



INSIDE: Letters to Santa, Local Season's Greetings

HIGHLANDS

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

These stories in the PRESS:

- Holiday Heart Health
- Ner Con at Chambers County Library
- LETTER: Cedar Bayou Improvements
-And more, Page 5

EVENTS

SAT., DEC. 15 FAITHFUL PAWS OF HOUSTON

Come and practice your reading with some furry friends! Every 3rd saturday, 10:30 am - noon at Crosby library children's area.

TUE., DEC. 18 CHAMBER CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Celebrate this Holiday Season at Crosby's Chamber Open House, 11 am - 2 pm, 5317 First Street, Crosby TX., 77532 (Chamber Office).

DEC. 18-20 CROSBY VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT

will again host Santa in their vehicles in Operation Santa, the Jolly Ole' Elf starts at 6:00 p.m. each night Tuesday in Newport, Wednesday Foley Rd. and Indian Shores and Thursday in Barrett and Crosby Village.

THUR., DEC. 20 MOVIE TIME AT CROSBY LIBRARY

A Holiday Classic: The Nightwre Before Christmas (Rated PG). Snacks will be provided, 2:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room.

BIRTHDAYS

- Dec 13-Gary Hart
Patricia Herman
Don Lauders
Bernard Kotalik
Mary McCee
- Dec 14-Blaine Allen Dickey
Mandy Griggs
- Dec 15-Courtney Langham
Russell Rogers
- Dec 16-Kelsy Browning
- Dec 17-Tim Dammon
Helen Dunks
Brandon Tappan
Laurie Delome
- Dec 18-Mikey Martin
Pauline Shields

ANNIVERSARIES

- Dec. 15-Bob & Mary McCee
- Dec. 16-George & Aimee Palmer
- Dec. 17 - George & Stachia R. Thurmond
Zorro & Katie Soto
- Dec. 19-Kitty & Bob Elkins

DEATHS

- James V. "Jim" Garrett
- Stephen Lynn Smith
- Christina Lee Williams Luper

Largest, longest Crosby Christmas Parade bears toys for kids



2017 Fireman of the Year Warren Thompson waves with Santa at parade watchers throughout North Main Street that capped the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce's Children's Christmas Pageant. Tower 82 brought Santa around for the largest parade in Crosby history last Saturday, but a truck with a Mexican flag and Ole' Glory turned upside down got more attention than the mission to gather toys for less fortunate girls and boys.



Amid an array of bounce castles the Children's Festival featured local entertainment including Crosby Dance Academy dancers. The Christmas event was part of the all-day Christmas festival last Saturday, December 8th sponsored by the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce.



The offending truck was not seen during the opening entry and some speculate it must have joined in during an enormous gap in the ATV part of the parade.

Sharing Christmas at B.P. Hopper



Once again, the community of Highlands provided new clothing through the Share Your Christmas project for school children in the Highlands area.

Partners in this project pictured are: B.P. Hopper counselor, Nieketta Bapiste, Nadine Goodney and Theresa Cashion Catholic Daughters of the America's, Jim Strouhal Knights of a Columbus, Andy Scott and Denise Smith Rotary Club, Greg Evans Knights of Columbus, Teresa Verret ZXP, Chrissa Teel, Tri-County Construction and Horizons, Delene Cotten Baptists and, last but by no means least, Claudia Birdsong First Baptist Church.

The school counselors work very hard for this to be a success. The elementary school counselor, Michelle Stripling and the Jr School counselor, Mary King were unable to be with us for the picture. Sponsors not available for the picture are Gail Clanton 2nd Baptist Church, L J Engineering, Woodforest Bank and Brett Marshall.

Theresa Cashion is chairman of this project.

Raceway sings in the Holiday Season



Annually, Raceway Gasoline Station has kids from local schools come out to sing and Santa to chat with kids about gifts. This year was no exception as community leaders joined the celebration. MORE on Page 10.

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Letters to Santa

Letters to Santa

How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? I hop you are doing well. I am doing good in reading. I really need to try harder in math. Thank you for the gifts last year. This year have a LoL dolls and I will share it to my friends and I will like to have a alppe wach and I really need it to call my mom. When something goes wrong so pls. Zoey beth Valencia, 9

Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I hope you had a great year! I have been good I only got a couple conduct marks. Better than last year. Thank you for the presints last year. I would like a nurf gun bullets and a nededo. If I got that my heart would be blown up. Merry Christmas. Brycen Schryden, 8

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

Dear Santa, How is everything going? I hope you are doing well! I try hard to be helpful. Thank you for the stuff that you gave me last year! I really loved the pony! This year I want a inteno sich. It wode make me happy! Merry Christmas. Anabell Salinas, 8

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

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

Dear Santa, I hope you are doing well! I have been getting AB honor roll and thank you for the phone you got me last year. And I would like a new phone this year and it would make me so happy. And I would be grateful. Merry Christmas. Alexiya Thomas, 9

Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? Santa am I a bad kid or a good kid? Thanks for the toy I want. Sant I want a bowling pin and a bowling ball. Jacmiré, 9

Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? In school I act good I made a lot of friends and get good grades. Thank you for the piano last year. I really like it. This year I want hedphones and I want my hedphone to have a nic and maybe some legos and a PS4. I feel like I deserve it a little bit and if you get me what I wanted for Christmas I'd be filled with joy! Gabriel Palacia, 8

