor the Pentagon released public information about the downed planes. In a brief telephone interview with NBC News, Trump declined to discuss the search and rescue efforts but said what happened would not affect negotiations with Iran.

"No, not at all. No, it's war," he said.

Separately, Iranian state media said a U.S. A-10 attack aircraft crashed in the Persian Gulf after being struck by Iranian defense forces.

A U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive military situation said earlier that it was not clear if the aircraft crashed or was shot down or whether Iran was involved. Neither the status of the crew nor exactly where it went down was immediately known.

Those incidents came as Iran fired on targets across the Middle East on Friday, keeping the pressure on Israel and its Gulf Arab neighbors despite U.S. and Israeli insistence that Iran's military capabilities have been all but destroyed.

The Pentagon notified the House Armed Services Committee that the status of a second service member from the fighter jet was not known.

In an email from the Pentagon obtained by the Associated Press, the military said it received notification of "an aircraft being shot down" in the Middle East, without providing more details.

Iran's attacks on Gulf energy infrastructure and its tight grip  
*Mideast continues on A2*

UCLA 51, TEXAS 44

## LONGHORNS FALL SHORT

Texas and Madison Booker, left, couldn't overcome a cold shooting night in their Final Four matchup against UCLA, losing to the Bruins to come up one game short of making their first appearance in the NCAA women's championship game since 1986. Booker made just 3 of 23 shots in the loss.

Sports, B1

