

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City

VOLUME 3, NO. 46(#100)WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015www.northchannelstar.com

CHANNEL CHATTER

Jacinto City Christmas Parade

Jacinto City will hold their Annual Christmas Parade, this Saturday, Dec. 3 from 2:30 to 4:00 pm, followed by festivities at the Town Center. Parade route starts on Wiggins Street, then on Market Street, and ending at the Town Center on Oakes. Congressman Gene Green, and City Officials will participate.

Holiday Open House with Rep. Ana Hernandez

State Rep. Ana Hernandez will host a holiday open house, December 3, 2015, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, 1233 Mercury Dr., Jacinto City, TX. 77029. Refreshments will be served. Call 713-675-8596 for more information.

CARTER FUNERAL Christmas Remembrance Tree ornaments

Carter Funeral Home is having this event on which you can hang a Christmas ornament personalized with the name of your departed loved one. November 20 thru January 1, 2016 at 13701 Corpus Christi Street. Call 713-455-5100 with questions.

Candlelight Remembrance

Come celebrate the Christmas Holidays with a Candle Lighting Remembrance Service, Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 3:00 p.m., 13701 Corpus Christi St., Carter Funeral Home.

CIP Meeting

Next GP/JC CIP meeting will take place on Jan. 7, 2016. There will be no December meeting.

MUSTANGS 28- EAGLES 21

North Shore Mustangs advance to Regional Playoff round

The North Shore Mustangs visited NRG Stadium on Black Friday to take on the Cy-Falls Eagles in their third playoff game of the season, winning by a final score of 28-21.

The Mustangs fell behind early, allowing the Eagles to score first; however, the Mustangs quickly tied the score on their next possession with an 11-yard run from Tyler Boudreaux. Shortly afterward, A 91-yard touchdown run by the Eagles along with an interception returned for a touchdown caused a bit of concern for some, but the Mustangs never lost focus.

Carl Guillory's first touchdown of the day, a 55-yard run, brought the Mustangs within seven at half time.

The size, power and depth of the Mustang de-



After the offensive line opening up holes, Bryant Badie (#9) squirts up the middle for a long gain. Badie had 58 yards rushing on the day to go along with 63 yards passing, including an 11-yard TD pass.

See PLAYOFFS, page 8

Galena Park FFA raises over \$65,000

Galena Park ISD held their annual FFA Livestock Show and Auction on November 16-19, at the Ag Facility on Holland Avenue. Forty-Five lots were sold, and the unofficial total raised for student scholarships and the program was over \$65,000, plus so-called "add-ons" after the official bidding.

The Grand Champion Steer was raised by Amaris Moya, and sold for \$8500 to the North Shore Rotary Club. Last year's GC steer had sold for more, \$13,250. Prices this year were up on some categories, and down on others, but in general were lower. Additional monies come from corporate and business sponsors.

Ameris is a junior FFA



AMARIS MOYA shows her Grand Champion Steer at the Galena Park FFA Livestock Show and Auction. The steer was purchased by the North Shore Rotary Club, for \$8500. Auctioneer Heather Kaspar hold the mike.

member, not yet in high school. Her older sister Valerie is secretary of the North Shore FFA club. Valerie showed the GC broiler, and each girl competed in other categories.

The Galena Park FFA program is administered by the CTE department, with Laura Mann as director. Ag teachers that advised the FFA participants included Heather Szostek and Victor Weishuhn of Galena Park High School, and Jason Anderson of North Shore High School, and Penny Taylor of North Shore 9th grade.

This year's program featured a turkey category for the first time, with Franzely Pena showing the GC bird.

The FFA clubs involve about 35 students from Galena Park High School, and 50 from North Shore High School. President of the GP FFA is Angelica Pecina, and NS FFA president is Jose Garza.

*Editor's Note: Complete photos and sales details will follow in an upcoming issue of the North Channel STAR. Look for this in a few weeks. If you would like to advertise in this paper, call 281-328-9605.*

CHANNELVIEW

CHS Interact Club earns Presidential Citation Award

The Channelview High School Interact Club received Rotary International's Presidential Citation Award for their exemplary level of involvement in community service projects.

"This is the highest honor that Rotary International can present to student-led Interact Clubs," said Steven Shoemaker, CHS Interact sponsor. "These students take pride in helping others."

Channelview's Interact Club is one of the largest in the area with more than 70 members and is sponsored by the North Shore Rotary Club. Over the past year, the Interact students have participated in more than 40 community service projects.

The Shell Houston Open professional golf tournament at The Golf Club of Houston is one major event where the Channelview students have volunteered their time and efforts. For



Channelview High School Interact Club members assemble a memorial wall honoring local soldiers killed in action at the North Channel Salutes event this November. The club volunteers annually at the event, which is sponsored by the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce.

the past three years, CHS Interact members have helped greet fans, sell tickets, schedule tee times and escort tournament VIPs.

In addition, the students help the tournament raise funds for charitable organizations. Through the assistance of the CHS In-

See VOLUNTEERS, page 3

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Rep. Hernandez Honored for her commitment to Veterans

HOUSTON, TX- Representative Ana Hernandez was honored with a Legislative Leadership Award by the Texas Veterans Commission during its "Women Veterans Roll Call" event at Space Center Houston from November 19 to the 21st.

As the author of House Bill 867, Hernandez established the Texas Women Veterans Program during the 84th Legislative Session, a permanent agency tasked with assisting Texas servicewomen as they transition to the civilian workforce.

"Our servicemen and women have sacrificed greatly in defense of our nation," Hernandez said. "Whether supporting their families as they serve overseas or providing for our veterans as they return home, we have a duty to stand by the brave men and women who have selflessly served in our armed forces."



Rep. Hernandez with Texas Veterans Commission Liaison Edith Disler





SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNITY  
EVENTS

DEC. 6, SUNDAY  
Hope Candlelight  
service

On Sunday evening, December 6, 2015, Hearts of Parents Endure (HOPE) will hold its fourteenth annual candlelight service at 7 p.m. at the HOPE angel located on the San Jacinto College North Campus, 5800 Uvalde, in the North Shore area. The public is invited to attend. HOPE is a non-profit organization made up of parents who have lost children and wish to keep their memory alive.

For more information, please contact Velma Chesnutt at 713-453-5266.

DEC. 10, THURSDAY  
San Jacinto  
Pilot Club

San Jacinto Pilot Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Mr. Gatti's on Uvalde at noon.

DEC. 10, THURSDAY  
North Shore  
Senior Dance

North Shore Senior Citizens hold a monthly dance the second Thursday of every month from 1 - 4 pm at the Grayson/Baldree Building, Corpus Christi street. Live bands and refreshments. Cost is \$ 5/per person. For more information call 713-455-3660.

