

INSIDE: Letters to Santa, Season's Greetings

NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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

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Holiday Open House with Ana Hernandez in District 143



STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANA HERNANDEZ 16TH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Jacinto City, TX. December 7, 2021 at the District 143 state office constituents came to begin this year's holiday season festivities. They enjoyed

refreshments, fellowshiping and their visit with Representative Hernandez. Toys that were donated will be given at Christmas to needy children. Representative Hernandez said, "I enjoyed ringing in the holiday season with my constituents at our annual District 143 Open House with food and fellowship. It

is my honor to represent District 143 in the Texas House of Representatives and our annual open house is a reminder to the community that we are here to serve you and this is your office. Please feel free to contact us if we can provide any assistance." Photo by Allan Jamail

CHANNEL CURRENTS

North Channel Chamber Open House

The North Channel Chamber of Commerce welcomes you to their Holiday Open House, Tuesday December 14, 2021 from Noon to 3:00pm. At the Chamber office, 13301 East Freeway, Suite 100, Houston 77015. Chamber members, guests, and the public are welcome to come and share the Holiday spirit. Info 713-450-3600. Reminder: 45th Annual Awards GALA will be held Jan. 27, 2022 at the Sylvan Beach Pavilion in La Porte.

Youth Heart Screening

Harris County Pct. 2 will host a heart screening clinic for Youth ages 11-24 at the Leon Grayson Z Community Center, 13828 Corpus Christi Street in Channelview. Sunday, Dec. 19 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Sudden Cardiac Arrest is the #1 killer of student athletes. ECGs have been shown to be the most effective heart screening method. Contact alahna@codystephensfoundation.org for more information and to book an appointment.

North Shore advances by stopping Atascocita 44-20; Mustangs enter 4th consecutive semi-final game

By Allan Jamail

Pasadena Veterans Memorial Stadium – Friday December 3, 2021 playing on a neutral field, Coach Jon Kay's Eastside Boys in a little more than 5 weeks bested the Humble Atascocita Eagles twice this season, lastly 44-20. North Shore's game team captains, David Amador, Kent Battle, Caleb Flag and Jaden Harris.

North Shore took the opening kickoff, Atascocita's defense forced them to punt and with only 3 minutes into the game Eagles sophomore quarterback (QB) Zion Brown passed to a wide-open Spencer Henslee as the Eagles took a 7-0 lead. Three minutes later Mustangs freshman QB Kaleb Bailey runs for a game tying TD. They made 24 unanswered points.

Atascocita fought back making it a contest, in the 4th quarter they came within 10 points twice after each team swapped TD's. North Shore's fierce pass rushing in the game forced hurried passing creating 4 interceptions, one for a TD. Interceptions were made by Evan



Mustang defensive back Evan Jackson's 47 yd pass interception run-back TD. Photo by Allan Jamail

Jackson, Kent Battle and Kris Ross.

The Eagles realized they could gain more yards passing on the Mustangs rather than running into their rock solid defensive line. They also found out when they passed too often the Mus-

tangs awesome linebackers would make them pay for it by rushing their quarterback causing interceptions and sacking him (see photos). Kay's defense shutout the Eagles for 2 quarters, allow-

Continued. See NS Mustangs, Page 3



Mustangs linebacker PJ Douglas tackles Eagle QB Brown for a loss of yards. Photo by Allan Jamail



SEE ARROW ON BALL: North Shore receiver Christopher Barnes reels in QB Kaleb Bailey's downfield pass. Photo by Allan Jamail

CHANNELVIEW FIRE DEPT. HOLDS TOY DRIVE

Ministry Team, Choirs, Volunteers



CHANNELVIEW FIREMEN AND VOLUNTEERS COLLECT TOYS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS.



CHOIRS FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES RING IN THE HOLIDAY SOUND.



CITIZENS HOLD PROTEST ON GALENA PARK GOVERNING

7th Police Chief fired, City Hall closed

GALENA PARK – About 3 dozen citizens of this community staged a noisy protest last Tuesday night, outside the City Hall Building. The regular bi-weekly Council meeting had been cancelled, which they said was typical of the problems with the current administration.

