

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

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City
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School kids walking home with their parents stop to get candy and have their photo made with Jacinto City's friendly Grinch. (Allan Jamail Photo)

Kids love Jacinto City's friendly Grinch

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. – December, 18, 2020, Jacinto City's elementary school kids have been getting a pleasant greeting from a friendly Grinch on their way home from school for the past three weeks.

The friendly Grinch along with Henry its helper passes out Christmas candy canes along the sidewalk as the kids leave the school grounds. Parents walking with their kids want to take their photo and encourage them to not be afraid of the Grinch.

At school kids must

wear masks to prevent catching or spreading the virus. And most are too young to understand why they could be in danger of the deadly and highly contagious disease.

Jacinto City's Mayor Ana Diaz said, "I'm thrilled to see our city has citizens like the friendly Grinch sacrificing their time to make children happy at a time when there's been so much worry and nervousness over the COVID 19 virus."

The Grinch said, "one day while sitting on my porch watching the kids walk by I was thinking

how the pandemic has affected them in so many negative ways. So I figured everyone needs a little cheer and laughter to lift their spirits. I decided to be a friendly Grinch, not like the unfriendly Grinch who stole Christmas in the children's story books."

"When I began waving and dancing so the kids could see I was friendly I could see and hear their excitement, it was amazing. They began chanting over and over, here's the Grinch, here's the Grinch. Seeing the excitement on their faces I knew this was good for the kids, it made me so happy."

Mustangs cruise past Eagles 38-7, advance to regional Play-offs

**NS MUSTANGS
CRUISE PAST
PEARLAND DAWSON
EAGLES 38 - 7**

By Allan Jamail

Webster, TX - Thursday, December 17, 2020 at the Clear Creek ISD Challenger Columbia Stadium the North Shore Mustangs and the Pearland Dawson Eagles both undefeated this season went head to head in their second play-off game. Coach Jon Kay's Mustangs made it look easy as they cruised to win their 26th consecutive game 38 - 7.

The Mustang offense racked up 417 yards under quarterback Demetrius Davis. Davis ran for 67 yards and 2 touchdowns (TD's) and passed for 236 yards and another TD.

Mustang touchdowns were made by Demetrius Davis (2 TD's), Shadrach Banks (1 TD), Jhayln Bailey (1 TD) and a 59 yard pass interception TD by defensive back Jacoby Davis. Freshman kicker Stephen Guzman kicked a 23 yard field goal and he and Carlos Dominguez

See NS MUSTANGS, page 6



#97 Kris Ross Mustang junior defensive tackle sacks the Dawson quarterback for a loss of yards. (Allan Jamail photo)



#4 Demetrius Davis Mustang quarterback sidesteps Eagle defender and crosses the goal for one of his two rushing TD's. Davis signed a letter of commitment to Auburn University. (Allan Jamail photo)

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

**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year**



Channelview Fire Department
Serving our Community



Annual CHRISTMAS PARADE
Friday, December 18



**Season's Greetings
from
NORTH SHORE
ROTARY**



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



We packed and delivered 250 Christmas Food Baskets for Needy Families.



Even our president got
"Pies for Polio" - in the face.



We support Parks, Playgrounds & Bike/
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this North Shore Rotary Park.

You are invited to join our Service Club. For membership information,
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Lowell Everitt, President

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa, I help in the kitchen, and I also help my dad to give the food to our dogs and chickens. For Christmas I want nails and a iron that you put on your hair like little bit rocks, and I also want a book that it has a mermaid that you can change the clothes. Thank you, Amy.

...

Dear Santa, How are you doing? I have been a good boy, because I clean up. I also help my mom what she says. For Christmas I would like a piano please. Thank you, Fans.

Dear Santa, I want for Crism is a pig LOL and a skateboard. Ray, 6 years old.

...

Dear Santa, Can I please have a scapbardand a nod-wearings and a fidget spinner please. Auxmy, 6 years old.

...

Dear Santa, A baby tots doll, a Brbey doll. Please and thank you. Devan, 7 years old.

...

Dear Santa, I umun Mario game, lego, Mario puppy, a fish, sonic mania plus PS3 and sonic granrasnn. It's me Mario maker. Cason, 6 years old.

Dear Santa, Can I please have a LOL and puppy and ramps. Emily, 6 years old.

...

Dear Santa, I love christmas I want a lol house and a hachmals fly and lols pig and barbed, Kinley.

ear Santa, How are your reindeer? I have been a good boy today and I LOVE Christmas. I want a Firebalsby. Luke, 7 years old.

...

Dear Santa, Haw are you? Haw are rarders in the NOR PLL? Can you a tteickop and RC plan. Orian, 6 years old.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

Carter~Conley
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Holidays

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



Joe Stephens and family

Season's Greetings

From

TURNER



CHEVROLET

CROSBY, TEXAS

Letters to Santa

ear Santa, How are your ranger? I was a lettuce SoDr for cosmos. I sow at sis mostcus. Luke,

Dear Santa, Wht is it like at Nufl Puot? Can I hav crayons, Can I hav Sillycents, Can I hav bike, Can I hav tbises, Can I hav Xbox, Can I hav a ... Morgan, 7 years old.

Dear Santa, Haw are eu and dears. Could I please hav a good toys. Love, Travis, 6 years old.

