



HIGHLANDS CROSBY

# Star Courier

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## Highlands Chamber ends year with sweet music

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

The Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual Christmas luncheon last Thursday and ended their year with the sweet music of the Goose Creek Memorial High School Orchestra.

The students, under the direction of Nicholas McMurrey, performed several numbers for the business leaders.

McMurrey said the ensemble had played five concerts this holiday season.

In January, the chamber will be under the new leadership of former chamber board chairman Jim Wadzinski.

The first item on their agenda is their annual awards banquet set for February 15 at the Monument Inn at 4406 Independence Parkway South.

For more information on the chamber, visit their Facebook. A new website is being created and developed for the community by Pat Lathrop.



Orchestra director Nicholas McMurrey directs the Goose Creek Memorial High School orchestra in a performance at the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce final meeting of the year. At right, Violins and Cellos add to the sound of the sweet Holiday music.



## HES choir makes Holiday Music at Highlands Rotary



Students from Highlands Elementary School visited the Highlands Rotary Club for their annual Christmas Carol Sing.



Students performed several Holiday songs, singing and dancing to choreographed moves for the appreciative Rotarians.

## Annual "Share Your Christmas" in Highlands



Once again the community of Highlands provided new clothing and toys through the Share your Christmas project for school children in the area. We were able to help 146 children this year.

Partners in this project pictured are: back row Wes Freman, (pastor) and Freman Gross of First Baptist Church; middle row, Theresa Cashion (chairman) Catholic Daughter of the Americans, Nieketta Bapiste, B.P. Hopper counselor, Claudia Birdsong and Melissa Harpster. Front row Maria Rosas (principal) and Soledad Harding (counselor) at Hopper, Michelle Stripling, counselor Highlands Elementary and Denise Smith, Highlands Rotary.

The wonderful sponsors who was unable to be in the picture are Brian Wilson, Setco Pipe, Chrissa Teel, Tri County Construction, Delene and Wes Cotton, the Horizon Club of Highlands, LJA Engineering, Woodforest bank employees, the Catholic daughter court of Saint Judes and two very generous donors who wish to remain anonymous. There are also many individual sponsors who deserve to be mentioned for their large caring part of this project.

Our deepest appreciation goes out to the three school counselors who work so hard on this project. Without them this project would not be possible. The junior high counselor, Mary King was not available for the picture.

## Christmas Light Show reopens in Dayton



WRIGHT'S LIGHTS famous light show, an ABC TV award winner, has reopened after a devastating fire 3 years ago. It is reduced in size, and a drive-up only experience, but awesome.  
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Letters to Santa

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
This christmas I really want a Ipad to share with my sister because my little sister broke it I also want a english bull dog because my dog got lost I also want their sized bed and thank you for getting me what I wanted.  
Aliyannah, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
For christmas I would like meet to Messi. Thank you so much.  
Enrique Jesus, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
For christmas I would like a ps5 and a Messi and Ipad and a Buggtu and 200 ps6 and the sun and the moon. Thank you for bringing me what I want.  
Cesar Fernandez, 8 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
For christmas I would like a toy for my bary brother. Thank you for bringing what I want.  
Oziel Ramirez, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa,  
How are you? how is jingle at the northpole? how is Mis. cloves? this year I'm so excited about christmas I would like a ps5 rublox.  
Miranda, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? I'm doing well I woover ps5 godzille and kids hoover board it is ok whatever you bring.  
Joel, 4 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa,  
Mi apple watch VR headset  
Jace Bruce, 6 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa,  
How are you? how is jingles at the north pole? This year I'm so excited about christmas for I would like a tv and iphone and a cat.  
Sincerely,  
Emily, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you, how are your reindeer. I've been good this for christmas I would like a ps5, a spider man gomez, and V-bucks. Santa of you dot bring gifts I still be happy.  
Joshua, 8 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa,  
How is Jingles at the north pole? for christmas I would like Robux new clothes/ shoes, squismallow. Thank you for everything I get  
Evangelina, 8 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary



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

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Dear Santa,  
Have you been fine? you are my favorite, I would like a phone and a puppy, thank you.  
Isiah, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

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Dear Santa,  
I wish you a mery christmas. I wish for a car and not a toy car, money and a new ipad case.  
Eli, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you and the elvis? I could like a phone, Apple watch, and a baseball ring.  
Kaysen Cook, 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How's it going with everybody? I would like a 3D printer, a hoverset and a kid-4wheel.  
Lydia Cox, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

Dear Santa,  
So is christmas ok santa? I would like a book, iphone and a bottle o perfume. thank you santa I love you Santa.  
Mckinley Tebelton, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This year I have been nice, can I please go ice skating and a phone?  
Aubrey Berry, 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want a maker board, baseball bat and a baseball glove. I want a Basketball, and a puppy for christmas I love you Santa.  
Landon, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been nice, for christmas can I please have a baby kitty, a baby dog, and squishy night light and a cat.  
Allison Grove, 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This years I have been nice. what I would like most this christmas is a VR globe and a Stuffed animal.  
Pedro Milan 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been nice this year. Could I please have a hoverboard, squishy night light and piggy bank.  
Blake Bowden, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This year I have been nice. this year I want the game spider man 2.  
Felix Perez, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

