



HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

# Star Courier

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FRIDAY



### COVID-19 RESOURCES

City of Houston Pre-Screening 832-393-4220  
Harris County Ask a Nurse  
713-634-1110  
Harris County Pre-Screening 832-927-7575 or readyharris.org  
Harris County Mobile Tests  
713-439-6000  
MD Medical  
1-888-776-5252  
Methodist Hospital Download mymethodist app.

### COVID-19 Cases as of December 21, 2020

#### HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES

346,953 POSITIVE  
4,145 DEATHS  
290,368 RECOVERED

#### TEXAS

1,604,991 POSITIVE  
25,936 DEATHS  
1,279,067 RECOVERED

#### UNITED STATES

18,035,209 POSITIVE  
319,364 DEATHS  
5,714,557\* RECOVERED

#### WORLDWIDE

77,364,641 POSITIVE  
1,702,596 DEATHS  
43,637,283 RECOVERED

#### BIRTHDAYS

Dec 26-Rick Bobalik  
Belvia Courvelle  
Dec 27-Kathryn Dunlop  
Dec 28-Jocelyn Victoria Kmiecik  
Kyle Schultz  
Dec 29-Thomas Coward  
Darryl Foster  
Dec 31-Susan O'Neal  
Jan 1-Linda Strickland  
Jan 2-Eleanor Prescott  
Cris Taylor  
Jan 5-Bernice Leissner  
Marvin Baker  
Marie Bobalik  
Brandon Taylor  
Jan 6-Janci New

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 28-Kyle & Tricia Schultz  
Dec 31-Raymond & Jean Oliver  
Ashley & Eric Clamon  
Jan 2-Bruce & Theresa Abbott  
Jan 5-Dale & Natalie Smith

## Cougars maul Tigers, advance to Regional

NACOGDOCHES – All the action was at Stephen F. Austin University last Friday as the Crosby Cougars blasted past the Texarkana Texas High School 62 to 42.

The Cougars go on to face the fierce, Top Ranked Huntsville Hornets the day after Christmas in the 5A DII UIL State Regional Playoff. The Hornets seem perennial contenders for the State Title. Now fresh from their 49 to 19 victory over the Barbers Hill Eagles all eyes are on Woodforest Stadium in Shenandoah at 2:00 p.m.

The Tigers showed up to scratching and grubbing for a fight but soon it was apparent that Crosby's Jerry Prieto had a plan.

"The more the week went on the more confident I was in our game plans. We wanted to score first and jump out to a lead on them because they had not trailed this year in a ball game yet. We were able to score on our first possession and scored on 9 of our 13 possessions," said Prieto.

But the question is how was this ventured lead for the Cougars?



Branch and Dunn pool to fool the Tigers, both passing and both dashing to make a daring team statement.

"Reggie Branch, Deniquez Dunn, and Jaylen Herman had huge games

offensively for us. Our defensive line controlled the front and shut down their

run game. Our kids came out ready to play and we're the more physical team from the first snap on," summarized the Crosby Head Coach.

The Cougars were ahead from early to finish even with 3 turnovers.

It must be said that where many teams would pit Reggie Branch against Deniquez Dunn for the top spot pushing down the other, Crosby has combined them for dynamite in the back field. Other teams don't know who is passing

See COUGARS, page 6

### Christmas wish comes true

## Resident gets New Home from Harvey Reconstruction Program

BARRETT STATION – A Christmas wish has come true for Mrs. Verna Green of Crosby, Texas. Mrs. Green just moved into her new home, reconstructed on the site of her previous home, which sustained significant damage from flooding during Hurricane Harvey. The leaky roof and inoperable electrical outlets Mrs. Green contended with since the 2017 storm are no longer concerns, thanks to Harris County Project Recovery's Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP).

"I'm home for the holidays," Mrs. Green exclaimed, flashing the keys



New homeowner Mrs. Verna Green flashes the keys to her new home.

presented to her by Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia during a key turn-over ceremony on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at Mrs. Green's home.

"We are happy to deliver this new home to you. I regret that it has taken longer than we expected, but I hope this will make your holiday season much more pleasant," Commissioner Garcia said.

Administered by the Harris County Community Services Department, Project Recovery's HAP repairs and reconstructs flood-damaged homes of eligible applicants. The \$30 million program is funded with Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) dollars allo-

cated to the county by the State of Texas General Land Office (GLO) and granted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



View of Mrs. Green's new home in Barrett Station, provided through Harris County's Project Recovery Homeowner Assistance Program.

partment of Housing and Urban Development.

See NEW HOME, p. 6

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Letters to Santa

Letters to Santa

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Santa, Can I please have a scapbardand a nodwearings and a fidget spinner please. Avxmy, 6 years old.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Santa, A ef buk. A fak ef. A babeyg. A baner toy, a slim ki. A toy bog. Srdner, 6 years old.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Season's Greetings from WESTON COTTEN Attorney at Law 281-421-4050

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Holiday Greetings from



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Season's Greetings

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CROSBY ISD

Season's Greetings and Merry Christmas

FROM Crosby M.U.D.

Visit Our New Office at 103 W. Wahl St., Crosby Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7a.-4p. Fri. 7 'til Noon Closed Dec. 24 & 25 Dec. 30 & Jan. 1

Courtesy of Eddie Foster

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wishes you Happy Holidays

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JERRY & JULIE Fallin

Happy Holidays

from

OMNIX Home Health Care





# Barbers Hill Press

Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24&31, 2020

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

## ON THE HILL

### Dec. 23rd last day for online BLT Holiday Classic

Baytown Little Theater presents Holiday Classic for Online Enjoyment

Something exciting is happening at Baytown Little Theater this holiday season! For the first time, a production by the BLT will be available for streaming right on your television, at home or on your mobile device.