Dear Santa, I have been good. I help my little brother clean his room everyday that it is messy. I help my sister take care or my little brother at home. I help my mom wash dishes at home.I would like the skateboard that is teal and enemy. Stenho; scegris for my family gloss and thank you, Santa Clos. Love, Kaylani.

...

Dear Santa, I ben good. Be KS. I hop my mom mk

Dear Santa, How are you? I'm good. How are your reindeers doing? I want a Nintendo switch and a Ryan egg and a rainbow dash doll and a elf on the shelf toy and a buzz lightyear toy that talks. I want these cause I'm trying to be a good girl this year.Chloe.

...

Dear Santa, Megalodon RC car that goes on water and land. Some gummy bears and that's it. Jagger.

Dear Santa, I want a it pops and a bit kit fairs book, and a have bold. I love you the most. Noon, 7 years old.

...

Dear Santa, I want a Lol doll, Padaly, I want a Bobe Dol, Prise slag. Makynzie, 6 years old.

Dear Santa, A ef buk. A fak ef. A babeyg. A harer toy, a sm kj. A toy bog. Srdner, 6 years old.

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



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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Every Child, Every Day



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Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
I like a dog, & bar dos
and long 5. I have been
good all year. Thank
you, Sasha, 7 years old.

...

Dear Santa,
I would like a tele-
scope, skateboard, and
a dirt bike and play
station. I have been good
all year! Thank you,
Landon, 7 years old.

Dear Santa,
This is With. I want
for Christmas Jessica.
Twins baby dolls,
stroller, play laptop,
prissce dress-up kit,
baby close, baby toy
high chair, baby shoes,
baby diaper bag with
lotto room, kids fake nail
not glue on, a reborn toy
box, 10 baby bottles,
hanger for a baby close

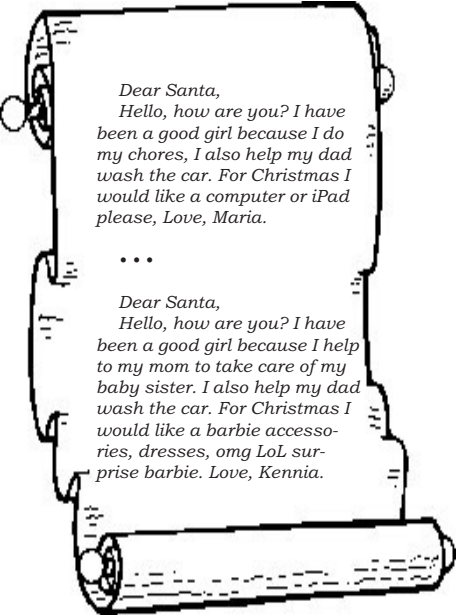
...

Dear Santa,
I want for Christmas
is LOL surprise dolls a
barbie house and A
pretty pink bike and a
LOL play home and
that's it. Parker.

Dear Santa,
I wanna bunch of LOL
dolls and I went Barbie
doll and I want that
rainbow collection.
Paisley.

...

Dear Santa,
Hello, how are you? I have
been a good girl because I do
my chores, I also help my dad
wash the car. For Christmas I
would like a computer or iPad
please, Love, Maria.



Dear Santa,
Hello, how are you? I have
been a good girl because I help
to my mom to take care of my
baby sister. I also help my dad
wash the car. For Christmas I
would like a barbie accesso-
ries, dresses, omg LoL sur-
prise barbie. Love, Kennia.

...

Dear Santa,
I have been good most
of the year. Can I have a
some hot wheels pleas
and a among plashy,
please.
Love Credenec. Love
Santa.

...

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I
have been a good boy
because I help my
mother cook in the
kitchen. I also clean with
my mom. For Christmas I
would like a PS5 please.
Thank you, Chrisian.

...

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COVID-19 Test Sites Closed
Christmas Eve & Christmas
Day

Houston – Christmas is
almost here, the second
COVID-19 vaccine is
authorized for emergency
use and it's still critically
important you get tested
and take precautions to
prevent getting the virus.
Cases and hospitalizations
are climbing in Harris County
and unfortunately, holiday
gatherings are expected to
fuel that trend. Celebrate the
holidays in safe ways. Either
share your holiday traditions
virtually or keep your
gatherings small, 10 people
or less. Wash your hands
frequently and wear masks
except when eating or
drinking. Get tested now
and if you test positive, stay
home so you don't infect
others. Testing at Harris
County Public Health sites is
free for everyone and results
are available in 3-5 days.
Mobile locations are listed
below. Children can also be

tested at these sites. Register at
hcphtx.org or call 832-927-
7575. All the test sites below
are FREE and open Monday-
Wednesday 8a.m.-3p.m. and
some are open on Saturday, 12/
26, exceptions noted.

• M.O. Campbell Education
Center

Open Mon-Wed 12:00p.m.-
7:00p.m.

