



# WHAT DID DALLAS SHOW IN LOSS?

Cowboys come up short against defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia in season opener, 24-20.

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# Longview News-Journal

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WEEKEND  
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PM T-storms.  
High of 83.

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## New laws ease food truck rules

Longview operators praise change in regulations

BY JORDAN GREEN  
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Longview food truck operators said two new state laws lessening their operating requirements will be good for business. A city official who oversees permits for food trucks, however, said

he's concerned that the new laws could affect customer safety. The Texas Legislature this spring passed House Bill 2844, known as the Food Truck Freedom Bill, which will eliminate cities' authority to permit, regulate and inspect food trucks. That authority will shift to the Texas Department of State Health Services. Food truck owners will have to obtain only one permit that's valid statewide rather than a city permit. "I'm not sure

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Amanda Woods of Street Licious hands a customer an order in April 2023 along Methvin Street in Longview. (Michael Cavazos/News-Journal File Photo)

## HIS BEST SHOTS

Gladewater WWII veteran's photo album documents service members' experiences in Japan



World War II veteran Alfred Lacy looks through a scrapbook of photos recently at his home in Gladewater. Lacy took the photos during his service in Japan. (Les Hassell/News-Journal Photo)

BY JORDAN GREEN  
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GLADEWATER – As he opens his yellowing scrapbook, his black-and-white photos from 1945 and '46 look as crisp and detailed as they were the days he took them. The front of Alfred Lacy's scrapbook bears the insignia of the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization, though Lacy recently joined American Legion Post No. 140 in Longview. Inside are photos of the young sailor donning his Navy blues, laughing and exploring the Japanese island of Okinawa with his pals. He had a head full of blond hair then. Lacy turned 99 in June, and his memory is as sharp as the shots he snapped 80 years ago. He's among the dwindling number of World War II veterans left to tell about their service. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimated in 2024 that roughly 66,000 World War II veterans are alive. Bear in mind that 16.4 million American men went to war against the Axis powers. Lacy grew up in Elysian Fields, and he

had a job as a clerk with the Texas & Pacific Railway in Marshall. He was 17, going on 18, when he enlisted in the Navy. He signed up before he was drafted so he could have some say in where he'd sleep at night: He preferred a bunk in a ship to a bag on the ground. In hindsight, though, the ship wasn't always a good place to dwell. His service began in June 1944. The next spring, he was deployed to Okinawa via an American Merchant Marine ship carrying an odd combination of passengers. A Navy gun crew operated the ship, while Air Force officers and about 200 Navy enlisted men were along for the ride. The enlisted men were in close quarters down below. "I could sit in my bunk and raise up like that," he said, raising his hand no more than a foot and a half, "and hit the guy above me. That's how close they were." "That's enough to get you mad at the war," he said. The journey to Okinawa took 59 days. The menu options were less numerous – for the

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Alfred Lacy is seen in a photo taken during his time in the Navy during World War II. (Les Hassell/News-Journal Photo)

## Arts!Longview Cultural District awarded \$168K in grants

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-JOURNAL

Longview's Cultural District has been awarded more than \$168,000 in state grant funding for Arts!Longview and partner organizations. The Texas Commission on the Arts voted Thursday to award more than \$16.5 million in funding to arts organizations across 133 cities across the state. The Arts!Longview Cultural District was awarded

\$168,801 to five nonprofit arts organizations – Arts!Longview, Longview Museum of Fine Arts, Longview Symphony Orchestra, ArtsView Children's Theatre and Theatre Longview. "We are so thankful to the Texas Commission on the Arts for the most recent grant funding that will allow us and our partner organizations to bring incredible arts programming and enhancements to our

community over the next year," said Arts!Longview Executive Director Christina Cavazos. Arts!Longview received a \$24,375 Cultural District Project grant to support a branding update and to launch a statewide marketing campaign designed to enhance awareness, increase tourism, and spark economic growth for the district. Cultural District Project grants offered through

the Texas Commission on the Arts are available only to communities with state-designated cultural districts. Arts!Longview received its state designation in 2019. The grants require a 1:1 match. "Since 2019, the Arts!Longview Cultural District has undergone a remarkable transformation with artistic enhancements, incredible programming from our partner organizations, and significant business development downtown," Cavazos said. "Thanks to this grant from the TCA, we look forward to building on that momentum with the development of this statewide marketing campaign that will celebrate our growth and position the Arts!Longview Cultural District as a premier arts and culture destination in Texas." Longview Symphony Orchestra received a \$39,000

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