SATURDAY NIGHTS  
The Buckshot  
Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

MONDAYS  
Galena Park  
Senior Dance

Senior Dance is every Monday at the Alvin D. Building, 1302 Keene St., Galena Park. 7 pm - 9 pm. No cover charge. Live band Country music. Call for more information: 713-455-7335.

DECEMBER  
North Channel  
Library events

-Tuesday, Dec. 8, 10:30 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Preschool Story Time.  
-Wed., Dec. 9, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, Candy House Craft (Tickets available)  
-Thursday, Dec. 10, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 4:30 p.m., MeeTeen Ornaments.  
-Saturday, Dec. 12, 11-12:30 p.m., Ask a Lawyer.  
Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information.

DECEMBER  
Galena Park  
Library events

-Tuesday, Dec. 8, Family Movie Time, 4 pm.  
-Wednesday, Dec. 9, Storytime, 11 am (ages 18 months - 4 yrs. old); M.S. Word Básico II, 10:15 am; M.S. Word Basics II, 1:30 p.m.; Get Active/Activate, 4 pm.  
-Thurs., Dec. 10, Babytime, 10 am. (ages newborn-18 months); Citizenship Classes, 11:30 am.  
-Monday, Dec. 14, Teen Time, 4:00 pm.  
-Wed., Dec. 16, Storytime, 11 am.  
Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details. The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547.

ONGOING  
Heritage Hall  
Senior Center

-Exercise class: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 9 am.  
-Strenght and Balance class: Tuesdays at 9 am.  
Heritage Hall Senior Center is located at 1025 Oates Road, Jacinto City, TX. 77029. 713-675-4487.

CHANNELVIEW ISD:  
National publication  
gives CHS “silver” rating

Channelview High School earned a Silver Rating as one of U.S. News and World Report's Best High Schools. Schools were awarded based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college.

According to the report, CHS was ranked 206 in the state out of 1,869 Texas High Schools and was recognized for their increases in Advanced Placement opportunities for students.

“We have put a great focus on college and career readiness,” CHS Principal Cindi Ollis said. “Our teachers work very hard to provide students with creative and innovative instruction that will give them the tools they need for future success.”

Over the past two years, the district increased the number of students participating in Advanced Placement by 64 percent. In fact, CHS has been previously recognized for their increases in Advanced Placement scores and student participation by being named to the College Board's AP Honor Roll.

With state testing stan-



dards becoming more challenging, Ollis said that Channelview High School has put a variety of initiatives and instructional strategies in place to prepare students for more rigorous coursework.

The programs being implemented at CHS appear to be successful, as the school's graduation rate of 92% is above the state average. The school also received the Met Standard rating for the third consecutive year under the state's accountability system, along with being awarded Distinction Designations for outstanding academic performance in Math and Social Studies.

“We are excited to have been honored for our students' success by U.S. News and World Report,” Ollis said. “This reflects the dedication of our teachers and the hard work of our students.”

CHANNELVIEW ISD:  
Schochler students create  
holiday cards for troops

The students at Schochler Elementary School are hoping to give U.S. military troops plenty of reasons to smile this holiday season.

Schochler students created more than 200 holiday cards that will be sent to soldiers as part of the Christmas Cards for the Troops program, sponsored by U.S. Congressman Ted Poe's office.

Second grade teacher Jeanni Hicks coordinated the after-school activity for students and their parents in the campus library. The cards were illustrated by the students, who filled them inside with written words of kindness and appreciation.

According to Schochler Principal Ann Garza, the school became involved in the program three years ago – with participation increasing every year.

“This is a fun experience for our kids and I know the joy the cards must bring to



Schochler Elementary students and their family members worked together to create holiday cards for military personnel overseas as part of the Christmas Cards for the Troops program, sponsored by U.S. Congressman Ted Poe's office.

our troops serving overseas,” Garza said. “Through this project, our students are also learning the valuable lesson of how doing nice things for people can be a rewarding experience.”

Last year, Poe delivered more than 18,000 cards from schools and organiza-

tions in the Houston area to soldiers serving abroad. “The holiday card project has become a family activity on campus that we look forward to every year and we hope to see it continue to grow,” Garza said.

VOLUNTEERS,

Continued from page 1



The Channelview High School Interact Club is all smiles after receiving the Presidential Citation Award from Rotary International.

“Interact helps students see the broader picture of volunteering,” Shoemaker said. “They are able to see first-hand how their efforts really do make a difference.”

Most recently, the Interact Club collected items for goody bags and delivered them to veterans staying at the VA Hospital in Houston. The students also provided assistance at the North Channel Salutes Business Expo and Veterans Day event, sponsored by the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce.

Channelview's club is also known for its blood drives, which are held twice a year or more. In 2014-2015, more than 200 donors gave blood.

Other major community service projects include volunteering at the Star of Hope Mission and the North Channel Area Relay for Life, benefitting the American Cancer Society.

According to Shoemaker, select members of CHS Interact participate in workshops at the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy every year.

“The only way for students to develop leadership skills is through real-life experiences,” he said. “We strive to provide those experiences through Interact so that they may become the leaders of tomorrow.”

San Jacinto College advertisement for January 19 classes. Includes contact information for various campuses and the college website.

PajamaGram advertisement for Trim the Family Tree event. Includes details about the event, prizes, and contact information.

HydroChem hiring fair advertisement for Wednesday, December 16. Includes details about the fair, job opportunities, and contact information.

Facebook link advertisement for NorthChannelStar. Includes the URL www.facebook.com/NorthChannelStar.



OPINION PAGE

★  
OPINION

Remove The  
“Opportunity”  
This Holiday  
Season

The Holiday Season is upon us! The ABTPA (Auto Burglary & Theft Prevention Authority) and the Harris County Sheriff's Office would like to take a moment to remind the citizens we serve of a few things. Just as we gear up to shop this holiday season, so do criminals, especially those who wish to commit vehicle crimes. These crimes include burglarizing your vehicle, removing all of its contents, accessories, or even stealing the vehicle. Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and HCSO remind drivers that a vehicle is burglarized every two minutes and stolen every eight minutes in the state. These types of crimes typically escalate during the holiday season when drivers are more likely to leave belongings within plain view inside vehicles. The overwhelming pressure of trying to get it all done sometimes causes us to be negligent in Locking doors, Taking the keys, and Removing anything of value from plain view. Take the extra step and remove anything with your address and account numbers (Mail) from the vehicle as well. Not doing so, could and often does lead to Gateway Crimes such as Identity Theft, Credit Card Abuse and Burglary of your home.

“Auto burglars are most likely to scout

local malls, shopping centers, entertainment venues, hotels and busy parking lots this time year looking for OPPORTUNITIES”. Sam Cerda, Public Awareness Deputy for the HCSO Auto Theft Unit states “Remove the Opportunities and You Can Remove the Criminal and The Victim” The less of an opportunity citizens give, the more likely the criminal will move on to other targets. We frequently get complacent in our surroundings, often becoming victims to criminal acts.