Dear Santa, I want slime for X-mas and some lol dolls, a basketball and a basket basket ball cort and shoes seize 1 and scooter. Kimberly Alvarez, 7 years old

Dear Santa, I really want Pokemon and Nintendo swiich and fort nite monopoly and a football. Damien Salazar, 8 years old

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

Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? I tried to do my best and I did kind of good. Thank you for the xbox 1 last year. This year can I get some books and legos. And I will be really really happy! Merry Christmas! Keegan McGee, 9

Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? I am being nice to my frins? Thank you for the Diary I like it. This year I woud want to have a book. So I can read the book? Merry Christmas. Grenlie, 9



SEASON'S GREETINGS

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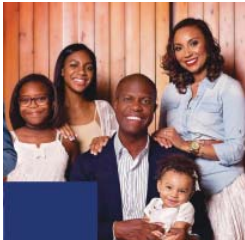
From

TURNER



CROSBY, TEXAS

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



Joe Stephens and family

Best Wishes for the Holidays



Jeremy Rosenkranz, Agent 440 S. Main, Highlands, TX 77562 281-426-3512 jeremy.rosenkranz.ngje@statefarm.com



GOOSE CREEK CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT www.gccisd.net

The faculty and staff of Goose Creek CISD would like to wish all our students a safe and happy holiday season.

Merry Christmas

from our family to yours



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Wishing you the Merriest Christmas and a Happy and Productive New Year

JERRY & JULIE Fallin

Happy Holidays

from

OMNIX Home Health Care



★ SEASON'S GREETINGS ★

Crosby ISD, Omnix team to spread cheer



OMNIX Health Care Services partnered with Crosby ISD to spread a little holiday cheer to those who need it most. Omnix delivered wreaths for our students to decorate and then delivered those wreaths to some of the health care delivery service patients to enjoy as Christmas decorations brought by their health partner and Crosby kids.



Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I hope you have a good time this year. Are you going to give my cat a present? Oh and my dog. Can I have a pony set?
Emma Benson, 7

Dear Santa,
Thank you for getting all the kids in the world Christmas presents!! J Did you get my Christmas list? Thank you for everything. Thank you for toys for the kids!! Thanks.
Aireana Foster, 8

Dear Santa,
This year I would like 10 rainbow candy canes, 1 trampoline, 20 cans of sileys spray, a pack of balloons and a pack of water balloons and a hairboard. I hope you have a good Christmas.
Braden, 7 years old

Dear Santa,
Am I on the list? I really want a nerf gun, baseball gloves, iphone, hover board, arc car, Rudolph teddy. Can you please give me this stuff?
Elias, 7 years old

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a X-box 1 please, and phone pixel 3 and I was good on my report card because I got all As.
Alejandro Lopez, 7

Dear Santa,
Am I on the good list? Well... I want a Boxer robot, a Pockemon. So can you fix the fence for Christmas? He he
Elliot, 7

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I would like to have nice violet clothes for my poochie because he gets jellois. He will be super exited! Another thing I would like is a game for my Nintendo switch. Here are some ideas, I like ...Mario, platton and guss that sit. I need a mermaid clock to wake me up in the morning instead my dad's phone. It's soooooo annoying. Does time stop when you bring presents? You might not know this, but in Christmas movies all the reindeer included except Rudolph.
Warmy yours, Barbara A. Trahan, 3rd grade

Dear Santa,
Hope you have a wonderful Christmas. Anyways, can you please get me a xbox one, a dash bot and a iphone X. Have a wonderful Christmas Eve.
Drake Farmer, 8

Dear Santa,
Thank you for getting the letter last night. I want a galicty hover board for Christmas and thank you for letting zippy bring a friend over. Zippy and pixe are funny! J
June Reed, 8 years

Dear Santa,
I've been a nice boy this year. I would like a \$200 gift card to buy games. Also I would like ramen noodles to eat. I am needing to rale the world.
Cooper Coleman, 9

Dear Santa,
I have been very nice this year. I would like a hover board so I can ride in the park. Also, I would like an electrical blanket so I can keep warm outside. I am needing an air pump to air my ears. How old are you?
Jaxen McMullen

Dear Santa,
I want a Huver board for Christmas.
Jove Clarius, 7

MERRY CHRISTMAS

We hope the season leads you to a wonderful new year.
Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1
Mark, Cindy, Theresa, Leslie
The Field Crew & Board of Directors.

We will be closed Dec. 24, 25, and Jan. 1.

Merry Christmas, Pardners!

Santa may be from the North Pole, but he's rounding up his reindeer to wish all of you cowpokes a rootin', tootin' Christmas!

From Robert and Ann Woodall

Thanks for your continued patronage.

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Season's Greetings from the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department

Harvey Little, Fire Chief
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Happy Holidays to Everyone!!!

★ OPINION PAGE ★

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.

