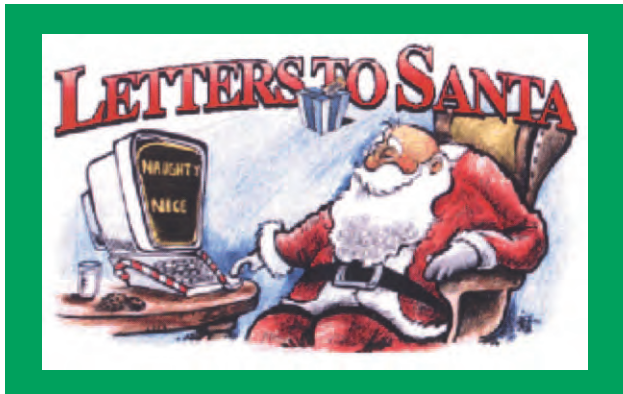




# NORTH CHANNEL ★ STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Cloverleaf, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 11, NO. 48 (#498) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 [www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com)

## CHANNEL CURRENTS

## Holiday Events

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14  
CMS Fine Arts Fa-La-La Showcase  
14703 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532  
6 p.m. / Crosby Middle School  
Auditorium

North Shore Elementary School  
Music Winter Concert for Fine Arts  
14310 Duncannon Dr, Houston, TX  
77015  
NSE Gymnasium (Door #15)  
5 p.m.

Galena Park MS Choir Winter  
Concert  
1000 Keene St., Galena Park, TX  
77547  
GPHS Auditorium (Door #4)  
6:30 PM

North Shore MS Band Winter  
Concert  
353 Castlegory, Houston, TX  
77049  
NSSH Auditorium (Door #14)  
7:00 PM

Sheldon Elementary Winter  
Programs  
17203 Hall Sheppard, Houston, TX  
77049  
TBD

Carroll Elementary Christmas  
Concert  
10210 C. E. King Parkway,  
Houston, TX 77044  
5 p.m.

Stephanie Cravens Early Childhood  
Academy Christmas Program  
13210 Tidwell, Houston, TX 77044  
6 p.m.

Mike Null Middle School Band  
Winter Concert (7th/8th Grade)  
NMS Cafetorium  
12117 Garrett Road, Houston, TX  
77044  
6:30 p.m.

North Shore Rotary Club Food  
Basket delivery  
Rotarians will work with  
Channelview High School Interact  
and Harris County Precinct 2 to  
assemble and deliver 300 food  
baskets to benefit disadvantaged  
families in the North Channel area  
for the winter holidays. Work  
begins at 9 a.m. at the North Shore  
Rotary Pavilion, 14350 Wallisville  
Rd, Houston, TX 77049 (Behind the  
Jim Fonteno Courthouse) Families  
have already been decided and  
each basket is approximately 50  
pounds of food.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15  
North Shore Sr. HS Band Winter  
Concert  
353 Castlegory, Houston, TX

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Galena Manor Senior Recreation Center Re-Opens

By Allan Jamail

Galena Park, TX. ~ 1508 Hunter Street, December 7, 2023 in Galena Manor ~ Galena Park's Mayor Esmeralda Moya was introduced by GP Fire Chief Tom Ehlers. She thanked the approximate one hundred residents and guests who came to witness the long awaited re-opening of the recreation center. The new building is located where the old recreation center was located.

The outdoor ceremony began with an invocation by Dr. Harold L. Fisher Jr. of the Lily Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. Fisher is a Galena Park High School graduate.

Mayor Moya told me the new facility will carry its original name as the Evelyn J. Churchill Community Center (see photo). Moya said she's thankful for the patience the resi-



Galena Manor Senior's Recreation Center Ribbon Cutting. L - R: GP Fire Chief Tom Ehlers, Dr. Harold L. Fisher Jr., Mayor Esmeralda Moya & Johnetta Fisher-Goodloe. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

dents had. She said she's a religious person and proud she has a Christian administration. She said, "I believe in prayers and before every undertaking I make, I pray for guidance to do the right thing." She's on her 10 year as mayor.

The old recreation center was demolished, six

years ago in about 2017 due to mold discovered throughout the facility. I personally investigated and inspected the building after it became a hot issue at the city council meetings. I agreed then with the city's findings and the professional mold inspectors the city hired. The



The sign out front of the re-opened and new recreation facility bears the original name after Evelyn J. Churchill. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

building was too dangerous to re-open until the mold issue was resolved. The fumes from the mold made me sick before I could complete my tour. SEE ARTICLE OF SIX YEARS AGO; 5-27-17 USE THIS LINK: NC STAR 5-25-17 B (northchannelstar.com)

Johnetta Fisher-Goodloe in attendance (see photo) has been a long-time resident of Galena Manor since 1954 and a staff member at Fidelity Manor High School. She said, "When I en

Continued. See RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY, Page 3

## MUSTANGS ADVANCE TO STATE FINAL

Defeat Westlake  
23-14 in a Slugfest

By Allan Jamail

Pflugerville, Tx. ~ December 9, 2023 ~ in a windy game the North Shore Mustangs (NS) survived a close contest to the Austin Westlake (WL) Chaparrals (Chaps) 23 - 14 in a slugfest of a game. The Eastside Boys had to be bused over three hours (195 miles) to play the Austin Chaps who were only about thirty minutes from the Pfield showdown. Westlake has just two losses this decade and both have been to North Shore.

North Shore clinched a spot in the UIL 6A Division 1 state championship contest for the fifth time over the last six years. The game will be at the Dallas Cowboy Stadium in Arlington, Tx. Saturday, De-



Mustang's Kaleb Bailey first score on a one yard plunge across the goal. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

cember 16th at 3PM. They'll play the Duncanville Panthers (DP) in their backyard only minutes from the stadium. NS lost

28 - 21 last year (2022) in the same state championship matchup. This season the Mustangs (Stangs) boast a 15 - 0 record while



#28 D'Andre Hardeman gets offensive line blocks to open a hole for a 9 YD TD run putting NS up 14 - 7 in the 2nd quarter. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

DP is 13 - 1.

The Stangs are seeking their 6th title, having won them in 2009, 2015, 2018, 2019, and 2021. They won

Continued. See MUSTANGS ADVANCE TO STATE FINAL, Page 8

## Galena Park Public Works Quickly Repairs Major Water Leak

By Allan Jamail

December 7, 2023 ~ Galena Park, TX. ~ Due to the fast action and team work of Galena Park Public Works Department and the police department a major water main line break was quickly fixed.

Julio Bizarro, Superintendent in Galena Park Public Works department had the help of Police Chief Richard Wagner and the police department in facilitating with the traffic control on the busy 1400 block of Holland Avenue.

Anytime there's a water leak in a business district the longer the water is turned off the greater negative impact those businesses are affected without water.

Terry Bullock (supervisor) and workers Jeremy Castillo and Albert Hardy making the fast repair should be commended. They jumped into action quickly; I could tell they were well trained and experienced.