If you have lived in southwest Texas for any length of time, you know it gets really hot. Drivers tend to leave the windows cracked and in some cases leave the vehicle running to cool the interior of the car before entering. This can often result in the burglary of or worse, theft of the vehicle. The same actions occur in what we call “Cold Weather”, leaving the car running to warm it up. Which ever one you may be guilty of and most are at some time or another, it's still an “Opportunity”. The ABTPA and Harris County Sheriff's Office want you to have a Safe and Crime Free Holiday Season, “Protect It, It's Yours”

Deputy Sam Cerda  
CCPS

Closing the  
achievement gap for  
students

(NAPSI)—According to The Pell Institute, students who are from a low-income background and are first-generation college students have the odds stacked against them more than any other student population when it comes to earning a college degree. Only 10.9 percent of these students graduate with a bachelor's degree within six years—but there are ways to change that.

A Solution  
In stark contrast to this number are the outcomes for certain seniors who are from the same population. These achievers are part of AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is a college readiness system that provides educators with specific academic strategies and tools for students who are often under-represented in college. These tools improve student engagement and create a robust and rigorous learning environment regardless of the student background.

Outcomes  
According to the National Student Clearinghouse, of the AVID seniors from the class of 2010 who are from a low-income background and first-generation college students, 15 percent have already graduated with their bachelor's degree. Forty-eight percent have either earned an associate's degree or are still continuously enrolled in

college. It's clear these students are outpacing their peers in college persistence, despite being the least likely student population to graduate from college.

One Student's Story  
Defying odds is nothing new to many AVID students. For example, Jesula Jeannot moved to the United States from Haiti shortly after the devastating earthquake there and overcame a language barrier, bullying and a new, challenging environment. Like many students in AVID, she credits AVID with changing her outlook. “AVID changed my life. AVID made me change my ways and made me understand that I have to make my obstacles become my strengths to move forward.” There are thousands of AVID students like Jeannot across the nation, and they continue to fight the odds because they have learned that determination is critical to achieving goals.

Awards  
Because of its commitment to closing this opportunity gap for all students, AVID was recently recognized by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics and has received many other awards over the years.

Learn More  
For further information, visit [www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org).



15 disaster-stricken counties  
to receive federal aid

AUSTIN — President Barack Obama on Nov. 25 ordered federal disaster aid to supplement Texas state and local recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding during the period of Oct. 22-31.

President Obama's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in the counties of Bastrop, Brazoria, Caldwell, Comal, Galveston, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Hidalgo, Liberty, Navarro, Travis, Willacy and Wilson.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide, according to the White House.

The disaster declaration came in response to a Nov. 20 request by Gov. Greg Abbott. “I want to thank the President and FEMA for their swift response to Texas' request for a federal disaster declaration,” Abbott said on Nov. 25. “Texas looks forward to working with its FEMA partners to ensure those in need receive the assistance necessary to start rebuilding their lives.”

Governor travels to  
Havana

Gov. Abbott on Nov. 24 announced his plan to lead a delegation to Havana, Cuba to participate in meetings and events focusing on travel, trade and exports from Nov. 30 through Dec. 2.

Abbott said he would meet with Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment, Port of Mariel, the Cuban Export-Import Corporation, Cuba Chamber of Commerce, Alimport (Cuba's food import-export company), and various economic institutions. This is the governor's second international business development trip since taking office. The first was a trip to Mexico City in September.

“With a new era of eased trade and travel restrictions between the U.S. and Cuba, and as the 12th largest economy in the world, Texas has an opportunity to capitalize and expand its economic footprint at home and abroad.

“Opening the door to business with Texas will expand free enterprise and the freedom that flows from it. I look forward to expanding business opportunities for both Texas and Cuba,” Abbott said.

Planned Parenthood  
files suit

Planned Parenthood affiliates in Texas and 10 pa-

★  
STATE CAPITAL  
HIGHLIGHTS  
By Ed Sterling

tient co-plaintiffs on Nov. 23 filed suit against the state of Texas, saying the action was brought “in order to protect care for more than 13,000 patients whose access to HIV screening, cancer screenings, birth control, and other preventive care at Planned Parenthood is at risk.”

The Office of the Governor on Oct. 19 announced that federal Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood and its Texas affiliates would be terminated, in coordination with a letter issued by the Office of Inspector General at Texas Health and Human Services Commission to Planned Parenthood.

Highway fund gets  
infusion

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Nov. 24 announced the transfer of \$2.27 billion into the State Highway Fund and the Economic Stabilization Fund commonly known as the Rainy Day Fund. Each fund received more than \$1.13 billion, or 50 percent of the total transfer.

According to the announcement, the transfer amounts are based on whether oil production and natural gas production tax revenues exceed

1987 collections. If either tax is greater than the 1987 threshold, an amount equal to 75 percent of the excess is transferred.

In November 2014, Texas voters approved an amendment to the state constitution allocating at least one-half of these severance taxes to the rainy day fund and the remainder to the State Highway Fund for use on non-toll highway construction, maintenance and right-of-way acquisition.

Texas job growth  
continues

Texas Workforce Commission on Nov. 23 announced that Texas employers added 20,000 seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs in October, marking the eighth month of 2015 with jobs added.

The state's job increases have yielded a 1.7 percent annual growth rate continuing its string of positive annual growth for 66 consecutive months.

“Texas employers continue to contribute to the Texas economy by adding jobs, including 203,900 over the past year,” said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar.

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.4 percent in October, up from 4.2 percent in September, and remained below the national average of 5.0 percent.

★  
OPINION

Protect  
Your  
Retirement

(NAPSI)—A new rule out of Washington could well make retirement saving even harder, particularly for the middle class—but there is something you can do about it.

The Problem

The Department of Labor has proposed a retirement regulation that will limit access to financial advice, limit choices and ultimately raise the cost of saving with additional fees and higher costs. Savers in brokerage accounts will no longer be able to receive the same level of advice from their financial adviser without paying more, often for services they do not want or need. Without this advice, savers will have to go it alone or perhaps turn to the Internet for guidance.

While the regulation is likely well intended, its unintended consequences will harm the savers most in need of guidance. In fact, 98 percent of IRA investors with less than \$25,000 are in a brokerage account.

What's Being Done

Many people are asking their legislators where they stand on this situation. Anyone can write to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) about this or any issue.

What to do  
when life  
insurance  
premiums rise

(NAPSI)—If you are one of the American seniors facing an increase in your life insurance premiums, you may have more options than you realize.

The Problem

Several life insurance carriers have raised rates for this year, some by as much as 200 percent.