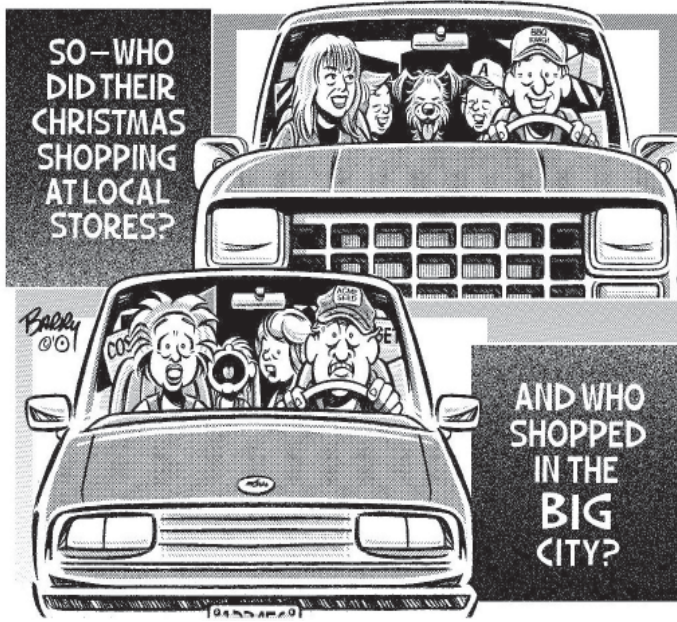
Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there 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.



Stress-Free Holiday Entertaining Tips

(Family Features)
The holiday season is meant for spending quality time with friends and family, not stressing out over hosting. With some simple tips, you can cut down on hectic preparations while creating a memorable holiday full of food and fun guests can savor.

Consider these suggestions from the entertaining experts at Real California Milk:

Plan Ahead

Heading into your seasonal soiree with a plan in place can help avoid snafus. Make a shopping list of ingredients and decorations. Then put together a schedule a few days prior to the event to cover last-minute preparations.

Elevate Holiday Classics

Elevating classic appetizers is a simple way to savor the season. A trend on the rise, the Grazing Table starts with the table as the canvas, adds elements of the traditional cheese board then takes it to the next level with an arrangement of appetizers or brunch dishes and seasonal decor. Another way to lift your holiday spread is using high-quality, authentic ingredients like Real California Milk cheeses, made with milk from California dairy farm families, which are key ingredients in this Sweet Citrus and Spice Cheese Board.

Prepare Dishes and Decorations in Advance

Preparing for guests can be one of the most time-consuming aspects of hosting. Decorating at least a day ahead and setting the table the night before, for example, can help minimize stress. Welcome guests with holiday cheer and trendy decor like a virtual yule log made of melting cheese, complete with holiday music.

For more holiday inspiration and recipes like antipasto skewers and yogurt-pesto dip, queso fundido and cheese logs and bundts, visit realcaliforniamilk.com/recipes.

Texas, nation mourn death of former president

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Dec. 3 proclaimed Dec. 5 as an official day of mourning across the Lone Star State in honor of former President George H.W. Bush, the 41st president of the United States, who died in Houston on Nov. 30.

In the proclamation, Abbott encouraged Texans to "gather, assemble and pay their respects to the memory of George Herbert Walker Bush through ceremonies in homes, businesses, public buildings, schools, places of worship or other appropriate places for public expression of grief and remembrance."

The proclamation also allowed state employees to attend such observances. State agencies, offices and departments were closed on that day, with general government operations and services maintained by reduced-size work crews.

The former president's body lay in state in the U.S. Capitol rotunda. Crowds viewed the casket and a 21-gun salute was performed. Official funeral services were conducted at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and the body was transported to Bush's longtime home church, St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, for funeral services. Crowds lined the railroad tracks as a funeral train carried the former president's body to College Station and its final resting place at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library on the Texas A&M University campus.

Pablos resigns from post

Secretary of State Rolando Pablos, Texas' chief elections officer, has resigned from office, effective Dec. 15.

In his Dec. 6 letter of resignation, Pablos wrote to Gov. Abbott: "With the midterm elections successfully behind us and the 86th legislative session around the corner, I believe this would be a good time to begin the process of transitioning out of my position and passing the baton to the next secretary of state. Serving Texans as secretary of state has been the opportunity of a lifetime, but I feel the need at this time to turn my atten-

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

tion to my private practice."

Abbott said Pablos "has been a dedicated public servant who has done an exceptional job upholding the integrity of our election system. He has strengthened Texas' standing on the international stage by fostering our cultural and economic ties with countries around the world. The State of Texas is better for his service. I thank Rolando for his commitment to our great state and wish him and his family all the best."

Before serving as secretary of state, Pablos served as chair of the Texas Racing Commission, as a member of the Public Utility Commission and as honorary consul to Spain. He also was founding chief executive officer of El Paso-based Borderplex Alliance and Uriel Americas, a renewable energy company.

AG joins anti-robocall group

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Dec. 6 announced he had joined 40 state attorneys general in an effort to stop or reduce "irritating and potentially harmful robocalls" that telemarketers and political campaigns may use to autodial the telephone numbers of private citizens and deliver recorded messages.

"Unwanted phone calls are both a nuisance and an invasion of privacy, and growing robocall scams could cost Texans anywhere from a few dollars to their life savings. This coalition is dedicated to protecting citizens from these risks and engaging telecom companies in a nationwide effort to put an end to these intrusive calls," Paxton said.

Revenue total increases

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Dec. 4 said state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.998 billion

in November, 7.7 percent more than the amount reported for November 2017.

"While slower than the double-digit pace of recent months, state sales tax revenue growth in November was strong," Hegar said. "Increased tax collections continue to be led by remittances from oil- and gas-related sectors, but at a slower pace than in recent months. Growth from retail trade and restaurants, the sectors most dependent on consumer spending, was positive, but comparatively modest."

The sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections.

DSHS promotes flu shots

The Texas Department of State Health Services, in conjunction with National Influenza Vaccination Week, reminded Texans on Dec. 4 to protect themselves and loved ones by getting immunized.

"Last flu season was severe, and the U.S. saw a record number of flu-related hospitalizations and pediatric deaths," said Dr. Jennifer Shuford, DSHS infectious disease medical officer. "We have no way of knowing if this flu season will be milder or just as severe as last season. We are recommending all Texans six months of age and older get their flu vaccine as soon as possible."

Texans may visit texasflu.org or contact a health care provider for more information.



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ROUND-UP

First comic and cosplay convention takes place in Mont Belvieu

Programs at Sam & Carmena Goss Library

These are the events taking place at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch Library the week of December 3, 2018.

- Thursday, December 13 - 5:00 pm, Adult Book Club
- Friday, December 14 - 10:30 pm, Story Time (ages 0-5 yrs)
- Tuesday, December 18 - 10:00 am, Baby & Me (ages 0-24 mos)
- Thursday, December 20 - 2:00 pm, Kids Christmas with Mrs. Claus (ages 0-11 yrs)
- Friday, December 21 - 10:30 am, Story Time (ages 0-5 yrs)

Family Friendly) Visit our Facebook page, Chambers County Library System, for more information and to register. Registration not required.

Call Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Library, Mont Belvieu at 281-576-2245 with any questions.

Winter Gator Tales

The Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center in Baytown is hosting a series of Pre-school programs for ages 3-5 every Wednesday from 10 am to 11 am as follows:

- December 19, Ice Melts
- December 26, Nature Holiday Traditions
- January 2, "Rock" in' New Year.

The center is located at 1724 Market Street.

Full Moon Hike

Join Baytown Nature Center for a Winter Hike on December 22, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. This monthly 90 minutes hike begins just after sunset. Hikers are asked to wear comfortable clothing. Small children should not attend since hikers have a better view in nocturnal animals in a relatively quiet atmosphere. Routes and start times vary monthly. Meet at the Visitor's Center unless otherwise stated. Hikers are weather permitting and free with general admission.



Library staff participating in the event includes (from back row left to right) Karson Kaiser, Millie Koonce, Yolie Belt, Kellee Traylor, Shelby Fielding, Annie Vass, Valerie Jensen, and kneeling are Jinnie McLennan and Liz Sandoval

By Valerie Jensen, MLIS County Librarian - Chambers County Library System

Nerd Con, the first official Comic Con convention, took place last weekend at Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Library in Mont Belvieu and was a huge success. There were over 250 people in attendance and a day full of activities with vendors, authors, 6 different panels on art, writing, cosplay, etc., a game show competition, scavenger hunt, artists, karaoke, light saber academy for kids, green screen photos, a ramen bar, and more.

The feedback from the public has been wonderful. The community really turned out for this event bringing their entire families to enjoy the sights and learn more about art, comics, cosplay and the fact that library is not just a place for books. People are often surprised at some of the non-traditional programs and events they have at the library, but it's a great way to reach out to people who may not know the library is here, and also to people who may not necessarily use the library in its traditional sense. The staff at the Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch began working on this event back in the summer by meeting with 2 key groups, Nerd Fest and Eastern Rim, who were the masterminds behind the social media marketing and provided guidance as the staff planned the event. They did a fantastic job engaging over 3,000 views on their marketing videos. The library was there to provide the facility, organize the layout, promote the event to our community, and be on hand for whatever was needed to assist.



Art Winner

The event included several local authors and artists. Travis Huffman from Last Sentry Comics is a local author who spoke at the Art as Storytelling panel. He grew up in the area and was excited to be at a convention that was just minutes away from his house. Other vendors, authors, sponsors and artists included:

Organized by: Chambers County Library System, Easter Rim FBVC, Nerd Fest, City of Mont Belvieu, cosplay judge Rumpelstiltsam

Writers: Lisa Vasquez, Inklings, JT Haven, Jackie Smith, James Percy, Shane Lassetter, PB & Jam, Kiba Roberts, D. Marie, Diane Prokop

Artists: Last Sentry Comics, Lilwickidz, Davy Jones, Mostafa Moussa, Andrew Valdez, Kona Sherwood, Edwardo Fluffy Bunny

Products: Sci-fi Cowgirl, Christine Nix, OMG Toyz, Retro Bandit, Great Scott Collectibles, Once Upon a Comic, Emerald Dragon Comics, Krafty Krista's Creations

Other important folks! Star Wars Group Jakku Temple Saber Guild, Ramen Bar, Panel and activity guests, Katharine Tillman, Mandy Frazier Rollins, Destiny Mook, Heather Martz, and Media with William Robinson.

The library is already planning for Nerd Con 2019.



Cosplay

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Cedar Bayou Navigation Project

Congressman Babin Cedar Bayou Improvements Dec 2018

Our entire region received a big shot in the arm recently when the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers unveiled its 2019 Work Plan for the Army Civil Works program. Cedar Bayou will be receiving approximately \$9 million for navigational upgrades—an important and necessary first step towards completing this navigation project. This funding will improve transportation infrastructure and flood mitigation. These are significant issues for industry and residents in Harris, Chambers and Liberty counties as well as SE Texas. It is worth noting that Cedar Bayou was one of only five projects nationwide in the Pre-construction Engineering and Design phase

that was selected.