Also open Sat (12/26) 8.am-
3p.m. 1865 Aldine Bender,
Houston, TX 77032

• Cathedral of St. Matthew

Also open Sat (12/26) 8.am-
3p.m. 9101 Airline Dr,
Houston, TX 77037

• Grayson Community Center

Also open Sat (12/26) 8 a.m. –
3 p.m. 13828 Corpus Christi
St, Houston, TX 77015

• George Bush Park

17245 Westheimer Pkwy,
Houston, TX 77082

• Bear Creek Islamic Center

Also open Sat (Dec 12/26) 8
a.m. – 3 p.m. 1 7 2 5 0
Coventry Park Dr, Houston, TX
77084

• Sri Govindaji Gaudiya
Matha Temple

Also open Sat (Dec 12/26) 8
a.m. – 3 p.m. 1 6 6 2 8
Kieth Harrow Blvd, Houston,
TX 77084

• Strawberry Park

1104 Parkside Dr, Pasadena,
TX 77504

For the Pasadena and Katy
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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.

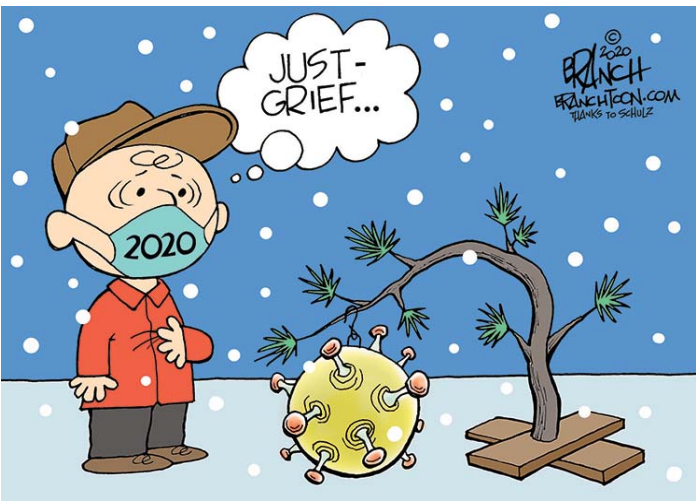
16: And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

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.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Chris Cobler



Briscoe Cain questions legality of virtual Legislature

Public access to Legislature up in the air

When the Texas Legislature convenes Jan. 12, a key question is how the public will have access to their lawmakers during the pandemic. State Rep. Briscoe Cain, R-Deer Park, is asking Attorney General Ken Paxton to issue an opinion about whether the Capitol building must be open during the legislative session. Further, should legislators be required to be in person during any debate and vote? During the pandemic, many local and state elected bodies have switched to virtual meetings. The state Legislature, which meets in odd years, has been out of session this year. The Capitol building has been closed since mid-March, but the Texas State Preservation Board reopened the Capitol grounds last week. Briscoe also asks of the attorney general, “Does the Legislature, any other Texas elected official, or any state agency have the power to close the Capitol to the public? If so, under what circumstances?” An attorney general opinion does not carry the weight of law. Meanwhile, leaders in the Texas House and Senate are working on their rules of engagement.

More COVID-19 vaccines on the way

More than 1,100 providers in 185 Texas counties will receive the COVID-19 vaccine during the second week of distribution, the Texas Department of State Health Services announced. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will deliver 460,500 doses of the vaccine manufactured by Moderna and 159,900 doses of the Pfizer vaccine to continue to vaccinate front-line health care workers and residents of long-term care

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



facilities. “Adding the Moderna vaccine will dramatically increase the amount of vaccine that can go to rural areas and smaller providers because it ships in smaller quantities and can be stored longer at regular refrigerator temperatures,” DSHS Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt said in a statement. “Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are safe and effective – both can confer protection against COVID-19, regardless of which vaccine you receive.” The Moderna vaccine began shipping Sunday and is arriving this week in Texas at providers such as hospitals, freestanding emergency rooms, emergency medical service providers, pharmacies, local health departments, health centers and other clinics. For a list of providers, go to dhs.texas.gov. In the first week of distribution, 110 hospitals in 34 counties received more than 224,000 doses of COVID-19. By the end of the month, more than 1 million vaccines will be distributed to a variety of providers, Gov. Greg Abbott said during a news conference. “It is a historic week in the Lone Star State as the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine arrive in our communities,” Abbott said.

Cyberattack blows back on SolarWinds

An Austin company is at the center of an investigation into a cyberattack on multiple federal agencies. Various news sources have reported the hackers, backed by a foreign government, stole information from multiple agencies, including the Commerce and Treasury departments and Homeland Security. The cyber spies are thought to have gotten access by tampering with updates released by Austin-based SolarWinds, which provides networking software. Since first being reported Dec. 13 by Reuters, the federal investigation has expanded beyond the SolarWinds breach. SolarWinds was founded in Tulsa in 1999 and moved its headquarters to Austin in 2006, according to its website. The company has more than 3,200 employees globally and about 320,000 customers in 190 countries. In a Dec. 14 filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, SolarWinds said it was unable to predict the financial damages the company would suffer. In the days after the attack was reported, SolarWinds’ stock prices fell more than 15%.

The best Christmas ever

Christmas came early for two Texas institutions of higher learning. Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, ex-wife of Amazon owner Jeff Bezos, announced she was giving \$50 million to Prairie View A&M University near Houston and \$40 million to Texas A&M International University in Laredo. The two gifts are the largest in the history of both universities. The money is part of more than \$4 billion in donations Scott has made during the past four months to 384 organizations across all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. “This pandemic has been a wrecking ball in the lives of Americans already struggling,” Scott wrote in a Medium post. “Economic losses and health outcomes alike have been worse for women, for people of color and for people living in poverty. Meanwhile, it has substantially increased the wealth of billionaires.” Ruth J. Simmons, Prairie View president, called the unrestricted gift transformative. “I was stunned and, for a time, speechless,” Simmons said in a statement. “At first I thought I had surely misheard the amount, and I asked them to repeat it; they clarified that it would be \$50, five zero, million.”

