

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

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

### Mayor's son receives sentencing

Sergio Jesus Moya, Jr. the son of Galena Park Mayor Esmeralda Moya, but was sentenced last Friday to Deferred Adjudication, 7 years



probation, and a \$750 fine for possession of child pornography. He was charged on three counts.

The hearing was held by Judge Brock Thomas Jr. in Harris County Criminal Courtroom 338. Moya's attorney was Chip Lewis, who managed to get a number of continuances in the proceedings, prior to this sentencing.

Moya was originally arrested on May 29, 2015 by a task force of Houston and local police, at his house. Computers were seized as evidence. Since that time, Moya has been free on bond of \$20,000 and \$30,000 on the three counts against him.

Deferred Adjudication means he is free, and his record will be cleared when he completes probation.

## Rotary Club distributes Food Baskets to Needy Families for Christmas

NORTH CHANNEL -- Following their annual tradition, the members of the North Shore Rotary Club packed and distributed almost 300 food baskets to families for their holiday meal. The club took special care to include healthy foods, such as fruits and vegetables, according to club president Kim Gonzalez. The number of baskets increased from about 200 last year, to this year's total of 300.

Club project chair John Parrott kept track of a distribution list, and all the club members loaded their cars and made the deliveries. The list of families was obtained from school counselors in the area.



NORTH SHORE ROTARY club president Kim Gonzalez, left, and Rotary club members organize some of the Christmas Food Baskets that the club distributed to families last Thursday.



CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS line the hallway at the Holiday Inn in Channelview, awaiting delivery to almost 300 needy families by the North Shore Rotary Club.

## Jacinto City Police Department recognized at awards ceremony for their service

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. -- Wednesday December 14, 2016 at the Jacinto City Town Hall Center Jacinto City Police Officers and Police Dispatchers were recognized for their exceptional service and performance to the community they serve.

Police Chief Joe Ayala received an award from the Police Department's personnel for his continuing dedication and service to the department and community. Ayala received another Commendation Award from Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee for his many years of law enforcement service.

Sergeant Aguilera received Supervisor Of The Year Award, Officer Mascari, Corporal Ramos, Dispatcher Viana, Officer Pizano, Officer Martinez



Left to right: Dispatcher Viana, Lt. Longrigg, Dispatcher Garza, Corporal Nieto, K9 Officer Seydler, Sgt. Flores, Sgt. Aguilera, Dispatcher Solis, Chief Ayala, Officer Elizondo, Officer Soza, Officer Reyes, Sgt. Det. Silva, Officer Mestizo, Corporal Ramos, Officer Castillo, Lt. Det. Walker

al assault and crimes against children cases and Dispatcher Solis received the Dispatcher Of The Year Award.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Officer Reyes, Officer Mascari, Corporal Ramos, Dispatcher Viana, Officer Pizano, Officer Martinez

and Officer Mestizo.

Holiday seasonal music was provided by HISD's Whittier Elementary School Band and Director Larry Ward. Christopher Perez did a Michael Jackson impersonation.

Mayor Ana Diaz, city council members Mario Gonzales, Allen Lee, Gregg

Robinson, City Manager Lon Squyres, Congressman Gene Green and Constable Chris Diaz were in attendance.

Master of Ceremonies' was Lieutenants' D. Walker and M. Longrigg.

Mayor Ana Diaz and former Mayor and Police Chief Allan Jamail gave

words of praise to both the police department's personnel and Chief Ayala for their exceptional performance in keeping the city safe.

See Chief Ayala Recognition picture, page 4

## MEDICAL INNOVATION

### President signs Green's 21st Century Cures Act



President Obama signs 21st Century Cures Act, with Congressman Gene Green and other legislators that co-sponsored the bill looking on.

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 13, 2016 - Today, President Barack Obama signed into law legislation that will accelerate the pace of medical innovation and deliver cures to patients who desperately need them -- the 21st Century Cures Act. This landmark bill co-authored by Rep. Gene Green was overwhelmingly passed by the

House of Representatives on November 30, 2016, and passed the Senate on December 7, 2016.

"More than two years ago we set out an ambitious goal of accelerating the pace of medical innovation and delivering cures to patients who desperately need them," said Rep. Green. "President Barack Obama's signature of the

act into law marks a tremendous accomplishment and represents what can be done when leaders in Washington work together. It was a privilege to be a co-author of this effort."