Special thanks to everyone who supported and worked on this project. This initial funding has been sought for a number of years.

A very special note of appreciation to our Congressman, Dr. Brian Babin. Congressman Babin has been a champion of this project since the day he took office and was absolutely instrumental in working with members of the Trump Administration, the Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, and Corps leadership to secure this very important initial funding. While much work remains to get Cedar Bayou where we need it, we are very fortunate to have a champion like Congressman Babin working for our district in Washington.

A.R. Rusty Senac
Chambers County
Commissioner, Pct. 4

Avoid Holiday Heart Health dangers

BAYTOWN — (December 7, 2018) — From indulging in food and drink to a lack of exercise, the holiday season brings a long list of lifestyle choices that can have a negative impact on heart health.

In fact, studies show the risk of heart attack increases during the holidays. According to Duke University researchers, during November, December and January, more people die from heart attacks than at any other time of the year.

Nadia Fida, MD, an advanced heart failure, pulmonary hypertension and cardiac transplant cardiologist and director of the Heart Failure Clinic at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, says it's possible to still enjoy the holidays while not increasing your risk of heart attack by avoiding four common dangers associated with the season.

Too much alcohol and smoke exposure

Drinking too much alcohol can raise the level of some fats in the blood and increase the risk of high blood pressure, alcoholism, obesity, stroke, suicide and accidents. With more parties taking place during the holidays, the opportunities for exposure to secondhand smoke, which has been linked to cardiovascular-related death and disability, increase.

Too much food and too little exercise

"Don't entirely abandon your healthy lifestyle, but a little indulgence on special occasions is generally not a problem," Fida said. She suggests substituting

low-fat or nonfat yogurt for mayonnaise in dips and dressings and replacing some of the bread in your stuffing recipe with chopped vegetables. She also recommends heading to the mall or shopping center to do some holiday speed-shopping, or logging some miles around the neighborhood or walking trail.

Exposure to germs

Crowded malls, school plays, indoor parties and visiting relatives: It's no surprise that respiratory infections like colds and flu are more common during this time of year. "People with heart disease have an increased risk for dying of complications from the flu, so if you haven't already gotten a flu shot, be sure to get one now," Fida said. In addition, washing



Dr. Nadia Fida

your hands frequently, getting enough sleep and making sure other family members are up to date on their vaccinations can also help to cut your risk. If you do get sick, be careful if you have high blood pressure and are taking cold medicines. Decongestants can

raise your blood pressure.

Stress and anxiety

Whether it's family dynamics, traveling, shopping, cooking, hosting or attending social gatherings or worrying about holiday bills, relaxing during the holidays can be difficult. "Acute and chronic stress may contribute to high blood pressure. Relaxation techniques like deep breathing or taking a yoga class may help alleviate stress," Fida said. "Also, accept your limits and don't aim for being perfect."

For more information on steps you can take to improve your heart health, call 281-837-7587 or visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown to schedule an appointment with a Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital heart specialist.

Crosby ISD has new board, new president



Randy Condra (new Vice President,) Ms. Kealynn Lewis (new board member,) John Swinney (President,) J.R. Humphries (new board member,) David Porter and Carla Mills Windfont (Secretary) were sworn in by Harris County Justice of the Peace for Precinct 3 Position 1, Judge Joe Stephens.

Justice Stephens attended a Special Called meeting of the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees to administer oaths of office to newly elected trustees, Kealynn Lewis and J.R. Humphries. Lewis will represent Single-Member District 2 in Crosby and Humphries will be acting on behalf of Single-Member District 3. Mr. John Swinney, who was re-elected to represent the At-Large Position 6, was also sworn into office. Ms. Tanya Eagleton, returning Single-Member District 1 Trustee, was also scheduled to be sworn in, but was unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen work circumstances. Ms. Eagleton will be sworn in at the next Regular board meeting on December 17th and officially assume her position on the board.

After the new members were sworn in, the board elected Mr. John Swinney to replace Ms. Carla Mills Windfont as Board President and Randy Condra to replace John Swinney as Board Vice President. The Board is required to reorganize at the first meeting following an election and qualification of Board Members as stated in Policy BDAA (Legal). Ms. Windfont was elected to serve as the Board Secretary.

First responders handle challenge of heavy traffic



A Crosby Middle School student had got himself in a jam, having lodged his head where it shouldn't go. Crosby First Responders, ambulance, fire and Precinct 3 Patrol Deputies were able to make the scene in just a few minutes, even though Friday rush hour traffic built just after buses had stopped traffic completely..



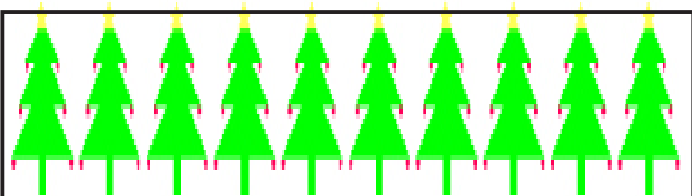
Endearing thoughts to all in our community for your friendship, loyalty and support.