Protesters cited many issues, including the firing of the 7th police chief in the last 3 years, closed city hall, irregularities in the water department and water bills, and no public access to council meetings.

In addition, Councilwoman Maricela Serna said that she had been elected last year, but not allowed to join the



ADVOCATE WAYNE DOLCEFINO AND OUT-OF-OFFICE COUNCILWOMAN MARICELA SERNA WERE AMONG THE GROUP THAT STAGED A PROTEST OUTSIDE GALENA PARK CITY HALL LAST TUESDAY NIGHT.

meetings or speak, having access denied by Mayor Moya. Consumer advocate Wayne Dolcefino, representing the public, said he also was barred from speaking, a legal violation



for which he is suing the city. Protesters called for the resignation of the Mayor, and an investigation by officials from the county and state.

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OPINION PAGE

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



State lowers price cap for Power Providers

The state's Public Utility Commission last week lowered the maximum allowable wholesale price for electricity by almost half, from \$9,000 per megawatt hour to \$5,000. The move came after prices soared to the maximum during last February's deadly freeze, causing financial havoc along with the widespread power outages. A number of electric providers declared bankruptcy after being faced with enormous bills, including Brazos Electric Power Cooperative and Griddy Energy. As the Austin American-Statesman reported, the state's largely deregulated electricity market provides financial incentives to prompt power generators to deliver more electricity to the grid during peak demand. But those incentives came with steep prices, and some Griddy customers received electric bills of nearly \$10,000. Those bills were ultimately forgiven under an agreement negotiated by the attorney general's office. Peter Lake, chairman of the PUC, said lowering the price ceiling will "make sure the people of Texas are not exposed to those extraordinary high prices" again, the Statesman reported. However, the CEO of the state's largest power generator worries the state has not done enough to insulate itself against another deadly freeze. Curt Morgan of Vistra Corp. said that while his company has spent \$50 million this year weatherizing more than a dozen plants, the state still hasn't ensured a reliable



supply of natural gas. The Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the natural gas industry, is still working to finalize rules that would set weatherization mandates. However, those rules would not go into effect until early 2023, t h e T e x a s Tribune reported. Morgan told legislators that Vistra's plants couldn't get enough natural gas to run anywhere near full capacity during the freeze. "Why couldn't we get it?" Morgan said. "Because the gas system was not weatherized. And so we had natural gas producers that weren't producing."

STATE TO GET \$35 BILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS

In the next five years Texas will get more than \$35 billion in federal funding for roads, public transportation and water system improvements, The Dallas Morning News reported. The funding is part of the massive infrastructure bill Congress passed in November to pro-

vide \$548 billion in new investments across the country over five years. The state's road system got a "D+" in a 2021 report card from the American Society of Civil Engineers. "Current funding levels and resources from the state's gas tax are inadequate to keep up with Texas' projected growth, leaving a \$15 billion annual gap through 2040," the engineering report said. The federal funding also includes \$1.2 billion for Texas airports, \$537 million to replace and repair bridges and at least \$100 million for broadband expansion, according to The Morning News.

WEBINARS EXPLAIN TUITION FUND

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund is offering a series of webinars to provide an overview of the state's prepaid college tuition plan. In addition, the webinars will explain scholarship opportunities that are available. "Upcoming webinars provide an overview of the Texas Tuition Promise Fund and information on different tuition unit types, tuition redemption values and payment options," according to a press release. "The webinars also offer information about matching scholarships and tuition unit grants available through the Texas Match the Promise Foundation." Anyone interested can sign up for a webinar at www.texastuitionpromisefund.com/events/.

NEW COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS INCREASE



A ROCKEFELLER CENTER CHRISTMAS TREE

While the appearance of the omicron variant of COVID-19 dominates the news, no cases of the variant had been reported in Texas as of Sunday. Health officials say it's a matter of time, but they don't yet know how severe and how contagious it will be. What is known is that the number of new cases of COVID-19 in Texas in the past week rose to 30,201, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University — the highest level since late October. A total of 564 deaths were reported. The delta variant continues to be the dominant strain, infecting mostly unvaccinated Texans. Lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state were largely unchanged, with 2,886 reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services as of Sunday. The state crossed the 16 million mark of fully vaccinated people, with 3.175 million people also receiving an additional dose, according to DSHS. To date, 55% of the state's total population is fully vaccinated.

effect, the Houston Chronicle reported. House Bill 20, signed by Gov. Greg Abbott on Sept. 9, prohibited social media sites like Facebook and Twitter from censoring users "based on their political viewpoints." U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman wrote in his ruling that the bill violates the sites' First Amendment right to moderate content

disseminated on their platforms. Abbott had pushed for the bill, saying in a Twitter video, "Freedom of speech is under attack in Texas. There is a dangerous movement by some social media companies to silence conservative ideas and values." The state is expected to appeal Pitman's ruling.

