



HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star Courier

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

FRI. DEC. 10 Crosby Football Playoff Tickets

To purchase tickets, go to this link: <https://www.bryantvikings.net/HTickets>.

TUES. DEC. 7 Highlands SANTA Arrival

SANTA arrives on a Fire Truck, 5:00pm at Highlands Park and Gazebo. Hot Chocolate by the Rotary Club, cookies by the Highlands Horizons. Decorated Trees line the walkway.

THURS. DEC. 9 Highlands Chamber Luncheon

Join us this Thursday for our Christmas luncheon! We will have music from the Highlands Junior School beginner band and feast on delicious food from "Chef" John!

The speaker will be Dr. Tom Kelchner from Empowered Network, outlining plans for the East Harris County Navigailliams of the Marcellus-Williams Resource Center. RSVP TODAY!

12 noon, Thursday, December 9th
San Jacinto Community Center
604 Highlands Woods Drive
\$15 with RSVP or call 713-851-5746

BIRTHDAYS

- Dec 10-Alecia Simmons
Karl Tewold
Maegan West
Kacy Browning
- 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

ANNIVERSARIES

- Dec 8-Ray & Melissa
Denson
- Dec 11-Kevin & Sandra
Muldrow
- Dec 12-Jim & Patsy
Dammon
- Dec 15-Bob & Mary
McGee
- Dec 16-George & Aimee
Palmer
- Dec 17-George & Stachia
R. Thurmond
- Zorro & Katie Soto
- Dec. 19-Kitty & Bob Elkins

Crowds enjoy 22nd Annual Christmas Festival in Crosby

CROSBY - The community celebrated the 22nd Annual Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Christmas Festival and parade with lots of joy and bright smiles.

The festivities began Saturday at the Crosby Church on Highway 90. The church's music hall was filled with booths from local business owners selling arts, crafts, treats, and homemade items. Crosby Music Academy provided entertainment at the festival.

The Crosby High School Cougar Stars sold all sorts of sweet treats and raffle tickets to the crowd. The raffle prizes ranged from microcore purses to an ice chest full of goodies.

Jennifer Godoy, Crosby High School dance director, said it is all for the community.

"That money goes back into the Chamber and the donations as well," Godoy said.

Outside, children took full advantage of a petting zoo with chickens,



Santa and Mrs. Claus were the highlight of the Parade.



The Cougar Stars sold home baked goodies at the 22nd Annual Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Christmas Festival. Pictured from left, Ava Garza, Abigail Gonzalez, Madison Dorsey, Kealy Ricketson, Laney Strang, and Kaitlyn Louviere.

goats, rabbits, and even a pony. There was also a bounce house and food trucks serving tacos and shaved ice. Patrons also enjoyed free hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, and chips donated by Kim Davila of JLA Realty.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus took pictures with festival visitors. A balloon artist created all sorts of animals and shapes for the kids.

The public was then treated to a lighted parade down FM 2100. The parade started at Crosby Middle School.

Many Christmas-themed decorated and lighted floats took part in the parade, with riders throwing candy treats to people lined up to see the floats. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus were one of the parade's biggest attractions, drawing many cheers as they waved to the crowd.

Kim Harris, Chamber president, described the holiday event as "great."

"We had a great turnout," Harris said. "Everyone seems happy and



Luna Hernandez says 'hello' to a goat at a petting zoo, one of the many features at the 22nd Annual Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce Christmas Festival. A lighted parade followed the festival, which was held at Crosby Church on Highway 90.

pleased. This is the Chamber's way of giving back to the community every year. That is why we make it free for the public to come here and give away a bunch of stuff for free. We have sponsors to sponsor all of the businesses in town, and that helps me pay for the petting zoo and food."

Crosby Cougars defeat Texas HS 14-7, will meet Liberty Hill in Playoff rematch

CROSBY - Cougar fans were on the edge of their seats most of the game last week against Texas High, due to the low scoring game where only a few points would make the difference.

Played at Lufkin's Abe Martin stadium on Friday night, a large contingent of Crosby fans were on hand for the game, cheering their team for the final winning score near the end of the fourth quarter. With only 10 minutes left in the game, Cougar QB #10 Cyrin Myles rushed 4 yards to take the lead 12-7, and then #4 Braden Womack ran a 2 point conversion for a final score of 14-7.