The 21st Century Cures Act received strong bipartisan, bicameral support

See Cures Act, page 4

## SCHOOL COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

### Sheldon ISD board recognizes Educators



Educators of the Month included (in alphabetical order) Glenis Augustine, Garrett Elementary; Thrisa Callier, Early College High School; Kathie Cussen, Cravens ECA; Jeffrey DeWillis, C. E. King Middle School; Lisa Flores, Sheldon Elementary; Jennifer Kenney, Royalwood Elementary; Sylvester Mayfield, C. E. King High School; Je'neal Roland, Null Middle School; Evelyn Salines, Monahan Elementary; and Victor Zarzoza, Carroll Elementary. Also pictured are SISD Board President Ken Coleman (left) and SISD Superintendent King Davis. Not pictured is Zulema Rey, Sheldon ECA.



\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been so good  
because I helped clean  
my room. Can I please  
have a hot tucets playset  
and 5 pokemon cards  
and a Tomas play set.  
Adrian Tank

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been so good  
because I helped clean  
my house. Can I please  
have 1 yon't a la V.  
Thanks for mnckons.  
Anthony

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been so good.  
Can I please have a 4-  
wheeler?  
Reece

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been so good.  
Can I please have a  
techriscodr and Babby  
Alave dol and some  
hedfons.  
Brooklyne Lyne

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been so good  
because I wipe my tool  
and I want a megmasck-  
abon and a culfing bok  
and a dat man nackchro.  
And a car that can go no  
ware and rack and wuh.  
And I want a 5 nit -afffer  
please. And a smot  
wach and a sister  
Lackachin plushe. -And  
a thermos fock and  
Thermas a nudrnf. and  
a letck sekoodr.  
Tristen Peoples.

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been so good  
because I helped my  
house. Can I please,  
Jada

\*\*\*  
Santa,  
I have been so good  
because I helped my dad  
mog the flor. Can I  
please have a peppa pig  
play set and a Burie car  
and a home to lev in yas  
sur.  
Arianna

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been so  
good because I  
help my mom clean  
my house. Can I  
plese have a  
-puppy do.l and a  
guy Dimuca Dol.  
Thank you  
Kyla

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been so  
good because I'm  
good I clean my run  
Can I please have a  
playstation.  
Paul

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been so good  
because I help my  
mom cook. Can I  
please have bay go  
biby. Martie

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been so good  
because I helped my  
mom to clean my room.  
Can I goto Caltruyum.  
Jesse Navor

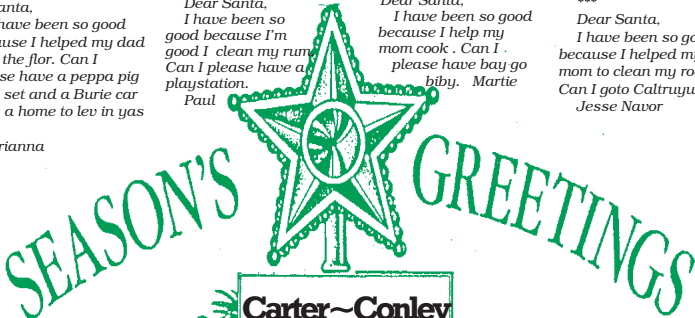
\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have bien so good  
becasue wan my mom  
wus at wure I have bien  
good the hol day I want  
a Litt live trdole and I  
want one of the -suphro  
toes and I want 01 of the  
villian.  
Christian, I Love you

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been so good  
because I be good at  
sool. Cna I please haave  
a big toy mostr truck and  
a hotweel set and a  
Texans shart. Thank you  
Santa .  
Love Elijah

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
May you please give  
me three Pokemon case  
one say grening and the  
other say chase ex and  
xbox one with Nfl17 and  
one nuke and one Jarden  
and nice close to go with  
it and close for my  
brother how was those  
born get elige those  
Pokemon box he want it  
and a bmx bike from  
Walmart.  
From Rashaan

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want a hovobord, a  
iphone 7, a new bike, a  
scooter bike, a ipaid, so  
new shoes, and more  
close.  
Love Keittlyn Mack

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I've been a good kid,  
so all i want for Christ-  
mas is a blue bicycle and  
a blue and grey helmet  
from the Crosby Wal-  
mart.  
Sincerely,  
Camila Valdes



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Joe Stephens and family

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Alex, Angela, Lauren, Braden, Gene, Helen,  
Dylan, Tristan, Chris & Brandy

**Wishing our education  
partners, district staff,  
students and community  
members a  
Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!**



**Channelview ISD  
Education Foundation**

*Whishing our  
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Happy Holiday  
and a Prosperous  
New Year!*

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ISD**



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*Channelview ISD wishes everyone  
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We would also like to extend "Special Thanks" to

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Chief Ayala Recognition,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Photo by Allan Jamail  
Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee presenting Chief Ayala with a Commendation Award.