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SHELDON ISD NEWS

KHS Panthers finish season 10-3

The King High School Panther varsity football team played Katy November 26 with a final score of 41-24 to the defending state champions. Congratulations on a wonderful season Panthers!

Sheldon hosts STEM Showcase

Sheldon ISD's King High School as well as King Middle School and Null Middle School hosted the annual STEM Showcase. Community members, family and friends watched as students showcased amazing work from robotics and technology to coffee shops and playwriting. The mission of the Sheldon ISD STEM program is to provide engaging, rigorous STEM content that develops a student's ability to answer complex questions, to investigate global issues, and to develop solutions to challenging, real-world problems.

Beginning as early as pre-k, Sheldon provides students with a model STEM program that develops lifelong learners who are prepared for post-secondary education and 21st century careers. Each secondary campus hosted their own showcase during the week of November 29 and December 6.

PHOTO: (Stemshowcase1 and Stemshowcase2) Null Middle School students showcase their project-based learning STEM work at the annual Showcase event for families and community on November 30.



FFA students prepare for January livestock auction

In preparation for their livestock auction and show on January 15, are seeking sponsors for their showcase that range from \$50-\$100. If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact Amanda Langley at 346-378-7097 or amandalangley@sheldonisd.com.

Save the Date

Sheldon FFA Livestock Show

Support Needed

January 13-14, 2022

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Sheldon ISD closed for Holiday Break

Sheldon ISD will be closed for Winter Break on Monday, December 20 through Monday, January 3. Friday, December 17 and Tuesday, January 4 are staff work days and student holidays. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 5.

Sheldon offers Blue Card program for senior citizen residents

The Blue Card Program is an initiative to honor all of our supporters in the district who are age 65 or older. One of Sheldon ISD's goals is to create and foster an environment where all stakeholders are engaged and actively involved in the work we do for children. The success of our students is a shared responsibility of community members, parents, and educators, and we believe a community's collective power is greater than individual efforts. To sign up to be a Blue Card member, go to www.sheldonisd.com/bluecard/

Members receive free entry to district-sponsored fine arts and sporting events as well as a free luncheon each year with an opportunity to learn more about the district and engage with district leaders.

Hang your Christmas Card on our Tree

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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North Shore advances by stopping Atascocita 44-20;

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Kris Ross Mustang defensive lineman sacks Zion Brown Eagle QB. Photo by Allan Jamail



Mustang Damon Ford runs 20 yds through Eagle defenders for his 2nd TD. Photo by Allan Jamail



Xavier Owens runs 65 yds untouched for his 2nd Mustang TD. Photo by Allan Jamail



SEE ARROW ON BALL: Mustang David Amador outleaps Eagle defender on a pass from QB-Kaleb Bailey at the goal line. Photo by Allan Jamail

ing only one TD in the first 3 quarters.

The Eagles showed lots of grit, never giving up, but the Mustangs defense stayed aggressive on their quarterback and running backs. Atascocita coach Craig Stump said, "The Mustangs won the line of scrimmage, we had a hard time running the ball. We felt good about our matchups outside, but they won the battle up front and in the playoffs the team that does that wins."

Mustangs six TD's were made by: Xavier Owens-2 TD's & 162 yds, Damon Ford-2 TD's & 51 yds, Kaleb Bailey-1 TD & 74 yds and Evan Jackson-1 TD & 47 yds. The offense racked up 414 yards (rushing 298 & passing 116). Carlos Dominguez kicked the extra points and a field goal.