The first half had been primarily a defensive battle between equal teams. The first quarter ended 0-0, and in the second quarter Crosby was able to kick a field goal and take the lead into the half 3-0. The 27 yd. Field Goal was kicked by #47 Trevor Helberg, who was later named



ABOVE: Crosby QB #10 Cyrin Myles encourages the Crosby fans in the stands to cheer on the team. Myles was nominated Player of the Game.



LEFT: #10 Cyrin Myles carries the ball across the goal line from the 4 yard line, to score the winning touchdown for the Cougars.

the Special Teams Player of the Game.

In the beginning of the 3rd quarter, the Texas HS Tigers marched 75 yards on six plays, to take the lead 6-3 with a 1 yard rush by QB #12 Brayson McHenry. A PAT made it 7-3.

Crosby answered with a 15-play drive, capped by Trevor Helberg's 36-yard field goal with 2:41 left in the third, to bring the score to 7-6Tigers.

On their next possession, the Cougars ran 10 plays to gain 56 yards, with QB Myles scoring with a run from the 4-yd line. This was in the final 10 minutes of the game. Coach Prieto decided to go for a 2 point conversion, and Braden Womack ran it into the end zone to bring the score to 14-7 and a Cougar win.

When the Tigers got the next possession, with about 3 minutes left, they were unable to move the ball enough, and Crosby took over on downs and ran out the clock.

Players of the Game for Crosby included Special Teams Trevor Helberg, and QB Cyrin Myles. Myles performance was

Continued. See Crosby Playoff Game, Page 6

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*All loans subject to credit approval. Under certain circumstances, private mortgage insurance (PMI) and an escrow account for taxes and insurance may be required. Other eligibility includes a credit score of 650 or greater, no bankruptcy in the previous 36 months, debt-to-income ratio not to exceed 36%. Loan will consist of a 95% loan-to-value first lien mortgage, and a second lien mortgage up to 15% loan-to-value, with a maximum combined loan-to-value of 110%. Minimum down payment = 5% with seasoned funds, which can be applied to closing costs or down payment. No gifts or borrowed funds. Max purchase = \$250,000. Other credit and income qualifications will apply. Minimum finance amount of \$15,000. Offer does not include FHA, VA, and USDA mortgages or other government backed mortgage loans. Investment properties and Jumbo Loans are not eligible for this offer. Verifiable employment required and time on job required of 1 year plus. *Investment properties, Home Equity Loans and Jumbo Mortgage Loans are not eligible for the Best Rate Guarantee. Real estate promotions cannot be combined with any other offer. Certain other credit and income qualifications may apply. A Competitor Mortgage Loan Estimate dated within three business days of CRCU's mortgage loan offer is required in order to qualify for Best Rate Guarantee. CRCU reserves the right to cancel or change these promotions at any time. Please contact a representative for more details. CRCU membership required.

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

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

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

Dear Editor—

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

Virginia O'Hanlon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Letters to Santa

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 Santa! Be Safe, Love Corbin ...

... 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, 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. ***



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




Pearl of the San Jacinto

HIGHLANDS - LYNCHBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

127 SAN JACINTO STREET
HIGHLANDS, TX. 77562
(281) 426-7227



Season's Greetings from the Highlands Volunteer Fire Department



Harvey Little, Fire Chief
Station 17 - 123 San Jacinto St.
Highlands, Texas 77562
281-843-2466



Have A Very Merry!
You deserve the merry best.
HOFFMAN-LIU DESIGN ASSOCIATES
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Barbers Hill Dayton Press

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

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Lee College offers free tuition and expenses for first-time students

Mont Belvieu SANTA in the City

SANTA IS COMING TO YOU!