The setting is a New York City radio studio on Christmas Eve, 1946. Actors are on hand to broadcast the Charles Dickens classic to the country. The sound effects team organizes its array of sound props, and the stage manager gathers the popular stage and screen performers, passing out their scripts for the evening's performance. Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, Belle, Marley, and all of the Ghosts are on hand to usher you through this uplifting holiday tale.

The Baytown Little Theater, through our partnership with Broadway On Demand and Playscripts, Inc., is able to bring your family a live performance that you can enjoy safely, in your own home. If you were not able to catch one of our funny and touching sold-out performances of the holiday classic, Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play, make plans to celebrate the holiday season virtually with us. Just use the link below, or go to [www.Broadwayondemand.com](http://www.Broadwayondemand.com) and search for Baytown Little Theater.

Tickets for viewing are \$20 plus a nominal service fee. The play will be available online from December 17 through 23. Make it a Christmas adventure for your entire family! Your viewing will support the Baytown Little Theater, your hometown venue for live theater performance.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This issue of the BHD PRESS went to press on December 22, and was distributed the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of this month.

## Houston Methodist Leads Vaccination Effort to End Pandemic

BAYTOWN — (December 18, 2020) — Following this week's historic roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine, Houston Methodist has provided more than 4,373 vaccines across the Houston Methodist system and over 530 at Houston Methodist Baytown for physicians, nurses and staff to ensure that they can continue to care for patients in the safest possible environment.

The vaccine is currently only being given to health care workers, with priority given to nurses, physicians and other providers in direct contact with patients. On Wednesday, December 16, the first day that the vaccine was made available in Baytown, more than 205 hospital employees received their COVID-19 vaccinations.

The arrival of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine marks a true turning point in the fight against COVID-19. Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital CEO David Bernard said while there is still much work to do as the number of COVID-19 patients in the Houston area continues to rise, the vaccine brings hope that these numbers will decrease as vaccines become more readily available.



Houston Methodist Baytown Chief Nursing Officer Becky Chalupa gives vaccination to Chief Medical Officer/Chief Quality Officer Dr. Shawn Tittle

"This week has been pivotal in our fight against this virus that has impacted all of our lives for the past nine months," Bernard said. "I want to thank Houston Methodist Baytown employees for demonstrating to their colleagues and our community how easy and safe it is to be vaccinated. The vaccine offers light at the end of the tunnel, and our hospital remains committed to helping our community emerge even stronger from the enormous challenges created by the pandemic."

Methodist Baytown employees for demonstrating to their colleagues and our community how easy and safe it is to be vaccinated. The vaccine offers light at the end of the tunnel, and our hospital remains committed to helping our community emerge even stronger from the enormous challenges created by the pandemic."

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## Candy Cane Christmas held in Liberty

LIBERTY - Everyone had a great time at the Candy Cane Christmas Drawing on Saturday, December 12 in downtown Liberty. Great food along with vendors and a cook-off were enjoyed by everyone.

Many thanks to our donors for the ten great prizes in our drawing - Allegiance Bank, Mobiloil Credit Union, Community Resource Credit Union, Magnolia Place Health Care, Prosperity Bank (who also sponsored Santa), Texas First Bank, New Source Energy Constructors, Inc., Liberty County Teachers Federal Credit Union, and Sour Lake Motors - Truckville.

Thanks to KSHN.COM for the livestream, J.R. Austin for the music and emcee duties, Liberty Food Festival for their assistance and variety of good food available, and of course... SANTA CLAUS himself!



## Eagles lose in playoff, 49-19

SHENANDOAH-The Huntsville Hornets perennial contenders for the State Title defeated the Barbers Hill Eagles 49 to 19 last Friday at Woodforest Stadium, where they will play Crosby the day after Christmas. That field must be familiar.

It is the Hornet's 3rd year to go 3 rounds deep in the playoffs. The Eagles that easily downed Galena Park 51-14 found the Hornets stingy on defense. The Eagles scored all 19 points in the Fourth Quarter. Coach Tom Westerburg had a 3 game winning streak snapped. Linebacker Jordan Gigout recovered a fumble. Josh Bishop snagged an interception. Garret Hagler hauled in a 40 yard toss from Brent Holdren and an 11 yard touchdown catch.

## Barbers Hill issues dress code study

Meant to justify correlation between dress and academic performance

By Jada Mier  
BHD Press

MONT BELVIEU - The case of Kaden Bradford and De'Andre Arnold still loom as Barbers Hill ISD share the results of a new study done on dress codes. The study is influenced by their controversial decision to expel two students based on their hair length alone. After the district came under fire for its discriminatory policies, the school has released the results of a study that favors their new existing dress code. Barbers Hill ISD revised its dress code policy over the winter break of 2019. Two Black students were suspended over the length of their dreadlocks Kaden Bradford and De'Andre Arnold. Arnold, a senior in the class of 2020, was sent to in-school suspension and told he could not walk at graduation until his dreadlocks were cut short to meet the new dress code. Arnold took a stand and refused to cut his dreads due to his Trinidadian background. A lawsuit was filed against

the school by DeAndre's mother, and a judge ruled the Barbers Hill Independent School District's dress code is discriminatory.