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at ccobler@texaspress.com.

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

“As much Christmas as possible”

Whatever you think about Christmas, I think you would have to agree we need one this year.

Everyone I know seems determined to do as much Christmas as it is possible to do. My pastor announced at the beginning of Advent that we were going to have 26 consecutive Zoom Advent services.

“We’re having 15 minutes of Advent reflections EVERY night!” she announced.

“Surely she means every week,” most of the congregation thought.

“EVERY night!” she repeated for clarification.

“I am not Zooming every single night of Advent,” I thought. “That’s just excessive.”

But after the first night, I looked forward to the second night and then it became a habit and, after a few nights, I couldn’t imagine missing my little 15-minute dose of Christmas hope and positivity and fellowship. Fifteen minutes was just enough to settle my thoughts. There was music. I was asked to read a couple of times. We all waved “hello” at the beginning and, before we knew it, we were waving “goodbye.” I can’t remember ever feeling the approach of the Christmas season so intimately, so incrementally, so intensely.

I’ve heard there is a worldwide shortage of Christmas trees.

Folks who haven’t bothered to put up a tree in years decided this was the year. Usually, if I have a tree at all, I look for a skinny tree I can stash in the corner and still have room for company. Not this year.

This year, I got a big fat tree fresh off the truck. I figured no one else was using the space so, instead of tucking it in the corner, I set it smack-dab in the middle of the room. When I came down the next morning, that tree had doubled in size. My husband, Peter, was completely hidden behind it, as if he were reading the news in the forest.

I’m embracing every-night-Advent and the world’s fattest Christmas tree because there is so much else that won’t be the same and, of course, I will miss it.

There will be no crush of middle-aged cousins getting together on Christmas Day. My mom won’t host Christmas brunch and we won’t open presents together and I won’t hear my niece and nephew play piano in church. None of the things that have made Christmas seem like Christmas will happen, and yet I am looking forward to the day with a peculiar fervor.

I think about people long ago who watched as the days grew shorter and the nights got longer and the weather grew colder and their supplies dwindled. When the winter solstice arrived, they needed to assure themselves that the darkness would end. They needed to pull together whatever sort of comforts they could manage and thumb their noses at the cold and dark and growing fear that spring might never come, that the sun might simply disappear one afternoon and never return.

So they had a party. I’m sure most of the parties were small, as Peter’s and mine will be. But they would eat something special and haul something green into the house and build a bigger fire than usual and reassure themselves that the dark and cold and loneliness would end and a better day would come.

And that’s what we’re doing this year.

We’re going to huddle around our Zoom and our oversized tree and eat a little extra peppermint ice cream and Peter’s good ginger cookies and be grateful for everything we have and more grateful yet that this time—this dark time—will slowly but surely be coming to an end.

Till next time, Carrie
Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.



with Slim Randles

The Christmas Gift

When it comes to romantic flops, it’s hard to beat Ol’ Dud. He and Anita have been married for about five years now, but sometimes we question why she puts up with him. He has all the courtship skills of a flea collar.

“Dud Campbell,” Anita said the other night, “what are you getting me for Christmas?”

“Now Honey, it wouldn’t be a surprise if I told you, would it?”

“That means you haven’t bought it yet, doesn’t it?”

“Well, I won’t say I have and I won’t say I haven’t, but, uh, don’t get in that cupboard out in the garage now...”

“I won’t, Dud,” she said, purring.

Ten minutes later, Dud was flipping his coffee cup upright and sliding into his place in the line of scrimmage at the philosophy counter of the Mule Barn truck stop.

“I’m dead meat, guys,” he said.

We inquired as to why this emotional putrefaction should be setting in, and he said, “I don’t have anything for Anita for Christmas and I have no idea what to get her.”

“Let’s look at this scientifically for a moment,” said Steve. “What kinda stuff does she like?”

“Uh ... well ...”

“You don’t know, do you?” said Doc.

“Not a clue.”

“Does she read? You can pick up a couple of books.”

“I don’t really know. I never really paid attention.”

“Does she knit?”

“Knit what?”

“Never mind.”

“I got it,” said Herb Collins. “You can get her a gift certificate to a store and let her pick out her own gift.”

“She said if I ever did anything so insensitive, she’d brain me with a skillet.”

So Dud headed home, only to find the garage door open and Anita standing there holding his brand-new Homelite XL chainsaw. He only had time enough to mumble “Our father...” when Anita set it down gently and flung herself in his arms.

“Oh Honey, how did you know I wanted a Homelite XL with automatic oiler and a 16-inch bar? I couldn’t help myself. I looked in the cupboard and found it. It’s just what I’ve always wanted.”

“Well, Darlin’,” Dud said in his most debonaire voice, “I do try to be sensitive to your needs.”

Brought to you by the Homelite XL chainsaw, which fended off the Alaska cold for ten years for this family. Found at Home Depot and Wal-Mart.

