

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

Serving Highlands, Crosby, Huffman and Surrounding Communities since 1955 ■ www.starcouriernews.com

VOL. 67, NO. 49 - 50¢

© Copyright 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

TO TUES. DEC. 15 Crosby Toy Drive

Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce is holding a TOY DRIVE and collecting new unwrapped toys until December 15. At that time, toys will be given to CUIC Churches United in Caring to distribute to needy families.
DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:
Chamber office, 5317 1st Street, Crosby;
Caretex Custom Homes, 29206 Commons Forest Dr. Huffman
Stonebridge at Newport, 16401 Country Club Drive, Crosby
LaQuinta Inn, Channelview, 5520 E. Sam Houston Pkwy N. Houston
INFO 281-328-6984.

COVID-19

Cases as of
December 8, 2020

HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

306,274 POSITIVE
3,906 DEATHS
260,270 RECOVERED

TEXAS

1,334,972 POSITIVE
23,195 DEATHS
1,038,806 RECOVERED

UNITED STATES

15,087,418 POSITIVE
285,518 DEATHS
5,714,557 RECOVERED

WORLDWIDE

68,010,230 POSITIVE
1,553,025 DEATHS
43,743,769 RECOVERED

BIRTHDAYS

Dec 11--Caydie Farmer
Wesley Sheffield
Dec 12--Sheila Young
Cameron Townsend
Dec 13--Gary Hart
Patricia Herman
Don Lauders
Bernard Kotalik
Mary McGee
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

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 12--Jim & Patsy
Dammon
Dec. 15--Bob & Mary
McGee
Dec 16--George &
Aimee Palmer
Dec 17 - George &
Stachia R.
Thurmond
Zorro & Katie Soto

Areas begin to look a lot like Christmas

Santa arrives in Highlands and Crosby Saturday on fire trucks



The Crosby Parade of Lights by the Chamber of Commerce awarded Spectacular Sparkle Award to Texas Emergency Care here accepted by Terri Hardy and Savannah Martin during the parade by Chamber Staff. MORE on Page 8.

Highlands Fire Dept. and Crosby Volunteer Fire Dept. both confirmed local hero status bringing Santa Claus to town Saturday.

In Highlands the park trees had been decorated by local groups and meanwhile the Highlands Rotary dispensed hot chocolate and snacks. It was under arrangement by Jessica Woods for the Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

The Crosby -Huffman Chamber brought out lots of kids to the street to catch the candy thrown from lighted vehicles. The parade was attended by Precinct 3 Constable's Office and kept flowing by Eddie Foster. The Chamber bestowed four trophies for best parade elements.



In Highlands Santa is ensconced between Miss Highlands and Jr. Miss Highlands to hear the wishes of local girls and boys for Christmas joy at Heritage Park. Kids thronged the park to speak with Santa and give him a wish list letter. MORE on Page 8.

Fatal Crosby crash kills two walkers

CROSBY - A woman was killed Friday and her boyfriend died later Sunday as a result of an auto pedestrian accident.

According to the Harris County Sheriff's Office Captain Shannon, a couple walking from Walmart was struck at about 6:50 p.m. in the 8700 block of Krenek Rd. between Main Street and US 90. Both were taken by LifeFlight helicopters to hospitals in critical condition.

The 87 year old driver and vehicle were found two miles away. The driver was transported for medical care as he appeared confused.

Traffic reports confirm that Charley Lee Linder-

man was driving a black 2016 Lexus RX 350 westbound in the 700 block of Krenek, at the same time Kera Elizabeth Atkins and Joshua Cuellar were walking eastbound on the westbound lane, facing traffic. According to the report, Atkins and Cuellar failed to yield right of way and both were struck. The report indicates that Lenderman failed to stop and render aid, but was later found and identified.

Both pedestrians were taken to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center where Ms. Atkins was pronounced deceased at 10:48 p.m. Mr. Cuellar was the less injured of the two but died of his injuries on Sunday.

The Vehicular Crimes Division of the Harris County Sheriff's Office is investigating this case. Accident Investigator S. Jumbo is reviewing details.

See Fatal Crosby Crash
Continued on Page 6.

Homecoming court celebrates talent



Crosby High School brought out their talent for exhibition last Friday with Homecoming Court on the football field. Crowned Queen was the talented Lauren Budd as Queen and dancing Aiden Aloma was chosen King.

WE NEED YOUR TRADE



CHEVY
**EMPLOYEE
DISCOUNT**
FOR EVERYONE

THE CHEVY
PRICE YOU PAY
IS WHAT WE PAY.
NOT A CENT MORE.

TURNER
CHEVROLET
Crosby, Texas
281-328-4377
#OurPeopleMakeTheDifference



FIND NEW ROADS
TurnerChevroletCrosby.com
281-328-4377

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE

Jeremy Rosenkranz
State Farm Agent
440 S. Main Street, Highlands, TX 77562
281-426-3512
jtr@jeremyrosenkranz.com



WESTON G. COTTEN
Attorney at Law
O. 281/421-4050
F. 281/533-6032
weston@westoncotten.com

STAR-COURIER PHONES: 713-266-3444 • E-MAIL: GRAFIKSTAR @ AOL.COM • FAX: 713-977-1188



- Wrap-up your holiday shopping
- Take a special family vacation
- Pay off bills or other expenses

Apply Today!