## Cures Act,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and will facilitate the development of new antibiotics to fight against superbugs, advance the use of modern clinical trial designs, foster the next generation of medical researchers, and deliver hope and new treatments to Americans in need.

“The real-world impacts of the 21st Century Cures Act will affect the lives of Americans in treatment for cancer, Alzheimer’s, heart disease, or other rare diseases for generations to come,” added Rep. Green.

The most notable provisions of the \$6.3 billion act will:

- Authorize \$4.8 billion for the National Institutes of Health and \$500 million to the Food and Drug Administration.
- Designate \$1 billion over two years to battle the opioid epidemic.
- Call for \$1.8 billion in funding for Vice President Joseph Biden’s Cancer Moonshot initiative.
- Authorize a new approval pathway that will advance the development of new antibiotics.

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want an I phone 7, PS4, DS3, a computer. I don't want donald trump, I want a driver liscense, super powers, and any food and junk food when ever I want.  
Sincirly,  
Marcos

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Can I have no sister all the Diary of a wimpy kid books, all the DC Super pets books, Xbox1 game super smash bro; all the ponkone in the wort, a pone, for vanoss to be my Broter, and on sonic boom I weant to be finsg.  
Sincerely,  
Patrick

## \$26,000 donation to benefit industrial technology students

PASADENA, Texas – The San Jacinto College Foundation presented Covestro LLC with a recognition award for its \$26,000 donation benefitting scholarships for industrial technology students at the College’s December Board of Trustees meeting.

“Covestro has always been a good corporate citizen that engages in the communities in which we operate,” said Rod Herrick, Vice President and site manager of Covestro LLC Industrial Park in Baytown, Texas. “We love giving back, and through this financial assistance, we connect and hope to ignite the passions of the future innovators of tomorrow. We invite San Jacinto College students to apply for



The San Jacinto College Foundation presented Covestro LLC with a recognition award for its \$26,000 donation benefitting scholarships for industrial technology students at the College’s December Board of Trustees meeting. Photo credit: Amanda Fenwick, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations and government affairs department.

summer internships and hope they become part of Covestro’s workforce of tomorrow.”

The gift establishes a \$25,000 endowment with the San Jacinto College Foundation and an addi-

tional \$1,000 to immediately fund two \$500 scholarships in the College’s industrial technology programs such as electrical technology, environmental health and safety technology, instrumentation, pipefitting and welding technology.

“The San Jacinto College Foundation is proud to continue our partnership with Covestro, LLC,” said Ruth Keenan, San Jacinto College Foundation executive director of advancement. “Their commitment to our students provides the means for them to achieve their dream of an education and transition into the workforce.”

For more information on giving to the San Jacinto College Foundation, visit [sanjac.edu/foundation](http://sanjac.edu/foundation).

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Caleb Spear,  
I have been very good.  
Please bring me legos, nerf gun, hot wheels, I pad.

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Sloan Devil.  
I have been very good.  
Please bring me skylander, clothes, not wheels, legos.

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Izaiah.  
I have been very nice.  
Please bring me a toy game, a toy dog, ball, horse.

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
For christmas I want more than infinity neocube for I can make lots od things out of mangnets.  
Bersuin Zamora  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I would want a game for Xbox 360 called MW3 and MW2, and MW about training and trying to survive I will also like an iPad, iPhone and an iPad 2. I will also like a lazertag arena with lazertag guns.  
Maximo Amador  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I hope you stop at my friends house. She's poor and she says that she dosen't get presents. She looves to draw. Can you by her a crayon set please. Her name is Cheyenne.  
Maritz, age 9

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I know you have a lot to do back in the North Pole, but I wish to have skates, new glasses, new bike, bralate, neckless and for my family to be happy forever.  
Evelyn, age 9

\*\*\*

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LIFESTYLE

Rotary club to attract prospective new members



ROTARY DISTRICT 5890 consists of 63 clubs in the greater Houston area. To attract new members to all the clubs, the district and its Membership Chair, Amir Khan, have decorated this Hummer stretch limousine with graphics inviting prospective new members to join. Khan said that he and Eric Liu, District Governor, have a goal of adding one to three new members in each club. The district now has about 3000 members. The limousine can be seen all over the district, Khan said. If you are interested in knowing more about Rotary, the information and application are at [www.rotary05890.com](http://www.rotary05890.com) or call Khan at 281-831-1878. Khan is chairman of Ashland Hospitality, owner of several Holiday Inns, and a member of the North Shore Rotary.