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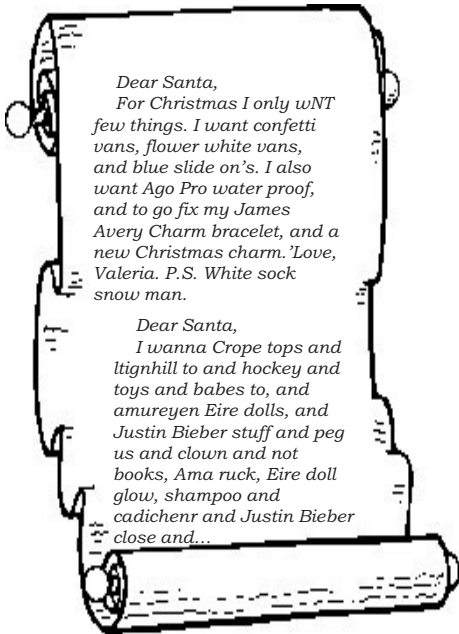


Dear Santa,
I want PJ masks toys,
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PJ Jacket shears. All PJ
mask roller skates.
Love Danny, 5 years
old

...
Dear Santa,
I want a unicorn star
bely team lion. A soirees
for my DS lite. A big
unicorn plushy. A Mario
game and a toy Soward.
Also a beautiful princes
dress, a happy napper, a
megnic dress set.
Thank you, Phoenix
Morrison

Dear Santa,
I want goldPIZ and
AmooG US plusher PIZ. I
been good and a GOPI-
CO

And a tank



Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas to
you! This year I would
really like an LoL doll
and accessories. Thank
you!

Love, Rebeckah

...
Dear Santa,
Christmas List: 1:
Scrunches, 2: hover
board, 3: white crocs, 4:
A lava lamp, 5: Spa kit,
6: Juicy peach cotton
candy cloud Slime, 7:
Popcorn squishy toy, 8:
hoodies

From Shyanne

...
Dear Santa,
Flowers, crimes stuff,
and wigs, and makeup
to and brucnes to, and a
iPhone II 2 of them, and
1 black and one white
beet Santa!

Hi Santa can I get a
bike for Christmas and
some new clothes and
shoes. Deandre.

Dear Santa,
I have been good this
year. Because I have
been helping my mom.
And I have been helping
with my baby sister. And
I have been helping my
step mom. And I have
been helping Ms. Teo-
mas. I want books about
nature and birds. And
some more bedded cbs.
And regale please! Love,
Ana.

...

Dear Santa,
I have been good this
year because I help my
mom feed the dog and
rapt the presintana let
the dog out. I want Sture
EIF and Sture Grinch
and a bow and grow.
Love, Steele.

Stuffybaby Yoda,
book, stuff teddy bear of
Rudolph. Noel.

Dear Santa,
I bin doing my work
and doing my best on my
work. My Crisms toy is
going to be a cuchrow
car. Brady.

...

Dear Santa,
I have been good this
year because I be at
school, because I do
good. For Christmas I
want a not nerPiece of
paper. Jayden.

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want
a new playstation and a
fortnite game. And a toy
car and a pet. And a new
tv, and a new baseball
bat. Andrew.

...

Dear Santa,
I won't a toy, alam-
rgine, a baby dog,
francs, and PS5. Aiden

Retirement party for Denise Smith



Co-workers and friends recently held a retirement party for Denise Smith of Highlands, who after 33 years serving in the Justice of the Peace office for Harris County, is retiring. Seen above is a group at the party, with Judge Joe Stephens at the back.

Denise has been busy not only with her work, but as a past president of the Highlands Rotary Club, a member of the San Jacinto Pilot Club, and a board member of the North Channel Chamber of Commerce.

Denise and her husband Jerry plan to relax and take time to travel.

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NFL season is winding down: Time for Texans to sit Watson?

Two weeks remain in the 2020 NFL season and there is still much to be decided in Week 16 and Week 17.

One thing is for sure, Texas' NFL franchises are going nowhere in 2020 and will go into their respective offseasons with a lot of questions to answer. In Houston, who will be the new general manager and head coach? Will J.J. Watt be traded for badly needed draft picks? In Dallas, will owner Jerry Jones sign quarterback Dak Prescott to a long-term contract or place the franchise tag on him to make sure he can return after that ghastly ankle injury he sustained in Week 5 against the Giants? Cowboy fans are also wondering why Jones would bring back head coach Mike McCarthy who has been anything but inspiring in his first year on the job.

While the Cowboys and Texans look ahead to 2021, folks in Green Bay, New Orleans, Kansas City, Pittsburgh and others are thinking about the postseason and a trip to Tampa and Raymond James Stadium, the site of Super Bowl 55.

While the country will be celebrating the holidays this weekend, the NFL will focus on the business at hand. Commissioner Roger Goodell is giving NFL fans the gift of football starting on Christmas Day when Minnesota visits New Orleans. On Saturday, there will be a triple header and the holiday weekend will conclude on Monday Night Football when the Buffalo Bills will travel to New England to bring an end to the Patriots reign as owners of the AFC East Division.

The Texans host Cincinnati and the biggest intrigue is whether or not the team will shut down quarterback Deshaun Watson (3,761 yards, 25 TDs) for the rest of the season to keep him from suffering a serious injury. Two weeks ago in the team's 36-7 loss at Chicago, Watson took a lot of abuse. Maybe it's time to sit down the talented signal caller and start looking ahead to next season.