As a former Jacinto City councilman for Jacinto City's water & sewer department I have lots of knowledge in the entire spectrum



Galena Park workers quickly repairing business district water leak. Above ground, L - R: GP Superintendent Julio Bizarro, Terry Bullock (supervisor), Police Chief Richard Wagner & Sgt. J. Rader.(photo by Allan Jamail)

Continued. See Major Water Leak Repaired in GP, Page 3

## Houston Chooses Whitmire for Mayor

By Allan Jamail

Saturday, December 9, 2023, 7PM at Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center mayoral candidate Senator John Whitmire and his supporters gathered to watch the Houston mayor's election results. Whitmire and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee were in a runoff from the earlier contest.

In the November 7th election Senator John Whitmire (age 74) came in first place with 43.06 percent; US Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (age 73) got 34.81 percent, a difference of 20,373 votes or 8.25 percent lead for Whitmire over Jackson Lee.

This time Whitmire won by a landslide after a hard fought campaign. He and his campaign team relentlessly sought voters in the runoff where he won over Jackson Lee by 29 percentage points.

N. C. Star writer Allan



Houston Mayor Elect Senator John Whitmire making acceptance speech to supporters with his immediate family (in background). L - R: Whitney Whitmire Jenkins (daughter), Brooks Jenkins (grandson), Sarah Whitmire (daughter) & Bennett Jenkins (grandson) at the George R. Brown convention center (12-9-23). (Photo by Allan Jamail)

Jamail said, "John and I have been friends for about fifty years, Monday two days after his tiring campaign we exchanged pleas-

antries about his victory. He's a no nonsense "public servant". He literally takes the words "public servant" to heart. I don't

Continued. See, Whitmire's Landside Victory, Page 5



Letters to Santa

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa:  
This year I have been good. I would like for you to bring me an iPad, peachy babies, slime roux and a gift for my teachers. A lot doll and a mini verse capsules. Love-America, 8 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
This year I have been a good kid at my house, I would like for you to bring me a uglies quest, I also want a iPhone 12. Love, Ian, 7 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
I have been good. I would like you for to bring me a Nintendo switch and cinameloll hat. I also like linnamerololl stuff. Naendellin, 7 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
This year I have been good. I would like for you to bring a cute bingbag, and a lotto paper to drew and cinamoroll stuff, and can I have a stickers and two 100 Roux, and peachy babies slimes, Auora jell cube, Kawaii space bear, Axolot ice slime. Andrea, 8 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
For Christmas this year I have been very good. •Lego friends set •Coloring book •board games • mini verse • dry erase markers • jewelry Sophia, 8 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
For Christmas I want a kids 3d pen art supplies, and pet bunny a big kitchen play set for my sister, and my wish is every one should always be happy and grateful. Lisa, 8 yr.

Dear Santa:  
I want a VR and a PS5 and a bed and I want a big pillow. Steven, 9 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
My name is Xavier. Thanks for last year present. This year I want to have Led lights, and a X box. Xavier, 10 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
May I have a Cougar toy, a bulls toy, bear toy, a puppy, a kitten, a seal toy and a train set and animal kingdom toys, all of them. Benjamin, 10 yr.

Dear Santa:  
For Christmas I want a meta guest 3 to play with, but my little brother is Mannix , a dark off brand VR headset. Mason, 8 yr.

Dear Santa:  
For Christmas I would like a nerf grenade and a x-shot insanity motorized rage fire here gun. I know you are busy making toys but these are the only two things I have on my wish list this year. Camedeh, 8yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
May I get a google and Nerfgun, the mini gun that is a Nerf gun and a lava lamp. Damon, 9 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
I don't want much this year, all I want is to get a phone and switch. But the most I want is a good family. Jonathan, 9 yr.

Dear Santa:  
I really want a VR headset or a Zoglar sigh book and I want medicine for me and my family and dots I want these things because these are the first things I could think of that I can share. Juan, 9yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
I would like mini verse, also LoL dolls lego and a jumbo gummy pizza, also a new squשמellow. And new jeans I would also like a white T-shirt with flowers. Aubrey, 9 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
I been working really hard at school. So I been wanting a big mirror with a builtin jewelry organizer. I also been wanting some rings and some spinning organizers. Maybe some lip glosses. I hope you can buy some of this. I will be very grateful. Love, Daliah, 9 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
I have been a very good student. I do my homework every day and I made good grades. I try my best to do good in school. I have a very nice teacher whose name is Ms. Coopers. She makes learning fun. I am proud to be a tiger at Jacinto City Elementary. Angelica, 8 yr.

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*Joe Stephens and family*

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**State Representative Ana Hernandez**



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**



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*From Our Precinct 3 Family to Yours,  
May Your Holidays Be Full of Warmth and Cheer.  
Be safe,  
Constable Sherman Eagleton*









CHARLOTTE'S WEB

By Charlotte Jackson



## Anticipation for 2024

Some days it is easy to get caught up in the news headlines and become discouraged. Before you know it, you are feeling down and discouraged. I want to encourage you to refuse to end the year with negative thoughts.

Each year on December 6, I attend an Annual Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony honoring the memories of amazing young people who passed away too soon. There is a peace as well as a connection felt by those who attend. While I am blessed to have never lost a child, I have many connections to those who were present last week for the event. It was one of the few times that I have worn a heavy coat in the night air. I typically have five or six mothers reminding me to bundle up. This year, I also had one of my closest friends reminding me to bundle up and tighten the scarf around my neck. After welcoming many guest and hugging most of them, the ceremony started and as I listened to the various families talk briefly about their “angel”, I found myself getting warm and even a little dizzy. I mentioned to several people that I was going to go put the coat in my car. Before I knew it, I had stepped wrong and blacked out at the same time. As I came to, I heard voices of several friends and in the background, I could hear people discussing calling for an ambulance.

Much to my objections, they called and North Channel EMS was on their way to check me out. Suddenly, boom, I hit the ground again. Now I heard even more voices telling me to relax, let them help put me in a chair and wait for the paramedics to arrive. I could hear so many voices and thankfully, I heard many prayers being lifted. As the ambulance arrived, I found myself talking non-stop (imagine that). I was telling the two paramedics what happened and how blessed I was to be surrounded by community members who I consider family. I went on to tell them about how North Shore Rotary donated the first ambulance to North Channel EMS and how so many of the paramedics not just in Houston but in south Texas were trained on this campus. I shared with them that among the prayer warriors outside of the ambulance were Charles and Velma Chesnutt, who were my National Junior Honor Society Advisor and typing teacher in high school. The campus Provost, Dr Alex Okwonna as well as Jimmy and Ellen Everett were patiently waiting for me. I explained how Jimmy and Ellen were married on a Friday and Ellen started working at San Jacinto College the following Monday. When she retired from San Jac, she went on to serve at Rice University as the Assistant Registrar. I explained that even more important, she prayed with me the night I was baptized at Woodforest Baptist Church. I told them all sorts of gems of truth about why I love the North Channel Community.