Barbers Hill ISD Superintendent Greg Poole wrote in a tweet that the study showed "statistically significant correlations" between higher academic success and safer schools, which had more stringent dress codes. In October, the BHISD Board of Trustees asked district leaders to take a close look at the district's dress code to ensure that its purpose was still consistent with the community's expectations and that its use was enhancing the district's goals. The BHISD dress code requires, among other standards, that girls' dresses and tunics must extend beyond fingertip length, and boys' hair length must be maintained out of the eyes, not below the ear lobe, and not below the top of the collar. Exceptions to the hair length restrictions are permitted for purposes of religious expression and for medical reasons. Data from all



KADEN BRADFORD & DE'ANDRE ARNOLD

1442 Texas high schools was evaluated in Bruton's study, including criteria such as academic ratings, graduation rates, dropout rates, discipline referrals, and expulsions during the 2018-2020 school years, along with each high school's dress and grooming policies as noted in the student handbooks.

Texas high schools were then sorted into three categories: schools that had a strict dress and grooming standards, similar to that of BHISD; schools that included at least one feature of BHISD's dress and grooming policies; and

schools with no specific dress and grooming policy (including those with ambiguous wording such as "hair must be well-groomed.") Significant in her research was the Department of Education's "Manual on School Uniforms," commissioned by President Bill Clinton in 1995 after California schools saw a marked reduction in crime - including assault and battery, sex offenses, weapon offenses, gang activity, and drug cases - within a year after implementation of a uniform policy.

Specifically, for the 300

high schools across the state with dress and grooming standards similar to Barbers Hill's policy, statistics showed those schools were the most likely to be rated an A or B by the Texas Education Agency. These schools were also less likely to have significant safety-related issues such as students placed in out-of-school suspension or removed to a disciplinary alternative education program. The schools graded "F" by TEA consistently lacked dress and grooming policies for students.

Superintendent Poole clarified the connection between the district's new study results and its legacy mission: "We cannot give up the fight for high standards just because some students would prefer not to adhere to them," said Poole. "This issue is a canary in the coal mine regarding the corrosive effect of eroding expectations. The stakes are high, and Barbers Hill ISD will continue to emphasize local control and have the highest of standards for our students in all things."

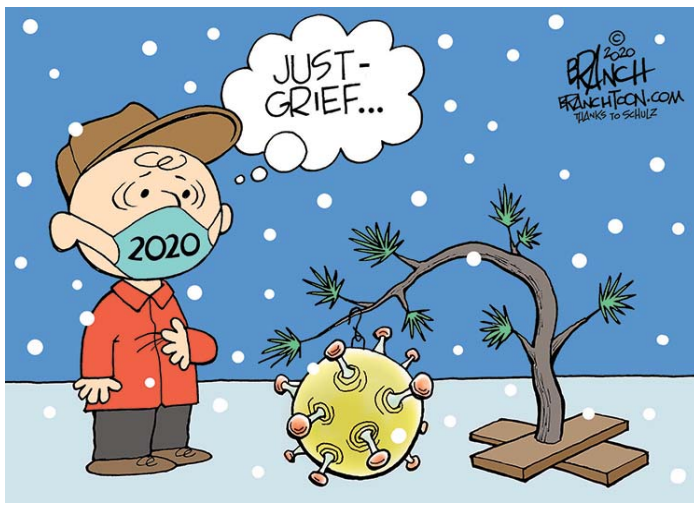


★ OPINION PAGE ★

*The Christmas Story*

Luke 2:1-20,  
King James Version

1: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.  
2: (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)  
3: And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.  
4: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)  
5: To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.  
6: And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.  
7: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.  
8: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.  
9: And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.  
10: And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.  
11: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.  
12: And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.  
13: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,  
14: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.  
15: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.  
16: And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.  
17: And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.  
18: And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.  
19: But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.  
20: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



★  
**THE POSTSCRIPT**  
By  
Carrie Classon

*“As much Christmas as possible”*

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

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

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

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

“EVERY night!” she repeated for clarification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Till next time, Carrie  
Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

★  
**STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Chris Cobler



*Briscoe Cain questions legality of virtual Legislature*

**Public access to Legislature up in the air**

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

**More COVID-19 vaccines on the way**

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

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**



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

**Cyberattack blows back on SolarWinds**

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

**The best Christmas ever**

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

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



with Slim Randles

*The Christmas Gift*

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

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

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

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

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

“I won’t, Dud,” she said, purring.

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

“I’m dead meat, guys,” he said.

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

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

“Uh ... well ...”

“You don’t know, do you?” said Doc.

“Not a clue.”

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

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

“Does she knit?”

“Knit what?”

“Never mind.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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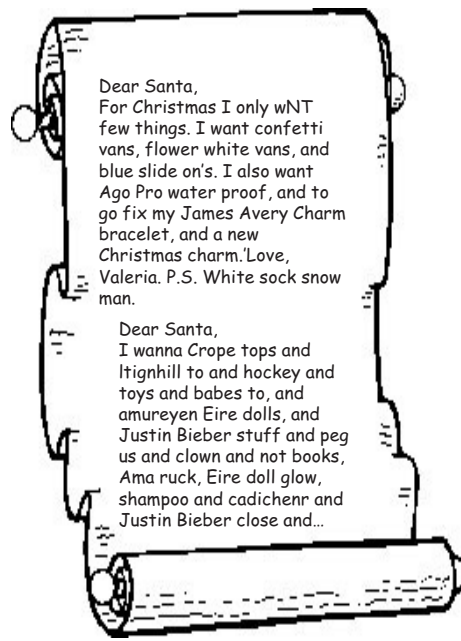




Dear Santa,  
I want PJ masks toys,  
City PJ mask jump suit,  
PJ Jacket shears. All PJ  
mask roller skates.  
Love Danny, 5 years old  
...

