

INSIDE: Letters to Santa, Season's Greetings on the Christmas Tree, page 2



# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

*Your News, Your Newspaper*

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 7, NO. 50 (#304) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 & 26, 2019 www.northchannelstar.com

## Galena Park celebrates with Christmas Parade & Santa

Hundreds lined the streets for the annual Christmas Parade in Galena Park last Saturday evening. Starting at the athletic fields, the many parade units marched down Main Street to City Hall on Clinton Drive, where a large crowd had gathered to see Santa and receive a free gift and food.

Parade units were judged with 1st place to the Galena Park HS Jack-teers; 2nd place to the GP Parks and Recreation Dept.; and 3rd place to the GP Fire Department.

Children sat with Santa inside City Hall, and gave him their wish list.



Mayor Moya is joined by Santa Claus and Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez beside the tree in City Hall.



Galena Park City Hall was decorated with lighting for the Holiday. Hundreds of children lined up for the opportunity to talk with Santa, and receive a gift. MORE ON PAGE 8.

## MUSTANGS TO DEFEND STATE CHAMPION TITLE IN REMATCH

*Defeat Lake Travis 49-38; Duncanville next*



#3 Zach Evans, Mustang running back sprints 37 yards for a TD. In only 2 quarters of play, he ran for 176 yards. Photo By Allan Jamail

By Allan Jamail

ROUND ROCK, TEXAS - Saturday, December 14th at the Kelly Reeves Athletic Complex the North Shore Mustangs won the semi-final playoff game over the Lake Travis Cavaliers (Austin, TX) advancing them to

the State Championship in a rematch with the Duncanville Panthers.

Playing without Zach Evans the Mustangs most powerful running back for the first half of the game they had no problem putting away the Cavaliers from Austin 49 to 38. Evans arrived late because he was

taking his college SAT test. Fans and teammates cheered when he took the field, the nation's top running back wasted no time adding his contributions; in his two quarters of playing he made 176 yards averaging

*See Mustangs Defend Title, Page 8*

From the Channelview Fire Department  
And Commissioners of Harris County  
ESD #50

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Channelview Fire Department assists with  
Annual Community Toy Drive:



### Annual CHRISTMAS PARADE

Thursday, December 19 starting at 6:00 pm.



Parade starts at Channelview Fire Station #3 on Dell Dale and ends at Channelview ISD Admin. Building at Sheldon & Woodforest.

## Season's Greetings from NORTH SHORE ROTARY



### Supporting Youth & Community Projects in the North Shore



We packed and delivered 300 Christmas Food Baskets for Needy Families. Pictured are Rotary members loading a truck for delivery.



Rotary members provided hundreds of backpacks to children as part of a Community Health Fair.

You are invited to join our Service Club. For membership information, Call 713-451-3600

**Ryan Dagley, President**



## Letters to Santa

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have done a lot of things and went trew a lot during the past few years, my dog that I had a while ago got taken by some people and have been wanting another one even since then, though I might get another one sometime in the future. One thing more recently that has been bothering me is that my room has been destroyed and has been under construction for the past year now and had to sleep in the living room since then, and I wasn't able to have much privacy because of that. My brother had heart failier a couple of months back and had like 2 to 3 different surgeries. So I've been going threw a lot and I would help if I had a yeri microphone, and some good video capture card that could record video games in really high quality. Just so I could have some cool videos to have so I could just have something to occuipie my time and look back on some times when I was having then.

Adam Hampton, 13 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I hope you had a great year! I have been good I only got a couple conduct marks better than last year. Thank you for the presents last year I would like a nurf gun bullets and a nedelo. If I got that my heart would be blown up.  
Merry Chrstimas  
Brycen Schroden, 8 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How is everything going? I've been helping my mom. I realy love the ipad. This year I would like a xbox one, I would love it! Merry Christmas!  
Lane Landree, 8 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I hope your doing well! I will be on my best behaver. Thank you for the gifts you gave me last year. I would love a phone and it will make me so happy. Merry Christmas Santa.  
Madelyn Sebren, 9 years old