I offered to give them a tour of the community, recommended that they learn more about East Harris County Empowerment Council, North Channel Area Chamber and the three amazing school districts as well as San Jacinto College. Both agreed that they would love to. So, what started out as a frightening event, has turned into anticipation for 2024. And for anyone else that wants to learn more, please contact me at [Charlotte.Jackson@yahoo.com](mailto:Charlotte.Jackson@yahoo.com)

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



GP Mayor Esmeralda Moya welcomes ceremony's participants & guests.(Photo by Allan Jamail)

tered the new recreation center I was excited and grateful for the new features, including a beautiful glowing artificial log fireplace that will impact the community for a lifetime, Goodloe concluded.”

Eronia “Taggy” Hall a longtime resident of Gale-na Manor and former school teacher said, “A New Rec! Congratulations! Super Job! Well done by a Young Super Woman. Mayor Esmeralda Moya of Galena Park thank you for our MAGNIFICENT BEAUTIFUL NEW RECREATION CENTER IN GALENA MANOR. YOU ARE TRULY ONE OF A KIND.”

Moya began the program by reading a Bible scripture from 2nd Samuel 7:29. She then thanked Veronica Garcia the Commissioner for Parks and Recreation and expressed her appreciation to the other Galena Park Commissioners, Hilda Barrientos, Zenaida Granados and Jorge Rodriguez for the support they gave her throughout this project and future projects to benefit the entire city.

After the ribbon cutting

Moya made an announcement of a new building project for a Galena Manor Historical Museum. She then invited everyone to go inside and tour the new center; they were treated with cookies and refreshments.

Galena Manor is a subdivision of Galena Park and was established in 1951 when the city council approved the development of a shopping center and a new subdivision of 330 homes.

It was the location of an African American High School that opened in 1955 and was the only black high school in Galena Park's School District (GPISD). Black students went there and white students went to Galena Park High School. GPISD decided to desegregate the black and white students and have them all attend the Galena Park High School. They closed the former Fidelity Manor High School around 1969. Many of my present friends and church members who were students of the Fidelity Manor High School attended the ribbon cutting.

## Major Water Leak Repaired in GP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



L-R : Jeremy Castillo & Albert Hardy, GP public work's staff quickly working in the hole repairing the high pressure water leak.(Photo by Allan Jamail)

in the public works arena. Cities water pressures usually range from 45 psi (pressure per square inch) to 80psi. Pressure lower than 45 psi can allow bacteria to enter the drinking water system causing sicknesses and even death... pressures over 80psi will burst older water lines.

Public Works sometimes is overlooked when it comes to pay increases and benefits. But I can testify they're the lifeblood of a city. My roots are in Galena Park where I was

raised and got my grade school education, I was proud to see the level of skill the city's workers have.

Public Works can't be substituted for as police and fire department s can be where the city can call outside emergency agencies to come handle emergencies. I'm a fan also of the training and courage firemen and police have, they too are sometimes overlooked when pay and benefits are considered.

ASK DIAMOND JIM

## Diamond Jim: “What’s Your Favorite Christmas Story Experience?”

**Customer Question:**  
Diamond Jim, what is your favorite Christmas story experience?

**Diamond Jim:**  
As I stated previously, I have several favorite Christmas stories. So I said I would post one each week over several weeks. This third story I call, “*Emily Got Her Ring!*”

As a lifetime member of Rotary International, and a life member of the North Shore Rotary Club, our motto is “Service Above Self”. This happens to be my personal motto as well. The following is yet another Christmas story that is indelibly etched into my mind’s eye forever.

At the end of 2012 I had noticed that for over 9 months we had watched a mother struggling to pay off a school class ring for her daughter who deserved that ring. She was having great difficulty making timely payments. Sometimes she would miss...and sometimes she would make a partial payment. At first, she struggled month after month to make the payments. As she fell further and further behind, she would explain to us that she was purchasing the class ring for her beloved daughter...and absolutely did not want to lose the ring due to her nonpayment. She said her daughter deserved it...and mom would come through for her. And each time we said we understood...and waited.

But it was nearing Christmas, and we were attempting to close out our special orders and layaways that had been running over the time limits. My staff struggled to collect some of these overdue accounts...and Emily’s mom was one of them. After a bit of probing on this long overdue special order it was discovered that Emily’s mother had been extremely sick having had multiple strokes and was basically unable to work at this point. Her situation touched all of the hearts of the entire staff here at Pineforest Jewelry. Emily’s mom was adamant that Emily deserved that ring...and mom was not giving up on finding a way to pay it out. Mom’s unwillingness to forfeit this ring that her daughter so deserved became infectious to all of us. WE wanted Emily’s mom to be able to present that ring to her daughter as much as mom did.

I thought of a possible way to handle this situation. As one of the top five independent accounts in the United States of the Gold Lance Class Ring company, I knew I had a bit of influence with this vendor...so I picked up the phone and called. After relating the story to the supervisor of the sales staff, I asked a question of him...a very simple and straightforward question to be sure. I asked if Gold Lance would provide this ring at no additional charge to this lady... and consider it an advertising expense. Gold Lance immediately approved my request to provide the ring if we were able to actually work this into advertising in some way.

So, I thought about it for no longer than a minute...and began to call local television stations. I spoke to several stations...and was turned down each time. But I did not give up. When I contacted Channel 26 here in Houston and posed the situation to them as an opportunity for special interest coverage in the community...surprisingly, Damali Keith was assigned the interview! And by the way, not surprisingly, Damali Keith has HER motto on HER Facebook page: “Motto: If you see someone without a smile, give them yours! 1 Thessalonians 5:15-23.” I knew we had located someone who cared as much as all of us cared. We then scheduled an interview at Pineforest Jewelry with Damali, Emily, and Emily’s mom for December 12, 2012. But we left the surprise for the interview! Emily and her mom had no idea of what was to happen.

The time came for the interview...and all of us were interviewed by Damali. During the interview we broke the news to Emily and her mom that Pineforest Jewelry and the Gold Lance company were presenting Emily with that class ring that her mom was so intent on presenting to Emily. And, further, that mom would not have to worry about any further payments that were SO hard for her at that time. Then I presented the boxed ring to Emily...and placed the ring on her finger. Emily was speechless...and her mom simply beamed with pride for her Emily.

Sometimes the simplest solution to a problem is right before your eyes. We just need to open our eyes and our hearts to see them. Caring for others, especially at this time of giving each year, opens SO many doors of opportunities to practice “Service Above Self”. Memories of Christmas stories such as this will never be forgotten by anyone involved! Giving has always been a part of my life. My mother presented Linda and me a framed saying that hangs on a wall at our store: “Time endures but cannot fade the memories that love has made.” There is simply no better feeling, and no better memory, than finding an opportunity to practice “Service Above Self”.