“Over the course of the past few months, thousands of policy owners have begun receiving letters from their life insurance carriers, informing them that the companies will be increasing the ‘cost of insurance’ built into certain life insurance policies,” explained Darwin Bayston, president and chief executive officer of the Life Insurance Settlement Association (LISA). “This is an especially disturbing surprise for seniors, many of whom trusted their insurance companies to stand by the annual premiums they were quoted at the time they agreed to purchase the policies.”

The insurance companies have been notifying policyholders that they have three options: They can pay higher premiums in order to keep their existing death benefit, they can maintain the same premiums but sacrifice some of their death benefit on the policy, or they can surrender the policy back to the insurance company for its nominal cash value.

An Answer

There is another way, however: a life settlement—selling the policy to a third-party investor for an immediate cash payment. Candidates for life settlements are typically aged 65 or older, with a life insurance policy that has a death benefit of more than \$100,000.

The sale can also help take some of the sting out of increases in other retirement expenses such as health care costs.

This may be a more efficient and flexible solution than reductions in your benefits and, for many people, it's a better alternative than letting the policy lapse or surrendering it back to the insurance company.

HIGHLANDS★CROSBY

Star★Courier

USPS 244-500

and the  
Barbers Hill★Dayton PRESS

The Highlands Star Founded 1955  
The Crosby Courier Founded 1958  
Consolidated with the Star 1961  
SERVING HIGHLANDS, CROSBY, HUFFMAN  
AND NORTHEAST HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Editor & Publisher.....Gilbert Hoffman  
Associate Publisher.....Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman  
Assoc. Editor/Advertising Manager.....Lewis Spearman  
Assistant Editor.....Juliete Paita  
Production Manager.....Luis Hernandez  
IT Technical Manager.....Pedro Hernandez

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. 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 [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com).

GRAPHICPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR, Crosby COURIER, Barbers Hill DAYTON PRESS, Northeast NEWS, North Forest NEWS, North Channel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 50,000. Readership exceeds 110,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$25.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562.

News and Ad Phones...281-328-9605  
FAX Line...713-977-1188  
email: [grafikstar@aol.com](mailto:grafikstar@aol.com)  
Member Texas Press Association



LIFESTYLE



Operation Jingle Bells

GATE students at Dr. Antonio Bañuelos Elementary School (from left) Amelia Toney, Amira Lewis, Delya Mayfield and Kimberly Meier display some of the blankets they are collecting as they sponsor "Operation Jingle Bells" in collaboration with Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital. The blankets will be donated to patients who are in the hospital during the holiday season. Anyone wishing to donate may take items to the front office at Bañuelos Elementary until December 17, 2015.

Celebration of Trees at May CC

Friday's, December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Experience the magic and merriment of May Community Center's Celebration of Trees! Walk through an enchanted "forest" of beautifully decorated Christmas trees, complete with twinkling lights, joyful sounds and fun activities. Get your picture taken with Santa for a donation.

- Create children's holiday crafts
- Visit with Santa's helpers
- Gaze upon the decorated forest of trees
- Enjoy entertainment and refreshments

- Be tattooed by Santa's elves.

In addition to the Celebration of Trees Open House dates, the Center is open for tours Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm beginning Monday, December 7. For more information call the Center at (713) 274-2434.

May Community Center is located at 2100 Wolf Road, Huffman 77336. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information regarding classes or other Center programs please call (713) 274-2434.

Teachers participate in STEM Professional Learning Community



Goose Creek CISD STEM teachers asked questions of guest panelists from industry during the recent STEM Professional Learning Community (PLC) to learn real-life application of the courses they teach. Participants were (from left) Rolando Serna, CBJ; John Tremmel, RSS; Thomas Hinds, HMJ; Elizabeth Schoelwer, the National Guard; Shonda Clark, GCM; Lindsey Marek, REL CTE Specialist, Kate Kolett, ExxonMobil; Audrey Tran, Covestro; Misty Coyle, REL; Sal Mellado, Performance-Contractors; Andrew Kolemba, NASA; David Laughlin, GCM; Chase Kruger, RSS; and Cody Love, RSS.

★

**LITTLE BIDDY BITS**  
By Danny Biddy

The Reason for the Season

To tour the Holy Land on a couple of occasions has been one of the highlights of my life. On my second visit some of the things and places did not have the same impact on me as they did the first time I was there. However, some of the sites had not lost a thing in their

ability to inspire. One such place was the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. It is the supposed site of the birthplace of Jesus. You enter the church through a small door that requires you to stoop over to go through it. At the back of the building, under the altar is a small room, lit with candles. Each time we were there our group gathered in that room and sang Christmas carols. The thrill was still there.

Another Christmas season is here. Regardless of how many you have seen come and go, never forget that, "Unto you is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Kings in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Luke 11, what group of people did Jesus say took away the key of knowledge? Prophets, Carpenters, Lawyers, Scribes
3. The Ark of the Covenant was carried around and around what city? Ramah, Moroni, Jericho, Nicopolis
4. From Genesis 26, who planted crops that were reaped a hundredfold? Adam, Isaac, Abraham, Cain
5. David and Bathsheba were the parents of? John the Baptist, King Solomon, Noah, Daniel
6. How many psalms in the Book of Psalms are attributed to Moses? 0, 1, 34, 72

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Lawyers; 3) Jericho; 4) Isaac; 5) King Solomon; 6) 1

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." LUKE 1:26-28

*Detail of "Annunciation" by William Brassey Hole (1846-1917)*

CHURCH LISTINGS

**WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY**  
BAYTOWN  
281-421-5774 5223 Garth Rd.  
NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

Your ad could be here  
Just \$10 a week.  
Call 281-328-9605 to  
find out more information.

Open M - F 8 AM - 5:30 PM  
**A-AUTOMOTIVE**  
Chris Arnold-Owner - 281-385-1782  
2926 FM 565, Mont Belvieu, Tx 77580

**OILWELL TUBULAR CONSULTANTS**  
P.O. Box 1267, Crosby, TX  
281-328-6220

Complete Line of Groceries  
**KWIK MART FOODS**  
14443 FM 1409 281-576-5788

Attorney at Law  
**KAREN A. BLOMSTROM**  
281-328-7311  
510 Church Street Crosby, TX 77532  
NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

Call  
**GRAFIKSHOP**  
for printing jobs  
**713-977-2555**

Pride only breeds quarrels,  
but wisdom is found in  
those who take advice.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Sat 8 a.m.-1p.m.  
**KWIK KAR OIL & LUBE**  
Operated By Chris & Jennifer  
Arnold  
11525 Eagle Drive  
281-385-LUBE (5823)

Crosby, Highlands, Huffman, Baytown

ANGLICAN CHURCH

- Church of the Resurrection, meeting at Crosby Brethren Church, 5202 1st Street, Crosby, 832-681-9693.
- APOSTOLIC CHURCH
- First Apostolic Church of Highlands, 1211 S. Main St. Highlands, 281-426-4133
- ASSEMBLY OF GOD
- Crosby Gospel Assembly, 633 Kenning Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2516
- First Assembly of God, 406 N. Magnolia St., Highlands, 281-426-3170
- Gospel Lighthouse, 8218 John Martin Rd., Baytown, 281-421-1168