The Dolphins visit Las Vegas on Saturday night in an important game for both



teams. The winner remains in the AFC Wild Card race, while the loser will need a lot of help to qualify for the post season. The Colts visit the suddenly-struggling Steelers on Sunday afternoon, while the Rams visit Seattle with the NFC West title at stake. Sunday Night Football should be a good one as Tennessee visits Green Bay. The Packers wrapped up the NFC North two weeks ago with a win at Detroit, but they are still in contention for the top seed in the NFC, so don't expect the Packers to take this one lightly.

Before we take a look at those games and a handful of others, let's review last week's record. A 4-3 week brought the season record 92-46 (68%).

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2020 can't end soon enough! Let's hope 2021 is a much better year.

NFL

Minnesota at New Orleans: The Vikings and Saints will meet in New Orleans on Christmas Day in an important game for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Vikings lost at Tampa Bay to badly hurt their playoff chances, while the Saints were upset at Philadelphia, which prevented Sean Payton's team from clinching the NFC South title. Vikings QB Kirk Cousins (3,298 yards, 27 TDs) and running back Dalvin Cook (1,352 yards, 14 TDs) will face a Saints defense that was embarrassed rookie quarterback Jalen Hurts two weeks ago. The NO defense recorded no sacks and gave up 24 points to the first-time starter. Don't be surprised if Drew

Brees returns at quarterback for the Saints. That should be good news for running back Alvin Kamara (723 rushing yards, 10 TDs/77 receptions, 694 yards, 4 TDs), who thrives in the passing game with Brees on the field. Look for the Saints to make it a Merry Christmas for their fans. My pick, New Orleans 31, Minnesota 23

Miami at Las Vegas: As stated earlier, this is an important game for both teams. They each need to win to remain alive in the AFC Wild Card hunt. Two weeks ago, the Dolphins dropped a tough 33-27 decision at home to the Chiefs, while the Raiders were blown out at home by the Colts, 44-27. Miami rookie QB Tua Tagovailoa (1,214 yards, 9 TDs) had his first 300-yard passing game in the KC loss and it appears he has a favorite target in tight end Mike Gesickie (44 receptions, 602 yards, 6 TDs). The Raiders will need a big night from quarterback Derek Carr (3,443 yards, 24 TDs) and tight end Darren Waller (84 receptions, 817 yards, 7 TDs). Look for the Miami defense to be the difference maker in this one as the Dolphins continue to be one of the feel good stories of the 2020 season. My pick, Miami 33, Las Vegas 25

Indianapolis at Pittsburgh: Don't look now, but the Colts are surging while the Steelers are struggling down the stretch. Two weeks ago, the Colts put up 44 points on the road in Las Vegas, while the Steelers struggled once again on offense and were only able to score 15 points in their loss at Buffalo. Indy QB Phillip Rivers (3,507 yards, 20 TDs) and rookie running back Jonathan Taylor (759 yards, 6 TDs) are getting hot at the right time.

Pittsburgh needs Ben Roethlisberger (3,292 yards, 29 TDs) to put the team on his back and turn things around as the play-offs approach. The Steelers are struggling to run the football, so look for Big Ben to come out firing against the Colts. Pittsburgh will need a strong effort from its defense to slow down the Colts and it says here they do just enough on defense to carry the Steelers to a very important win on Sunday. My pick, Pittsburgh 26, Indianapolis 20

New York Giants at Baltimore: The Giants saw their five game winning streak come to a close two weeks ago when they fell at home to the Cardinals. New York struggled on both sides of the ball and things won't get any easier for Daniel Jones (2,462 yards, 8 TDs) when they face a Baltimore team that must win out to land a playoff spot. Look for Ravens QB Lamar Jackson (2,218 passing yards, 18 TDs/793 rushing yards, 6 TDs) to have a bit day as the Ravens look to finish with a strong kick. In Baltimore's 47-42 win at Cleveland two weeks ago, Jackson rushed for 124 yards and scored two touchdowns and passed for another score in a game they had to have to keep their playoff chances alive. My pick, Baltimore 33, New York Giants 18

Cincinnati at Houston: Talk about a stinker of a game! If Watson does play, the Texans should jump on the injury-depleted Bengals early and let A.J. McCarron play the majority of the second half. Two weeks ago in their 36-7 loss at Chicago, the Texans looked bad in all three phases of the game. This might be a good time to start auditioning for a new running back. I think we all know what David Johnson can and can't do and Duke Johnson is more of a third-down back. It's time to see what the Texans have on the practice squad and the Bengals would be the perfect team to give someone else a chance at toting the mail. My pick, Houston 26, Cincinnati 13