Now THAT was another great Christmas story that I will never forget!

Emily and Diamond Jim can be viewed on the [www.PineforestJewelry.com](http://www.PineforestJewelry.com) website at <https://www.facebook.com/diamondjim.mills/videos/2037469389601503>. Read “Ask Diamond Jim” previous columns in the back issues of The North Channel Star at [www.northchannelstar.com](http://www.northchannelstar.com).

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

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the Independent Jewelers Organization (IJO) and the Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) for many years. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).

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

"And Mommy really wants a diamond pendant!"





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# 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.



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders

## Legal Challenges to Amendments Appear to be Quashed

A half-dozen lawsuits challenging the 13 approved Texas constitutional amendments appear to be dead in the water, The Dallas Morning News reported. The secretary of state’s office last week declared the propositions approved and now a part of the Texas Constitution, while Gov. Greg Abbott canvassed the election and certified the results. One proposition that would have raised the retirement age of judges was rejected by voters.

In addition, the Texas attorney general’s office said the lawsuits had improper “citation and return of service.” The plaintiffs are unable to correction those citations because the election results have been certified.

The six nearly identical lawsuits claimed the state used uncertified polling machines that exposed the election to voter fraud, and the plaintiffs called for the courts to throw out the Nov. 7 results and hold a new election using paper ballots only, The News reported.

The suits threatened to delay voter-approved property tax cuts and a raise in retired teachers’ pensions.

### ABBOTT ENTERS PRIMARY BATTLE FRAY, MUM ON FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

The Texas Legislature’s fourth special session ended last week with the House and Senate still at loggerheads over Abbott’s push to allow the use of taxpayer money to pay for private school costs, commonly known as school vouchers. Last month, 21 House Republicans joined with Democrats to remove the voucher provision from a broad education bill that did not pass both chambers.

Abbott is sticking to his promise to endorse primary challengers to House Republicans who voted against the voucher plan, the Texas Tribune reported. With the holiday season underway, it appears unlikely there will be another special session this year, but Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said he believed the best day to come back for another session “would be Feb. 5, 30 days before the election.”



other session “would be Feb. 5, 30 days before the election.”

The impasse means legislation to increase public school funding, provide teacher bonuses and hike funding for school safety measures also died on the vine.

### STATE HALTS EFFORTS TO TAKE FAIRFIELD LAKE PROPERTY

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has ceased its efforts to seize a 5,000-acre tract of private land that once included a state park and adjoins Fairfield Lake, The News reported. A private developer purchased the property from a utility company for about \$103 million last June and plans to close Fairfield Lake State Park were announced. The land for the park had been leased from Vistra Corp., the utility company for 50 years.

Todd Interests, the developer, plans to build luxury homes with a golf course, restaurants and shops, as well as access to a private airstrip. Less than two weeks after the developer bought the property, the state voted to condemn the land using eminent domain.

A judge-appointed commission of three Freestone County residents put the fair market value of the property at \$418.3 million – more than four times what the developer paid for it. Fairfield Lake is considered the largest privately owned lake in the state and possibly the nation, The News reported.

### STATE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON BROADBAND INTERNET PLAN

The Texas Broadband Development Office is soliciting input from the public on the proposed Texas Digital Opportunity Plan, which seeks to improve and expand broadband access across the state. Almost 7 million Texans lack access to high-speed internet, or nearly 25% of residents.

“Access to reliable, high-speed internet as a means of advancing education, training, employment opportunities, healthcare, and delivery of essential services is critical to the future of our state,” said Glenn Hegar, comptroller.

Through Jan. 5 of next year, Texans can give their opinions on the plan by visiting [broadbandfortexas.com/tdop](http://broadbandfortexas.com/tdop).

The newly created broadband office is partnering with chambers of commerce, the Texas Workforce Commission, industry associations and elected officials to highlight the importance of access to high-speed internet in today’s digital world.

### WORKERS’ COMP COSTS DROP IN STATE

A report issued by the Texas Department of Insurance indicates that the cost of treating injured employees in the state’s workers’ compensation system dropped considerably from 2012 through 2022. Total health care costs dropped 30%, from \$1.15 billion in 2012 to \$812 million last year, while the total number of claims dropped 20% during the same period, from 319,000 to 256,000.

Hospital costs also dropped 20% in that decade, while the costs for professional services – such as physicians – was down 26%, from \$657 million to \$483 million.

The report used administrative data reported by insurance carriers for the 10-year period. The costs were not adjusted for inflation, which would have made the decrease in costs even greater.

### PUC APPROVES NEW PRICE PROTECTIONS DURING POWER EMERGENCIES

The Public Utility Commission has implemented a new Emergency Pricing Program that limits consumer exposure to high wholesale electricity prices during power emergencies, as occurred during Winter Storm Uri in February 2021.

“Implementing the Emergency Pricing Program provides another layer of financial protection for Texas consumers and will ensure their electricity bills remain affordable even when conditions are tight in the ERCOT system,” Thomas Gleeson, PUC executive director, said.

The new program comes after passage of Senate Bill 3 during the last regular legislative session.

“This is a key part of our ongoing work to ensure electric reliability for Texans at a reasonable cost,” Gleeson added.

★

TWO CENTS WORTH

By Charlie Farrar

## Road Trip

Me and the Mrs. took a road trip to South Carolina recently to visit my sister as she had a stroke. Fortunately, there is no paralysis, but it did effect her mentally.

That is over a thousand miles there and another grand back to the Lone Star State. We have not been in the direction in over 3 years, so we got to see lots of familiar places during the trip. Still lots of dummies on the road and huggers in the left lane of traffic.

We followed Sherman’s route through Atlanta but took the Perimeter around Atlanta to avoid the downtown mess. They have rebuilt Atlanta and continue road work to this day. Mercy day at the people. This road goes under the airport runway for a bit and a sight to see.

The Mrs. always looks forward to going to this part of the country as they have restaurant chains called BOJANGLES. She has to have her country ham fix (that is the salty kind).

The temperature dropped to freezing one morning along the backwaters of the Catawba River. Makes one appreciate our Gulf Coast temperatures.

Got to go to a local fish camp one evening for suppers. They had two kinds of slaw, sour and regular. Had to try the sour and only a small portion as I wouldn’t hit a hog in the butt with such. They added vinegar to make it taste that way.

Auburn was playing LSU on the day of the trip and so thankful that we stopped and had a bite to eat before traveling through War Eagle territory. That gave traffic a chance to thin way down by the time we made it through there.

Sister has one of the prettiest cats, a solid black and shiny male. Oh so pretty and both cats remembered me from past visits or maybe it was the rattling of the cat treat container. She named the black cat Panther and the name fits.

Meanwhile back in Texas one must say there have been too many good friends passing lately. Don’t care for that, hits too close to home.

One was an old RM2 on the ship in Boston. Nice guy, apple farmer knows Morris code and rolled his own Bull Durham.