*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Monthly payment would be \$138.70 on \$3,000 borrowed for 24 months at 5.99% APR, including all applicable discounts. All loans subject to credit approval and some restrictions may apply. Payment also includes monthly premium for Payment Protection which includes Credit Life and Disability Insurance. Credit Life and Disability Insurance is not required. Membership required. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice.

Federally Insured
by the NCUA

Barbers Hill ★ Dayton Press

Serving Mont Belvieu, Dayton, Baytown and surrounding communities since 1995

VOL. 25, NO. 49- 50¢

© Copyright 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Beach City student on Dean's List at Belmont University

NASHVILLE, TN (12/07/2020)— Eleanor VanCleave qualified for the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Belmont University. Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Approximately 55 percent of Belmont's students this semester qualified for the Fall 2020 Dean's List. Belmont Provost Dr. Thomas Burns said, "Achieving the recognition of Dean's List during the Fall 2020 semester is an extraordinary achievement. While we are always impressed with students' who are able to achieve this high level of recognition in their academic endeavors, those students that reached this mark in Fall 2020 demonstrated incredible diligence and commitment to their academic work during very unusual and stressful circumstances. We are so pleased to be able to recognize their efforts and our hope is that these students will continue investing in their studies to equip them for a lifetime of learning and service."

About Belmont University

Belmont University—home of the October 22, 2020 Presidential Debate, the final in the election season—is made up of more than 8,200 students who come from every state and 28 countries. Nationally ranked and consistently recognized by U.S. News & World Report for its innovation and commitment to teaching, Belmont brings together the best of liberal arts and professional education in a Christian community of learning and service. The University's purpose is to help students explore their passions and develop their talents to meet the world's needs. With more than 100 areas of undergraduate study, 27 master's programs and five doctoral degrees, there is no limit to the ways Belmont University can expand an individual's horizon.

Mont Belvieu names new Police Chief

MONT BELVIEU — The City of Mont Belvieu has named Jimmy Ellison as its new Chief of Police. Ellison is currently the chief of the Abilene Christian University Police Department in Abilene, Texas; a post he has held since 2001.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected as the next Chief of Police for Mont Belvieu," said Chief Ellison when asked about being chosen for the position. "I have been so impressed with the city and the growth, but most excited about the vision and forward thinking of the city leadership team. I look forward to working alongside the men and women of MBPD to continue to pro-

vide professional police services, and working with the citizens of Mont Belvieu to learn more about what they want from their police department as the city continues to grow."

Mont Belvieu City Manager Nathan Watkins stated, "We are very excited to have Chief Ellison join the City's leadership team. We had many qualified candidates for the position, but we knew it was going to take just the right person to lead the police department as the city continues to grow. We feel that Chief Ellison's



POLICE CHIEF JIMMY ELLISON

breadth of experiences and vision as a leader make him the right fit to lead MBPD into the future."

Chief Jimmy Ellison was born and raised in Beaumont, Texas and worked for the Beaumont Police Department (BPD)

from 1984-2001. His time at BPD was spent in a variety of roles ranging from patrol officer, field training officer, patrol sergeant, hostage negotiator, and finally as a supervisory sergeant in the Narcotics/Vice unit from 1996-2001. In 2001, Ellison accepted the position of Chief of Police at the Abilene Christian University Police Department (ACUPD) in Abilene, Texas. For nearly 20 years, Chief Ellison oversaw the growth and development of ACUPD, tripling the size of the department and es-

ablishing ACUPD as a well-respected regional law enforcement partner. Ellison and his wife Kathy have been married for 39 years and have three grown children and five grandchildren, all of whom live in the greater Houston area. Jimmy is excited about the opportunities at MBPD, as well as being close to his grandkids. He also very thankful to be back near salt-water fishing.

Ellison replaces long-serving MBPD Chief, Virgil Blasdel, who retired from the position in October after 36 years in law enforcement. Ellison will start with the City first quarter of 2021.

Dayton celebrates "Spirit of Christmas"



SANTA arrived on a Harley instead of a sleigh at the "Spirit of Christmas" parade last Saturday.



Children and adults were able to play in some artificial snow in front of the Dayton Community Center.

Navigators offer Crucial Support for Cancer Patients at Houston Methodist

BAYTOWN — (December 4, 2020) — Following a cancer diagnosis, patients and their families may be overwhelmed by a variety of complex treatment details and crucial tasks.

In addition to dealing with a flood of emotions, ranging from fear to anxiety to grief, cancer patients are often sent to see several different physicians and are given countless details on the next steps in their treatment.

With cancer oncology nurse navigators on staff, the Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown works to alleviate the stress on patients and their families. Navigator Alyssa Sheffield says she works as an advocate to help patients on their treatment journey.

"I empower patients to make decisions and be informed regarding their care," Sheffield said. "I help provide them with any resources they may need and prevent any barriers that may hinder them from obtaining the treatment and care they need."

Nurse navigators frequently join patients when they meet with their physicians to help explain everything the doctor has told them, in addition to connecting them with resources that can provide emotional support. Sheffield says the most common concern that patients



Oncology nurse navigator Alyssa Sheffield helps connect a patient at the Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown with community resources.

and their families face is managing financial issues. Even with insurance, cancer treatments are expensive, so she works to provide resources to assist with everyday expenses such as paying bills, buying groceries and covering childcare expenses.

"We have a program called Pink Heals, which provides assistance to help pay their monthly bills and free up money so they can afford treatments," Sheffield says. "We evaluate what they might need on a case by case basis, including being able to afford their prescriptions."