North Shore (13-1) goes to Austin and takes on Austin's Lake Travis Cavaliers (12-2) in the 6A Div 1 Semifinals Playoff. They've played each other before, in 2018 Mustangs won 51-10 and again in 2019 Mustangs won 49-38. Saturday's game, Dec. 11, 2021, 3:00 PM at Kelly Reeves Athletic Complex, located at 10211 W. Palmer Ln., Austin, TX 78717. Statistician Linda Jamail, allanj211@aol.com

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Kelsey-Seybold Joins Dynamic Community,
Opens Doors to New North Channel Clinic

On Aug. 23, Kelsey-Seybold celebrated the much-anticipated opening of its North Channel Clinic. Patients living nearby and residents in and around the North Channel area now have a convenient location close to home and work. The new 7,500-square-foot clinic is located at 5820 E. Sam Houston Parkway North in The Shops at Stone Park. Ample parking is available in front of the clinic.

Clinic Administrators Jackie Baker and Alvin Payne welcomed patients to the bright, modern clinic.

Ambulatory Services Representatives Daniella Jackson (left) and Amanda Stringer checked patients in for their appointments on opening day.

New Kelsey-Seybold Physician John Ruelas, M.D., Family Medicine, saw patients on opening day and said they all were excited to have a new clinic so close to home.

Adam Mitchell, M.D., Managing Physician at North Channel clinic, has been with Kelsey-Seybold for 13 years and is delighted to welcome new and current patients to the newly opened clinic.

Clinic staff and providers commemorated opening day at North Channel Clinic with a group photo.

Left to right: Jackie Baker, Clinic Administrator, Amanda Stringer, Ambulatory Services Representative, Febe Campuzano, C.M.A. I, Blanca Joseph, Nursing Supervisor I, Daniella Jackson, Ambulatory Services Representative, Fallon Wiggins, Nurse Supervisor II, Emma Escamilla, R.M.A. II, Terri Harwell, L.V.N., Adam Mitchell, M.D., Managing Physician, John Ruelas, M.D., Family Medicine, Cecilia Fowler, Senior Director, Ambulatory Clinics, Blanca Gutierrez, Director, Radiographic and Mammographic Imaging, Alvin Payne, Clinic Administrator, Summer Creek, Denise Gomez, Radiology Technician, Reeshemah White, Patient Service Technician II, Christopher Newton, Supervisor, Patient Service Center, and Nancy Muldowney, Radiology Supervisor.

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
Changing the way health cares.™

North Channel Clinic:
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Dear Santa,
Hi Santa can I get a bike for Christmas and some new clothes and shoes. Deandre.

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 telescope, skateboard, and a dirt bike and play station. I have been good all year! Thank you, Landon, 7 years old.

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

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,
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 would like a PS5 and I would like a head set and a 4wheeler and I would like a phone, and a RC car want go 30 mg. And I want a bike. I have been good all year! Isaiah, 8 years old.

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,
I no I been really bad this year, but can you not forget my brother and my sister - privates that deserve it. It gets for me because I been really bad. I ready no you watch everybody in the whole world.
So, you think about it. Should I have a present this year.
You are going to say - yes. I want a glam rock monty plush from the new font game. Like I mean you think about it.
From Natalie Quiroz

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,
I want PJ masks toys, City PJ mask jump suit, 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

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, alamrgine, a baby dog, francs, and PS5. Aiden

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, Christian.

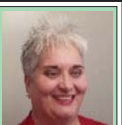
Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas to you! This year I would really like an LoL doll and accessories. Thank you!
Love, Rebeckah

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 brvcnes to, and a iPhone II 2 of them, and 1 black and one white

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



ASK DIAMOND JIM



Informed, Involved, and Flexible

Informed, Involved and Flexible

Each weekday as I drive to work, I pass several schools and I love to check out the electronic marquees. I am always wanting to know what events are happening and see what character traits are being emphasized by the schools for the month. (I pass at least two Galena Park ISD elementary schools and they list the character trait of the month on the marquees.)

I spend time each night checking our various social media sites to see what is happening in the various communities around town. I talk with friends, colleagues, and others in the community to see what is happening. I am always ready to attend an event, especially if I can meet new people or learn something new.