The other was an old friend from Highlands, Texas. He was my gardening guru. About as nice a guy, you’d ever want to meet.

Counted over 60 tomatoes on one of his tomato plants, awesome and you’d have to see it to believe. Had another friend call me and ask the secret of how his success is growing tomatoes.

Charlie Farrar is a retired banker residing in Baytown, Texas

Have A Very Merry!

You deserve the merry best.

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Dear Santa:  
I am so happy to have my stuff from last Christmas. My gifts were the best, I love them! You are the best for giving all of us gifts. I think we all in joy them and I will like for you to give the homeless kids that do not have gifts and shoes for the kids and parents that do not have shoes, so they will be happy to have some, I hope they have a great day. Alexia, 10 yr.

....

Dear Santa:I want a drawing set, legos, painting set. I want you to help the poor people too. I want a puppy plush. I loved the gifts you gave me last year. I hope you have a good Christmas, Santa. Victoria, 9 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
How are you? Thanks for last year's presents. My grandma is going to get surgery. Please help her and every homeless or people who need help. I would like a cap for my dad, a purse for my mom, a furfum for grandma, and a cooking set. Thank you Santa. Victoria, 10yr.

Dear Santa:  
My name is Magdiel and I hope you are very well. This year I would like two new pairs of dunks, 13,500 V-bucks, a white water bottle, AirPods pros, baggy hoodies, one of them need to be Looney Tunes please. New Elf on end shelf and for you and all others to have a Merry Little Christmas! Thank you Santa! Magdiel, 10 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
I wish that all the families have a good Christmas. I also want to find the right gift for my mom and dad. Thank you for the gifts you gave me last year. This year I wish for my dad to get a 100 on his test. Happy Holidays. Valentina, 10 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
How are you today? I hope you are well! I want a VR headset to those who don't have it, a snow and soda machine to those who doesn't have drinks and want snow cones. I also want money to donate to charity. Jacob, 9 yr.

Dear Santa:This year I have been nice. I would like you to bring me a electric scooter, I also wants carts of Roblox and a bean bag. Tania, 8 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
This year I have been nice. I would like for you to bring me a tree house, barbie house, because I like them, Small slime, 2 box of barbie, make, kitchen toy, iPad. Gianna, 7 ye.

....

Dear Santa:  
This year I have been good. I would like for you to bring me a a hoverboard and a Neof end a Super Mario kart. Axel, 8ye.

....

Dear Santa:  
This year I have been good, I would like for you to bring me a PS5 and a seek plush, also Roux. Matthew, 7 yr.

....

Dear Santa:  
This year I have been nice. I would like for you to bring me a Babe dream house, some flash cards too, please. Gracy, 7 yr.

# Whitmire's Landside Victory,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Houston Mayor Elect Senator John Whitmire with family and supporters at the George R. Brown convention center (12-9-23). L - R: Former State Rep. Garnet Coleman, Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, Whitney Whitmire Jenkins (daughter), Brooks Jenkins (grandson), Senator John Whitmire (mayor elect), Sarah Whitmire (daughter), Bennett Jenkins (grandson), Senator Carol Alvarado, Rev. F.N. Williams Sr. & Gigi Lee. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

know of any other elected official who's is more determined to help people regardless of the person's standing of importance in relation to others within our society."

During his victory speech Whitmire told supporters, "The first way you solve your problem is admit you have one, and I don't mind telling folks what a great city we have, but we've got great challenges," "We'll meet our challenges. It will be an opportunity for us to show the nation what the city of Houston can do. We will not kick our cans down the road any longer."

Whitmire, while campaigning has said many

times Houston needs to be governed like running a big business. In the non-partisan position he'll be working with Democrat and Republican council members. He's use to working across the aisle, for over fifty years he's accomplished a lot as a Texas legislator doing it.

He'll be in charge of over 20,000 city workers with a six billion dollar budget. There's about 22 city departments made up of attorneys, certified public accountants, laborers, health inspectors, police officers, firefighters, engineers, janitors and more.

"My administration will respect all personnel, they'll be no bullying or intimidation allowed amongst the city's workers. I will stop the cronyism that's plagued some administrations in the past."

The new mayor said throughout the campaign voters thanked him for not stooping in doing negative campaigning and letting them hear where he stood on issues important to them.

Senator Carol Alvarado when making her opening remarks said, "Mayor Elect Whitmire campaigned on positive issues, things voters care about. He never took the campaign down the negative trails."

# Holiday Events Calendar,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

77049  
NSSH Auditorium (Door #14)  
7 p.m.

KHS, KMS, & LE Choirs Christmas Caroling in Parkway Forest  
TBD

L. E. Monahan Holiday Extravaganza  
King High School Performing Arts Center  
11433 East Sam Houston Pkwy N, Houston, TX 77044  
TBD

King 9th Grade Theatre Fall Show  
KMS Auditorium -  
8540 C E King Pkwy, Houston, TX 77044  
6:30PM

Crenshaw Elementary mural unveiling  
The 2024 Houston College Football Playoff Committee, Houston Loves Teachers Campaign, Crenshaw Elementary, Channelview ISD Education Foundation, and

Channelview ISD invite the community to the unveiling of a new student-designed mural at Crenshaw Elementary, courtesy of the Houston Loves Teachers campaign and the 2024 Houston College Football Playoff Committee on Friday, December 15, 2023 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Crenshaw Elementary School, 16204 Wood Drive, in Channelview, TX 77530.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17  
Christmas Music Recital  
The Studio of C. David Taylor invites the community to celebrate the annual Christmas Recital at Church of the Resurrection, 5202 First Street in Crosby, TX 77532. This is Mr. Taylor's 45th anniversary teaching private piano and voice students. A reception follows the students performances.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18  
North Shore Sr. HS Choir Winter Concert  
353 Castlegory, Houston, TX 77049

NSSH Auditorium (Doors #1, #14)  
7 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19  
Cunningham MS Band Winter Concert  
353 Castlegory, Houston, TX 77049  
NSSH Auditorium (Door #14)  
7 p.m.

Royalwood Elementary Winter Concert  
7715 Royalwood Drive, Houston, TX 77049  
5:30 p.m.

Sheldon Early Childhood Academy Winter Program  
17010 Beaumont Hwy., Houston TX 77049  
6 p.m. Art Show/6:30 p.m. Kindergarten Concert

Have a Christmas date we need to include? Please email [HYPERLINKmailto:chris@turnerchevrolet.com](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:chris@turnerchevrolet.com) and include the who, what, when, where, and why of the event.

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PRECINCT THREE

## Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

### WHILE SHOPPING

- Always lock your car
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight
- Do not carry large amounts of cash
- Avoid shopping alone at night
- Leave expensive jewelry at home

### WHILE TRAVELING

- CHECK YOUR TIRES! Be sure your tires have good tread and are properly inflated. Don't forget to check the spare.
- STAY ALERT! Always be aware of other drivers. DRIVE SOBER and BUCKLE UP!
- DON'T POST YOUR TRAVEL PLANS ON SOCIAL MEDIA! Wait until you've returned to share pictures and stories from your vacation.
- REQUEST A VACATION WATCH! We're happy to look out for your home while you're away. Go to our website at [hccp3.com](http://hccp3.com) or try out our app!