Transportation is another area of concern for patients. For example, pa-

tients undergoing radiation therapy must travel to the hospital daily for treatment, so Sheffield connects them with local resources to ensure that they are able to get to and from appointments.

Cancer navigators bring a wealth of experience and knowledge on the challenges that oncology patients face. Navigators typically must have a minimum of five years of oncology clinical experience. Because not every cancer is treated the same way, knowing the processes involved in a patient's specific cancer is vital.

In addition to medical and radiation oncologists, surgeons, nurses and so-

cial workers, cancer oncology navigators are an integral part of the multi-disciplinary team at the Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown. But while their work is invaluable, cancer-specific nurse navigators are not on staff at every cancer center in the Houston area.

"Baytown area residents benefit from having a full, multi-disciplinary team at their service. Our work is special because having a navigator helps to take the load off the patient by guiding them on the next steps in their treatment plan and being a resource for patients who are often confused by everything that's required," Sheffield said.

Nancy Thompson, director of the Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown, says nurse navigators have a positive impact on outcomes for patients.

"Navigation can help decrease the time from diagnosis to starting treatment through the communication and coordination with health care providers and facilities," Thompson said. "After treatment is completed, the oncology nurse navigator provides education and support for survivorship care; addressing specific follow up care required for your particular diagnosis,

as well as education and resources available in the community."

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is taking every necessary precaution during the coronavirus pandemic to keep you and our staff members safe. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are:

- Screening all patients, ensuring only those without COVID-19 symptoms are seen in the office
- Wearing masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) while providing patient care
- Reorganizing waiting rooms and check-in lines to ensure social distancing
- Implementing additional sanitation processes to disinfect all equipment and surfaces

With a comprehensive team of cancer caregivers, including radiation and medical oncologists, breast surgeons, radiologists, infusion therapy specialists, cancer-specific nurses and nurse navigators, the Houston Methodist Cancer Center at Baytown offers the most advanced cancer treatments for Baytown area residents. The recently renovated facility provides state-of-the-art services, such as an infusion therapy suite. For more information regarding the full range of services available, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown, or call 346-292-2060.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

★

COUNTY CONNECTION

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



We all knew this was coming

We all knew this was coming. The holidays are here, and we are simply not where we need to be to protect our community from COVID-19. Since late summer, there has been a deeply troubling loss in the momentum we'd begun to build as a community. Reopenings took place prematurely and, bit by bit, we've seen every indicator we use move in the wrong direction, again. No single day-to-day change has been dramatic, but, if you look at the trends, they are alarming and deadly:

Since mid-September, the 14-day average of daily new cases we report in Harris County has increased more than 4 times over to 1016 new cases reported per day.

Over the past month, that same number of average daily new cases has more than doubled.

We have seen our county positivity rate increase from its low in early October of 5.4%. We're now at 9.4%.

We're adding as many patients to our ICUs every day as we were in early June. We are tracking trends in our hospitalized COVID population just like the ones we were seeing before the crisis in June and July.

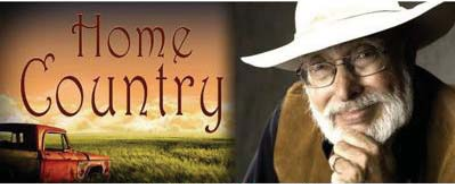
This is our wake-up call. These numbers don't even take into account all of those that were inevitably infected at Thanksgiving gatherings, and don't know it yet — we'll see those numbers in the next few weeks. We're eight months into this crisis, and I know we've all grown tired. But we can't give in. We are in the middle of fighting a war against COVID-19, and if we care about our friends, family members, and neighbors, we must do more.

First, cancel gatherings, large and small, with anyone outside your household. Right now we all have a desire to be together, I know. But now is not the time. By doing so, you put them, and yourself, at risk.

Second, get tested, whether or not you have symptoms or believe you've been exposed. The only way we can contain the virus now is for those who are carrying the virus to quarantine, and no one knows whether they are carrying the virus or not until they get tested. Visit ReadyHarris.org for all the free options, or check with your medical provider.

I understand all of this is a lot to ask of the community. But all of these measures will save lives, even if you don't immediately see it in front of you. Just like the virus, these sacrifices are invisible, but nonetheless substantial. And, as we make these sacrifices consistently and dutifully, we should be asking our state and federal government to meet us halfway. We need more measures to mitigate the impacts of the virus, and we need more economic relief for families and for the businesses that are suffering in the wake of this crisis.

Please try and enjoy the holidays despite this heavy weight we are all carrying. Take solace in knowing that as humans we've lived through much worse, and we will again. We are strong and we will get through this. Better days are coming.



with Slim Randles

Talking Turkey

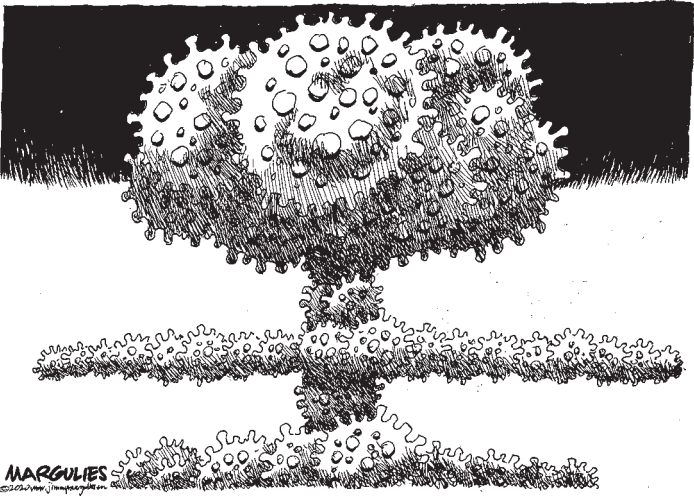
When it comes to our unique holiday of Thanksgiving, I think we all can see past the turkey and trimmings to what it's all about.