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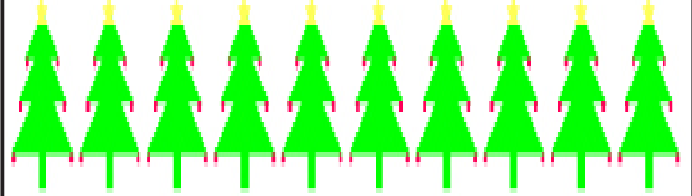
Wishing Everyone in our Community the Merriest of Christmases and a Happy and Prosperous New Year



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CROSBY'S HOME TOWN HOME CARE

★ LIFESTYLE PAGE ★

OBITUARIES

Stephen Lynn Smith

Stephen Lynn Smith, 56, passed away peacefully after a long battle with cancer on November 30, 2018 in Austin, Texas. Stephen was born on March 17, 1962 to parents Jimmy and Ann Smith in Houston, Texas. He was a true outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing, hunting and playing golf.



Stephen loved spending time with his family and playing with his grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his brother, Jeffrey Scott Smith. Stephen is lovingly survived by his wife, Deanna Smith; parents, Jimmy and Ann Smith; brother, Michael Todd Smith; children, Jeremy Mayo and wife Kelly, Ashley Knowles and husband Andrew; grandchildren, Emily Mayo, Mackenzie Mayo, Chandler Woodruff, Adam Knowles; his beloved dog, Jax; as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends are welcome to join the family for visitation Tuesday, Decem-

ber 4th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Carter-Conley Funeral Home. Funeral services officiated by Pastor Danny Kilcoyne will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 5, 2018 in the chapel of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

Graveside services will immediately follow at San Jacinto Memorial Park under the direction of Carter-Conley Funeral Home.

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713-455-5100

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northchannelstar.com

James V. "Jim" Garrett

James V. "Jim" Garrett, 80, passed away on December 1, 2018 peacefully at his home. He was born on October 27, 1938 in Houston, Texas to parents James Porter and Marie Emma Garrett. He attended Jacinto City Elementary School, Galena Park Junior High, and Galena Park High School.



James proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1956 to 1960. He retired in 2001 from his career as a State Trooper at the Texas Department of Public Safety after 37 years of employment.

James is preceded in death by his parents, aunts and uncles, and several cousins. He is lovingly survived by his wife, Lisa (Gibbs) Garrett; sister, Carolyn Tarris; brother,

Donald Garrett; two daughters; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; as well as several nieces, nephews, extended family members, and many friends.

Crespo & Jirrels Funeral Home and Cremation Services
6123 Garth Rd., Baytown, Texas 77521
281-839-0700
www.crespoandjirrels.com

Christina Lee Williams Luper

Christina Lee Williams Luper, 86, of Baytown, passed away Sunday, December 1, 2018, in Baytown.

Christina was born November 29, 1932 in Brownwood, to parents; Luther and Sallie G. Williams. She was a high school graduate, a retired hairdresser and salon manager for J.C. Penny and also spent many of her younger years working as a florist.

Mrs. Luper was preceded in death by her parents and son: Micha-

el Earl Luper. She is survived by her son: John A. Luper, II, grandchildren: Chris Luper, Megan Luper Hart, John A. Luper, III, April Luper Hubbard, and Hailey Luper, aunt: Barbara Lummus, cousin: Marney Mason, niece: Becky Luper, numerous other relatives, and friends.

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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2018

MASSES

Christmas Eve Monday, Dec. 24

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

Christmas Day Tuesday, Dec. 25

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

New Year's Eve Monday, Dec. 31

6:30 pm Vigil Mass

New Year's Day Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019

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

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www.stjudehighlands.org
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I Corinthians 13:8

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PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble
Psalm: 46:1

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What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later
ROMANS 8:18

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

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Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God.
Leviticus 19:32

★ ASK THE EXPERTS ★

Christmas "Hard Hat" tour aboard the Battleship TEXAS December 15th

Looking for that unique Christmas gift for that special person who has everything? Well look no more. If they love history and loves historic Naval Ships then we have the perfect gift for you. First Texas Volunteers (FTV) in cooperation with Battleship Texas Foundation (BTF) and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) will host a very special unique guided behind the scenes "Hard Hat Tour" aboard the ship, Saturday, December 15th, 2018. This tour will last approximately (3) hours and participants will be able to see areas of the ship rarely seen by the public. There are (five) tour times to pick from: 8:30am - 9:15am - 10:00am - 12:00pm and 12:45pm. This tour is available via a

minimum donation of \$50.00 per person.

In conjunction with the "Hard Hat Tour" FTV will also be hosting a "Specialty" Hard Hat Tour focusing on the Normandy invasion of 1944. This tour will take place the same day as the Hard Hat tour at 2:00pm and will last approximately (2) hours. This tour is available via a minimum donation of \$30.00 per person.

For anyone wishing to attend either or both of these tour you must be at least 14 years of age and older. Participants need to bring a small pocket flashlight, wear comfortable clothes (you may get a little dirty), good walking shoes for climbing numerous stairs/ladders and a

camera if you wish. Hard hats are provided, and water will be available along the tour route during breaks. Promptness is required, as start times are strictly observed. If you can't make the December tour you can still buy your tickets early for the next one on January 19th and wrap them up for the holidays.

Easy, quick and inexpensive and 100% of all monies raised goes to helping us to ensure that the last remaining dreadnought style ship, one of the most important cultural resources of this state, will be here for future generations to enjoy. Please visit www.firsttexasvolunteers.org for more information.

COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS

Holiday Blues: A feeling of disappointment, depression, anxiety and dread that lasts through the holidays! Following are some tips to assist you or your loved one in coping with the holidays.

- **Acknowledge Your Feelings** - If you are sad that the season has brought on feelings of grief, it is OK to be sad.
- **Seek Support** - Visit with people, call family or friends and get involved. Don't be a martyr.
- **Be Realistic** - Don't set yourself up with the expectations of "The Family Traditions."
- **Set Differences Aside** - Try to accept family members as they are, even if they don't live up to your expectations.
- **Stick to a Budget** - Do not set yourself up with a huge debt.
- **Plan Ahead** - Schedule times for shopping, baking and gatherings to not overload yourself.
- **Learn to say NO!** - Believe it or not, people will understand. Say yes to only things you want to do.
- **Take Time to Yourself** - Take a breather and relax.
- **Don't Abandon Healthy Habits** - Eat right, sleep and exercise.
- **Rethink Perfection** - Life is not a "Hallmark" card. Accept imperfections in others and yourself.
- **Rethink Resolutions** - Set realistic goals and choose resolutions that make you feel valuable.
- **Seek Professional Help if you Need it** - Despite your best efforts, you may be depressed.

The Angels Care Home Health Behavioral Health at Home Program was developed to provide care for patients and families suffering from behavioral health issues. We can help with anxiety, depression/ grief, difficulty coping, uncontrolled anger, hallucinating behavior, psychosocial issues, emotional withdrawal and more. For more information call the Angels Care office at 281-427-3510.

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Highlands Rotary Club's 44th Annual CHILI FEAST

Raffle & Auction

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Saturday, February 2, 2019

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300th Ticket..... Blink XT Security Camera	699th Ticket..... Apple Watch
350th Ticket..... \$200 Gift Card	700th Ticket..... 2019 Chevy Camaro or 2019 Chevrolet Equinox

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LEGAL NOTICE

Screenings to Identify Disabilities

CISD Special Education department provides screenings for children with suspected disabilities in an effort to identify every student with a disability who lives within the district's boundaries. Crosby ISD is committed to providing excellence in education to all students, and the screenings are designed to help identify children who may qualify for the district's special education programs. Eligible students with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 can be provided with services to ensure their successful participation in school. These services and supports may be provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Special education services are also available starting at birth for eligible children who have a visual and/or auditory impairment.

If you know a child who may be challenged with a disability, please contact the Crosby ISD Special Education office at 281 328-9200, Extension 1108. If the child is already a student in Crosby ISD, please contact the counselor at the child's school. The counselor will be happy to assist you.

The special education personnel will coordinate efforts to evaluate the student and, if eligible, ensure that the student is provided with supports and services needed to benefit from instruction.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS CHANNELVIEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating
Channelview ISD will hold a public meeting At 7:00 PM, December 18, 2018 In the Board Room, CISD Administration Building, 828 Sheldon Road, Channelview, TX 77530.
The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Channelview ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

LEGAL NOTICES APPEAR IN THE HIGHLANDS STAR CROSBY COURIER, AND THE NORTH CHANNEL STAR. CALL 713-266-3444

LEGAL NOTICE

GOOSE CREEK CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

Data Control Codes	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 148,042,753	\$ 31,769,718	\$ 788,267	\$ 6,316,558	\$ 186,917,296
5800 State Program Revenues	85,720,320	262,433	-	2,872,333	88,875,086
5900 Federal Program Revenues	2,818,599	-	-	24,260,563	27,079,162
5020 Total Revenues	236,581,672	32,032,151	788,267	33,449,454	302,871,544
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	121,599,638	-	2,200,800	12,779,749	136,580,187
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	2,091,780	-	403,827	868	2,496,475
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	2,166,506	-	-	2,014,290	4,180,796
0021 Instructional Leadership	4,311,933	-	-	214,229	4,526,162
0023 School Leadership	12,783,668	-	-	608,201	13,391,869
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	5,899,144	-	-	1,229,393	7,128,537
0032 Social Work Services	875,956	-	-	26,087	902,043
0033 Health Services	1,611,819	-	-	559,295	2,171,114
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	8,664,108	-	2,180,860	78,405	10,923,373
0035 Food Services	16,715	-	-	12,615,595	12,632,310
0036 Extracurricular Activities	4,460,093	-	-	1,168,517	5,628,610
0041 General Administration	7,215,205	-	1,649	-	7,216,854
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	27,021,673	-	1,130,920	524,788	28,677,381
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	2,349,420	-	-	99,324	2,448,744
0053 Data Processing Services	4,349,306	-	162,876	288,085	4,820,267
0061 Community Services	207,912	-	-	484,081	691,993
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long Term Debt	607,325	16,210,000	-	-	16,817,325
0072 Interest on Long Term Debt	79,663	18,488,390	-	-	18,568,053
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	879,682	-	-	879,682
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	448,708	-	44,469,857	-	44,918,565
Intergovernmental:					
0095 Payments to Juvenile Justice Alternative Ed. Prg	19,800	-	-	-	19,800
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	1,284,934	-	-	-	1,284,934
6030 Total Expenditures	206,065,306	35,578,072	50,670,113	32,591,583	326,905,074
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	28,516,366	(3,525,921)	(49,881,846)	857,871	(24,033,530)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7901 Refunding Bonds Issued	-	108,085,000	-	-	108,085,000
7915 Transfers In	28	3,000,000	7,786,240	-	10,786,268
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	-	13,151,703	-	-	13,151,703
7917 Prepaid Interest	-	279,759	-	-	279,759
7949 Other Resources	-	320,200	-	-	320,200
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(10,786,240)	-	-	(28)	(10,786,268)
8940 Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	-	(120,516,942)	-	-	(120,516,942)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(10,786,212)	4,319,720	7,786,240	(28)	1,319,720
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	17,730,154	793,799	(42,095,606)	857,843	(22,713,810)
0100 Fund Balance - July 1 (Beginning)	73,232,514	28,026,735	70,615,275	4,843,423	176,717,947
3000 Fund Balance - June 30 (Ending)	\$ 90,962,668	\$ 28,820,534	\$ 28,519,669	\$ 5,701,266	\$ 154,004,137