## Letters to Santa

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I would like cupcakes and cake and a pex fish and cookies and a new backpack and a doll-house.  
Zady bejarano, 9 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I would like an Nintendo swich, Mi-necraft toys, phone, super Mario toys, Sonick toys, Lost Kiteys toys. I have been relly good this year. I helped my with chohres.  
Anthony C., 8 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? I hope you are doing well! I have improved a lot! I have good grades! Thank you for the dool you got me! This year I hope for a baby a live! I would share it a lot! And it would fill my hart with joy. Merry Christmas!  
Kyndra Thompson, 9 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? I tried to do my best and I did king of good. Thank you for the Xbox 1 last year. This year can I get some books and Legos. And I will be really really happy! Merry Christmas!  
Keegan Mcgee, 9 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? I hope you are doing well? I have been doing good with Reading! Thank you for the tablet last year. This year I would want a doll. I would be so thankful for it. Merry Christmas don't get sick yall.  
Kalli Olree, 8 years old

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How is everything going? I hope you are dping well! I try hard to be helpflu. Thank you for the stuff that you gave me last year! I really loved the pony! This year I want a intend sich. It wode make me happy!  
Merry Christ-mas!  
Anabell Salinas, 8 years old

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

### Carter-Conley Funeral Home

wishes you  
**Happy Holidays**

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From Our Family to Yours,  
Best Wishes for the New Year



Judge Joe Stephens and family

Wishing our community  
a Happy Holiday  
and a Prosperous  
New Year!



Season's Greetings &  
Happy New Year

FROM CONSTABLE CHRIS DIAZ & FAMILY,  
and Constable Precinct 2 Staff



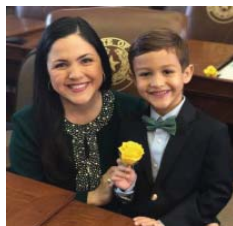
May the season

fill your home with love and joy through the closeness of friends, family, and the comfort of home. And may our nation renew ourselves to serving the least amongst us and treating one another with respect and dignity.

*Sylvia R. Garcia*

SYLVIA R. GARCIA

Wishing you a Merry  
Christmas and  
Happy New Year!



State Rep.  
Ana Hernandez

Sheldon ISD  
wishes everyone  
a Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year

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We thank you for  
another Year of  
Support for your  
Community Newspaper

Best Wishes  
for the  
Holiday Season

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



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Community Involvement

**Interested in participating in a John C. Maxwell Master Mind Group?** Groups are now being formed for 2020. Current plans are for the traditional group as well as an all women group and a group for those under 30 years of age. For more information, please call 346-297-0080. You may also visit [www.johnmaxwellgroup.com/corneliuswilson](http://www.johnmaxwellgroup.com/corneliuswilson)

**The Social Striders Walking Club** is off to a great start. The group meets weekly at 6 a.m. on Saturdays for a short time of walking and with each month, the goal is to walk a little farther. Please contact Kristina at 713-305-0140 for more details.

**Volunteer Deputized Voter Registrars** are needed to not only register new qualified individuals to vote in Harris County Elections, but are needed to help others verify and update their voter registration information. We are trying to set up dates at area apartment offices as well as at special events to help get everyone registered to be able to vote in the March Primary Elections. If you have completed the training to be a Volunteer Deputized Voter Registrars, please contact Charlotte at 281-241-7059. Registration updates will begin on Saturday, January 4 throughout the community.

**Houston Eastside Prayer Gathering.** As we prepare our hearts for 2020, we are looking for others to join us in praying for our community. There is a group of prayer intercessors who gather from 7 – 8:30 p.m. on the first Friday of each month to pray for the North Channel Community. Our group has met at the Channelview Fire Station, Harris County Constable Precinct 3's station, Harris County Justice of the Peace Courtroom, as well as at LaQuinta Inn on the Beltway. We prayed together for the Grand Opening of Skatetown as well as prayed at churches.

If you would like the group to meet and pray for your business, church, community center or at another location in our area, please send an email at [HEPGprays@gmail.com](mailto:HEPGprays@gmail.com) or call 281.924.1207. Follow us on Facebook and join us to make a difference in the community.



## Giving of Yourself

As we begin to wrap up 2019, I invite you to look around at where you can give of yourself in the New Year. There are countless opportunities to donate time and energy into making the North Channel Area a better place to live, work and worship.

The evening before Skatetown opened, a group of individuals met to pray over the success of the renovated business. The group was given a list of areas that are often discussed on social media, over coffee, at church and in local homes. The list included working with children, working with youth, working with Senior Adults as well as working with Veterans. There are many in the community who currently work with the homeless and hungry. There are those who work with programs to help others overcome addictions. There are those who are focused on rescuing animals and helping to stop animal abuse.