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

Dear Santa,  
I want goldPIZ and  
Amoog US plusher PIZ. I  
been good and a GOPICO  
And a tank



Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I only wNT  
few things. I want confetti  
vans, flower white vans, and  
blue slide on's. I also want  
Ago Pro water proof, and to  
go fix my James Avery Charm  
bracelet, and a new  
Christmas charm. Love,  
Valeria. P.S. White sock snow  
man.

Dear Santa,  
I wanna Crope tops and  
Itighnill to and hockey and  
toys and babes to, and  
amureyen Eire dolls, and  
Justin Bieber stuff and peg  
us and clown and not books,  
Ama ruck, Eire doll glow,  
shampoo and cadichen and  
Justin Bieber close and...



## Letters to Santa



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Retirement party for Denise Smith



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

Denise has been busy not only with her work, but as a past president of the Highlands Rotary Club, a member of the San Jacinto Pilot Club, and a board member of the North Channel Chamber of Commerce. Denise and her husband Jerry plan to relax and take time to travel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

### NFL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## New Home from Harvey Reconstruction Program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Through a sub-recipient agreement, the GLO has granted Harris County \$900 million total for several programs aimed at assisting in the county's recovery from Hurricane Harvey and increasing its overall resilience to future floods.

"In addition to our homeowner repair, reconstruction and reimbursement programs, Project Recovery is also addressing the county's critical affordable housing shortage by developing affordable single-family homes and multifamily rentals," said Dr. Adrienne Holloway, executive director of the Harris County Community Services Department. "Plus, we are investing over \$400 million from CDBG-DR in buyout and infrastructure projects that help remediate flooding where possible and move people out of harm's way in areas where flood control is not feasible," Dr. Holloway said.

Commissioner Garcia added, "Harris County's federally funded disaster



Dr. Adrienne Holloway, executive director, Harris County Community Services Department; Ms. Sandra Barrett, daughter of homeowner Mrs. Verna Green; Mrs. Green; Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia presenting Mrs. Green with the keys to her new home

recovery programs are layered on top of our voter-approved \$2.5 billion bond program to help us develop projects that reduce flood risks and damages across the county and build resilience to future flooding. We will continue to work to ensure those needed the most are getting the support they need."

Mrs. Green's home was

built by Brizo Construction, one of several local home builders contracted for the county's Homeowner Assistance Program.

The GLO is administering a disaster recovery housing program for area residents similar to Harris County's program, which provided Mrs. Green's new home. For information about the GLO's program, Harris County homeown-

ers impacted by Hurricane Harvey may call 346-222-4686 or toll free at 866-317-1998, or you may email [HarrisCounty.glo@recovery.texas.gov](mailto:HarrisCounty.glo@recovery.texas.gov).

For additional information about Precinct 2 activities, visit [www.hcp2.com](http://www.hcp2.com). For information about Project Recovery, visit [www.HarrisRecovery.org](http://www.HarrisRecovery.org).

**About Project Recovery** – Project Recovery exists to assist Harris County residents in recovering from floods experienced in 2015, 2016 and Hurricane Harvey through an array of options including homeowner repair reimbursement, new home construction, homeowner buyout for flood mitigation, affordable rental, local infrastructure improvements and new transit options. Through Project Recovery, the Harris County Community Services Department and other county departments ensure projects are complete, with the goal of improving the long-term resiliency of Harris County.

## HMB Leads Vaccination Effort to End Pandemic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



CEO David Bernard provides a tour of the vaccination clinic at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital for (from left) Mayor Brandon Capetillo, City Manager Rick Davis, Fire Chief Kenny Dobson and Assistant Fire Chief Dana Dalbey.

the way with the COVID-19 vaccine distribution," Capetillo said. "I plan to take the vaccine when it becomes available to me and I encourage others to do so as well. The faster we take the steps necessary to protect ourselves and others, the quicker we can get back to some normalcy. I think we're all ready to get back to life pre-COVID mentally, emotionally and physically. Our economy depends on it, and with the vaccine becoming available to all citizens soon, there is no reason we can't come out of this stronger than ever."

Despite the difficulties created by the pandemic, Houston Methodist Baytown has continued to provide essential health care services in a clean, safe environment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the hospital has instituted numerous protocols to ensure patient safety, such as

- Screening all patients, ensuring only those without COVID-19 symptoms are allowed
- Wearing masks and personal protective equip-

ment (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

Baytown City Manager Rick Davis said the vaccine will allow the city's first responders to do their jobs safely.

"We are more than a little relieved that our emergency responders will soon be able to get the vaccine. They are the ones we all count on to answer our calls and take care of us. It's imperative they be able to do that," Davis said.

Recognizing that many people in the community have questions about the vaccine, Houston Methodist offers a wealth of information on the vaccine and those still in development. For answers to frequently asked questions, visit [houstonmethodist.org/vaccine/](http://houstonmethodist.org/vaccine/). More information on COVID-19 and its impact is available by clicking [houstonmethodist.org/blog](http://houstonmethodist.org/blog).