*Season's Greetings*

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Best Wishes for the New Year*



*Joe Stephens and family*

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

**JERRY & JULIE**  
Fallin

HAVE A MERRY  
*Cougar Christmas*



CROSBY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Season's Greetings**

From  
**TURNER CHEVROLET**

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Constable Sherman Eagleton*

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**Happy Holidays**  
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# Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
How are you? how is jingles at the north pole, I've been good this year for christmas I would like a door gun, I phone and v-bucks. Thank you for delivering presents, but you can delive whatever you want sincerely.  
Daniel, 8 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How is Jingles at the north pole? I've been good this year for christmas I would like fredy plush, bone plush and gote in freddys I love how you come eveyyear.  
Bryan, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you I've been working on my behavior I would like a black and whie nikes, a Marshmel shirt and V-bucks. its ok if you not give my gifts. I will still love it.  
Kegan, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs.Claus? I'm doing well. for christmas I would like squismellow, black and baby kitten.  
Analeigh, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I want a stich seat for my bed and I want a Iphone 5 and a iphone case and a big big big mega barne house.  
Xoey, 8 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How is the north pole and I wish I can go to the north pole to see rain deers and this is what I want for christmas a Texans shirt a Texans gloves and a ps5 and a maddem game and a Iphone 15.  
Adan Sanchez, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I will be at the Texans vs Browns at Houston at night on December 24 I want a Iphone 15 and a Tank dell and Necoe Collin Jersey and a new baseball bat and a Nintendo switch.  
Jacob Garcia, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How was your day today? how many elfs do you have? I want a kitty corn and a ranedowe corn and a unicorn, also a dog and a new pants set.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I would like a squishy nightlight.  
Nyah Perez, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This year I have been a little bit of both. I would like a VR a fake elf that looks real , a squishy night light.  
Tianna Shelvin, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This year I would like a stuffed snake.  
Lincoln Pressier, 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I been nice so what I would like most this christmas is a VR headset, squishy night light and a real puppy.  
Genesis, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
You may already know me but just incase in this year I have been really nice! but a little rude. I would like cute froy squishy night. Cute mushroom saishy night light. Dinosaur squishy night.  
Neva Rabell, 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs Claus? I would like a gaming set up a minecraft bed and new clothes and shoes. I mostly want the gaming setup but I wil be happy with anything you bring.  
Jessie Kersh, 8 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing today? I want stich stuff and clay and a new scoorer and hedfons for my game and xbox I wish that I have wegs and squishmallows.  
Savanna, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa,  
How was your day today? thank you for given sprklse magic and have a great day. im going to gulf club in sugarland for christmas I want M.A.C lipstik.  
Liliana Blach, 8 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary



**Merry Christmas and Best Wishes during the Holiday Season!**

From DR. LARRY WHITE D.D.S. and Staff  
114 N. Main Street, Highlands 281-426-3558



Pictured L to R: Dr. Larry White, Nicole Almazan, Erika Salinas, Denise Ortegon, Jennifer Bell, Kyliee Daley




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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

Dressing up for Christmas

I tend to be a Christmas maximalist; at least if you ask my husband, Peter, that's what he would say. Peter would dispense with the tree, the presents and most of the outings. He'd hang a few ornaments on a houseplant, have a nice meal and go to bed early. But Peter cares for me a lot, and he knows how much I love Christmas.

I want a live tree. If I can't chop it down myself, I'll haul it home from the hardware store. I want lights on the balcony and a little present for everyone. I want fancy new wrapping paper and pretty, old ornaments and a holiday setting on the table. I want to light too many candles, bake too many cookies and end up with a floor covered with ribbon and powdered sugar at the end of the night. Peter is very patient.

And I want to get dressed up.

Some of my best memories of Christmas involve my Auntie Jo. She and her family would drive up north to my grandparents on Christmas Eve with a car packed with presents and cousins and a mischievous dog. Thinking back on it now, I'm sure it was stressful for my Auntie Jo. But my memory is of the car pulling in, and Auntie Jo hugging everyone, her arms full of bags of unwrapped gifts and luggage. And this was, for me, the official start of Christmas.

Auntie Jo would head downstairs to wrap presents and, at some point, their dog, Twinkie, would make a mad dash out the door. We'd all scour the neighborhood until we found Twinkie. Then Auntie Jo would go to change her clothes and emerge more resplendent than the Christmas tree.

It was always a treat, as a child, to see what my Auntie Jo would wear at Christmas. I knew there would be glitter or sequins, and probably both. It would be the sort of outfit a person would wear only for a very special day, and seeing Auntie Jo dressed up made it a special day for me.

I understand getting dressed up is not for everyone. A tree is a lot of work. And I don't think holiday preparations should be a burden—something on the must-do list when there are more important things to do.

But every year, I think back on my Auntie Jo, who had such a long drive and so much to do (and such a naughty dog!), and how she would step into the living room, reflecting the Christmas lights. I received a lot of nice presents, and we had a wonderful meal, but seeing my Auntie Jo dressed in her Christmas finery was always a highlight for me.