There are those who are concerned about the individuals who are caught up in human trafficking. There are pockets of neighbors who want to help the families of those who are incarcerated as well as those who are returning to the community after being incarcerated. Everyone wants to see these people come home and be a member of productive society, but who is willing to hire them? Or even work on compiling a database of those who will hire an ex-offender.

There are many who by no fault of their own cannot make their money stretch to the end of the needs. Many churches offer financial planning classes. Is this someone

willing to offer a class outside of the church so that the unchurched will attend? Many of our neighbors will take English classes through Harris County Department of Education, but how many of us are willing to take a Spanish class? Perhaps someone who is a native Spanish speaker would like to put together a free basic Spanish class?

Who is willing to step up and help with some programs for our youth after school? Perhaps if they had something to do, even if it was to learn the basic that many of us learned as a teenager, these young people would bond with the older adults and perhaps even work on a community garden.

We have many single parents in the community that need a support group. If we find a facilitator, who is willing to step up and keep the children busy while the parents are meeting? We have many families in our community that are touched by mental illness, they too need a support group. Who is willing to lead an education class based on the National Alliance on Mental Illness? Countless families have an immediate family member who has been diagnosed with a disability and the family has no idea of how to get started getting assistance. Anyone want to offer a free class on how to get started?

I invite any of you who want to make a difference to get involved. In the next few days, community members will be asked to bring their calendars and work on an inclusive calendar for the area. Keep watching and we will keep you informed so that you can join us.



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Season's Greetings



Season's Greetings

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**GO NORTH SHORE MUSTANGS!!!**  
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**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR NORTH SHORE MUSTANGS ALL THE WAY TO STATE!!! CALL WILLIE G 832-290-0355**





# Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor  
Association of Mature American Citizens

## Ask Rusty – Retired Public Servant Surprised by “WEP”

**Dear Rusty:** I turned 62 in October 2018. A few months prior to my birth month, I went on the Social Security website which said my estimated benefits would be between \$900-\$1000 at full retirement age and between \$600-\$700 at age 62. I receive a pension from a city government where I was a firefighter for almost 20 years where I did not pay Social Security tax on my income, but I have over 20 years invested in Social Security from other jobs. I expected the cut in benefits for retiring early (62), but I was totally caught off guard by my benefits being cut in half again because of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). My city pension is about \$1700 monthly, and it's my understanding that WEP is not supposed to reduce my Social Security by more than half of my government pension. My current Social Security benefit is \$348 a month which is considerably less than half of my \$1700 pension. Am I missing something? Shouldn't I be getting \$600-\$700 in Social Security benefits? Signed: Retired Firefighter

**Dear Retired Firefighter:** WEP rules are complicated and you certainly aren't alone in your dismay over how WEP affects Social Security benefits for public servants in certain states which didn't participate in Social Security. I'll try to shed some light on what happened to your benefit amount.

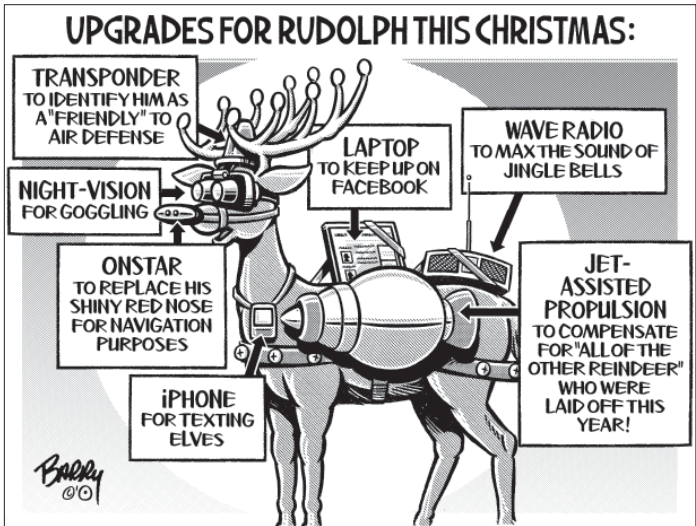
The first thing you should know is that the estimates you received from Social Security before you claimed were just that – estimates. If you were working in SS-covered employment prior to getting the estimate, the amounts given assumed you would continue to work at your recent SS-covered earnings until your full retirement age. If you didn't, your full retirement age (FRA) benefit amount would be less than the amount quoted. The estimate given at that time didn't take WEP into account either. The WEP reduction takes place before the reduction for claiming early at age 62. WEP affects your “primary insurance amount” (PIA), which is the amount you're normally entitled to at your full retirement age from SS-covered work.