This year, Santa is coming to you! With the help from the Mont Belvieu Fire Department and various other city departments, Santa will be given the grand tour of Mont Belvieu by fire truck so he knows exactly where all of his stops will be on Christmas night. Get a special sneak peek of Santa right from your neighborhood during his tour and give a wave or a shout to let him know that we won't let a silly virus take away our Christmas!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13TH
Old River Country / Fisher's Landing Brookstone Subdivision Eagle Pointe Estates Villages of Champions Cherry Point St. Augustine Meadows Cherry Creek Cherry Point (Remainder) Santa in the City - Night 1

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
Eagle Brook Apartments and The Retreat at Barbers Hill Trinity Bridgette Kathleen Blvd. Royal Palm (The Colony) Eagle Creek Drive Magnolia Landing Wilburn Ranch Santa in the City - Night 2

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
Icet Creek Crossing Cottonwood Reserve at Champions Estate Lakes of Champions Lakes of Champions Santa in the City - Night 3

Chambers Landfill Holiday Schedule

Please make note of the following adjusted holiday hours of operation for the Chambers County Landfill and Box Sites.
Thanksgiving Day - All Facilities Closed
Christmas Eve - All Facilities Closed
Christmas Day - All Facilities Closed
Thank you and have a happy holiday season.

Baytown, TX - High school graduates and GED recipients who live in the Lee College service area and have never attended Lee College before can attend for free during the Spring 2022 semester as part of the First Time Free at Lee program. Under this program, first-time Lee College students have the opportunity to earn up to 12 semester credit hours with no out-of-pocket cost for tuition, fees or e-books.

"We are excited to be able to offer this opportunity to first-time Lee College students," said Dr. Lynda Villanueva, president of Lee College. "We are optimistic that this



program will offer a ray of hope for people who thought college wasn't possible because of finances. If you want to achieve a better future, we want to help you accomplish that dream."

To be eligible, students must have a high school diploma or GED, reside within the Lee College service area, and apply for financial aid at

www.studentaid.gov.

Tuition and fees will be paid by student financial aid and Lee College Foundation scholarships first; with the student's consent, any remaining balance will be paid with CARES Act funding. These are grants, not loans, so students do not have to pay anything back.

"If you have never attended Lee College before,

this is a great time to get started on your future," said Scott Bennett, associate vice president of Student Affairs at Lee College. "Even if you have attended another college in the past, we have a place for you here. Now is your chance to find out what makes Lee College different."

Lee College serves a geographic area of more than 220,000 residents including Baytown, Mont Belvieu, Anahuac, Crosby, Dayton, Devers, Hardin, Huffman, Hull-Daisetta, Kountze and Liberty. In addition to the main campus and McNair Center located in Baytown and a

satellite campus in nearby Liberty, Lee College also offers a diverse range of convenient online courses as well.

Lee College offers more than 100 associate degree and certificate programs, as well as non-credit workforce and community education courses that prepare its diverse student body for advanced higher education, successful entry into the workforce, and a variety of in-demand careers.

Spring classes start January 10, 2022. For more information about the First Time Free at Lee program, go to www.lee.edu/apply/.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA (RESERVATION REQUIRED)

December 11th | 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. / 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Eagle Pointe Recreation Complex \$10.00 per person [Click here to purchase tickets!](#)

CHRISTMAS MOVIE UNDER THE STARS

December 11th | 5:00 p.m. at City Park
Join us for a showing of ELF on Saturday, December 11th. The Mont Belvieu Fire Department will deliver Santa (We know that guy!) at 5 p.m. for some S'mores with Santa and picture opportunities.

Thanks to [Stage Door, Inc.](#), there will be free hot

cocoa, an ugly sweater contest, and a real life Buddy the Elf! Don't miss this special event.

Festivities begin at 5 p.m. | Movie begins at 6 p.m. Free event - no tickets necessary!

SANTA IN THE CITY
December 13th, 14th, and 16th | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at various locations

With the help from the Mont Belvieu Fire Department and various other city departments, Santa will be given the grand tour of Mont Belvieu by fire truck so he knows exactly where all of his stops will be on Christmas night. Get a special sneak peek of Santa right from your neighborhood during his

tour and give a wave or a shout to let him know that we won't let a silly virus take away our Christmas!

Detailed map routes will be available so you'll know when to expect Santa in your neighborhood. Click the "Santa in the City" tab on the MB website for additional information.

PICTURES WITH SANTA
December 17th | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Eagle Pointe Recreation Complex

Stop by the Eagle Pointe Recreation Complex Event Center for a quick photo opportunity with Santa! Crafts and hot cocoa will be available for children on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Santa visits Beach City Dec. 10, 11

SANTA ON THE BAY
This year, the Santa On The Bay Parade will take place on December 10th and 11th.

Friday, Dec. 10th the parade will start on the south end of town on Cedar Point Rd. near TriCity Grocery store and progress northward and finish up the night with the Northpoint subdivision.