I have a group of friends who I connected with, and we all share our calendars. This helps us to be able to share with even more people. There are many resources in other parts of the county that our residents need and unless someone tells them, they miss opportunities. In working together, we all benefit. Together we can make the community stronger.


Flexibility is one of the best parts of being active. Someone told me that they needed to learn how to juggle their activities. I am asked how I attend so many events and not get them confused. It comes down to years of practice and learning a skill set that involves planning, prioritizing and being flexible.

Flexibility is something that we all need more of. We need to teach our children and others that life is not always going to be what or how they want. We need to realize that just because “we have always done it like that” no longer applies. Our community has changed. Complaints are heard about the neighbors having loud parties until the wee hours of the morning. We hear about how neighbors park in the street causing issues. We see chickens and goats in some of the yards. We see people selling food and other items long the streets. We see people having celebrations for things we are not accustomed to. We hear comments that people resent having to do things a certain way. I am the first to say that we all need to learn to be more sensitive to others and it would be impressive if we would all attend cultural diversity training as well as invite groups like the Harris County Health Department out to share why it is necessary to have a food handlers permit to sell food from pop-up locations. We need someone to explain to our neighbors why they should charge and report sales taxes. It is not that older businesses are trying to keep new people from making money—it is to help with the fees associate with the community. Taxes provide road repairs, 911 services and so much more. There are reasons why livestock cannot be in your yard. All it takes is a good rain and their waste can easily be flowing in our drainage system.

All the things we need start with a willingness to work together and realize that we all have to give and take. We must work together and become informed, involved, and flexible.

MAYOR ESMERALDA MOYA INVITES YOU TO A DRIVE-THRU

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Diamond Jim: “If something is free, does it have value?”

I really like this question. I feel that there are many things in life that are free and have great value. Love, friendship, a handshake, a hug, and even laying on the cool grass during a hot summer day. I can do any of these things for free and all of them have value to me.

For the financial value of an item, let's consider a piece of jewelry. Ultimately, the value of anything is what someone is willing to pay for that item at a given point in time. For example, people will often show me a ring or a pendant or a Rolex watch and ask me “what is it worth”? The value of a 14K gold ring depends on why the valuation is needed and its intended purpose. If the person is selling the ring because they need the cash for other expenses, that amount is based on what we call “scrap value”. If a person is wanting to have a formal appraisal done for insurance or replacement of that item, that value is much different and usually much higher than the scrap value and is known as the items “appraised value”. Value, much like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder or in the details for the circumstances.


We have many customers who will come into Pineforest Jewelry just to say hello. They're not here to buy something this time or for us to repair their jewelry, they just stopped by to have a cool drink and chat for a while. They feel comfortable here, they feel welcomed here, the feel appreciated here, they feel valued here. Our friendship and the cool drinks are all free. Now that's real value...and that's priceless!

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the IJO for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com.


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

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.

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Channelview I.S.D. will accept Sealed Request for Proposals
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RFP#2122-002 -Insulation Service

Bids will be received until 12:00 p.m., Friday, December 17, 2021, at the
Channelview ISD's E-bidding website. Please visit the electronic bidding
website at <https://cvisd.ionwave.net>. All necessary information may be
obtained by calling the Business Office at (281) 452-8003, or the district
website www.cvisd.org, under Departments Business Office Purchasing.
The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

48-2T

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic
Beverage Commission for BG beer and wine license
by Jets Daiquiris LLC, to be located at 6630 fm 2100
ste. C Crosby, Texas 77532 Harris County, Texas.
Officers of said corporation is Jasmine Brooks(Owner)

48-2T

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Galena Park is
accepting bids for the con-
struction of the Churchill
Community Center. Bids must
be received by 3:00 PM on
December 17, 2021 ATTN:
Mayra Gonzales at Galena
Park City Hall located at 2000
Clinton Drive. Galena Park,
TX 77547. The City will award
the contract at the regular
council meeting on December
21, 2021, at 6:00P.M. The City
Council reserves the right to
reject any and/or all bids.
Respondents may obtain an
electronic copy of the contract
specification by emailing
Mayra Gonzales, City Secre-
tary at:
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Holiday Season's Greetings

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

By FRANCIS P. CHURCH.
First published in The New York Sun in 1897

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor—
I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Francis P. Church's editorial, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" was an immediate sensation, and went on to become one of the most famous editorials ever written. It first appeared in the The New York Sun in 1897, almost a hundred years ago, and was reprinted annually until 1949 when the paper went out of business.