Sheldon ISD “Celebrates the Season”

Members of the Suzuki Strings were one of many student performances throughout the day at Wednesday’s “Celebrate the Season” Open House at the Sheldon ISD Ney Administration Building. They are both 4th graders. Left child is Alexa Linares and right student is Hiromi Flores.



The Suzuki Strings Programs Program began 8 years ago in the district. It is offered, free of charge to all K students at Cravens and at Sheldon ECA. It continues for 6 years until they reach middle school and join orchestra. The parents must participate in this program. They attend every lesson with their child (2 lessons per week-1 hour group lesson and 1 30-40 minute private lesson per week. The parent also has their own 1 hour parents class per week.

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you?  
I have ben a good boy.  
I wood like a new pear of glassis for Christmas.  
Love  
Jayden Pineta

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been good. I wood like a barbe doll.  
Love,  
Anna Williams

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I’ve ben good. I wood like a monster true gray digr.  
Love  
Nathan Toler

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I hav ben gud. I wnt a dol hos.  
Love  
Katelyn Kroeger

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have bin gud. Ples brng me a truk.  
I love you.  
Love  
Adrian Thomas

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I wat a red and yellow bik.  
I hav bin a gud boy.  
Love,  
Aaron Martinez

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Darius.  
I liv in Texas.  
All I want for Crismos is thundr trok.  
Love,  
Darius

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have gen good this yir.  
I luv geting presents from you. I want a toy kitrn with a TV!  
Love,  
Rilea

★  
OBITUARIES

Curtis James Hill

Curtis James Hill, 89, passed from this life on December 14, 2016 in Houston, Texas. Curtis was born to parents William F. and Lydia Hill on February 3, 1927 in Cross City, Florida.

Curtis was a proud American, and served his country as a Merchant Marine during the Korean War. He was also a devoted Christian, and greatly enjoyed fellowship with his church family at The River Church in Channelview. For the last 50 years, Curtis was a member of the Pipefitters Local Union #211, and a member of the Seafarers International Union for 40 years. Curtis enjoyed dancing and spending time with his family.

Curtis is preceded in death by his parents, and sister Lorie. He is lovingly survived by his children, James Hill and wife Retha, Patricia “Trish” Zapata and husband Raul, Paul Hill and wife Angelina; grandchildren, Leticia “Tish” and husband Aaron, Krystal and husband Eric, Dwight, Morgan and husband Hector, Megan and husband Jaime, Colbi, Brady; great-grandchildren, Anthony, Makayla, Ava, Austin, Aubrey, Arian, Faith, Farah, Fallon, Hunter, Es-mirelda, Chloe, Liliana,



and Lorenzo; special friend and mother of his children, Maria Hill; as well as numerous extended family members and dear friends.

Friends joined the family for the visitation on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 from 5:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m. at Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 1:00 p.m in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home with Pastor Rob Morris officiating. Graveside services with military honors followed at 2:30 p.m at San Jacinto Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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John 7:38

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

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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



# BUSINESS, LETTERS TO SANTA

## Diamond Jim: "What is the birthstone for December?"



### ASK DIAMOND JIM

#### DECEMBER BIRTHSTONES

December's birthstones offer three ways to fight the winter blues: tanzanite, zircon and turquoise – all of them, appropriately, best known for beautiful shades of blue.

These gems range from the oldest on earth (zircon), to one of the first mined and used in jewelry (turquoise), to one of the most recently discovered (tanzanite).

All of these stones are relatively inexpensive, but their beauty rivals even precious gems. Colorless zircon is a convincing replacement for diamond, tanzanite often substitutes sapphire, and turquoise is unmatched in its hue of robin's egg blue.

Whatever your style preference or budget, one of December's three birthstones will match your true blue desires.

#### TANZANITE OVERVIEW

Tanzanite is the exquisite blue variety of the mineral zoisite that is only found in one part of the world. Named for its limited geographic origin in Tanzania, tanzanite has quickly risen to popularity since its relatively recent discovery.