Los Angeles Rams at Seattle: A big one in the NFC West race pits the Rams against the Seahawks. Two weeks ago, the Rams looked like solid on both sides of the ball in their 24-3 thrashing of the Patriots in LA, while Seattle ran roughshod over the Jets as quarterback Russell Wilson (3,685 yards, 36 TDs) and wide receiver DK Metcalf (69 receptions, 1,180 yards, 10 TDs) hooked up for a touchdown. Wilson returned to his early-season form when he looked like a lock for the MVP award as he threw four touchdown passes in the route of the Jets. Wilson will face one of the league's best defenses led by defensive tackle Aaron Donald. The Rams have a pretty good offense as well led by quarterback Jared Goff (3,509 yards, 18 TDs) and two quality receivers in Cooper Kupp (79 receptions, 869 yards, 3 TDs) and Robert Woods (76 receptions, 796 yards, 5 TDs). The team that runs the ball the best should win this game and I like the Rams three-headed rushing attack against a suspect Seattle front seven. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 32, Seattle 29

Philadelphia at Dallas: When the schedule came out in the spring, may thought this game might decide who would win the NFC East, but after injuries have decimated both teams, this one is being played for pride and bragging rights. Two weeks ago, the Eagles upset the Saints at home as rookie quarterback Jalen Hurts (309 yards, 2 TDs) won his first start and might have signaled the end of the Carson Wentz era in Philly. While the Eagles were winning at home, the Cowboys put forth one of their better efforts of the season with a 30-7 drubbing of the Bengals in Cincinnati. Now, it was the Bengals, so let's not get too carried away with ourselves Cowboy fans! It was a nice win for quarterback Andy Dalton (1,340 yards 9 TDs) who returned to the place where he started for nine years. Look for running back Ezekiel Elliott (832 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Amari Cooper (80 recep-

tions, 942 yards, 5 TDs) to pad their stats against a beat up Eagles defense as the Cowboys look to finish the season on a positive note. My pick, Dallas 31, Philadelphia 23

Tennessee at Green Bay: A good one for the Sunday Night Football crew as the Titans visit Lambeau Field and the Packers. The Green Bay defense will have its hands full trying to slow down running back Derrick Henry (1,532 yards, 14 TDs), who is looking for his second straight NFL rushing title. If Henry gets going early, that will set up the play action passing game for quarterback Ryan Tannehill (3,209 yards, 28 TDs) and speedy wide receiver A.J. Brown (51 receptions, 837 yards, 9 TDs). The Packers have a pretty good signal caller as well in a guy named Aaron Rodgers (3,685 yards, 39 TDs) and a big-play wide receiver in Davante Adams (91 receptions, 1,144 yards, 14 TDs). GB will need to get running back Aaron Jones (823 yards, 7 TDs) going to offset the Titans pass rush. I think weather might play a factor in this one as the Packers thrive in cold-weather games. My pick, Green Bay 33, Tennessee 26

Buffalo at New England: The Bills could very well enter this game with the AFC East title in their possession, but you can bet they will want to let the rest of the AFC know that they will be a force to deal with in the playoffs. Quarterback Josh Allen (3,641 yards, 28 TDs) and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (100 receptions, 1,167 yards, 5 TDs) should have another big day against a New England defense that appears to be wearing down. Bill Belichick's playoff run appears to be over, but don't expect the Patriots to be down for too long. Belichick is too good of a coach. He will address what needs to be fixed in the offseason, but this is the Bills' year and winning at New England would be the icing on the cake for the 2020 Bills. My pick, Buffalo 23, New England 20

ASK THE EXPERT

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to spend time with our families, just like you will with yours,
We’re reminded of those who we’ll miss at this time,
It’s hard to believe so many years have gone by.

Our proud “Wall of Honor” saluting the Brave,
Our “Missing Man Table” honors those in their grave,
I think of the many who’ve passed on before,
They protected our peace, our land, and our shores.

And as I turn off the lights on this eve of great joy,
I can’t help but be thankful to those who deploy,
Tonight with my family, we’ll all say this prayer...
“See them home safely, they have family there”.



We are forever grateful to those who have served, do
Serve and will serve as first responders, member of
the US military, and our front-line medical personnel.

Merry Christmas and Thank you!

Thank you for reading the “Ask Diamond Jim” column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!

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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.

Mustangs defeat Dawson Eagles 38-7,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

kicked the games extra points.
Kay’s defense allowed only 1 TD coming in the 4th quarter with less than 3 minutes in the game. They made numerous sacks on the quarterback, causing 3 fumbles and an interception.

Next game will be: the 6A Div 1 Region 3 Regional Play – North Shore (12-0 Overall, 6-0 District) vs Katy Tompkins Falcons (10-0 Overall, 6-0 District), both teams undefeated. Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020 at 1:00 PM at Katy ISD Legacy Stadium.

The Mustangs have a 26 game winning streak on the line and won 42 of their last 43 games.

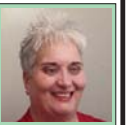


#6 Jhalyn Bailey scores on a 55 yd pass from Demetrius Davis. (Allan Jamail photo)



Senior Mustang #2 Shadrach Banks makes a 29 yard run for a TD. Banks signed a letter of commitment to Texas A & M University. (Allan Jamail photo)

CHARLOTTE’S WEB



What a Wonderful Community

Imagine being a young single parent, trying to catch a ride with friends, neighbors or through Lyft to get to work and then come home to help your six-year-old with schoolwork. Imagine having to rely on others to get you to and from the grocery store, to doctors’ appointment and even trying to figure out how to catch the bus to take your child to a museum or to the zoo. Like many others, Kamaya was doing what she needed in order to make life as normal as possible during the pandemic. Little did she realize that while catching a ride at 5:30 a.m. one wet morning, that her life would change in just a few days.