Oh, there are some historians who will tell us the Pilgrims really didn't share a meal with the Indians, and that's okay, because they got grant money to tell us that. And there are other historians who tell us that the Pilgrims and the Indians were pals and split the turkey and dressing. And that's okay, too. Historians have to eat just like the rest of us. But to me, that's immaterial. No matter who came up with the idea, it's a good idea. At least once a year we need to pause and give thanks in our own way for our blessings.

Of course, those of us who don't live in the big cities tend to be thankful for different things than those who may live in stuccoed cliff dwellings. We tend to look at the natural blessings more than the manmade ones. We tend to be grateful for the simpler things, like calves in the spring, and how clean they look before they discover mud. Folks in Home Country are deeply grateful that tasty rabbits arrive in large litters, and bears don't. When we think about it, we are thankful that we get eggs from hens and not from rattlesnakes, as checking the rattler house each morning could get 'way too exciting. When you consider that porcupines have quills, and deer don't, it gives us pause for praise, and we're happy that it's skunks who carry scent glands and not dairy cattle.

We are thankful, too, that hurricanes and tornadoes only happen in warm weather. It's bad enough to lose the barn without being chill-factored to death while it's happening. Down at the Mule Barn truck stop, Dud said he was thankful turkeys were stupid. When asked why, he said, "Ever look in a turkey's eyes? Not only is no one home, but someone shut off the lights somewhere back in the Middle Ages. A turkey has just enough brains to operate his heart and lungs." And you're thankful for that? We asked. And Dud said "Sure. If turkeys had been given the rudimentary intelligence of an empty clarinet case, we might be forced to eat sheep on Thanksgiving."

Brought to you by the good folks down at *Make A Wish Foundation*. Make a donation and a real difference in someone's life. <https://wish.org/contact-us>



★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Chris Cobler



Texas to get 1.4 million COVID vaccine doses

Texas is ready to distribute 1.4 million doses as soon as the COVID-19 vaccine receives federal government approval. Gov. Greg Abbott said the vaccines should be arriving the week of Dec. 14 and would be distributed to qualifying providers. Health care workers are the first in line to receive the medication, which needs to be given in two shots. Also first in line are residents of long-term living care centers, the Texas Department of Health Services announced. Texas' population is about 29 million, so the line is long. The state agency also announced the list of 109 hospitals in 34 of Texas' 254 counties that will receive the first doses. "The State of Texas is already prepared for the arrival of a COVID-19 vaccine and will swiftly distribute these vaccines to Texans who voluntarily choose to be immunized," Abbott stated. "As we await the first shipment of these vaccines, we will work with communities to mitigate the spread of COVID-19."

Electors set to vote
Texas presidential electors will convene Dec. 14 to officially cast their votes. The ceremony will start at 2 p.m. in the gallery of the House chamber in the State Capitol. The Texas election code calls for electors to meet on the first Monday after the second Wednesday of December. Texas Secretary of State Ruth Hughs congratulated the governor, election workers and the voters for their efforts with this year's elections. "Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, this election was a resounding success, and turnout among registered voters was the highest in 28

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Chris Cobler

years as Texans exercised their right to vote," Hughs stated.

Workers comp challenges
The COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges for the Texas workers' compensation system, the state agency said in its biennial report to the Legislature. During the pandemic, Gov. Abbott waived certain statutory requirements that affected COVID-19 workers' compensation claims. The Legislature is expected to consider whether to extend those exemptions, particularly for first responders and essential workers. "Some argue that these requirements should be permanently waived in situations involving a public health emergency, while others are concerned about the cost impact to governmental entities if this defense is waived," the report stated. During the pandemic, some insurance carriers have investigated COVID-19 claims involving firefighters, EMTs and peace officers. Forty-one percent of claims were denied for a variety of reasons, including whether a "statistically positive correlation with work" exists.

Abbott, Cruz in 2024?
The campaign for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination could start in Texas. The Republican National Committee has invited about a dozen potential presidential candidates to its January meeting in Amelia Island, Fla. The list includes Gov. Abbott and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas. Others on the list include Donald Trump, Mike Pence and South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott.

The way from San Jose
Another California company is moving its headquarters to Texas. Hewlett Packard Enterprise will relocate its global headquarters from San Jose, Calif., to Spring. The new headquarters will open in early 2022, the Texas Economic Development Corp. announced. HP Enterprise already employs 2,600 people in Austin, Plano and Houston. The announcement did not specify how many new jobs would be added with the move of the headquarters. "Houston is an attractive market to recruit and retain future diverse talent and where we are currently constructing a state-of-the-art new campus," Antonio Neri, CEO of HP Enterprise stated.