BAPTIST

- Calvary Baptist, 2217 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3409
- Highlands Baptist, 111 E. Canal Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2470
- Northeast Freeway Baptist, 1635 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2723
- Unity Baptist, 2625 Broad Dr., Highlands, 281-426-4223
- Iglesia Bautista Comunidad, 5323 Highway 90, Crosby, 281-421-9810. "Venid y te Haremos Bien"
- BAPTIST-Missionary
- Antioch Missionary Baptist, 2500 Harris St., Highlands, 281-426-6565.
- First Missionary Baptist Church, 301 Cypress Avenue, Crosby, 281-462-7634.
- Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist, 315 Nod, Crosby, 281-328-4650
- True Vine Missionary Baptist, 404 Oak Ave., Crosby, 281-328-7637
- Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12418 Crosby Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1851

- BAPTIST-Southern
- First Baptist- Crosby, 615 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2564
- First Baptist- Highlands, N. Magnolia at Wallisville, Highlands, 281-426-4551
- First Baptist- Huffman, 25503 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1888
- Northside Baptist, 317 Barbers Hill Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5415
- Second Baptist, 400 E. Wallisville Rd., Highlands, 281-426-5557
- Crosby New Hope Baptist Church, 18319 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-6086

BRETHREN

- Crosby Brethren, 5202 1st St., Crosby, 281-328-2442

CATHOLIC

- Holy Family, 7122 Whiting Rook, Baytown, 281-426-8448

- Sacred Heart, 915 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-4871
- St. Martin De Porres, 12606 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-4451
- St. Jude Thaddeus, 800 S. Main St., Highlands, 281-843-2422
- St. Phillip the Apostle, 2308 3rd St., Huffman, 281-324-1478
- CHURCH OF CHRIST
- Church of Christ at Wallisville Rd., 1500 E. Wallisville Rd., 281-426-7557.
- Crosby Church of Christ, 3737 Hwy 90, Crosby, 281-328-3496
- Highlands Church of Christ, 214 Clear Lake Rd., Highlands, 281-426-2742
- Barrett Station Church of Christ, 281-328-7882
- First Pentecostal Church of God, 1328 Old Atascocita, Huffman, 281-324-1518
- Harvest Time Church of God, 495 S. Diamondhead Blvd., Crosby, 281-462-8060

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

- Mt. Rose Church of God in Christ, 13000 FM 2100, Crosby, 281-328-1314

EPISCOPAL

- Church of the Resurrection, 5202 Church St., Crosby.
- INDEPENDENT
- Crosby Church, 5725 Hwy 90, Crosby and 30673 Huffman Cleveland Rd., Huffman, 281-328-1310
- Huffman Church, 1707 Huffman Eastgate Rd., Huffman, 281-324-3705
- New Covenant of Faith, 12217 Holly Rd., Crosby, 281-328-1315
- Restoration House, 1609 Jones Rd., Highlands, 281-843-4000
- Son Harvest, 2027 FM 1942, Crosby, 281-543-2860.

LUTHERAN

- Our Shepherd, 19704 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-2422

METHODIST

- Crosby United Methodist, 1334 Runneberg Rd., Crosby, 281-328-2616
- Highlands United Methodist, 107 W. Houston St., Highlands, 281-426-3614
- Lake Houston United Methodist, 23606 FM 2100, Huffman, 281-324-1541

NON DENOMINATION

- Lifepoint Church, 9235 North Highway 146, Baytown, Tx. 77523. 281-576-5452.

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

- Pentecostals of Crosby 502 Pine at Hwy 90 Crosby, TX 77532(281) 328-5054. Sunday 10 AM. Wednesday 7 PM. Pastor Kerry D. Lee

Channelview, Jacinto City, Galena Park, Houston

- Second Street Church of Christ, 15821 2nd. Street, Channelview, TX. 77530. www.2ndstreetchurchofchrist.com

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

- Galena Park Assembly of God, 1211 2nd. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0836.

BAPTIST

- New Life Baptist Church of East Houston, 18570 Van Road, Houston, 77049. 281-458-0082
- Second Baptist Church, 1913 16th. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-9232.
- Second Baptist Church, 10501 Muscatine, Jacinto City, TX. 713-674-8463.
- St. Matthew Baptist Church, 119 Fidelity, Houston, TX. 713-674-0062.
- First Baptist Church, 1505 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-455-1261.

BAPTIST-Southern

- Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church, 402 Dell Dale Avenue, Channelview, TX. 281-452-3704.
- South Drive Baptist Church, 15229 South Drive, Channelview, TX. 77530. 281-452-4500.
- First Baptist Church of Jacinto City, 10701 Wiggins, Jacinto City, TX 77029. 713-672-2802.
- Beaumont Place Baptist Church, 13101 Ivydale Street, Houston, TX. 77049.

CATHOLIC

- St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 827 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 281-452-9865.
- Our Lady of Fatima, 1705 8th St., Galena Park, TX. 713-675-0981.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

- Channelview Church of Christ, 1301 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, Tx. 281-452-7129.
- Galena Park Church of Christ, 301 Holland Ave, Galena Park, TX. 713-455-0826.

EPISCOPAL

- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, 713-451-2909.

HOLINESS

- Bible Missionary Church, 10246 Fairfax St., Jacinto City, 713-671-3500.

METHODIST

- Old River Terrace United Methodist Church, 16102 East Freeway, Channelview, TX. 281-452-2861.
- Galena Park United Methodist, 1705 1st. St., Galena Park, TX. 713-672-0245.
- Holy Trinity United Methodist, 13207 Orleans St., Houston, Tx. 713-453-7203.

For corrections or new listings, call 281-328-9605

THRIFT-TEE FOOD CENTER

10955 Eagle Drive 281-576-5040

STERLING ~ WHITE

FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY  
11811 CROSBY-LYNCHBURG RD.  
HOUSTON, TX 77542  
(281) 426-3555  
WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1824"

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

All Invited to Worship with Us

SUNDAY Holy Eucharist Rite II 9:00 am  
SUNDAY Coffee Hour 10:00 am  
Spanish Service/Holy Eucharist 11:00 am  
13125 INDIANAPOLIS ST., HOUSTON, 77015  
sttimsinhouston.com

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

**ROOF LEAKING**

Call Mr. Roofer  
**1-844-WET ROOF**  
1-844-938-7663  
All Roof Types Repairs 281-452-0000

**WOODFOREST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Come Join our Church Family

Worship: 10 a.m.

Fellowship Follows

Sunday School Classes for all ages 1:15 a.m.