When you applied for Social Security your PIA was recomputed using a special WEP formula. Your PIA is based on your “average indexed monthly earnings” or “AIME”, which is the monthly average of the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime in which you contributed to Social Security. Your PIA is determined by breaking your AIME into 3 parts (called “bend points”), multiplying those parts by a certain percentage for each part, and totaling up those three computations. When WEP applies, the first part of your AIME is multiplied by 40%, rather than the normal 90%, of the first \$895 of your

AIME (this is the amount for your “eligibility year” 2018). So, the first part of your WEP AIME would contribute \$358 (instead of the normal \$805) to your PIA and, thus, to your FRA benefit amount – a reduction of \$447. (If you have more than 20 years of substantial earnings in SS-covered employment, the impact of WEP is lessened by about 5% for each year over 20). There is a maximum WEP reduction (\$447 for 2018) and there is also a rule which says your WEP reduction cannot be more than half of your non-covered pension amount. But since half of your city pension is more than \$447, that rule does not change the WEP reduction.

So, using your general numbers, if your FRA benefit (before WEP) was “\$900-\$1000”, let's say that your normal PIA was about \$950. After the WEP reduction your WEP PIA would be about \$503, which is what you would get if you waited until your full retirement age to claim Social Security. By claiming at age 62, your benefit was reduced by about 27%, which would make your benefit about \$367/month. This isn't far from what you are now getting, considering that we're using only estimated numbers in these calculations. Remember, the SS rule doesn't say that your WEP reduced benefit amount can't be less than half of your non-covered pension amount. Instead it says that the WEP reduction to your PIA can't be more than that.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.*



## Secretary of state convenes discussion on 2020 Census

AUSTIN — Texas Secretary of State Ruth Hughs on Dec. 11 hosted a roundtable discussion of state agencies to coordinate efforts to accurately count all Texans in the upcoming 2020 Census.

Hughs was joined by Dr. Steven Dillingham, U.S. Census Bureau director; Dr. Lloyd Potter, Texas State demographer, and representatives from state agencies and the Texas Legislature.

“The census plays a major role in determining the distribution of federal funds to the Lone Star State in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture and infrastructure and housing, as well as determining the size of our congressional delegation,” Hughs said.

“That's why it's imperative that we work collaboratively towards finding ways that our state's agencies can help to ensure that we count all Texans in the upcoming census,” she added.

### Abbott declares disaster

Gov. Greg Abbott on Dec. 12 certified that exceptional drought conditions pose a threat of imminent disaster in the counties of Bandera, Blanco, Burnet, Concho, Karnes, Kendall, Kinney, Llano, Maverick, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Zapata and Zavala.

The declaration states that significantly low rainfall and prolonged dry conditions continue to increase the threat of wildfire across the affected counties. The governor added that drought conditions pose an imminent threat to public health, property and the economy.

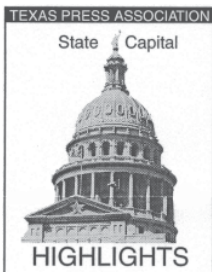
Abbott's declaration authorizes the use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster.

### Hegar distributes revenue

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Dec. 11 announced his office would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts some \$820.5 million in local sales tax allocations for December.

The amount is 7.8 percent more than the amount distributed for the month

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling



of December 2018. Allocations are based on sales made in October by businesses that report tax monthly.

### Bonnen names committee

House Speaker Dennis Bonnen on Dec. 10 named seven people to the House Interim Study Committee on Aggregate Production Operations.

The panel will review the impact of aggregate production operations at rock-crushing facilities, concrete batch plants and hot-mix asphalt plants across the state and the implementation of HB 907, a new state law relating to the regulation of such activities.

Named to the committee were: State Reps. Terry Wilson, R-Georgetown, chair; “Mando” Martinez, D-Weslaco, vice chair; Alma Allen, D-Houston; Jared Patterson, R-Frisco; J.M. Lozano, R-Kingsville; Andrew Murr, R-Junction; Erin Zwiener, D-Driftwood; and public members, Capitol Aggregates President Greg Hale and Texas Aggregates and Concrete Association Director David Perkins.

### Paxton joins FIGHT

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Dec. 11 joined in a nationwide effort by attorneys general in calling on Congress to pass the bipartisan Federal Initiative to Guarantee Health by Targeting (FIGHT) Fentanyl Act.