Chicken fertilizer
Chicken litter led to a new business venture and state recognition for a young Texas couple. The Texas Farm Bureau honored Matt and Jessica Hanslik of Lavaca County as the 2020 outstanding young farmer and rancher. The recognition came during the organization's 87th annual meeting, which was held virtually this year. The Hansliks grow corn and hay, raise cattle and are part owners of an all-natural fertilizer company, in which they take chicken litter and "upcycle" it for use as farm fertilizer, the farm bureau said in its news release about the award. "The idea was sparked when Jessica, a manager at a national shell egg company, suggested they begin using chicken litter from local broiler houses to fertilize their fields," the Farm Bureau stated. "Now, in addition to using the all-natural fertilizer to boost yields on their own land, they sell the product to other area farms and ranches."

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

★

THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

"Lower Expectations"

It is a year of lower expectations.

Every year, there is a chorus of folks urging us to lower our expectations for the holidays—buy less, consume less, worry less about having a picture-perfect holiday, and spend more time reflecting on what the holiday means to us. This year, it seems, we will finally get a chance to do that.

I was recently asked what my childhood memories of the holidays were, and I had a couple of vivid ones.

I saw myself sitting on the wooden stairway of the farmhouse where my mother grew up. There were far too many people to sit at a table, too many to get any kind of chair, even after all the folding chairs were called into service and the couch filled to capacity.

The seating was distributed on a strict seniority basis and, as I was very young, all the cousins my age would line up and sit on the stairs leading to the second floor of the farmhouse, one above the other, with our plates on our laps.

This was a fine arrangement, except that the farmhouse had only one bathroom and this stairway led to it. The stairway was narrow and some of my relatives were not. And so, we would lean over as far as we could (still with our plates on our laps) to allow the elderly relatives to make their way up to the bathroom at the top of the stairs.

That is a good memory. The year I turned five, I had chicken pox at Christmas. I spoke to my mother recently about that year. "Oh! That was a miserable Christmas," she said. And I'm sure, for her, it was. But my memory is not of the festivities I missed.

My mother stayed at home with me on Christmas Eve and all I remember was the small Christmas tree my parents put in my bedroom. My memory is not of being terribly sick, but of seeing those shining Christmas lights every time I opened my eyes and feeling loved and special enough to have my very own tree.

That is another good memory.

I've been telling my husband, Peter, that we are making good memories now. Of course, Peter and I are not working in a hospital or trying to teach school or dealing with grumpy retail customers. We are at home all the time except for our once every other week trip to the grocery store which is beginning to feel more like an exotic adventure every time we do it.

We are seeing no one so we can continue to visit Lori, who continues to fight cancer, and Peter cooks something for her every week and I read a bit more from my book (although by this time I have finished the first book and am reading a new one) and I know we will remember this time.

We won't have memories of a foreign landscape or a breathtaking performance or a fancy gathering. Instead, we'll remember the excitement of hearing the doorbell ring and getting to chat with a neighbor on our front stoop. Our memories from this year will be of the same homecooked meal, the same routine, the same clothes worn, the same neighbors greeted from across the lawn, the same dogs on my walk—as the days turned into weeks and the weeks turned into months. We will remember.

I might miss the excitement of a different kind of life. But I know I will remember the small, good things in this year of lower expectations.

Till next time, Carrie
Carrie Classon's memoir is called, "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

Star ★ Courier

USPS 244-500 and the Barbers Hill ★ Dayton PRESS

Editor & Publisher.....Gilbert Hoffman
Associate Publisher.....Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman
Assoc. Editor/Advertising Manager.....Lewis Spearman
Assistant Editor.....Julietta Paita
Marketing Manager.....Willie Glasgow
Production Manager.....Luis Hernandez
Asst. Production Manager.....Gerardo Hernandez

Entered as Periodicals Class at Highlands Post Office, Highlands, TX 77562. Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Published 50 weeks per year, on Thursday, by Grafikpress Corp., 5906 Star Lane, Houston, TX 77057. Opinions in this paper are those of the authors, and not necessarily this newspaper's. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by fax, or by email, to grafikstar@aol.com.

GRAFIKPRESS is publisher of community newspapers, including Highlands STAR-Crosby COURIER; Barbers Hill DAYTON PRESS; Northeast NEWS; North Forest NEWS; North Channel STAR. Combined circulation of these newspapers exceeds 50,000. Readership exceeds 110,000 according to industry standards. We also print dozens of school, ethnic, and government publications on contract. Call for information to 713-977-2555.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In-county, \$28.00 per year. Out of county, \$35.00 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Star-Courier, P. O. Box 405, Highlands, TX 77562

News and Ad Phones...713-266-3444
FAX Line...713-977-1188
email: grafikstar@aol.com
Member Texas Press Association

JMAC'S YAK SHACK

Christmas Kayak

SALE

15% OFF

Gift Certificates

Trips ~ Rentals

Buy one, Get one

Offer good thru 12-17

13915 FM 2100 Crosby

Crosby moves to play-off as Bi-District Champions

CROSBY – Sharp play has defined the Crosby Cougars football team all season but in the final game of regular season a disappointing 29 to 24 loss to Nederland has made both teams bi-district champions of 12-5A-II.

It was Crosby's only district loss putting them at 6-1 in district. According to Coach Jerry Prieto, "We made some mistakes that we hadn't made all year but at the end of the day, they just outplayed us. I think we will re-focus and come out a different team Thursday. We ended up as Co-District Champions and the #2 seed."

The Cougars (7-3, 6-1) play Willowridge Eagles beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Bi-District Round of play-offs.