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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Letters to Santa

Dear Santa, I'll be honest I was a little good hope you forgive me. If you could I'd like a game called call of duty 4 on play station 3 to beat my dad. I also want a Jeffy Puppet to play around with. I am needing a Phone to connect my smart watch and listen to music. Where were you and Mrs. Clause married? Sincerely, Isaiah Joel Gonzalez, 3rd grade, Newport Elementary

Dear Santa, I want a BayBlock nerf sniper hover board, hot wheels, Rocket League, NFL 19, Nintendo switch, MLB, and a football, DS, and a fortnite Monopoly. Brayson Ybarra, 7

Dear Santa, I've been a nice boy this year. I would like to have a new iPad so I can play games on it that we can't play on the TV. Also, I want Robux so I can buy new gear for me and my friends skin. I am needing food so my family and I can live. How many elves work for you? How long does it take to get around the world? How did you find the raindeers? Warmy yours, Ethan Niguez, 3rd grade, Newport Elementary.

Dear Santa, I have been a really nice boy this year, but I had coughing issues along the way. I will be happy the rest of the year. Charles, 9

Dear Santa, I've been good this year and I've messed up a couple of times. I'd like a tablet Samsung so I could play on it during boring trips. Also I would like a new electric dirt bike to ride with my friends. I am needing another husky to take care of. How old are you? Jayden Peralta, 8

Dear Santa, I have been really good this year. I really don't want anything but I do want joy for all the families. I need peace for families in town with food and presents. How much do you weight? If you weigh 1,000 pounds it would break your sly and our roof. Nicolas Morfin, 9

Holiday music at Raceway,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Crosby Elementary Star Steppers sing the classics at Raceway. Eddie Foster of Eastside Veterans provided the sound equipment.

Long Crosby Parade bears toys for kids,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Monster Trucks made the parade a scene of wonder for kids of all ages but one truck that came in bearing twin nationalities of flags and displayed the distressed sign for one stirred controversy to the extent that parade officials are now going to limit the ATV entries because the aforementioned truck offended so many. The intent and the accomplishment of the toy drive was to gather toys for Clothe A Child to give to kids determined by the schools to have a need. Turner Chevrolet alone filled two trucks with toys for children and few appreciated the side show.

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa, I've been a good boy this year. Can I have the game Super Mario Smash bro's to play on my Nintendo switch. Also, can I have a batting cage to practice hitting. I'm needing a calculator to do my math. Salomon Ramirez, 8

Dear Santa, I have been a little naughty and a little nice. Santa I really want white gold earrings. I would like a phone because I sleepover at my grandparents house and we have to call my parents. I need winter boots so when I go to a softball tournaments my feet won't be cold. Santa I don't know how old all your elves and Mrs. Claus are? How old are you? Kalli Johnson, 8

Dear Santa, I think I have been a good and bad boy, but that's your desishon. Can I please have a fortnite v-backs gift card? Also, I really want a new case for my ipod because it broke. I am needing an iphone Xr so noone will know the password any man. Why do people call you the Jolly fat man? Warmy yours, James Sell, 3rd grade, Newport Elementary

Dear Santa, I have been a nice kid this year! I will try to keep it up. I want the new spider-man game and when I get it I will play non-stop. I want call of duty Blacklors 4. I need a snake to catch the critters. Ho do youy reindeer lift your heavy backpack? Alex, Pedraza, 8

Dear Santa, I have been a good boy. I have tried to be one and help my mom out to be a good boy. I want an xbox 1 to play with my brother. Also I want roobox to get some cool items on the game. I am needing for my family. How do you give every boy a gift in one night? Malik Abulawi, 8 years old

Dear Santa, I have been a nice girl this year I would like a lap top to play games. Also I wold like a smart watch for my phone and to call my mom and I am needing a new pair of boots. Santa how do get the gifts with no kids seeing you? Emma Dow, 9

Advertisement for Turner Chevrolet Crosby, Texas. Features a red 2018 Silverado truck with \$15,000 off MSRP, a red 2018 Tahoe SUV with \$14,000 off MSRP, and a 20% off MSRP promotion on 2018 Sonic, Spark, and Impala. Includes contact information: 21001 Crosby Freeway, Crosby TX 77532, Call: 281-328-4377, TurnerChevroletCrosby.com. A photo of David Mendez, General Sales Manager, is also included.