If passed, the legislation would permanently classify fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I drugs and ensure that law enforcement agencies and courts are able to bring justice to those illegally trafficking in the drug.

The Drug Enforcement Administration issued a temporary scheduling order for fentanyl in February 2018, allowing federal law enforcement authorities to arrest and prosecute individuals who manufac-

ture, distribute or handle fentanyl-related substances. Paxton said the temporary scheduling order will expire in two months.

### AGs support pipeline

Attorney General Paxton on Dec. 10 announced that his office joined a coalition of 18 states urging the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn a lower-court ruling that blocked construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

The coalition's friend-of-the-court brief argues that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit incorrectly ruled the U.S. Forest Service lacked authority to grant the Atlantic Coast Pipeline rights-of-way through forestland beneath federal trails.

The pipeline project, if completed, would transport natural gas through five West Virginia counties en route to Virginia and North Carolina. The halting of the pipeline construction has already cost jobs and lost revenue, Paxton said.

### Plan While You Can

The Texas Department of Transportation on Dec. 12 announced the launch of its “Plan While You Can” campaign, urging drivers to find a sober ride during the holiday season.

In 2018, there were 2,370 DUI-alcohol related crashes in Texas during the holiday season. Those crashes killed 75 people and seriously injured another 199, TxDOT said.

“The bad decision to drink and drive can turn the joy and revelry of the season into tragedy, causing unimaginable heartache for years to come,” TxDOT Executive Director James Bass said. “There's no excuse: plan ahead and be responsible.”

Instead of getting behind the wheel while under the influence of alcohol, TxDOT suggests:

- Designating a sober driver or calling someone for a ride home;
- Calling a cab or ride-share service;
- Using mass transit; or
- Spending the night.

The effort is a component of #EndTheStreakTX, a social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit and never driving after drinking or taking drugs.

## THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

## “Christmas at the Greenhouse”

It is the tender cusp of Christmas.

It is that time when emotions run close to the overflow point, when sentimentality and anger and depression and euphoria mix freely together, with not enough space between them to tell the difference from one moment to the next.

I am visiting my parents—and of course this does not help.

My parents are doing well (thank you for asking). They are in their eighties now, still living in their dream cabin in the woods and, although I know they are growing older, the signs are so incremental and their attitude so upbeat, it is easy to deny the passage of time when I am with them and imagine I am a much younger person than I actually am.

Yesterday, we stopped at the local greenhouse in the small town near their cabin. It was unbelievably cold. I don't know why I couldn't believe it; I grew up in the cold and was raised with the idea that extreme cold was a signpost of Christmas and a litmus test for true Christmas spirit. But the truth is, I haven't lived in a very cold place for a while and the cold stole the breath out of me.

The greenhouse was a bit out of our way, but my mother explained, “I like to support them, they put up such nice floral arrangements in the summer!”

The shop was surrounded by welcoming signs and Christmas trees propped up against giant bags of earth, waiting for spring. Inside it was warm and smelled of soil and cinnamon.

As my parents were in the greenhouse, bundling up the poinsettia for the drive home, I warmed the car and looked across the street at a mobile home that was a little worse for wear. The yard was piled high with stuff, now half buried in the snow. As I waited, the door flew open, accompanied by a string of expletives.

A man about my age was following a younger man out of the house, screaming at him, yelling terrible things. I watched as the young man—who was wearing the beginning of a thin beard and a winter jacket—was chased out of the house and began walking down the country road alone.

Minutes later, my parents in the car, we were driving home on the road that leads to the greenhouse when we saw the young man, walking. It was several miles to town.

“Should we stop, dad?” I asked. My dad was silent.

“It's hard to know what to do,” my mom said, quietly.

The young man seems appropriately dressed for the weather. He is walking down the road in a deliberate fashion, as though he knows where he was going—I say all this to myself because I know I won't stop. I know I won't take a chance and put this stranger in the car with my eighty-year-old parents and get involved in something that I don't know the first thing about.

We drive by. Snug inside the car, my mother holds the small poinsettia in her lap. I wonder what that young man's Christmas will be like and I don't know what to do. I don't know what to do, in this crowded time of year, with all the emotions that bump against each other. I don't know how to sort out the tangled strands of joy and sorrow that run through me.

Sitting with my happy, healthy parents, I am quiet as I watch the young man, walking alone down the road on this bright cold day.