It all seemed that this game hinged on one less long yardage quarterback sneak that put Crosby behind after having caught up and surpassed with a touchdown and soon after field goal in the second.

A forced interception put Crosby up 15 – 17 at the half. It was obvious that the Bulldogs were playing with full excitement and at their highest potential.

The game was really decided



Long yardage quarterback sneaks aided both teams.

in the third quarter when Crosby pulled ahead 23 to 24 with under four minutes left in the quarter. However that is when the momentum shifted. The Bulldogs got the big break with a pass that gave them near 80 yards and a touchdown. Crosby denied them a two point conversion this time but the final score had been achieved.

The Cougars forced a turnover through interception but would fumble and not score again.

Church Page Sponsors

WESTON COTTEN, ATTORNEY

HIGHLANDS

281-421-4050 1500 E. Wallisville Rd.

NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

STERLING ~ WHITE

FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY

11011 CROSBY-LYNCHBURG RD.

HIGHLANDS, TX 77562

(281) 426-3555

WWW.STERLINGWHITE.COM

"A Tradition of Excellence Since 1824"

Siding & Roof Repairs

Mobile Home Skirting

Call Mr. Roofer

281-452-0000

Call 713-266-3444 to join to join sponsorship of this page. Thank you.

Crazy college season winding down:

Texans head to Chicago looking to finish strong

The wild and whacky 2020 college football season is winding down with just a couple of weeks remaining, let's just hope we get to see it completed what with all the postponements and cancelation of games due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most of the major conferences will play their league title games the weekend of Dec. 18-19, but teams that won't be playing in those games will have the chance to play that same weekend to makeup games that had to be postponed earlier in the season.

Jimbo Fisher's Texas A&M Aggies travel to Knoxville on Saturday to take on Tennessee in a game that was supposed to be played in October. Two weeks ago, the Aggies used a stifling defense to defeat LSU, 20-7, to move to 6-1 on the season.

A&M probably won't be playing in the SEC title game because their lone loss came at the hands of No. 1-ranked Alabama, which looked dominant in its 42-13 win at home over arch rival Auburn. Nick Saban, who had to watch the game from because he tested positive for the corona virus, may very well have the best team in the country. Should the Aggies win out, they would need either No. 2 Notre Dame, No. 3 Clemson or No. 4 Ohio State to lose at least once in the final two weeks to give the Ags a legitimate shot at one of the four College Football Playoff (CFP) berths. I don't see that happening, but Fisher's team should be in line for a Jan. 1 bowl game (if they are played) that should carry a load of momentum into the offseason.

In the NFL, the season is also winding down, and there are a number of teams in both the AFC and NFC still in the playoff hunt.

I don't think the Texans are one of those teams, but they have played better since firing head coach Bill O'Brien. Two weeks ago, the Texans embarrassed the Detroit Lions on Thanksgiving Day, 41-25, as quarterback Deshaun Watson

KEENEY'S KORNER

By

MIKE KEENEY

threw four touchdown passes. The loss was so bad that Detroit ownership fired head coach Matt Patricia and General Manager Dan Quinn.

This week, the Texans take on another NFC North foe when they travel to Chicago to take on the Bears. This is a game the Texans can win.

Other interesting matchups have the Patriots visiting the Rams on Thursday Night Football, the Saints visiting Philadelphia with hopes of quarterback Drew Brees returning under center, Kansas City facing a solid Dolphins team in Miami, Pittsburgh visiting Buffalo and on Monday Night Football a good one in the AFC North as Baltimore pays a visit to a vastly-improved Cleveland Browns team.

Before we take a look at those games, let's review last week's record. A 6-4 week brought the season record to 81-40 (67%).

Now, onto these weekends games.

NCAA

Michigan at Ohio State: For years this game has been The Game of the Year in the Big 10, with the winner earning the league's Eastern Division crown, but not this year. Sure, Ohio State has lived up to its end of the bargain and should go undefeated in the regular season, but Michigan has been a huge disappointment this year. Two weeks ago, Jim Harbaugh's team fell to 2-4 on the season when it lost at home to what was a winless Penn State team. There is speculation that this will be it for Harbaugh, who might be a better fit in the NFL. Look for the Buckeyes to roll behind

quarterback Justin Fields (1,208 yards, 13 TDs), running back Master Teague III (380 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Chris Olave (26 receptions, 389 yards, 4 TDs). If this one gets ugly, there's a good chance Harbaugh might not make it through the post-game news conference! My pick, Ohio State 36, Michigan 13

Oklahoma at West Virginia: After a slow start, Lincoln Riley's Sooners have bounced back and have a legit shot at playing in the Big 12 title game against Iowa State. But first they've got to take care of business in their final regular season road game at West Virginia. The Mountaineers have been up and down this season, but have a solid defense and a decent quarterback in Jarrett Doege (2,219 yards, 13 TDs). The Sooners have been rolling since their Oct. 3 loss at home to Iowa State, winners of five straight heading into last Saturday's home finale against Baylor. Quarterback Spencer Ratliff (2,319 yards, 22 TDs), running back Rhamondre Stevenson (332 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Marvin Mims (28 receptions, 483 yards, 7 TDs) are making plays all over the field. That bunch will probably face their toughest test to date, but something tells me Riley will have a little something extra for WVU come Saturday. My pick, Oklahoma 33, West Virginia 26