## Cougars maul Tigers, advance in playoffs,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

or dashing and that confusion is paying dividends. Branch had five touchdowns including a 67 yard run in the 2nd Quarter. He scored three on short runs in the first half. A 60 yard reception from Dunn in the third quarter doubled the Tigers 42 to 21.

True to the Cougar's Coach's plans they were ahead 28 to 0 before the 5th Ranked Tigers awakened in the second half. That saw Quarterback Brayson McHenry of the Tigers hit Rian Cellars for a 31 yard touchdown pass. A little more than a minute later a second touchdown pass to Caden Miller connected with less than three minutes left in the first half. The teams seemed equal in ability but Crosby was up 35-14 at the half.

The Cougars broke out again as the half time lapsed as E'Monte Wilson caught and hauled a 25 yarder from D. Dunn.

The Tigers put together a time consuming drive to score again.

Jayden Herman had three touchdowns right after the half. The Cougars were ahead by 34 points half way into the fourth quarter.

The Tigers came alive again in the Fourth when Daquerreon Witcher scored on a long drive. The Tigers made a fumble pay off seconds later with a touchdown originating on the Crosby nine yard line when McHenry threw a touchdown. Crosby had not allowed 42 points since they played powerhouse Manvel at the start of the season.

Crosby stands at (9-3) taking on the Huntsville Hornets (11-0) next Saturday but then the Tigers had not been defeated before last week.

**WISHING YOU A  
HAPPY HOLIDAY  
& A PROSPEROUS TAX YEAR**



Jack Noonan B.B.A., T.R.E.B., E.A.

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## Goose Creek CISD Recognized in Bragging Rights



Superintendent Randal O'Brien joins others from the Goose Creek staff in celebrating the recognition for bragging rights by Texas School Business magazine. Goose Creek won for their campaign slogan "We Grow Giants" as illustrated by this Giant Inflatable.

BAYTOWN – Goose Creek CISD is one of 12 Texas school districts recognized for their outstanding programs with the release of Texas School Business magazine's 14th Annual Bragging Rights 2020-21 special issue. Bragging Rights, which calls for nominations and is published every December, recognizes school districts that have implemented programs that are bettering the lives of Texas students, schools and communities.

This year's 12 honored districts and their brag-worthy programs include:

- Aledo ISD, Employee Crisis Fund
- Bryan ISD, Odyssey Academy
- Corsicana ISD, Penguin Project
- Goose Creek CISD, Here, We Grow Giants
- Gruver ISD, Farm Scholarship
- Levelland ISD, Therapy Dog Program
- Liberty Hill ISD, All Girls Considered
- Palacios ISD, In-House Special Education
- Pine Tree ISD, Day of the Dead Program
- Throckmorton Collegiate ISD, P-20 Model
- United ISD, Suicide Prevention Program

Vidor ISD, Behavioral Health Program

"School districts across Texas sent in their nominations this year, and each one deserves to be noticed," says Texas School Business Editorial Director Dacia Rivers. "It's our hope that the 12 districts we chose inspire others to follow in their footsteps. The mission of Texas School Business is to share the good news happening in Texas public schools, and there's never a shortage of news-worthy school programs for us to cover."

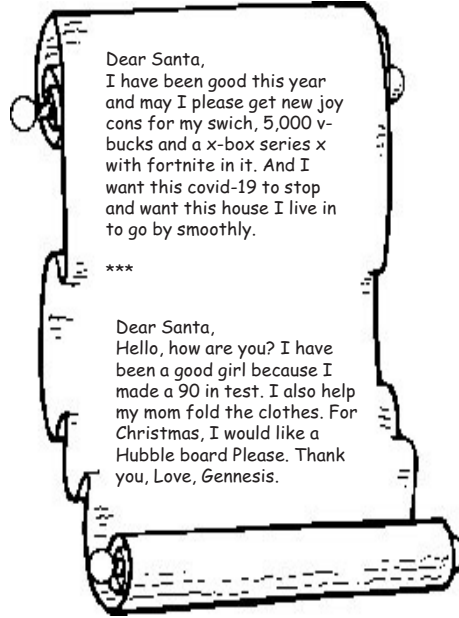
Goose Creek CISD was recognized for the district's theme, "Here, We Grow Giants," which has become a culture for the district. Videos, billboards and ads recognize giants throughout the district. T-shirts, mouse pads, and other items are branded with the "Here, We Grow Giants" logo. An inflatable giant often makes an appearance for photo opportunities. Each month an alumnus, an employee and a student are recognized as Giants of the Month, and they are surprised with a plaque, a t-shirt and other gifts. Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital sponsors the Giants of the Month program this year.

In a letter to the Goose Creek CISD staff, Dr. Randal O'Brien, superintendent, announced the award, crediting them with promoting this vision for the district and its nearly 24,000 students and 3,500 staff members.

"Whether you have worn the t-shirt, made giant contributions to your workplace, helped students reach giant goals, been nominated or recognized as a giant yourself or just continued to do your best during this pandemic, you have played a role in helping our district receive this honor.

Thank you for all that you do every day. I could not ask for a more dedicated, supportive staff, and, as always, I'm proud to be your superintendent. This recognition confirms what we've known all along - "Here, We Grow Giants!"