Saturday, Dec 11th, the parade will pick up just north of Northpoint and finish the parade just north of the city's northern boundary along Texana. The BCVFD will be throwing out candy to all the children along the route and Santa will most certainly be in his usual festive spirit. The volunteers of the fire department, and with help from the Beach City

Mayor and City Council, will be collecting Food donations for our local food pantry and also financial donations to the Food Pantry or Fire Depart. Make checks out to "Food Pantry" or "BCVFD" whichever you prefer.

If you are new to the area, please plan to bring the kids out to watch the parade when it comes down your street. This is fun for everyone with the decorated fire trucks, Christmas music, sirens and the star of course, Santa. Who I might say can really cut a rug when he comes to Beach City. The parades will start around dusk each night and believe me, you will be able to hear them in advance of coming down your road. Let's make this the best one yet!

Ryan Dagley, MAI
Mayor, Beach City**

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Team with your Doctor for Better Health

BAYTOWN — (December 3, 2021) — Think of primary care providers as the quarterbacks of the personal health team. They bring a big picture view to help manage their patient's current medical conditions and provide guidance to help them maintain good health.

"Having a strong and trustful relationship with your primary care provider is key for good health," said Dr. Adolat Mirzaeva, a family medicine physician with Houston Methodist Primary Care Group in Baytown. "Building a relationship and partnership with your primary care provider can help you tackle health problems and stay healthy through the ups and downs of life."

IT'S A TEAM EFFORT

Here are some ways to make the most of your health visits and build a winning relationship with your provider.

1. Find a primary care provider. Look for a doctor who is board-certified, speaks your preferred language, and offers convenient appointments in a location near you. Above all, you should choose a doctor

you trust, who listens and makes you feel comfortable.

2. Schedule an annual exam. It's important to schedule an annual check-up even when you feel fine health-wise. Annual checkups help you stay on top of your health, making it possible to prevent and detect problems early. "During an annual check-up, discuss your risks of having cardiovascular diseases, review your medical issues and go over your vaccination history" Mirzaeva said.

3. Identify communication barriers. Resources are available if you or a loved one struggles with hearing, understanding or remembering what is said in your health visits. Bringing a loved one along to your appointment may help you better understand the information shared by your doctor while providing emotional support, if needed. Contact the doctor's office to let them know if you need help with communication or would like to have a family member or friend join you for your appointment.

4. Share your health history. Managing your



DR. ADOLAT MIRZAEVA

health is easier when you build a relationship with a primary care provider who knows your background. Your doctor may recommend health screening tests based on your age, personal or family health history, and other factors. For example, if you have a family history of heart disease, stroke, diabetes or cancer, your doctor may emphasize ways to prevent disease and recommend screening tests to help detect disease early.

5. Be open and honest. There's no reason to hold back information because you're worried or embarrassed. Your primary care provider is there to support you in improving your health, not to pass

judgment on your decisions. The doctor-patient relationship is ironclad in its confidentiality, with many ethical, professional and legal standards that protect it. "Having open and honest conversations about your health helps your doctor better understand you and serve your health care needs," Mirzaeva said.

6. Talk about mental health. Your primary care doctor can help with mental health concerns, including screening and treatment for depression and anxiety. Your doctor can also connect you with referrals to therapy, counseling or specialized care.

7. Ask about vaccines. Your primary doctor can be a great resource to help you understand which vaccines are recommended for you and when to get them. It's important to have these conversations with your doctor so you can make informed decisions based on the latest medical guidance.

8. Set goals for your health. If you want to lose weight, quit smoking or make other healthy changes, your doctor can help you get started. Your

chances of success improve when you have medical support for making big changes to your health.

PUT YOUR HEALTH FIRST

Mirzaeva and her fellow physicians with Houston Methodist Primary Care Group at Baytown—Dr. Greg Terry, Dr. Pooja Kulkarni, Mohammad Ahmed, MD, Irfan Dadabhoy, MD and nurse practitioner Trudy Istre—provide the full range of primary care services, including routine checkups, and treatment of complex illnesses, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and asthma. To schedule an appointment, visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown, or call 832-556-6670.

Houston Methodist Baytown is designated as a COVID-19 vaccine hub and provides first dose shots, including for children ages 5-11, as well as boosters for those meeting FDA and CDC guidelines. Walk-ins are welcome, but you may also schedule an appointment by visiting houstonmethodist.org/vaccine.