15220 Wallisville Rd., Houston, 77049

Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13

Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. Leviticus 19:32

# ASK THE EXPERTS

## Check Out These End-of-Year Investment Tips

Who knows where the time goes? Although 2015 is almost in the books, you can still make some year-end investment and financial moves that may help you get off to a good start in 2016. Here are a few suggestions:

- Boost your 401(k) contributions. Ask your employer if you still have time to add more to your 401(k) before the year ends. If not, at least increase your contributions in 2016, especially if your salary goes up.
- Consider “tax-loss” selling. We experienced considerable turbulence in the financial markets this past year, so you may own some investments that have lost value. Generally speaking, it’s a good idea to hold these investments if they still meet your needs, but if you do decide to sell them, you can use the loss to offset capital gains taxes on investments you’ve sold that have appreciated. If the loss from the sale was greater than your combined long- and short-term capital gains, you can deduct up to \$3,000 against other income. And if your losses exceed your capital gains by more than \$3,000, you can carry the remaining losses forward to future tax years.

### ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

- Review your asset allocation. Make sure your asset allocation – that is, your investment mix – is still appropriate for your time horizon and goals. You might consider being a bit more aggressive if you’re not meeting your financial targets, or more conservative if you’re getting closer to retirement. If you want greater diversification, you might think about adding an asset class that tends to react to market conditions differently from your existing investments. Diversifying your portfolio may help reduce the impact of volatility; however, diversification, by itself, can’t guarantee a profit or protect against loss. If you do need to adjust, or “rebalance,” you can do so fairly easily in tax-deferred accounts, such as your IRA or 401(k) – but for those investments held in a taxable account, you should talk to your tax advisor on how to manage the tax consequences of rebalancing.
- Evaluate your insurance situation. This past year, did you undergo any

changes in your personal life, such as marriage, divorce or the addition of a new child? If so, review your life and disability insurance to make sure they are sufficient for your needs, and list the proper beneficiaries on all insurance policies.

- Start an emergency fund. If you don’t already have one, start an emergency fund before the year is out. Ideally, you’d like to have between six and 12 months’ worth of living expenses in such a fund; without it, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace, a major car repair or a big medical bill. For this fund, you’re less interested in return than in preservation of principal, so put your money in a low-risk, liquid account.

Making these moves can help you close out 2015 on a positive note – and ring in the new year with greater confidence in your financial future.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

Edward Jones  
6830 E Sam Houston  
Pkwy N, Suite 150  
Houston, TX 77049  
281-436-0396

Diamond Jim: "I'm so confused. Why do so many mall jewelers have such incredible discounts?"



### ASK DIAMOND JIM

The 30-50-70% off banners hang everywhere in the malls and “big box” jewelry stores. I believe that most customers KNOW those discounts are a sham, and don’t really believe that they are getting 60-70% off the ORIGINAL price at all. But many still believe they are getting SOME kind of a deal, whether true or not.

I personally am not a fan of discounting because it presumes one of three things:

- 1) The customer is getting a real deal, in which case I wonder where the margins will come from to run the business. Good for the consumer, bad for the store.
- 2) You can compete long term on a “lowest price” model. But there is generally only one winner in that game.
- 3) The “lowest price” model is actually misleading and illusory. There likely would be enough customers who are smart enough to see through that, and ultimately it will reflect very poorly on the store in the short and long term.

Retail stores will choose for themselves which is the best course for them, be it price value or non-price value. But whichever direction one chooses, I believe it

ought to have at its core the basic premise of price integrity!!! 70% OFF may appear to work for them in the short-term... but it is not a sound strategy for long-term growth or for customer loyalty. It is generally simply a lie, even when a store is going out of business! I prefer to have integrity in pricing...and deal with those stores that have integrity in pricing. I have devoted my business life to providing quality and value for a fair price. When on the other side of the counter I always ask myself... is it the truth... and is it fair? I do the same when behind my own counter. I think consumers should do the same when choosing where to spend their money, and give serious consideration to truth and integrity in pricing. And if a business chooses to price its products appropriately and fairly and sell on value, while full well knowing it won’t win the customer who is hell-bent on getting a “deal”, then that company should owe no apology to anyone for that strategy. The store with the most integrity in pricing will more than likely have the same values and integrity in all of its dealings with

you. And THAT is the store with which I choose to do business.

And the last point I’d like to make while on the subject simply deals with comparing quality. This is a quote from a gentleman from the 1800s... John Ruskin... “There is nothing in this world that some men cannot make worse and sell cheaper...and those who see only price, are this man’s lawful prey!”

So now how do you feel about the following ad?



If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com)

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).

**If You're Leaving Your Employer, Do You Know Your 401(k) Options?**

At Edward Jones, we can explain options for your 401(k), including leaving the money in your former employer's plan, moving it to your new employer's plan, rolling it over to an individual Retirement Account (IRA), or cashing out the account subject to tax consequences. We can help you review your options so that you can select the one that's best for you. If you decide to roll it over to an Edward Jones IRA, we can help.

To learn more, call or visit your financial advisor today.

**Michael V Williams**  
Financial Advisor  
6830 E Sam Houston Pkwy N  
Suite 150  
Houston, TX 77049  
281-436-0396

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**Sometimes we forget to love those who love us most**

It's good to remember.

**PineforestJewelry.com**  
1141 Uvalde • Houston, Texas 77016  
713.481.1321

**NORTH CHANNEL★STAR**  
5906 STAR LANE, HOUSTON, TX 77057  
(713) 977-2555 FAX (713) 977-1188  
email: [northchannelstar@gmail.com](mailto:northchannelstar@gmail.com)  
website: [www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com)

---

Gilbert Hoffman .....Editor & Publisher  
Mei-Ing Hoffman .....Associate Publisher  
Lewis Spearman .....Advertising Director  
Julietta Paita .....Managing Editor  
Luis Hernandez .....Production  
Pedro Hernandez .....Circulation/Mail Director

Published each Wednesday 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: [northchannelstar@gmail.com](mailto:northchannelstar@gmail.com)

Member Texas Community Newspaper Association  
Member North Channel Chamber of Commerce  
Member Texas Press Association

## NORTH CHANNEL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Call 281-328-9605 to Advertise YOUR Business in this Directory. 10,000 readers Weekly

**PEYTON PLACE RESALE SHOP**  
GREAT BARGAINS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!  
Infants, toddlers, women & men clothing, accessories, toys... plus so much more...  
1132 Sheldon Rd., Ste. E, Channelview (Next to Channelview HS) 713-534-2706

**SPACE FOR RENT. NEW EQUIPMENT. BEAUTIFUL SALON.**  
Licensed Technicians, call 281-442-9777 for more information.  
4531 E. Mt. Houston Houston, TX 77093