Texas School Business has served as the new magazine for public education in Texas for 46 years. Since 2014, it has been produced by the Texas Association of School Administrators ([www.tasanet.org](http://www.tasanet.org)). The 14th Annual Bragging Rights issue is available online at [https://issuu.com/tasanet/docs/tsb\\_br\\_2020-21?fr=sOTExYjE3ODM5MDk](https://issuu.com/tasanet/docs/tsb_br_2020-21?fr=sOTExYjE3ODM5MDk)



Dear Santa, I have been good this year and may I please get new joy cons for my switch, 5,000 v-bucks and a x-box series x with fortnite in it. And I want this covid-19 to stop and want this house I live in to go by smoothly.

\*\*\*

Dear Santa, Hello, how are you? I have been a good girl because I made a 90 in test. I also help my mom fold the clothes. For Christmas, I would like a Hubble board Please. Thank you, Love, Gennessis.

### Carter's Christmas List

- Jack Plushies
- Kids sack p-jays
- Minecraft Plushies
- FG TeeV Plushies
- Harry Potter Toys
- Spiderman Bike
- New Headphones
- My Hero Academia hat
- RC-Car- green
- Green Big Jeep - RC
- Lanky Box Mystery Eggs
- Shark Napper Sleeper Bag

\*\*\*

Dear Santa, Toy Ice cream shop · My sisters list: A big toy car for outside. A toy shop a whole set bubbles, toy frog crayons. A new switch, new canceler batteries, over watch the game and holo 5 on my Xbox. This is what we want, Santa

## Letters to Santa

Dear Santa, Guitar pick, nerf gun, electric scooter, spider man web, A spider man tent, 4 wheeler, bigger scutes, mind craft sword, bow & arrow, Chad & Ninja toys.

...

\*\*\*

Dear Santa, Is it grid in the North Pole? I want a mine craft plash a my Lee 33 and stasy plays. Lol Dolls. Love, Elle, 7 years old.

Dear Santa, I have bin a good groll . I have bin buining my wurk at schooll. Wht I want four Chrmis is a born. Laney, 6 years old.

...

Dear Santa, Ipad, iPhone 11, a laptop. Zoey.

Dear Santa, I would like a PS5, a dirt bike, and a TV. I have been good all year. James, I am 7 years

...

Dear Santa, I would like a iPhone 11 pro, play station 5, laptop and tablet. I have been good all year. Thank you, Cadmon, 7 years old.

Dear Santa, I would like a Wish Mic, Hq Loy Zooonb, SKQN. I have been good all year. Cavin, 7 years old.

Dear Santa, I would like to raise money for my service puppy Astro, Baby Alive, Kinetic Sand and Stuffed unicorn I have been good all year! Thank you, Shelby, 7 years old.

...

Dear Santa, I want greninja Pokemon and charmander. Angel.

...

Dear Santa, I want a gift card and a bike and a new one and hadefones, a keyboard and a tase, and a dark and a PS5, and a xbox Seles x. Jaxson.

...

Dear Santa, I would like a car jeep and a new phone. I would like AirPods for my phone and I will like some clothes and toys. Kylie.

...

Dear Santa, I will like elf on the shelf and a new 2 baby dogs and omg dolls and a elf toy and a lol dolls and 1 baby cat and a Santa toy and a baby doll from lily. Liliana.

## Art Gallery features Paintings by Mei

Texas Artisans Art Gallery in Chappell Hill is now featuring oil painting by Mei Hoffman. Gallery is on the main street, and open weekends and some weekdays by appointment. Call 713-703-3841.



Merry Christmas and Best Wishes during the Holiday Season!



At back - Jenny Protain, Dr. Larry White, Donna White, Jennifer Bell, At front - Jan Self, Patricia Scott and Denise Ortegon.

From the Office of DR. LARRY WHITE D.D.S. and Staff 114 N. Main Street, Highlands (281) 426-3558



## Harris County COVID-19 test sites closed Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

COVID-19 Test Sites Closed Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

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

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

• **M.O. Campbell Education Center**  
Open Mon-Wed 12:00p.m.-7:00p.m.  
Also open Sat (12/26) 8a.m.-3p.m. 1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032

• **Cathedral of St. Matthew**  
Also open Sat (12/26) 8a.m.-3p.m. 9101 Airline Dr, Houston, TX 77037

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

• **George Bush Park**  
17245 Westheimer Pkwy, Houston, TX 77082

• **Sri Govindaji Gaudiya Matha Temple**  
Also open Sat (Dec 12/26) 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. 16628 Kieth Harrow Blvd, Houston, TX 77084

• **Strawberry Park**  
1104 Parkside Dr, Pasadena, TX 77504  
For the Pasadena and Katy test sites, register at [www.doineedacovid19test.com](http://www.doineedacovid19test.com) or call 832-927-7575. People must be 13 or older to be tested at these locations.

• **San Jacinto College Central Campus**  
Open Mon-Wed (12/21-12/23) 7a.m.-2 p.m.  
Open Sat & Sun (Dec 26 & 27) 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
8060 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505



*Letters to Santa*

Dear Santa,  
Hi Santa my name is Leslie and I am 11 years old. Yes I am 11 I still believe in you, I am help my mom and help my brother to do online school. I'm going to ask you only two thing number one a Akatsuki necklace and a Akatsuki beani that is all I want Santa Claus. Sincerely Leslie, and thank you if you could read this.