★ OPINION PAGE ★

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



State lowers price cap for Power Providers

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



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

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

STATE TO GET \$35 BILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS

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

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

WEBINARS EXPLAIN TUITION FUND

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

NEW COVID-19 CASES, DEATHS INCREASE



A ROCKEFELLER CENTER CHRISTMAS TREE

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

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

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

JUDGE BLOCKS SOCIAL MEDIA CENSORSHIP LAW

A federal judge in Austin last week blocked the state's social media censorship law before it took

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper, including contact information for the publisher and subscription rates.

Letter to Santa form with a decorative border and fields for Name, Age, and School.

Advertisement for Christmas cards featuring a tree graphic with various local business ads and contact information.



TEAPOT DEPOT
TEA ROOM

112 Denny St.
Highlands, TX 77562
281-426-3670

12/14-12/18

Desserts of Week- Strawberry 4 Layer & Bread Pudding, Lemon Meringue Pie \$3.95 each

Tuesday: Millionaire Spaghetti, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread & Oreo Bark
Family Meal \$48.00 & Single Meal: \$11.25

Wednesday: Alice Springs Chicken, Green Beans, Baked Potato Soup, Garlic Bread & Eggnog Bread
\$48.00 Family Meal & Single Meal \$11.25

Thursday: Boudin Stuffed Meatloaf served over Cream Cheese Mashed Potatoes, Creole Okra, Rolls & Cake Balls
Family Meal: \$50.00 & Single Meal: \$11.25

Friday: New Party Tray! Feeds 4-6! Cucumber Sandwiches on White Bread, Pineapple Spread on Raisin Bread, Grape Salad & Cream Cheese Egg Rolls with Dipping Sauce \$45.00

Saturday: Private Event from 7:30-9:30a.m. Our Dining Room will be open at 10:30! Come Have Lunch & Shop our Boutique!

Don't forget about our **Bougie Boxes!** This month's box includes, 1/2 a Chicken Salad Sandwich on Croissant, a cup of Broccoli Cheese or Baked Potato Soup, Baked Potato Dip w/Ruffles & a Slice of Sweet Bread! \$11.25 each. Orders of 6 or more! Perfect for Schools, Dr. Offices, Company Luncheons & anyone who eats lunch in! They are decorated inside & out for all of us Bougie Babes!

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Family Meals Feed 6-8

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THOUGHTS FROM HILLSIDE CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice



Why are You Doing It?

For weeks on end, there has been a wealth of memes and posts flooding our social media accounts, all referencing the supply shortages we've been having, talking about how long it will likely be before things change and how we'll deal in the meantime. Back in October, we were being warned to do our Christmas shopping early because stores were destined to run out of pretty much everything anyone wants.

And the warnings have been reasonable, to an extent. But do we really need all that added stress? I know some are considering entirely forgoing gifts this year for more than this reason, and I salute them. Mind you, I'm not at all against Christmas and gift giving. Visit our house on Christmas, with all the kids and grandkids present, and you'll know that for sure. But if the Trice family were to have no gifts this Christmas, we would be fine because we don't do Christmas for the gifts; they're just a bonus.

When we gather for Christmas, we're celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We're celebrating the fact that He opened the door for us to be members of the family of God. We're celebrating Him bringing our family together and keeping us together. Why are we celebrating? Because He's worth it!

Christmas is an awesome time of the year, and I say let's enjoy it to the limit. But even if you set aside the gift issue, it can be a high-pressure time, a seriously high-pressure time that too often leads to major, unnecessary stress. More people suffer depression in December than most realize. Bearing all of this in mind, I encourage you, as you rush through these final days, to consider why you are doing all you are doing. I urge you to consider whether some things might be better left undone.

For instance, that Christmas party you're being guilted into attending even though you're exhausted, out of time, and would rather be with your family...why are you going? When you truly consider, do you really need to be there?

That one gift your kid wants that's sending you all over creation in a gut-twisting, mind-bending search - do you think you'll be a failure as a parent if you don't find it? Why? Why would you believe that lie? That's not what parenting is about!

We all have busy schedules and long to-do lists at this time of the year, but we also have the ability to pick and choose. We have the option of looking at why we're doing certain things, deciding that our reasons for doing them aren't really good enough, and whacking them off those over-stuffed lists.