Till next time,  
Carrie  
Carrie Classon's memoir, “Blue Yarn,” was released earlier this year. Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

### Have A Very Merry!

You deserve the merry best.

### HOFFMAN-LIU DESIGN ASSOCIATES

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THOUGHTS FROM  
HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



The Rest of the Story

Christmas is coming. I know; there's no surprise here. You knew Christmas was coming back in October when decorations and craft items started hitting the store shelves. You knew it when the commercials started sneaking in even before Thanksgiving. Still, Christmas is almost here, and that's a good thing. Why? Because it's the time of year that often makes even those whose hearts are hardened toward God stop and think that maybe there's something to the story of the baby that changed the world.

The story of Jesus' birth will be told over and over again in coming days. Families and churches will read it in their Christmas gatherings. People will hear it on the radio as Christmas music shares the Word through both classic and contemporary lyrics. People will see it as they drive by nativity scenes in front yards. They'll even be exposed to the Christmas story in commercials and as they shop, because no matter how PC this world gets there will always be companies that use the true Christmas story to boost their sales.

But here's the deal: The baby in the manger is only the beginning of the story, and Christmas is our God-given chance, an open door for us to share the rest of the story. Christmas stops people in their tracks for a moment, turning their eyes to this One who came to change the world. When they pause, hesitating in their dash through increasingly busy lives, we gain the opportunity to make a genuine introduction, to help them understand who Jesus

Christ really is, and who He wants to be for them.

Let's not stop with the nativity this year; let's purpose in our hearts to share more, to take people further into the greatest story ever told. It's true that in most cases we only have that moment, that instant of hesitation as the nativity catches their eyes. However, a lot can be said in just a few words, words like, *AgIt's wonderful to think that any father, especially God, would ask his son to be born for people like us knowing that he was doing it specifically so he could die for us.* Ah

That wouldn't be enough to give them all of the answers, but it might be just what is needed to make them truly stop, to inspire them to start asking the right questions. Whether they ask you what you mean or go to Google for answers, your brief comment may be all it takes to trigger a sincere search and lead them to that one critical decision that will make all the difference in the rest of their story.

Christmas is a busy, noisy time, a time of rushing and laughing and listening to music that may or may not get the message right. In the midst of the busy-ness and noise, let's keep our eyes and ears open for opportunities to share the love that changed our lives. Let's remember God's purpose in sending His son, and listen for His promptings to do our part in helping others gain a greater understanding of what we really mean when we say, *Merry Christmas!*

MyHillsideFamily.com  
@MyHillsideFamily

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I would like an new Nintendo swich game the game Donkong. And a Hoverboard. And a fish. And do notfall off the roof!!!  
Anthony Delgado, 9 years old  
\*\*\*

Behold!  
A Child Is Born

The parishioners of St. Jude Thaddeus in Highlands extend a warm greeting to those seeking a church to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and share the blessings of another Nativity celebration.  
Parishioners, we are grateful for the support and encouragement we have received during this year.



CHRISTMAS  
SCHEDULE 2019

MASSES

Christmas Eve  
Tuesday, Dec. 24

4:15 pm -- Christmas Carols  
5:00 pm -- Vigil Mass  
11:15 pm -- Christmas Carols  
12:00 am -- Midnight Mass

Christmas Day  
Wednesday, Dec. 25

9:00 am English Mass  
  
11:00 am Spanish Mass

New Year's Eve  
Tuesday, Dec. 31

8:30 am English Mass  
6:30 pm Vigil Mass

New Year's Day  
Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020

8:30 am English Mass  
9:00 am Bilingual Mass


281-843-2422  
www.stjudehighlands.org  
Rev. Jose Mundadan, Pastor

★

OBITUARIES

Frank DeMarco

DeMarco, Frank, 87, of Crosby, Texas, passed away on Friday, December 13, 2019. Beloved husband of the late Joan (nee Powers) DeMarco. Loving father of Diane DeMarco & her husband Dave Manson, Frank DeMarco, and the late David DeMarco. Frank was an Army Veteran who served in the Korean War. He was also a proud Plant Supervisor for Continental Can Company. Friends will be received Thursday, December 19, from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM at the Ippolito-Stellato Funeral Home, 425 Ridge Road, Lyndhurst. Funeral Mass Thursday, 1:00PM, St.