Zoisite had been around more than a century and a half before this rare blue variety was found in 1967. Trace amounts of vanadium, mixed with extreme heat, cause the blue color – which ranges from pale blue to intense ultramarine with violet undertones.

Due to pleochroism, tanzanite can display different colors when viewed from different angles. Stones must be cut properly to highlight the more attractive blue and violet hues, and deemphasize the undesirable brown tones.

The majority of tanzanite on the market today is heat treated to minimize the brown colors found naturally, and to enhance the blue shades that can rival sapphire.

Tanzanite is still only found on a few square miles of land in Tanzania, near majestic Mount Kilimanjaro. Its price and availability are directly tied to mines in this region.

Tanzanite measures 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness – which is not nearly as hard as the sapphire it often substitutes. Given its vulnerability to scratch during daily wear and abrasion, tanzanite is better suited for earrings and pendants than rings.

Between its deep blue color and its limited supply, tanzanite is treasured by many – whether one is born in December or not!

#### ZIRCON OVERVIEW

Zircon is an underrated gem that's often confused with synthetic cubic zirconia due to similar names and shared use as diamond simulants. Few people realize that zircon is a spectacular natural gem available in a variety of colors.

The name zircon likely comes from the Persian word zargun, meaning "gold-colored." Others trace it to the Arabic zarkun, meaning "vermillion." Given its wide range of colors – spanning red, orange, yellow, green, blue and brown – both origins make sense.

Zircon commonly occurs brownish red, which can be popular for its earth tones. However, most gem-quality stones are heat treated until colorless, gold or blue (the most popular color). Blue zircon, in particular, is the alternative birthstone for December.

#### TURQUOISE OVERVIEW

Admired since ancient times, turquoise is known for its distinct color, which ranges from powdery blue to greenish robin's egg blue. It's one of few minerals to lend its name to anything that resembles its striking color.

The word turquoise dates back to the 13th century, drawing from the French expression pierre tourques, which referenced the "Turkish stone" brought to Europe from Turkey.

Ancient Persia (now Iran) was the traditional source for sky blue turquoise. This color is often called "Persian blue" today, regardless of its origin. The Sinai Peninsula in Egypt was also an important historical source.

The U.S. is now the world's largest turquoise supplier. Nevada, New Mexico, California and Colorado have produced turquoise, but Arizona leads in production by value, as well as quality. The stone's popularity here makes it a staple in Native American jewelry.

Turquoise is found in arid regions where rainwater dissolves copper in the soil, forming colorful nodular deposits when it combines with aluminum and phosphorus. Copper contributes blue hues, while iron and chrome add a hint of green.

Some turquoise contains pieces of host rock, called matrix, which appear as dark webs or patches in the material. This can lower the stone's value, although the uniform "spiderweb" pattern of Southwestern turquoise is attractive.

Turquoise is sensitive to direct sunlight and solvents like makeup, perfume and natural oils. The hardest turquoise only measures 6 on the Mohs scale, which made this soft stone popular in carved talismans throughout history.

From ancient Egyptians to Persians, Aztecs and Native Americans, kings and warriors alike admired turquoise for thousands of years. It adorned everything from jewelry to ceremonial masks to weapons and bridles – granting power and protection, particularly against falls.

Highly esteemed for its striking namesake color and its ancient history, turquoise remains popular through time.

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).

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
My wish and what I want for Christmas - My wish is the world can be a better place. What I want for Christmas is crosses and Lego's.  
Modesto, age 8

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. I would be more nice if my sister won't bother me. Any-way I want a 3Ds me and my friends broke it because fighting over it. Happy x-mas oh can you do a car. Give my mom and dad gifts.  
Michael, age 9

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want a play station 4 and the board game boxing of which ever robot regular or batman vs superman. Also a giant lego.  
Sincerely Jhan Sosa

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I love you Santa very, very much because if you didn't exist none of the children wouldn't have nobody to eat there cookies or drink there milk. And they wouldn't have any presents under there Christmas trees.  
So I was just saying keep up the good work and tell the elfs I said hi.

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Evan. I have been very good. Please bring me a dog, cat, dirt bike, toy elf. Lunch kit.

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Brogan. I have been very good. Please bring me a puppy, I want a poke-man, I want a dog, I want a castle.

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Paige. I have been very good. Please bring me a doll, make everybody be a friend.  
Another doll.

### ASK THE EXPERT

By Edward Jones

## Consider Some New Year's (Financial) Resolutions

We're just about ready to open the door to 2017, so you might be thinking about some New Year's resolutions. What's on your list this year? More visits to the gym? Learning a new language? Mastering the perfect beef bourguignon? All worthy ambitions, of course, but why not also include some financial resolutions?