Even if you relieve the pressure by a little bit, that's progress. So I ask you, why are you doing what you're doing?

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Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.
HOSEA 10:12

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

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

 <p>#HelloNorthChannel</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Clinic Administrators Jackie Baker and Alvin Payne welcomed patients to the bright, modern clinic.</p>	 <p>#HelloNorthChannel</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Ambulatory Services Representatives Daniella Jackson (left) and Amanda Stringer checked patients in for their appointments on opening day.</p>
 <p>#HelloNorthChannel</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">New Kelsey-Seybold Physician John Ruelas, M.D., Family Medicine, saw patients on opening day and said they all were excited to have a new clinic so close to home.</p>	 <p>#HelloNorthChannel</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Adam Mitchell, M.D., Managing Physician at North Channel clinic, has been with Kelsey-Seybold for 13 years and is delighted to welcome new and current patients to the newly opened clinic.</p>



Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
NOW OPEN! 24/7 Scheduling 713-442-5000

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

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
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North Channel Clinic:
5820 E. Sam Houston Parkway North, Houston, Texas 77049
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Crosby playoff game with Liberty Hill,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

outstanding, with passing 7 of 17 for 63 yards, and rushing 24 carries for 126 yards and 1 TD. Also notable was RB #20 Quincy Jones, with 18 carries for 119 yards.

In Team Stats, Crosby had a total of 310 yards gained, while Texas gained 174 yards. Crosby's strength was in its rushing with 246 yards versus Texas' 50 yards. Texas had 124 yards passing, while Crosby had 64.

The Crosby Cougars now move to the semifinals, and will play Liberty

Hill Friday night, Dec. 10 at 7:30pm at Green Stadium in Bryan. This is an exact rematch of last year's semifinal playoff, when Crosby defeated Liberty Hill in Overtime, 62-61 when the Panthers lost the ball on a final drive and Crosby recovered to win.

If Crosby wins this match, they will go on to the Finals, to be played at Dallas' Cowboy Stadium, for the championship of Region III 5A-D2. Last year they got this far and played Aledo, losing 56-21.



A Victory Salute after the 14-7 win over Texas HS.



Cougar Junior QB #10 Cyrin Myles was outstanding, rushing for 126 yards on 24 carries, and passing for 63 yards on 7 completions. He was named offensive Player of the Game.



The team holds up the Trophy for winning the quarterfinal match against the Texas HS Tigers. The next match is the semifinal game against Liberty Hill.

Dear Santa,
My name is Ariana, I am in 4th grade and I want a Hover board and an aA set PSS, but I want my hover board with color. I have been a good student in school and what I wish for you to help my family, because my mom is always cleaning and my dad is always working under the sun. And I also want OMG and LOL dolls,
From Ariana Thank you.

Dear Santa,
I want legos and a small ballpit.
Love Zoer

Dear Santa,
Christmas lists from Elijah
1: toy drone, 2: toy air plane, 3: toy car, 4: inspector gadget toy, 5: loat cave, 6: loat car, 7: among us game, 8: robot dog.

Dear Santa,
This is what I want for Christmas: 1: Porida crime (Pupel light case) (file). 2: AirPods (light purple case). 3: New phone (iPhone) (phone case). 4: Ring light (tall one). 5: Real laptop (apple). 6: Sam and Cloby mreah. 7: Clothes. 8: Shoes. 9: Paid island. 10: a Buch of paint stuff.
Zoey

Dear Santa,
Please can I have a mad Hutr . . . Lunden, 6 years old.

Dear Santa, Please can I have LOL things and a dog. Rove, 6 years old.

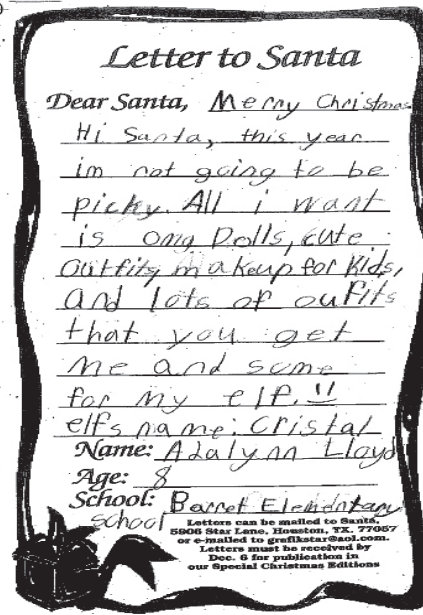
Dear Santa,
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Zoey

Dear Santa,
How is your day Santa? I wort for Crismis is a bike and a fit ball. Sebastian, 7 years old.