Michael's R.C. Church, Lyndhurst. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. Send condolences to stellatofuneralhomes.com

Ippolito Stellato  
Funeral Home  
425 Ridge Rd  
Lyndhurst NJ 07071  
(201)438-4664

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I would like some head Phone for my Nintendo Switch. Lost kitteys toys. Clues for my mom. A gift crad for my mom. For nite shart and I was good for my mom.  
Jordan, 8 years old

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The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-20,  
King James Version



1: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.  
2: (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)  
3: And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.  
4: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)  
5: To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.  
6: And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.  
7: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.  
8: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.  
9: And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.  
10: And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.  
11: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.  
12: And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.  
13: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,  
14: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.  
15: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.  
16: And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.  
17: And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.  
18: And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.  
19: But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.  
20: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I've been good all year I've gotten good grades and I know That you have been watching me. I know I've been a little bad but I want you To bless the people in need. I would like a phone. Thank you.  
Israel Marin, 9 year old  
\*\*\*

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and I will be healed;  
save me & I will be saved,  
for you are the one I praise  
--Jeremiah 17:14

LOVE NEVER FAILS  
I Corinthians 13:8

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PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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ROMANS 8:18

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# ASK THE EXPERT

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*

Dear Santa,  
I am not always good at school or home. Please  
tell all the boys and girls around the world Merry  
Christmas. Also, can you make me a special toy.  
Jesses S., 10 years old

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*

Diamond Jim: "My husband and I work hard. What is  
the most durable (toughest) watch available for  
Men and Women?"



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Watch isn't just marketing  
hype. Reactor was conceived  
from day one to design out  
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all possible features of a  
watch. The result of this "ge-  
netic engineering" is the Re-  
actor DNA, a set of features  
that is shared by every Reac-  
tor Watch. They claim that  
this DNA forms the core of a  
product that will outlast and  
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weak point of most watch-  
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for the human eye to fully  
adjust to the dark, Superlu-  
minova's intense peak  
brightness makes a Never  
Dark® watch easily visible  
during that initial period.  
This can be even more im-  
portant when moving re-  
peatedly from light to dark  
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will continually recharge  
and the eye will not have  
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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.

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### Amber Waves



### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, column, and each 3x3 box contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

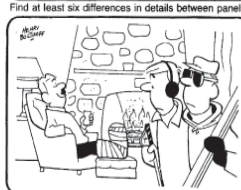
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

♦♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTTHOFF

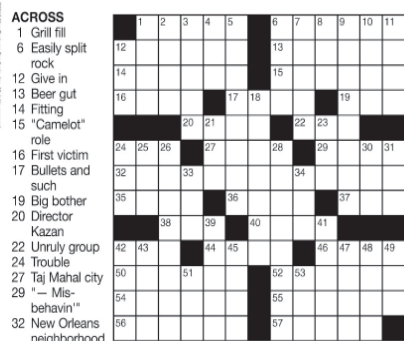


Differences: 1. Plant on market is missing. 2. Man has replaced his nose. 3. Replace his nose. 4. Man has replaced his nose. 5. Replace his nose. 6. Man has replaced his nose. 7. Replace his nose. 8. Man has replaced his nose. 9. Replace his nose. 10. Man has replaced his nose.

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Posting Date December 16, 2019

### King Crossword



**ACROSS**  
1 Grill fill  
6 Easily split rock  
12 Give in  
13 Beer gut  
14 Fitting  
15 "Carnelot" role  
16 First victim  
17 Bullets and such  
19 Big bother  
20 Director Kazan  
22 Unruly group  
24 Trouble  
27 Taj Mahal city  
29 "Mis-behavin'"  
32 New Orleans neighborhood  
35 Criterion  
36 Yanks  
37 Sauce source  
38 That girl  
40 Send forth  
42 Raw rock  
44 Sheltered  
46 Capri, e.g.  
50 Swiss city  
52 Country  
54 TV's Superman portrayer  
55 Nasal qualities  
56 First-born  
57 Have a hunch

**DOWN**  
1 "— Your Enthusiasm"  
2 Reed instrument  
3 More than enough  
4 Whopper  
5 Unwavering  
6 Unwanted email  
7 Ricochet, in billiards  
8 Shack  
9 Occupies  
10 Gulf War mis-sile  
11 "Comin' — the Rye"  
12 Masseurs' workplace  
18 Theater canopy  
21 Fond du —, Wis.  
23 Scull need  
24 Sternward  
25 Anger  
26 Diminished  
28 Increases  
30 Ultramodernist  
31 Have a go at  
33 Ultimate  
34 "— was saying..."  
39 Icicles' homes  
41 Saturn's largest moon  
42 Storybook baddie  
43 Stagger  
45 Survive  
47 Deadly septet  
48 Playgoers' box  
49 Type measures  
51 Previous night  
53 Shock and —