\*\*\*

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

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

Dear Santa,  
How are your reindeer an roundoff? May I have some roller skates? Santa. I love you and Ms. Claus and the elfs. Love, Madison, 7 years old

Dear Santa,  
How is your rain deer? Wan't I want for crimes is stick bots, and some more legos. Mary Crinmas Santa! Love, Jase, 6 years old.

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

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

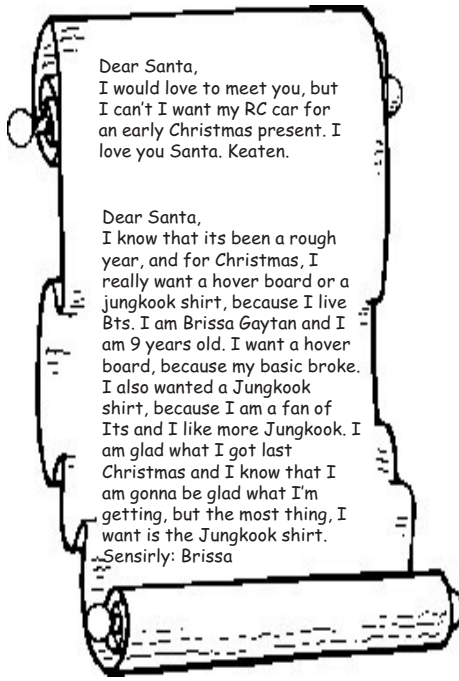
Dear Santa,  
I put a LecfBirt with Acloru and with speck. Love, Luna, 6 years old.

Dear Santa,  
How are your rede. I was a good boy. I wot a Jacket, I wot a srt. Waylon, 7 years old.

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

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

Dear Santa,  
How ar you? Today for Christmas I want a biplane, hedorah. Owen.



Dear Santa,  
I would love to meet you, but I can't I want my RC car for an early Christmas present. I love you Santa. Keaten.

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

Dear Santa,  
Hello, how are you? I have been good boy because I do my chores. I also help my mom wash clothes. For Christmas I would like a toy. Please. Love Omoro.

Dear Santa,  
This is what I want for Christmas: Barbie dream house, Princess accessories (dress), (jewelry), play make-up toy, play laptop, play phone.

Dear Santa,  
How are your randare doing and how are you doing? Can you bring me sum mojo Pelose. If you wot to now haw alfratoe is doing? He is doing good. Aiyssa, 6 years old.

Crosby Young Farmers complete multi-raffle



Crosby Young Farmers completed their raffle last Saturday on Facebook the one that they held because COVID 19 disallowed them to hold the Annual Blue Jean Ball or Donkey Basketball. The raffle winners are the Gator depicted above to J.R. Casiano, the Grille went to Duane Sils, the picnic table and basket was won by Richard Dove, a processed hog and deep freezer went to Dane Fitzgerald, Cabela's \$500 Gift Card was won by Tammy Peek, the \$500 Amazon Card was won by Teague Schexnayder, the Bass Pro Shop \$500 Gift Card went to Toni Collett.

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



# CHILI FEAST

## Raffle & Auction

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



**Saturday, February 6, 2021**

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



**Raffle Tickets \$100.00 Donation**  
**Meal Tickets \$10.00**

Raffle Tickets purchased prior to Jan. 6, 2021 will be eligible for \$500 Gift Card Drawing.

Winners need not be Present to Win!  
Payment of all local, state and federal taxes will be the responsibility of the winner.  
Proceeds donated back to our Community for Scholarships & Community Programs.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ALL HIGHLANDS ROTARIANS**



Tickets also available this year on FACEBOOK!



**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MANY AREA & HIGHLANDS STORES**

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

Posters Courtesy of the Highlands STAR-Crossby COURIER

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# Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a Panda computer, Panda state board. I have been good all year. Thank you. Bailee.  
...

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a go car. I have been good all year. Thank you, Torge.  
\*\*\*

For Christmas I would like a bike, baby dog, my mom to, hav fun and a dog. I have been good all year. Thank you, Michael.  
...

Dear Santa,  
I want a PS5. How are you doing? I have been good boy, because I help take out the trash. I also helping my dad on work. For Christmas, I would like a PS5 and the Nintedoe and a game for the Nintendo . Thanks, Edwin.  
...

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? I have been a good girl, because I .... For Christmas I would like a toy please. Thank you, Melisa.

Dear Santa,  
I want a toy car and a race charm and a tran. Zion.  
...

Dear Santa,  
I want a L.O.L., I want a omg dolls, I want a makeup, I want a phone. Zaylee.  
...

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I want is paint canvases, paint and brushes, and shoes. Thank you. Santa. Jasmine.

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good boy this year and I would like the cr7 rare gold superbly boats and Poke Mun cards, and a big bag of hot chetosse in my stocking and a lot of twirlers in my stocking and a playstation and a gold controller and the cables for the play station and fifa20 and a neck lace for my mom and a new hover board.  
...

Dear Santa,  
My name is John and I'm in 5th grade, and I've been a good boy, and I wish for a Nintendo switch.  
...

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I want a Santa slat that has a radar char on it and a antenna and a car radio on it.  
From Jayden To Santa  
...

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good boy. I want a game on my Nintendo switch W9xe. I'm cute a pitman and Kirby star allies, and a the battlecat on the Nintendo switch . All my game I want on my Nintendo switch I want more game and a the battle cat Pot be on my gameboy.  
Thank you, me my Christmas  
...