Virginia O'Hanlon went on to graduate from Hunter College with a Bachelor of Arts degree at age 21. The following year she received her Master's from Columbia, and in 1912 she began teaching in the New York City school system, later becoming a principal. After 47 years, she retired as an educator. Throughout her life she received a steady stream of mail about her Santa Claus letter, and to each reply she attached an attractive printed copy of the Church editorial. Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas died on May 13, 1971, at the age of 81, in a nursing home in Valatie, N.Y.



Dear Santa,
I want the new American Girl doll, her name is Courtney 1986. And a new bick, and some more Games for my Nintendo switch. And a Xbox, and a head set, and can you get mom & dad a message chair. A dog bed and some dog toys. A barn bed for me with a desk under it. Some more up for Gracen and the game snow runes for Nick. But I really want is to see you.
From: Zoey



Letters to Santa
Dear Santa,
I know that its been a rough year, and for Christmas, I really want a hover board or a jungkook shirt, because I live Bts. I am Brissa Gaytan and I am 9 years old. I want a hover board, because my basic broke. I also wanted a Jungkook shirt, because I am a fan of Its and I like more Jungkook. I am glad what I got last Christmas and I know that I am gonna be glad what I'm getting, but the most thing, I want is the Jungkook shirt.
Sensrlly: Brissa

Dear Santa,
Santa I am Yuvia and I am 11 years old. Christmas is around the corner and I know its rough year that's why I would like a game master mask or a ring light. And also I have little brother name Dario, and he is 5 years old. For Christmas he would like a bike. I want the game master mask, because I would like to get tie Tok famous and I want a ring light, because I want to make pictures or videos better lighting.
Sencrtly, Yuvia

Dear Santa,
Haw are you going. Haw are your raderde. Can I have a LoL col. And I have a raderde. Love, Ariana, 6
...

Dear Santa,
I want a phon for chissmiss two Chet to my Huber. My Huber is fun to ride. Love, Makenna, 7 years old.
...

Dear Santa,
I put a LecfBirt with Acloru and with speck. Love, Luna, 6 years old.
...

Dear Santa,
Bike One Doll, Lol Doll, Baby alive, PolPol Doll. Love, Skytie, 6 years old.
...

Dear Santa,
I bin a good girl. Can you brag me a gold reg? Kristina, 7 years old.

Dear Santa,
Hello, how are you? I have been a good boy, because I eat all of good food. I also do stuff quickly when my mom orders me. For Christmas I would like a new phone. Good bye, Sanda. Thank you. Matteo.
...

Dear Santa, Hellow how are you? I have been a good boy because I do my chores. I also help my mom wash clothes. For Christmas, I would like a Star Wars lego, please. Thank you. Jacob.

Nutcracker Ballet Returns to Lee College Dec. 17-19

A Baytown Christmas tradition has returned in full splendor to the Lee College Performing Arts Center. Three performances of Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker will be presented at 7:30 p.m., on Friday, December 17 and Saturday, December 18, and a matinee performance on Sunday, December 19 at 2:30 p.m.

The renown 1892 ballet, set on Christmas Eve, will be performed by the Bay Area Houston Ballet and Theatre in a spectacular production in partnership with Lee College at the college's performing art center (PAC).

"We are so excited to announce 'the PAC is back!' said Dr. Angela Oriano-Bradshaw, Lee College Vice President for College Advancement and the Director of the Performing Arts Center. "There is no better time than now to enjoy a family favorite holiday tradition, right here in our hometown," she added.

In addition, as an added special treat, Sugar Plum Fairy Teas will be held December 18 at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1 p.m. Families and children will be invited to attend in their best-dressed tea at-



and join for fun with the Sugar Plum Fairies and the cast of The Nutcracker. The event will be held in the lobby of the performing arts center and \$25 tickets are available at lee.edu/pac, or by calling 281.425.6311.

Tickets for performances of The Nutcracker are also available at lee.edu/pac and are \$25 and \$35.

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