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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GOVERNMENT: When was the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency founded?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What gift arrives on the 10th day in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?
- MOVIES: What was the name of Shirley MacLaine's character in "Terms of Endearment"?
- PERSONALITIES: At which sport did Babe Didrikson Zaharias excel in the 1940s?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: How do baleen whales eat?
- FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Which early American statesman once said, "A good conscience is a continual Christmas"?
- MUSIC: Which singer was nicknamed "The Material Girl" in the 1980s?
- BIBLE: What was Moses' wife's name?
- INVENTIONS: Who is credited with discovering X-rays?
- MEDICAL: What does the Ishihara test gauge?

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250th Ticket ..... Ring Doorbell  
300th Ticket ..... 28" Blackstone Griddle  
350th Ticket ..... \$200 Gift Card  
400th Ticket ..... GoPro Hero 7

450th Ticket ..... \$250 Gift Card  
500th Ticket ..... Waspper 3200 Gas Power Washer  
550th Ticket ..... Shotgun  
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# SEASON'S GREETINGS

## Christmas Parade,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



The Galena Park High School Jacketeers were judged the best entry in the Christmas Parade. They also participated in the Jacinto City parade last weekend.



The Galena Park Fire Department entry won 3rd Place, with their decorated newest ladder truck, and their antique pumper.

## Mustangs Defend Title,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing 11 yards per carry and two touchdowns (TD).

Without Evans, Coach Kay relied on the remarkable amount of depth his Mustang team has. Picking up the slack in the run game was backup quarterback junior Roger Hagan converted to a running back who ran for 114 yards averaging 5 yards per carry with a touchdown. As always junior quarterback Demetrius Davis displayed his amazing talents, running for 101 yards, averaging 6 yards a carry and a TD. He also passed for 125 yards and 3 TD's and led the 514 offensive yard game. Nshore's junior receivers, Jermond Batiste and Charles King each caught a TD pass as did senior Ismael Fuller from Davis. Nshore led at halftime 28 to 3.

A rematch between two of the nation's high school super powers, the Mustangs and Panthers are getting national attention. Hundreds of college scouts and news media representatives will converge on the Dallas Cowboy Stadium in Arlington, Texas to watch them battle for the highly coveted Class 6A Division I state championship first-place trophy.

"UNFINISHED BUSINESS" has been the Duncanville Panthers slogan throughout 2019 season. The Dallas/Duncanville fans and coach Reginald Samples and his team have been repeating it every since last year when North Shore won the championship title on the last play of the game on a 45-yard Hail Mary pass as time expired.

Coach Kay said, "we know what kind of a program Duncanville has and the talented players they have, they're a well coached team. Each team we play we know we have to get better and to prepare for the next one."

North Shore has never won back to back state championships, opportunities is seldom there for any team in any sport to do it, can the East Side Boys do it? They're on a mission; they have returning powerful, battle tested players with an explosive offense that easily defeated Katy, Atascocita and Lake Travis. Saturday they're hoping to say, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

While the offense has been very good, scoring lots of points, it's their defense that has been a key to their wins too. Duncanville's offense will test them for four full quarters, make no mistake about it, the defense is going to play a major role in the outcome.

North Channel Star photojournalists Allan and Lin-

da Jamail will be on the field for the game, they've covered 30 consecutive games to bring North Channel Star readers the Mustangs games results.

North Shore (14-1) vs Duncanville Panthers (15-0) will play for the 6A Division I Title UIL High School Football State Championship at the AT&T Dallas Cowboy Stadium, Saturday, December 21st at 3 PM.



#8 Ismael Fuller, Mustang wide receiver catches a 31 yard TD pass from Demetrius Davis at the goal line.



#7 Jermond Batiste, Mustang Junior receiver catches a 43 yard TD pass from quarterback Demetrius Davis in the end zone.



#9 Demetrius Davis, Mustang junior quarterback dives between 2 Lake Travis defenders for a TD.

Photos By Allan Jamail

## North Shore Mustangs' Rounders



Photo by Allan Jamail

The Rounders, the North Shore Mustangs on the field flag barriers and cheering team. They keep the fans in the game, boosting the morale of both players and fans.

Happy Holidays!

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