Texas A&M at Tennessee: Fisher has Aggie fans excited and they should be as the former Florida State coach has turned the program around in just three years. And the good news for A&M fans is the fact this is still a very young team, especially at the skill positions on offense. Running back Isaiah Spiller (784 yards, 6

TDs) is just a sophomore and while Fisher will lose senior quarterback Kellen Mond (1,573 yards, 16 TDs), he has young talent waiting in the wings to take the program to the next level. Two weeks ago, Mond and the offense struggled in their 20-7 win over LSU at Kyle Field, but the defense played an outstanding game to lead the Ags to a revenge win over the defending national champions (LSU trounced A&M 50-7 in 2019). Look for the offense to play much better this week as they look to finish strong. My pick, Texas A&M 34, Tennessee 16

NFL

Houston at Chicago: The Texans look for a second straight win over a NFC North foe when they visit the Windy City on Sunday. On Thanksgiving Day, Watson turned in a magnificent performance, throwing for 318 yards and four touchdowns. Two of the scoring tosses went to speedy wide receiver Will Fuller IV (53 receptions, 879 yards, 8 TDs). Fuller has had a nice season (and knock on wood) has remained healthy thus far. Texan fans hope his good health continues. The Bears have a decent defense, but that was evident two weeks ago during their 41-25 loss at Green Bay. I think the Bears will play better on that side of the ball on Sunday and if Chicago running back David Montgomery (575 yards, 1 TD) gets going, quarterback Mitch Trubisky (802 yards, 9 TDs) should be able to make some plays down field against a suspect Houston secondary, but something tells me Watson is going to have another big day as the Texans look to finish the 2020 season strong after a disastrous start. My pick, Houston 30, Chicago 27

Dallas at Cincinnati: While the Texans were rolling on Thanksgiving Day, the Cowboys played like a bunch of turkeys, losing at home to Washington, 41-16. It was an embarrassing effort and head coach Mike McCarthy had some questionable calls, but the most glaring was calling for a fake punt at the Dallas 24

yard-line early in the fourth quarter with the game still in reach. Of course, the fake failed and Washington responded with 21 unanswered points to put the Cowboys out of their misery. Andy Dalton (870 yards, 5 TDs) returns to Cincinnati where he spent the first nine years of his job. It would be nice to see running back Ezekiel Elliott (707 yards, 5 TDs) to get back on track and for Amari Cooper (71 receptions, 845 yards, 3 TDs) to continue to make plays down field. The Bengals may be without starting quarterback Joe Burrow, but they play hard. It might behoove the Cowboys to do the same on Sunday or they will get embarrassed again. My pick, Dallas 26, Cincinnati 24.

Kansas City at Miami: The Miami Dolphins are the next team that gets to try and slow down Pat Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs offense. Good luck with that. Two weeks ago, Mahomes (3,497 yards, 30 TDs) threw for 462 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Chiefs to a 27-24 road win over Tom Brady and Tampa Bay. While Mahomes had another big day, wide receiver Tyreek Hill (68 receptions, 1,021 yards, 13 TDs) had one of the best days by a wide receiver in NFL history as he grabbed 13 Mahomes passes for 269 yards and three touchdowns. KC tight end Travis Kelce (74 receptions, 978 yards, 7 TDs) should join Hill as a 1,000-yard receiver when KC visits South Beach and a Miami team that is a legitimate playoff team. The Dolphins have a solid defense, but so did TB and you saw what Mahomes did to the Bucs two weeks ago. It should be more of the same as Mahomes continues to make plays to Hill, Kelce and other Chiefs as Andy Reid's looks to track down Pittsburgh for the top seed in the AFC. My pick, Kansas City 30, Miami 23

New Orleans at Philadelphia: The Saints play their third straight road game when they travel to Philadelphia to take on the shaky Eagles on Sunday. The Saints have

continued their winning ways even without quarterback Drew Brees, who is on injured reserve with 11 fractured ribs. Brees could come off the IR for this one, but if he doesn't, Sean Payton's team is in good shape with Taysom Hill (397 passing yards/279 rushing yards, 5 TDs) running the offense. The one big difference between Brees and Hill is that Brees does a good job of getting running back Alvin Kamara (585 rushing yards, 8 TDs/68 receptions, 646 yards, 4 TDs) involved in the passing game. Kamara has caught just one pass in the first two games Hill has started at QB. I don't think it will matter who starts at quarterback for the Saints this week because their defense is playing as well as any defensive unit in the league at the moment. Look for Eagles QB Carson Wentz (he threw another interception in the Eagles' Monday night loss to Seattle) to continue to struggle against the Saints defense as New Orleans picks up another road win. My pick, New Orleans 34, Philadelphia 18

Pittsburgh at Buffalo: This should be a tough road test for Ben Roethlisberger and the Steelers on Sunday Night Football. The Bills are tough at home and have a solid front seven that should be able to pressure Big Ben. The Steelers will be playing their third game in a 12-day stretch and the wear and tear could take its toll against the Bills. The Steelers played a rare Wednesday game on Dec. 2 when they outlasted the Ravens, 19-14 on a cold and windy day in the Steel City. It was not the Steelers' finest effort and head coach Mike Tomlin ripped his team following the victory. Two weeks ago, Josh Allen (3,029 yards, 22 TDs/311 rush yards, 6 TDs) led the Bills to a home win against the Chargers. Look for Allen to make some big plays to wide receiver Stefon Diggs (80 receptions, 945 yards, 4 TDs) as Buffalo pulls off the upset and make things interesting down the stretch as the Steelers and Chiefs vie for the No. 1 seed in the AFC. My pick, Buffalo 24, Pittsburgh 20