Dear Santa,  
I wish you a merry Christmas. I would like a pack of hot wheels. I would also like a Batman Launching car. I would also love a flying toothless from How to Train Your Dragon. I want Pokeman toys & cards. I love you Santal Be Safe, Love Corbin

Dear Santa,How are you doing? I have been a good girl, because I clean up, I also take out the trash. For Christmas I would like a LoL, TV, color, puppet box, (ent, Marcos, caveat, seteco. Thank you, Damaris.  
...

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? I have been good girl because I help my family and I help my sister and I also help my mom to cook in the kitchen. So can I get a unicorn toy for Christmas Day please. Honey.  
...

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing today? And I have been a nice boy because I have help my parents doing chores like cleaning my house, washing the dishes. So I do all my chores what my parents told me to do. So you are the best person, so I will do chores what my parents told me to do. So I want dark souls, dragon ball fithorz, ...minion toy gun and blue cars, so thank you.

Dear Santa,  
Hello how are you? I have been a good boy because I do my chores. I also help my mom. I take care of my baby cousin. I wash the clothes and take them out. I wash cars with my dad.I want something for Christmas.  
...

Dear Santa,  
Hi! Santa this is what I want. A new tablet, and a Walmart gift card. Exzavye.

ear Santa,  
Hi! Santa, How are you. I binag big. I owt rorstas.. Logan, 6 years old.  
...

Dear Santa,  
How are you today? I have been a good girl this year, I want a make up pallet for Christmas. Ps have a great Christmas Santa. Winter.

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a baby puppy, a bike, a stuffed unicorn and a baby alive. I have been good all year. Thank you, Kennedy.  
...

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a head set and a PC and a PS5 and a lego set. I have been good. Thank you, Atticus.  
...

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a Nike 5, PS5, TV and a Christmas tree. I have been good all year. Thank you, Wyatt.  
...

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a Xbox and dirt bike, a game boy. I have been good all year. Thank you, Nathan.  
...

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I would like a LoL, a pet dog, a tie boar, a neklis. I have beed good all year. Thank you, Josie.  
...

Dear Santa,For Christmas I would like a phone, computer, 100 dollars and a makeup set. I have been good all year. Thank you, Karsen.  
...

Dear Santa,  
I want a flying toothless and a 3Ds, and bike Love, Dane  
...



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



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## Behold! A Child Is Born

The parishioners of St. Jude Thaddeus in Highlands extend a warm greeting to those seeking a church to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and share the blessings of another Nativity celebration.

Parishioners, we are grateful for the support and encouragement we have received during this year.



### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2019

#### MASSES

##### Christmas Eve Tuesday, Dec. 24

4:15 pm -- Christmas Carols  
5:00 pm -- Vigil Mass  
11:15 pm -- Christmas Carols  
12:00 am -- Midnight Mass

##### Christmas Day Wednesday, Dec. 25

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

##### New Year's Eve Tuesday, Dec. 31

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

##### New Year's Day Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020

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

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Rev. Daniel Baguio, Pastor



## Woman accused in death of 4-yr-old

HUFFMAN – Houston Police Dept. Patrolmen took a woman into custody in connection with a deceased 4 year old last Saturday.

On November 29 a child was discovered dead at about 2:00 p.m. in the Lake Wood Townhomes on FM 1960 in Huffman.

Originally, a report indicated that the child had died of cardiac arrest but now, thanks to forensic science authorities indicated it died of blunt force trauma. Police allege that Melinda Davis, 41, abused the child and tried to hide evidence of the crimes.

The judge hearing the case indicated that several lacertaions and bruises on the body of the child and that the child had been dead longer than the couple in custody of it were willing to admit.

Someone allegedly removed bloodstained clothing from the child's body, perhaps to hide abuse.

An ambulance had taken the child to HCA Houston Healthcare Kingwood Hospital Hospital that



**MELYNDA DAVIS**

Sunday. It was pronounced dead while at the hospital.

Police say evidence was found consistent with abuse and hiding evidence from police of that abuse. The autopsy has yet to be concluded and charges may be even more serious.

She will be brought to court on Wednesday for arraignment.

The father of the child and others were brought in for questioning on November 29.

The incident remains under investigation and anyone with additional information is ased to contact HPD Homicide at (713) 308-3600 or Crime Stoppers (713) 222-TIPS.





# Growing with the needs of OUR COMMUNITY

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is seeing patients, both in person and virtually, because your health is still important. That's why you can be confident that we are taking every necessary precaution during the coronavirus pandemic to keep you safe.

At Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital, we continue to improve the quality of our health care and expand our services.

We are proud to offer these recent additions:

- A new leading-edge **emergency department** featuring 42 private treatment rooms
- A new and expanded **cancer center** offering infusion and radiation therapy, 12 private chemotherapy suites and support services from patient navigators
- A new neonatal intensive care unit
- Two new patient care units with 46 spacious private patient rooms
- New state-of-the-art operating rooms for cancer treatment, orthopedics, cardiovascular treatment, gynecology, gastroenterology, pulmonary, and bariatric and robotic-assisted surgery
- A new outpatient center featuring ambulatory surgery, orthopedics and sports medicine, physical and occupational therapy, imaging, laboratory services, breast care center, primary care services and an occupational health clinic



**Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital**  
4401 Garth Rd., Baytown, TX 77521

Visit [houstonmethodist.org/baytown](https://houstonmethodist.org/baytown) to make an appointment with our primary or specialty care physicians or call **281.428.2273** for a physician referral.

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