**CONNECTIONS TEXAS**  
Join the network and receive a FREE website for your business. Call "WILLIE G" at 832-290-0355 for more information. Connections in Texas - CIT Entrepreneurs "We promote Entrepreneurship" [www.connectionsintexas.biz](http://www.connectionsintexas.biz)

**NASB**  
Join the fastest growing final expense agency in the country. Over 40% earn a 6 figure income. Contact Abur Abner Lyons at 281-777-6629

**MR. ROOFER**  
(281) 452-0000  
New Roofs, Repairs, Painting, Seamless Aluminum Gutters  
HARDI PLANK SIDING  
CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES  
[Mroofer@mail.com](mailto:Mroofer@mail.com)

**EILEEN BRIGHTWELL, DDS**  
[www.brightwelldental.com](http://www.brightwelldental.com)  
1820 Holland St. • Jacinto City, TX 77029  
(713) 455-7923

**Joe Stephens**  
Insurance and Financial Services Agent  
**FARMERS INSURANCE**  
500 Normandy Houston, TX 77015  
Bus: 713-590-9011 Fax: 713-590-9016  
[jstephens1@farmersagent.com](mailto:jstephens1@farmersagent.com)  
Registered Representative Farmers Financial Solutions, LLC  
31001 Agave Road, Bldg. 1, Agave Hills, CA 91301-3005  
818-594-0280 Member FINRA & SIPC

**NORTH CHANNEL★STAR**  
Printing Department  
**713-977-2555**







# SPORTS PAGE

## Alabama looks to punch ticket to CFP's: Texans look to keep pace in AFC South against Bills

This could be the biggest week of the 2015 college season as conference title games will be played across the country with much at stake as teams look to stake their claim to one of the four berths in the College Football Playoffs (CFP).

Alabama can punch its ticket with a win over Florida in the SEC title game on Saturday, while the winner of the Big 10 should also be in play for one of the four berths, especially if Iowa wins the league title to move to 13-0 on the season. It would be hard to keep the Hawkeyes out of the playoffs if they were to finish the regular season undefeated and winners of the Big 10, the league that produced last year's national champion, Ohio State.

Oklahoma State's CFP's chances took a huge hit two weeks ago when they were upset at home by Baylor. That opened the door for Oklahoma. If the Sooners were able to win at OSU last weekend, that would make them 11-1 on the season and give them a shot at one of the four playoff berths.

Notre Dame needed to win at Stanford to also finish at 11-1 and would need help from others to back it to the national semifinals.

The University of Houston also saw their hopes of landing a major bowl bid take a big hit two weeks ago when they were upset by Connecticut, but if they were able to beat a 10-1 Navy team last Friday, they would find themselves in the American Athletic Conference finals against Temple.

In the NFL, the Texans hit the road to Buffalo in a key game for both teams. The Texans are in the thick of the AFC South race and the Bills are in the AFC Wild Card race. Weather could be a factor as December comes to Buffalo!

The Cowboys play at Washington on Monday night and will face a stern test against an improving Washington team. Other key games feature Seattle at Minnesota, Arizona at Seattle, Philadelphia at New England and Indianapolis at Pittsburgh.

Before we take a look at this week's games, let's review last week's record. An 8-4 week upped the season record to 88-53 (62%). With time running out on the season, it's time to kick things into gear, starting with this week!

**NCAA**  
**Texas at Baylor:** Charlie Strong's second season on the 40 Acres might wind up worse than his first, when his team finished 6-7. UT could enter their season finale against Baylor looking at a second straight losing season depending on how they fared against Texas Tech on Thanksgiving night. Strong is a good coach and should be given at least a couple of more years to turn things around in Austin. A signature win to close out the season against a good Baylor team might keep the wolves away from his door, but that's a tall order. The Bears are still in the Big 12 title hunt after their 45-35 win at Oklahoma State two weeks ago that ended the Cowboy's undefeated season. Look for the Baylor offense to be at warp speed on Saturday as they take it to Texas. My pick, Baylor 43, Texas 24

**SEC Title Game, Alabama vs. Florida:** The pupil meets the master when former Alabama offensive coordinator Jim McElwain takes on his former boss, Nick Saban, in the SEC title game on Saturday in Atlanta. McElwain has done an outstanding job in his first year at the helm of the Florida Gators, guiding them to the SEC East title and 10 wins heading into their regular season finale last Saturday against Florida State. Florida has one of the best defenses in the country, but they will be facing an Alabama offense that has been on the roll since its Sept. 19 loss at home to Mississippi. Running back Derek Henry has been playing like a man possessed and could very well wrap up the Heisman Trophy with another big outing against a stout Gator defense. Alabama has a pretty good defense itself and that unit has had a lot to do with the Tide playing as well as any team in the country over the last month. McElwain may have learned much under Saban, but Saban is the master and will teach his pupil a thing or two come Saturday in the Georgia Dome.



My pick, Alabama 33, Florida 20

**NFL**  
**Green Bay at Detroit:** Week 13 begins on Thursday night when the Packers visit the Lions looking for revenge the 18-16 upset Detroit pulled on them Nov. 15 at Lambeau Field. Two weeks ago, the Packers may have saved their season with a convincing 27-14 win at Minnesota. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers was back to his old self extending plays with his legs, while the GB defense played one of its best games of the season as that unit recorded five sacks and led the way to the victory. The Lions have been playing well lately after losing seven of their first eight games and always play the Packers tough at home. Detroit will be in this one, but look for Rodgers to lead the way as the Packers look to get on a late-season roll. My pick, Green Bay 24, Detroit 20

**Seattle at Minnesota:** This is a key game for both teams as both are jockeying for a post-season berth. The Seahawks got back to the .500 mark two weeks ago with a methodical 29-13 win over San Francisco. Quarterback Russell Wilson tossed three touchdown passes in that game and will need another big outing against a Viking defense that will be in a foul mood after their 14-point loss to Green Bay two weeks ago. Minnesota will need running back Adrian Peterson to get rolling if the Vikings hope to send Seattle home with a loss. Seattle is a tough team to run on, but Peterson isn't just any running back. He's in a class by himself. Look for AP to have a big day as the Vikings keep their division and Wild Card hopes alive with a huge home victory. My pick, Minnesota 23, Seattle 18

**Houston at Buffalo:** The Texans travel to Buffalo on a bit of a roll. Two weeks ago, they won their third game in a row with a 24-17 victory over the Jets. Backup quarterback T.J. Yates had a nice game, tossing two touchdown passes to rising star DeAndre Hopkins (5 receptions, 118 yards two touchdowns against the Jets). The defense continued to play well as J.J. Watt recorded two more sacks and the unit came through with two interceptions. The Texans will be facing a decent Buffalo team and weather could come into play considering it is December and they are playing in Western New York. The Texans must be able to run the ball and did a better job of that against the Jets. On defense, Watt and Co. will need to contain quarterback Tyrod Taylor who keeps plays alive with his scrambling ability. This will be a tough one for the Texans, but if they want to remain alive in the AFC South race, they must prove they can win on the road. It says here, they do just that on Sunday. My pick, Houston 24, Buffalo 20