Scan here with your phones camera to download our app!

CHILI FEAST Raffle Tickets

make a great Christmas Gift - and you might win a new car! 832-483-3505

**Highlands Rotary Club's**  
49th Annual  
**CHILI FEAST**  
Raffle & Auction  
St. Jude's Catholic Church  
808 S. Main Street, Highlands  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Live Auction Noon-3  
**Saturday, February 3, 2024**  
Win a new Vehicle. Your choice of  
2024 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER or 2024 CHEVY TRAX  
from Turner Chevrolet

**Raffle Tickets \$100.00 Donation**  
**Meal Tickets \$10.00**  
Raffle Tickets purchased by Jan. 9, 2024 will be eligible for \$300 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.  
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100th Ticket ..... Portable Ice Maker  
150th Ticket ..... \$200 Gift Card  
200th Ticket ..... Air Compressor/Battery Charger  
250th Ticket ..... Beats Solo 3 Wireless Headphones  
300th Ticket ..... \$200 Gift Card  
350th Ticket ..... Air Fryer

400th Ticket ..... 65 Qt. Artic Cooler  
450th Ticket ..... Shotgun  
500th Ticket ..... \$200 Gift Card  
550th Ticket ..... 28" Black Stone Cooker  
600th Ticket ..... Outdoor Propane Fire Pit  
650th Ticket ..... 22-250 Rifle  
699th Ticket ..... 55" Smart TV  
700th Ticket ..... 2024 Chevy Trailblazer or 2024 Chevy TRAX  
(Color & Model may vary from Pictures)

Posters Courtesy of the Highlands STAR-Crusby COURIER



★

SPORTS PAGE

★

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 16

Texans hit road to take on Titans:  
Cowboys face tough task at Buffalo

With just three weeks left in the 2023 NFL's regular season, the Houston Texans are firmly in contention for a playoff berth.

When the season began, Texan fans would have been happy with a six-win season, but first-year head coach DeMeco Ryans and his team had grander plans.

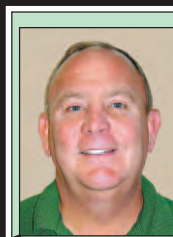
Not much was expected of Ryans in his first year as an NFL head coach. The Texans were starting a rookie quarterback in C.J. Stroud and were coming off a three-win season in 2022 and over the last two years had mustered seven total wins.

Well, two weeks ago, Houston surpassed the seven-win plateau with a 22-17 home win over Denver to end the Broncos five-game winning streak. Last Sunday, the Texans played a struggling Jets team in New Jersey. If they won that game, which they should have, they would be looking at eight wins heading into another road game this Sunday when they visit Nashville to take on a struggling Tennessee Titans game in an important AFC South contest for Ryan's team.

Ryans has to be considered for Coach of the Year and Stroud appears a lock for Rookie of the Year, and while individual awards are nice, Ryans is all about the team. Should they win at Tennessee on Sunday, the Texans could very well come home with a 9-5 record heading into their final three games, two of which are at home (against Cleveland and Tennessee). Houston closes out the season at Indianapolis. The Colts defeated the Texans in Week 2 at home, so the season finale in Indy could be very significant.

The Denver win was costly for the Texans as rookie wide receiver Tank Dell (47 receptions, 709 yards, 7 TDs) was lost for the season when he sustained a broken fibula in the game. Dell is Stroud's deep threat and replacing his speed and big-play ability won't be easy.

While the Texans hit the road this Sunday, so to do the Dallas Cowboys, who will head north to take on the Buffalo Bills. There are a lot of places other than western New York the Cowboys would like to be in mid-December, but the schedule is what the schedule is and if Dallas wants to remain in the



**KEENEY'S KORNER**  
By  
**MIKE KEENEY**

hunt for the NFC East title, they will need to forget about the weather and just play.

The Bills are in danger of not making the playoffs, which will not well with their fans. Should Buffalo fail to qualify for the post season, head coach Sean McDermott's job could be in jeopardy.

This is the time of year when the NFL plays Saturday games just as the college bowl season cranks up. The league gives us a triple header on Saturday as Minnesota visits Cincinnati, Pittsburgh visits the Colts and Denver heads to the Motor City to take on the Lions.

The Sunday Night Football crew has a good one as Baltimore visits Jacksonville, with the winner remaining in the hunt for the No. 1 seed in the AFC. Baltimore, Jacksonville and Miami entered last weekend's games with nine wins each. It's going to be an interesting finish in the AFC.

Week 15 concludes with Monday Night Football with the Eagles visiting the desperate Seahawks. Seattle can't afford to lose any more games if Pete Carroll's team hopes to make the playoffs. Hosting Philly won't be easy.

As the bowl season starts up, college football fans will have plenty of games to watch as they wait for the College Football Playoff semifinals on Jan. 1. Texas (ranked No. 3 in the CFP ranking) fans are ecstatic over landing one of the four CFP berths and they will face No. 2-ranked Washington in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's night, while No. 1-ranked Michigan faces No. 4-ranked Alabama in the Rose Bowl. Florida State fans are livid that their 13-0 Seminoles were excluded from the CFP in favor of 12-1 Alabama. While I understand their frustration and anger, the CFP committee got it right. Alabama defeated No. 1-ranked Georgia, the two-time national champ and in the process ended Kirby Smart's teams 30-

game winning streak. I think an SEC title outweighs an ACC title, but that's just me. FSU and Georgia will meet in the Orange Bowl and take out their frustrations on being excluded from the CFP on each other.

Before we take a look at this weekend's key NFL games, let's review last week's record. A 6-2 mark upped the season record to 97-45 (68%). Now, onto this weekend's game.