Fishing aficionados win boats to fish



Jenn Nolan, Texas Parks and Wildlife Youth Angler Education Instructor and Executive Director of Champions Outdoors poses with a kayak recipient sponsored by Champions Outdoors at a drawing Monday, Dec. 7, held at their new Main Street location. Jmac's Yak Shack, a new kayak and fishing store in Crosby, gave out 50 vouchers at the Crosby / Huffman Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade of Lights. This young man, Bently Balinski, 7, was the lucky recipient of some great gear and a new Hoodoo Element 95 fishing kayak. Bently's enthusiasm for fishing made all the difference for friend Todd Floyd to give his certificate too so that Bently got his chance. Also that day John Webb attending for Crosby Education Foundation won a raffle of a Hoodoo Element 100.

Fatal Crosby Crash

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Impact impressions leave little doubt as to what happened as a result of the impact on the black 2016 Lexus RX 350 in the westbound direction of the 700 block of Krenek Road on December 4. Traffic investigators sent all involved to hospitals following the crash. Witnesses tried to help the couple prior to ambulances arriving to bring medical services to bear on the injured.



Sights of Christmas in Highlands



Hot Chocolate was served by Rotary Club members, seen here, and Cookies served by the Highlands Horizons.



Santa arrived in Highlands on a Fire Truck, along with Miss Highlands and Jr. Miss Highlands.



At left, decorated Christmas trees line the arbor on the way to see SANTA in the Gazebo.

Hang your Christmas Card on our Tree

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Best Wishes! Wishing You The Best... Tom, Barbara & Family

SOLUTIONS 824 Grand 559-1888 M-F 10:00 - 5:30

Cheers! 3 J's Drycleaning 24 Hour Service Drycleaning Alterations Leather Cleaning Upholstery Wash & Fold 3 J's Drycleaning & Laundry 816 Grand Ave., Baytown (713) 559-1218

Happy Holidays! Bob Rowland & Associates 827 Grand Ave. Baytown 339-1563

Lou's Grocery 339-1579 Over 30 years... 7 Days a Week 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM Fresh Produce, Meat, Poultry, Seafood, Groceries, Baking Supplies, Ice Cream, Frozen Foods, and more! 4th & Grand Ave. Baytown (713) 559-1915

Happy Holidays! WALKERS LIQUOR 4411-B Hwy 146 Baytown 559-2273

Happy Holidays! Medical Clinic Dr. Chae 1125 Grand Ave. Hwy 646 Baytown (713) 339-4515

J&A Garage COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR & TIRE SERVICE Auto Inspections Tune-Ups Alignments Oil Change Mufflers 339-1083 339-3776 4445 Hwy 146, Baytown

Merry Christmas from Baywind Mobile Home Park Mobile home lots for sale 50x103 Owner Financing \$1,000 down Rentals Single spaces \$50.00 524 Louisiana No. 15 Baytown 339-1107

Kuntry Kar Kare, Inc. Auto Sales We also do tune-ups and general repairs. Days 339-1301 Nights 559-1495 Intersection Hwy 146 & 51 San Leon

Crowder Funeral Home The Crowder Family Tradition 401 Texas Ave. La Marque 409-935-2401 FM 517 & FM 646 Dickinson 713-337-1515

Bay Area Taxi Makes Everyone Season's Greetings 24 hr. Service Delivery Service 1-800-471-6775 Fax 339-2351 339-2180

(This Ad is reduced in size. Your card will be twice as large-- a Full Page)

We will publish your Card Ad in our Christmas Editions Dec. 17 and 24 For Details call 713-266-3444

HUGE STORE CLOSING SALE

GUNS • RODS • REELS • TOOLS • EQUIPMENT • JEWELRY • TV • DVD • STEREO • MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PAWN

RAINBOW JEWELRY & LOAN

303 N. Main Street, Highlands

Up to 60% OFF EVERYTHING

GUNS • RODS & REELS
TOOLS • EQUIPMENT
TV • DVD • STEREO
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

SHOP EARLY
EVERYTHING MUST GO

Emergency Care in East Houston



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

- Comprehensive emergency services, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays
- Board-certified emergency medicine physicians
- On-site lab testing and imaging
- Accepts most major insurance plans

HCA Houston ER 24/7 - North Channel
6191 E Sam Houston Pkwy N, Houston, TX 77049
281.454.2600 | [HCAhoustonhealthcare.com/er-24-7](https://www.hcahoustonhealthcare.com/er-24-7)

SE-20-004_07.21.20

Christmas Festivities in 2 towns



Santa with Ms Claus Main St. in Crosby



Santa with Miss Highlands on Main Street in Highlands



The Jeep Club brought in the Grinch and other participants with much better attitude in Crosby, they earned a trophy.



This Manger scene reminded us of the reason for the season.



Most Smiles Trophy winners in Crosby

OUTSMARTING
CANCER
in Baytown

Our nationally recognized specialists are finding new ways to outsmart cancer.

From screenings and diagnosis to the most advanced treatments, our leading cancer care is available in Baytown. And, you can be confident that we are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe — so you can focus on healing, surviving and thriving.



281.428.2273
houstonmethodist.org/cancer-baytown