By reviewing your needs and goals, you can identify some resolutions that are particularly relevant to your own situation. But here are a few suggestions:

- Build an emergency fund. If you needed a major car repair or a new furnace, or faced some other large, unanticipated expense, could you cope with it? If you didn't have the money readily available, you might have to dip into those investments intended for long-term goals, such as retirement. Instead, build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

- Cut down on debts. It's not easy to cut down on one's debt load. But if you can find ways to reduce your debts, you'll help improve your overall financial picture. Many debts are not "useful" – that is, they don't carry any tax advantages – so every dollar you spend to pay down those debts is a dollar you could use to invest for your future.

- Boost contributions to your retirement plan. If your employer offers a 401(k) or similar retirement plan, take full advantage of it. Your earnings have the potential to grow tax deferred and your contributions may lower your taxable income. Plus, most plans offer a selection of investment options, so you can choose the investment mix that fits your objectives and risk tolerance. Therefore, if your salary goes up this year, or if you think you can find other ways to free

up some money, increase your contributions to your retirement plan.

- Review your portfolio. Is your investment portfolio still on track toward helping you meet your long-term goals? If not, you may need to make some changes. You'll also want to study your investment mix to make sure it still accurately reflects your risk tolerance. Over time, and often without your taking any significant actions, your portfolio can "drift" to a place where you are taking on too much risk – or even too little risk – for your needs and long-term objectives. If this happens, you may need to "rebalance" your holdings.

- Avoid mistakes. None of us can avoid all mistakes, in life and in our investment activities. But as an investor, you'll clearly benefit from minimizing your errors. For example, it's generally a mistake to jump out of the market in response to a period of volatility. If you wait for things to "calm down" before investing again, you might miss out on the opportunity to participate in the next market rally.

- Think long term. Keep this in mind: You're not investing for today or tomorrow, but for many years from now. Try to keep a long-term focus when making all your key investment decisions. By doing so, you can avoid over-reacting to short-term developments, such as a sudden drop in the market or a "momentous" political event that actually decreases in importance as time goes by.

Try to follow these financial resolutions as best as you can. You could make 2017 a year to remember.

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

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5 Recipe meas.  
8 Foolproof  
12 Eastern potentate (Var.)  
13 Carnival city  
14 Slaughter of baseball  
15 Parks at a bus stop?  
16 Japanese sash  
17 Gallon fraction  
18 Hands-on-hips  
20 Small combo  
22 Women's wear  
26 Wander off  
29 Height of fashion?  
30 Bother  
31 Addict  
32 Supporting  
33 Cruising  
34 Aries  
35 Despondent  
36 Square dance group  
37 "It's a Wonderful Life" director  
40 Hearts, for one  
41 Phone function  
45 "Simpsons" creator  
47 Groening  
49 Yoko of music  
49 Nervous

DOWN

1 Zhivago's love  
2 Out of control  
3 Emphatic assent in Acapulco  
4 It gets a load from a lode  
5 Scout group  
6 Bro or sis  
7 "Lilies of the Field" actor  
8 Brown tone  
9 Norma Rae, for one  
10 Paul of politics  
11 Superlative ending  
19 Chesapeake, e.g.  
21 Spinning stat  
23 "Mary Tyler Moore Show" spinoff  
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give world that is the  
only present I want  
today and thnak you for  
all your hard work trying  
to give everyone pre-  
sents thank you for all  
the toys you have given  
kids I hop you have a  
very good crismas bye!  
Sensiraly yours  
Marcela Mendez

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Thank you for every-  
thing you did for me and  
Mary Christmas and i  
hope you got my leter  
and i hope you git this  
leter and if Ms. Clus is  
not here thar say hi.

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I wot vok kesmos  
Famar.  
I Love David Kase

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Your are very nice  
because you give is  
presents. and I will give  
you a present back. and  
santa I will give you  
cookies every Dad like  
you. give us Presents  
ever day only on crist-  
mas like you are sopos  
to. Santa, mrs. claus you  
are The Best because.  
you eat the cookies we  
make you Do you love  
Them.

Thank you for doing  
what you can do for us  
thank you All.  
Mariah Smith

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I hope you geive all of  
the Crhesmas Prasetas  
to the Poor Cheilgrins  
and I hope you Have a  
grate day.  
Baby

\*\*\*\*

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