**Arizona at St. Louis:** The high-flying Cardinals travel to St. Louis looking to keep a grip atop the NFC West standings. Arizona has one of the best offenses in the NFL this season, this side of Foxborough, and a defense that can measure up to any other stop unit in the league. Quarterback Carson Palmer has having a Pro Bowl season and he has a host of targets to throw to, led by veteran wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald who looks like he's found the Fountain of Youth after a couple of subpar seasons. The Rams are tough to beat at home, but Arizona has too many weapons for their solid defense to deal with. St. Louis will be looking for a big game from rookie running back Todd Gurley. If Gurley can get positive yards on the ground, the Rams might be able to control the clock, but that won't matter to Palmer who needs little time to launch bombs down field. My pick, Arizona 27, St. Louis 16

**Carolina at New Orleans:** The Panthers travel to New Orleans on Sunday to take on a Saints team that is suffering through another rough season. During their bye week, Saints head coach Sean Payton fired embattled defensive coordinator

Rob Ryan and with good cause. NO has one of the worst defenses in the league and the Panthers will show little pity on their NFC South rivals when Cam Newton and Co. come calling. The Saints can score on offense thanks to quarterback Drew Brees who is having another big season, but he will face perhaps the best defense in the league. The Saints will need to take advantage of scoring chances when they arise if they hope to keep pace with the Panthers. My pick, Carolina 33, New Orleans 23

**Denver at San Diego:** The Broncos travel to San Diego with their new savior at quarterback, Brock Osweiler, who was called on to replace an injured Peyton Manning two weeks ago and led the Bears to a 17-15 victory at Chicago. Osweiler has a big arm and it came in handy in the Windy City. He should have an even bigger day on Sunday against a San Diego defense that has been getting scorched this season. Two weeks ago, the Chargers "D" gave up 33 points to a Kansas City team that no one will confuse with the Patriots. If Osweiler continues to play well and keep Denver winning, we may have seen the last of Manning in a Broncos uniform. At this point, Osweiler gives Denver a better chance at winning and that's all that matters in the NFL. My pick, Denver 31, San Diego 13

**Kansas City at Oakland:** The suddenly hot Chiefs travel to Oakland to take on a Raiders team that is reeling after back-to-back losses at home to Minnesota and on the road at Detroit. If the Raiders miss out on a Wild Card berth, they may regret that loss in the Motor City. The Raider offense has been stymied the last couple of week and things won't get any easier on Sunday against a KC defense that is jelling at just the right time. Oakland usually plays the Chiefs tough as they two long-time rivals have been getting after it since both joined the AFL in the 1960s. Look for Oakland QB Derek Carr to get out of his funk and lead the Raiders to a much-needed December victory. My pick, Oakland 24, Kansas City 20

**Philadelphia at New England:** Things are not going well in the City of Brotherly Love. Two weeks ago, the Eagles were waylaid at home by Tampa Bay, losing 45-17, which did not sit well with their fans. The boo birds were out early and things won't get any easier this Sunday when Chip Kelly's team travels to face the Patriots, who could very well be looking to move to 11-0 on the season. If Jameis Winston could light up the Philly defense, what do you think Tom Brady will do on Sunday and at home? Look for another big day from No. 12 as the Pats look to pretty much wrap up the AFC East title, and putting a crimp in the Eagles' playoff chances. My pick, New England 38, Philadelphia 20

**Indianapolis at Pittsburgh:** A good one for the Sunday Night Football crew pits the surprising Colts against the Steelers in a must-game for both teams. Texan fans will be rooting for the Steelers in this one, just as they were rooting for the Falcons two weeks ago. That didn't work out so well as Indy overcame a 21-7 deficit in Atlanta en route to a 24-21 victory. The Colts are getting things done without starting quarterback Andrew Luck, which makes this current streak they are on all the more amazing. Winning at Pittsburgh might be asking too much this week. Look for Ben Roethlisberger and wide receiver Antonio Brown to have a big night as the Steelers look to keep the pressure on the bungling Bengals. My pick, Pittsburgh 34, Indianapolis 26

**Dallas at Washington:** Dallas fans were certainly happy to see Tony Romo back under center two weeks ago and what a difference he makes when he's on the field. After missing eight weeks with a broken collarbone, Romo dusted off the rust and threw for two touchdowns to help the Cowboys end their seven-game losing streak with a 24-14

## 6 baseball players sign letters of intent



**HOUSTON –** Six San Jacinto College baseball players have signed National Letters of Intent to continue their education and baseball careers at four-year institutions.

The sophomore students include Devin Smeltzer (Voorhees, New Jersey / Bishop Eustace Preparatory School), Cody Nesbit (La Porte / La Porte High School), Montana Parsons (Conroe / College Park High School), Tucker Cascadden (Houston / Lamar High School), Colton

Schmidt (La Porte / La Porte High School), and Brandon Montgomery (Collierville, Tennessee / Collierville High School).

Smeltzer, a pitcher, plans to attend Texas Tech University. Nesbit, a pitcher, plans to attend the University of Houston. Parsons, a pitcher, and Cascadden, an infielder, signed to attend Baylor University. Schmidt, a pitcher, plans to attend the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Montgomery, an infielder, will attend the University of Miami.

"At San Jacinto College, we prepare our student-athletes for lifelong success," commented San Jacinto College Head Baseball Coach Tom Arrington. "I consider it a significant achievement for these young men to continue their education at such highly respected universities."

San Jac's 2016 baseball season will get under way in late January. For more information, please visit sanjacsports.com.

## NORTH SHORE IN PLAYOFFS,

Continued from page 1

fense was evident in the second half as they kept the Eagles from scoring while North Shore tacked on two more touchdowns,

a 9-yard pass from Bryant Badie to Eric Monroe in the third quarter and a 14-yard run from Guillory.

Next up the Mustangs

face Dickinson in the regional finals on Saturday, December 5 at 1:00 PM at Pasadena Veterans Memorial Stadium.



Carl Guillory (#15) rips off a 55-yard touchdown run in the first half. Guillory had 141 yards rushing and two touchdowns.



The Mustangs defense solidified and didn't allow the Eagles to score in the second half.

Have you taken the Blood-Thinning Drug

**Xarelto?**

You may be entitled to Compensation.

First Xarelto® Bleeding Lawsuits Filed. If you or a loved one has taken Xarelto® and experienced

Internal Bleeding  
Stroke  
Heart Attack  
Pulmonary Embolisms  
Or Even Death  
Legal help is available NOW!

Call us for a FREE CASE CONSULTATION.

**800-306-1896**

Visit us on Facebook