She had no idea that when she moved to the area, that God had the perfect plan. Little did she know that our community is home not only to Bates Collision but to countless businesses and individuals who love to make life better for others.

On November 11, when she took that ride to work and shared her dilemma with me, she had no idea how many people I count on daily to join me in prayer. Shortly after I dropped her off at work, I posted on my Facebook page something to the effect of “Met a young mom today who needs transportation and prayers for her and her daughter.” Later that afternoon, unaware that I had posted that, Leila Bates who along with her husband Lee, owns Bates Collision, called me asking for some suggestions of any parents who would qualify for the blessing. I shared with her about my new friend and immediately, she emailed the paperwork for the young mother to complete. It took several days to get it all together but by November 17, applications had been reviewed and Kamaya received a phone call that she had been selected as a recipient of the Responsible Parenting Award.

This award includes a refurbished late model vehicle, six months of liability insurance and much more. The Bates go to the auto auction in early January and purchase two late model vehicles with non-mechanical damage. In the months following, their employees donate their time, as their vendors donate parts and by early December, they are ready to bless two single parents (One in Baytown and one in the North Channel). Being a part of the North Channel Area, they cannot just keep the joy of helping a family to themselves, they invite others from the Chamber, the Rotary, area churches, local businesses, elected officials and individuals to donate items to fill the vehicle as well. Then after a recipient is named, the community is invited to join the celebration.

On the morning of December 18, Kamaya’s daughter was a little upset that she was missing the end of semester Gingerbread House Party at school, but by the time she helped her mother rip off the Christmas wrapping paper to reveal a 2016 Nissan filled with gifts, including a new bicycle for her, her mood changed. Judge Joe Stephens was present to congratulate Kamaya and her daughter on the award, as were representatives from the community.



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TOP TEN MOVIES

EDITOR’S NOTE: The Top 10 movies list is not available, as weekly domestic box office figures are no longer being updated due to the coronavirus. We are providing an expanded Top 10 Video on Demand list to use in its place. — Video On Demand

1. Unhinged (R) Russell Crowe, Caren Pistorius
 2. Buddy Games (R) Dan Bakkedahl, Kevin Dillon
 3. Fatman (R) Mel Gibson, Walton Goggins
 4. Home Alone (PG) Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci
 5. The New Mutants (PG-13) Maisie Williams, Anya Taylor-Joy
 6. Wander (R) Aaron Eckhart, Tommy Lee Jones
 7. The Grinch (PG) animated
 8. Girl (NR) Bella Thorne, Mickey Rourke
 9. Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (PG) Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci
 10. Frozen II (PG) animated
- Source: Comscore
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The Galena Park Independent School District (GPISD) Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing to discuss the District's 2019-2020 Annual Report, which includes the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), as required by Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.306 and §39.362 or 19 Texas Administrative Code, §61.1022.

The Public Hearing will be held on January 11, 2021 at 5:50 p.m. at the Galena Park I.S.D. Administration Building, located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, Texas 77015.

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www.northchannelarea.com • New members welcome

CHILI FEAST Raffle Tickets
make a great Christmas Gift - and you
might win a new car! 281-426-3558



**Highlands
Rotary Club's**
46th Annual



CHILI FEAST

Raffle & Auction

St. Jude's Catholic Church
808 S. Main Street, Highlands
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Live Auction 12:30
Saturday, February 6, 2021

Win a new Vehicle. Your choice of
2021 CHEVY CAMARO or 2021 COLORADO Pick-up
from Turner Chevrolet.



Chester's Famous Recipe



Raffle Tickets \$100.00 Donation
Meal Tickets \$10.00

Raffle Tickets purchased prior to Jan. 6, 2021 will be eligible for \$500 Gift Card Drawing.
Winners need not be Present to Win!
Payment of all local, state and federal taxes will be the responsibility of the winner.
Proceeds donated back to our Community for Scholarships & Community Programs.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ALL HIGHLANDS ROTARIANS



Tickets also available this year on FACEBOOK!



TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MANY AREA & HIGHLANDS STORES


ADDITIONAL PRIZES:

Early Drawing	\$500 Gift Card	400th Ticket.....	65 Qt. Artic Cooler
1st Ticket Drawn	\$200 Gift Card	450th Ticket.....	Shotgun
50th Ticket.....	Toshiba 32" Smart TV	500th Ticket.....	\$250 Gift Card
100th Ticket.....	Portable Ice Maker	550th Ticket.....	Fire HD 10" Tablet
150th Ticket.....	\$200 Gift Card	600th Ticket.....	Outdoor Propane Fire Pit
200th Ticket.....	250 Amp Battery Charger/Starter	650th Ticket.....	GoPro Hero/Black Waterproof Camera
250th Ticket.....	Beats Solo 3 Wireless Headphones	699th Ticket.....	50" Roku/Smart TV
300th Ticket.....	\$200 Gift Card	700th Ticket.....	2021 Chevy Camaro or
350th Ticket.....	Fire HD 8" Tablet		2021 Chevy Colorado Pick-up

(Color & Model may vary from Pictures)

Posters Courtesy of the Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER

Emergency Care in East Houston



HCA Houston
ER 24 / 7

Don't avoid or delay lifesaving emergency care. We are taking extra precautions to keep you safe.

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