Dear Santa,
I wot a modrbike plus, and a stoic batboy, iPhone, goes, floods, rdscr. Held, 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.

Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
My name is Harper and I am almost 4 years old! I have been very good this year and hope I am on the nice list. I really hope you bring me presents. I would like: · Paw Patrol tower. · Doc McStuffins baby checkup set. · Real pet fish named "bingo". · Peppa Pig shopping mall. · Peppa pig tea set. · Jewelry box. · Earrings. · Barbies. · New biketards for dance. · Peppa pig kitchen. · Trollis worls tour toys. · Lego toys.

Dear Santa,
I have been good most of the year. Can I have a some hot wheels pleas and a among plashy, please.
Love Credenec. Love Santa.

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I have been a good boy because I help my mother cook in the kitchen. I also clean with my mom. For Christmas I would like a P55 please. Thank you, Chrisian.

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? Want I want for crimes is stick bots, and some more legos. Mary Crinmas Santa Love, Jase, 6 years old.

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 flying toothless and a 3Ds, and bike Love, Dane

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 moja Pelose. If you wot to now hav alfratoe is doing? He is doing good.
Aiyssa, 6 years old.

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



We hope the season leads you to a wonderful new year.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BARBERS HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

Barbers Hill ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m., Monday, December 13, 2021 In the J. Justin Jenson Conference Room, 9600 Eagle Drive, Mont Belvieu, TX.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Barbers Hill ISD's rating on the State's financial accountability system.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

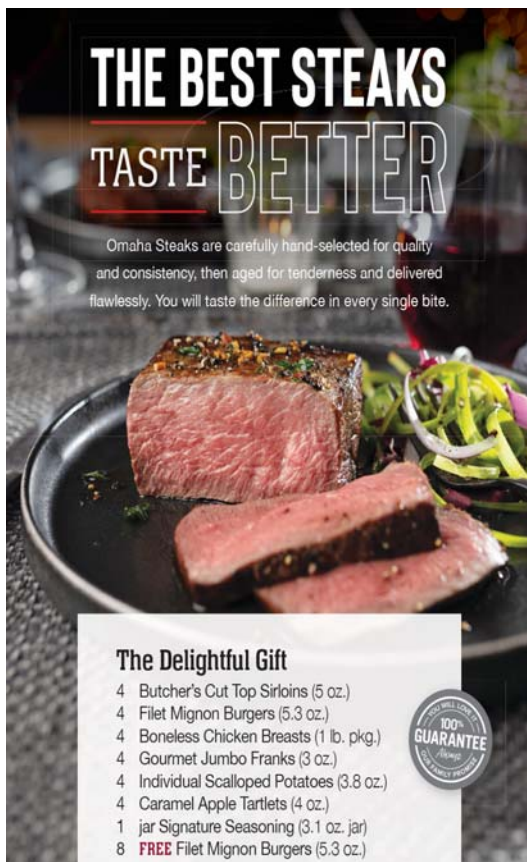
PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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Holiday Season's Greetings

Crosby Parade,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Mr. Grinch almost stole Christmas.



The parade included lots of floats with revelers.



The weather was almost too warm for Mr. and Mrs. Snowman, but they survived atop the buggy.



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



Letters to Santa



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nutcracker Ballet Returns to Lee College Dec. 17-19

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

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

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

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



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

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

JOIN US FOR OUR

Christmas Party

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH 2-5 PM



Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree Party

Join us on **Saturday, December 11th from 2pm-5pm** as we kick Christmas into high gear! We'll have a live band playing all of your cherished Christmas songs as well as plenty of eggnog and Christmas foods. Everyone is welcome to come and experience what The Lodge at Pine Creek has to offer!

Everyone is welcome to add an ornament to our keepsake tree for all to enjoy throughout the month.

Rsvp Appreciated CALL 832.572.5592 LODGEATPINECREEK.COM