NFL

**Los Angeles Chargers at Las Vegas:** Week 15 starts with Thursday Night Football as the Chargers and Raiders meet in an AFC West contest. The Chargers are one of the most disappointing teams in the NFL. They have a lot of talent, but always seem to underachieve. Two weeks ago, they won an ugly game at New England, 6-0. This could turn into an offensive shootout as Justin Herbert (3,038 yards, 20 TDs), running back Austin Ekeker (446 rushing yards, 4 TDs/31 receptions, 295 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Keenan Allen (102 receptions, 1,175 yards, 7 TDs) look to take out their frustrations against the Raiders. Vegas is once again playing for next year and is giving rookie QB Aiden O'Connell (1,933 yards, 4 TDs) a look. He'll count on running back Josh Jacobs (771 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Davante Adams (69 receptions, 814 yards, 4 TDs) to help him out against the Chargers. Look for the Raiders to continue to make things miserable for the Chargers. My pick, Las Vegas 31, Los Angeles Chargers 27

**Minnesota at Cincinnati:** Two desperate teams meet in Cincinnati on Saturday as the Vikings visit the Bengals. Both of these team's playoff chances are slim, so look for both teams to play hard on Saturday to keep their fledgling postseason hopes alive. The

Vikings need a better effort from QB Joshua Dobbs (832 yards, 5 TDs/5 interceptions). He has some weapons in tight end T.J. Hockenson (80 receptions, 786 yards, 5 TDs), and rookie wide receiver Jordan Addison (54 receptions, 686 yards, 7 TDs). Dobbs should also have star wideout Justin Jefferson (36 receptions, 571 yards, 3 TDs in just five games) back after he missed five games with a hamstring injury. The Bengals have been ravaged by injuries, most notably to starting QB Joe Burrow. The Bengals picked up a big road win two weeks ago when they upset Jacksonville, 34-31 in overtime. Backup QB Jake Browning (649 yards, 3 TDs) is playing well in place of Burrow, but he will need help from running back Joe Mixon (689 yards, 6 TDs/0 and big-play wideout Ja'Marr Chase (86 receptions, 1,063 yards, 7 TDs) to keep the Bengals' playoff hopes alive. My pick, Cincinnati 23, Minnesota 20

**Houston at Tennessee:** The Texans can expect the Titans to pull out the Luv Ya Blue uniforms on Sunday, which should serve as motivation heading into this key AFC South contest for Houston. Stroud (3,540 yards, 20 TDs) has thus far proven he is up to the task either playing at home or on the road and he will face a Titans team that would like nothing more than to put a wrench in the Texans playoff hopes. With Dell gone, Stroud will rely on fellow wide out Nico Collins (59 receptions, 991 yards, 6 TDs), tight end Dalton Schultz and Noah Brown to make plays in the passing game. The Houston defense will need to slow down their nemesis, running back Derrick Henry (he has rushed for more than 200 yards four times against the Texans). Henry has 841 rushing yards and eight TDs this year. Look for the Houston defense to get after rookie QB Will Levis (1,266 yards, 7 TDs) as that unit steps up and helps lead the Texans to a key road win. My pick, Houston 26, Tennessee 23

**Dallas at Buffalo:** After playing three straight home games, the Cowboys face a stern test when they visit Western New York on Sunday to take on a desperate Bills team. Dallas QB Dak Prescott (3,234 yards, 26 TDs) is having perhaps his best year as a pro and he has plenty of weapons to help him out in running back Tony Pollard (737 yards, 5 TDs), wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (90 receptions, 1,182 yards, 7 TDs) and tight end Jake Ferguson (46 receptions, 498 yards, 5 TDs). The Dallas defense will need to bring

it's "A" game when it faces Bills QB Josh Allen (3,214 passing yards, 24 TDs/342 rushing yards, 9 TDs), running back James Cook (731 yards, 1 TD) and big-play wide receiver Stefon Diggs (83 receptions, 969 yards, 8 TDs). Two weeks ago, Seattle torched the Dallas secondary for 334 yards and three TDs. If that unit doesn't tighten things up, Dallas could be in for a long day against Allen. My pick, Dallas 30, Buffalo 27

**Baltimore at Jacksonville:** A good one on Sunday Night Football pits two of the best teams in the AFC. Both teams are alive (along with Miami) for the top seed in the AFC, so look for a tight, competitive game on Sunday night in Jacksonville. The Ravens are once again led by QB Lamar Jackson (2,618 yards, 13 TDs/574 rushing yards, 5 TDs). He's getting help in the running game from Gus Edwards (590 yards, 10 TDs) and in the passing game by rookie wide receiver Zay Jones (58 receptions, 613 yards, 2 TDs). The Jags suffered a big blow two weeks ago in their 34-31 overtime loss at home to Cincinnati when starting QB Trevor Lawrence (3,004 yards, 14 TDs) suffered a right ankle sprain. It's not known how long Lawrence will be out, but if he's unable to go against the Ravens, the Jags could be in for a long night. The Jags will need a big night from running back Travis Etienne (771 yards, 9 total TDs) and wide receivers Christian Kirk (57 receptions, 787 yards, 3 TDs) and Calvin Ridley (51 receptions, 689 yards, 5 TDs) to make life easier for backup QB C.J. Bethard if Lawrence is unable to play. The Jags are tough to beat at home and the Ravens will discover that on Sunday night. My pick, Jacksonville 26, Baltimore 23 (if Lawrence plays); Baltimore 24, Jacksonville 17 (if Lawrence does not play)

**Philadelphia at Seattle:** Week 15 concludes on Monday Night Football as the Eagles travel cross country to take on the Seahawks. Two weeks ago, the Eagles were dominated at home by the 49ers en route to a 42-19 thrashing, while Seattle lost a shootout at Dallas, 41-35. The Eagles defense must play better than it did against SF and should be able to force a turnover or two from Seattle QB Geno Smith (2,918 yards, 15 TDs/9 interceptions). Seattle should get running back Kenneth Walker III (613 yards, 6 TDs) back after he missed a couple of games with an injury. Smith will look to make plays in the passing game to wideouts DK Metcalf (49 receptions, 812 yards, 6 TDs) and

Tyler Lockett (59 receptions, 622 yards, 4 TDs). Philly will need a big game from QB Jalen Hurts (2,995 passing yards, 19 TDs/430 rushing yards, 12 TDs), running back D'Andre Swift (783 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receivers A.J. Brown (81 receptions, 1,164 yards, 7 TDs) and DeVonta Smith (64 receptions, 834 yards, 6 TDs). The Eagles have the Cowboys breathing down their necks in the NFC East, so look for Philly to pick up a big road win on Monday night. My pick, Philadelphia 31, Seattle 24



FOOTBALL  
SCORES &  
SCHEDULES

121123 FB Playoff

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Galena Park North Shore 23,  
Austin Westlake 14

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

6A Division I UIL State Football  
Championship between Galena  
Park North Shore Mustangs (15-  
0, 7-0) vs. Duncanville Panthers  
(13-1, 6-1) on Saturday, Dec.  
16, 2023, at AT&T Stadium in  
Arlington, Texas at 3 p.m.  
Game will be broadcast on Bally  
Sports Southwest Network.  
Radio broadcast will be  
available on Legacy Sports  
Network, HYPERLINK "<http://www.lsnsports.com>" with  
pregame hosted by Anson  
Massey and Tucker Reaves with  
3 p.m. kickoff with announcers  
Rick Blount and Carl Theiss.

HISTORY BETWEEN NORTH  
SHORE AND DUNCANVILLE  
(all games in the state title  
game/winner was state  
champion)

2023-2024 North Shore ??,  
Duncanville ??  
2022-2023 Duncanville 28,  
North Shore 21  
2021-2022 North Shore 17,  
Duncanville 10  
2019-2020 North Shore 31,  
Duncanville 17  
2018-2019 North Shore 41,  
Duncanville 36

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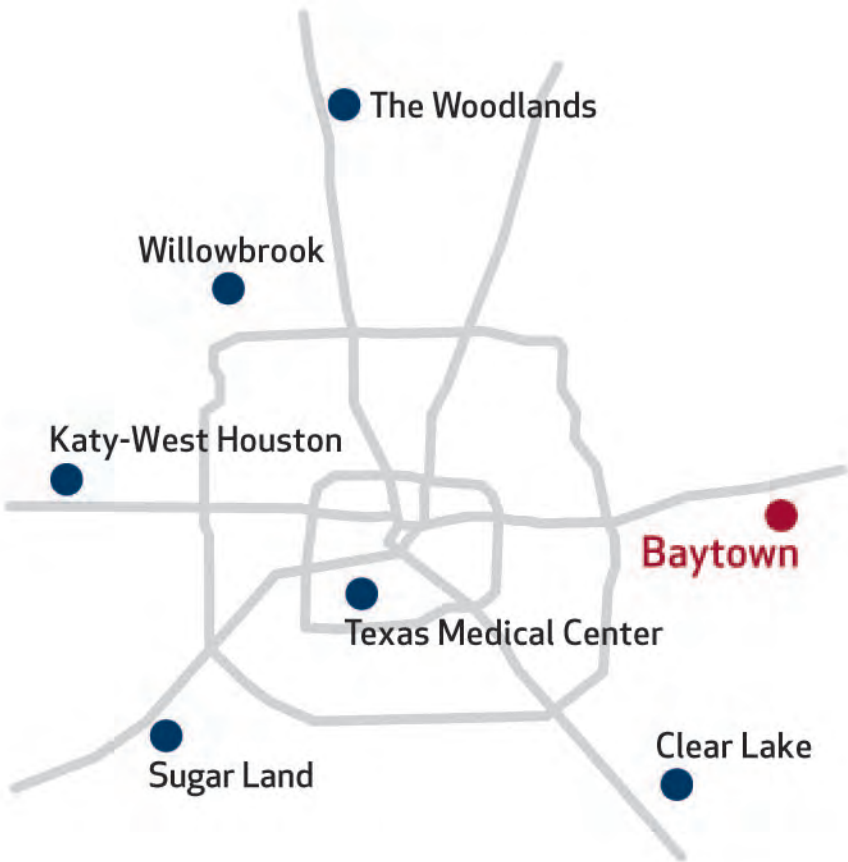




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Dear Santa:  
This year I have been. I would like for you to bring me a computer, iPhone 15, Nik shoes and iPad and belies. I love you, Santa. Mier, 8 yr.

Dear Santa:  
This year I have been good. I would like for you to bring me CUPhead collector's edition. I also want a iPhone 13. All four book's of a premed car Eddie. Roel, 7 yr.

Dear Santa:  
This year I have been good. I would like a real dog, a notebook. Asow a cart of roux. Asow a Iphone 15, Pleas. Stacy, 8 yr.

Dear Santa:  
This year I have been good. I would like for you to bring me an iPad. Also air pods and iPhone!! Valeria, 7 yr.

Dear Santa:  
This year I have been on the nice list, I would like for you to bring me a ice cream toy, also I want a donut toy. Love you Santa. Also Noel is stuck on my floss. Andrea, 7 yr.

MORE LETTERS TO SANTA NEXT WEEK.

# Mustangs Advance to State Final,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Class 6A Division I state championship titles over Duncanville in 2018, 2019, 2021; one out of four is pretty good. Westlake beat North Shore, 24-21, in the 2020 state semifinal.

Even though the game was far from home for the Mustang Nation fans, that didn't stop them from turning out in large numbers. Fans of both teams' filled the stadium and never let up cheering their team on for four quarters. The game was a defensive battle with little scoring, NS made 3 touchdowns (TD's) and a 3 point field goal, while WL made 2 TD's.

Head Coach Willie Gaston and his assistants this season have put together a steel curtain defense for the run game. If there's a weak spot it's been in the pass defense. However they've forced three interceptions and capped off with a pick-6 on the final play of the game.

Westlake scored 7 points first with 1:39 left on the clock in the first quarter. Then NS tied the game 7-7 with 6:36 on the clock in the second quarter on a QB Kaleb Bailey one yard plunge across the goal. Running back D'Andre Hardeman scored again for NS in the second quarter with a 9 YD run with 2:35 on the clock sending the game to half-time 14-7.

The Chaps took the 3rd quarter opening kickoff and on the first play with only twenty seconds off the clock their running back scored tying the game 14-14.

NS's Jonathan Soto kicked a 19 YD field goal putting the Stangs up 17-14 with 6:36 left on the clock in 3rd quarter. The game remained scoreless until the last two seconds of the game when Chap's



NORTH SHORE Team Captains: L - R: #7-Dillon Dixon, #9-Kaleb Bailey, #3-Deion Deblanc, #5-Lavonte Johnson (Photo by Linda Jamail)

QB Reese Wise backed into his own end zone to throw a desperation pass that was blocked and caught in the end zone by Mustang's linebacker Charles Ross ending the game 23-14.

After the game Westlake Coach Tony Salazar said, "They're big up front," of North Shore's defense. "They're strong, they pack the box. They have big, long corners playing press-man out there, taking away the quick throws. We didn't have consistency running the football and stayed behind the chains. We lost some downs and allowed them to tee off on the run."

"When they have talent like that and coaches like that, they do what they do until you stop it," Salazar said. "I thought we stopped it enough times today. We just weren't able to score enough points to keep up with them. If we hadn't failed to execute on a couple of plays it might have made a difference."

Salazar said, "I'm proud of this team and expects to be back in this same game next season. I'm losing 61 seniors but have good talent to fill the departing senior's positions."

Coach Gaston said, "We knew coming into the game to expect a tough defense, they're coached well



Defense lineman Cortney Brooks sacks Chaps QB #9 Reese Wise for loss of Yds. (Photo by Allan Jamail)

and we knew what to expect, we weren't surprised and they knew as well what to expect from us."

North Shore coach Willie Gaston and Austin Westlake coach Tony Salazar have a lot in common. Both were longtime coordinators at their respective schools. Gaston orchestrated North Shore's offense for seven years. Salazar engineered Westlake's defense for eight.

Both recently became head coaches for the first time. Gaston was tagged to lead the Mustangs in February. Salazar was hired to lead the Chaparrals in January 2022.

Stangs QB Kaleb Bailey said, "We have a good football program built over the years by former Coach David Aymond and Coach Jon Kay, we're following in their winning programs. And we're supported by the Mustang Nation who'll come cheering us on and that's a big plus for us, it motivates us." Linda Jamail statistician and photographer.

Scoring by quarter:


	1	2	3	4	Final
Mustangs	0	14	3	6	23
Chaparrals	7	0	7	0	14

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And Commissioners of Harris County  
ESD #50

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& Happy New Year



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