I am still lucky enough to see my Auntie Jo at Christmas. And, although I will never wear sequins as well as she did, I do my best.

Because dressing up is part of how I participate in Christmas. It helps to make this time of year memorable. When I light the candles on my mantle and string lights outside, it's a recognition that the darkness of winter will pass. Like my Auntie Jo, I want to mark this passage of time; I want to make this day different from other days. Dressing up for Christmas reminds me that we need some extra sparkle in this darkest time of year.

And so (while I try to take it easy on Peter) I am decorating the house, and I'm lighting too many candles. And I already have a dress picked out for Christmas.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Property Tax Cuts go into Effect

A total of \$18 billion in property tax cuts were approved by more than 80% of voters in the November general election and should be reflected in property tax bills that are due by Jan. 31. The cuts come in the form of increased home exemptions, lower school district rates, and limiting the amount property appraisals can rise.

Many taxing districts sent out bills before the election that factored in the decrease, anticipating voter approval. For example, in Gregg County in Northeast Texas, the tax bill noted on the back sheet that the lower amount was contingent on voter approval of the proposed amendments. If the amendments had not passed, taxpayers would be billed for the difference.

According to the state comptroller's office, a typical homestead valued at \$350,000 will see a tax savings of about \$1,000. Prior to the approval of the tax cuts, Texas ranked sixth highest in the nation in property tax rates, partly because the state does not have a state income tax.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

“This is just the tip of the iceberg,” Paxton said in a statement released by his campaign. “Whether it's the House costs, Senate costs, or the overall impeachment session costs, many millions more were incurred on Dade Phelan's sham and needless impeachment.”

Phelan said Paxton's refusal to testify before the House on a proposed \$3.3 million settlement of a whistleblower lawsuit prompted the investigation that led to the impeachment.

“The investigation, impeachment, and trial of Ken Paxton shed a clear, unflinching light on who Paxton is and the lengths to which he will go to stay in power,” Phelan said in a statement.

“Everything we did was justified, and I won't retreat from that statement ever,” DeGuerin said. “We presented strong evidence that Paxton just surrendered the power of his office in a corrupt way. It's just that his financial supporters threatened retaliation against the Republicans that would have voted for conviction.”

Paxton has vowed to campaign in the Republican primary against House members who voted for his impeachment, especially House Speaker Dade Phelan.

“Texas has 38 seats in the U.S. House, and 35 incumbents are seeking re-election, the Texas Standard reported. Of that number,

16 do not have a primary challenger, while five will face no opposition in the general election as well.

Of the remaining three seats — all in North Texas — two members are retiring, while U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, opted to run against U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz next November.

“It is not at all uncommon for incumbents to pretty much coast to reelection, even if they are challenged in the primary or the general election. Incumbents have an enormous advantage in name I.D. and ability to fundraise, connections and networks within the district,” Todd Gillman of The News said.

BOARD SIGNS OFF ON SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOK RULES

The State Board of Education approved guidelines for Texas school libraries to use in implementing policies to ban the possession or purchase of books considered “sexually explicit.” The guidelines follow passage of a bill in the last regular session requiring book vendors to supply ratings for titles that contain sexual content. The law is being challenged in court by a coalition of book vendors and associations.

“It was a work of deep value and importance to bring the library standards to fruition. In Texas, parents have been identifying this issue to schools without the necessary support of law,” said SBOE member Audrey Young, R-Trinity.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission must also adopt the standards. Each of the state's 1,000-plus school districts must approve a policy that explains how school libraries acquire books and other materials.

JUDGE UPHOLDS BAN OF TIKTOK ON STATE-ISSUED DEVICES

An Austin federal judge last week upheld the state's ban of TikTok on government-issued devices such as phones, laptops or tablets, kut.org reported. U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman upheld the policy that was challenged by the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, which claimed the ban was unconstitutional.

“Texas's TikTok ban is limiting the use of an app on state-provided devices and networks, which is not a blanket prohibition,” Pitman wrote. The ban followed concerns that the Chinese company that owns TikTok — a social media platform — could provide sensitive data to the Chinese government.

TikTok spent about \$1.5 billion on an initiative called Project Texas to address national security concerns. The Biden administration has called for the company to sell TikTok or face a national ban. A bill passed by Congress bans its use on federal government devices.

TOP Ten

Most Popular Christmas Movies of All Time

- 1. The Santa Clause 2 (2002)
2. The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (2018)
3. The Santa Clause (1994)
4. The Holiday (2006)
5. Elf (2003)
6. The Polar Express (2004)
7. A Christmas Carol (2009)
8. How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)
9. Home Alone (1990)
10. The Grinch (2018)

Source: ScreenCrush

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PAXTON IMPEACHMENT COST TAXPAYERS \$4.3 MILLION

The Dallas Morning News reported last week that the taxpayer cost of impeaching Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton was more than \$4.3 million. More than two dozen lawyers worked to prosecute Paxton leading up to and during his two-week trial in the Senate. That chamber acquitted him of all 20 charges after the House voted overwhelmingly to impeach Paxton, who is under indictment for securities fraud and was accused of abuse of office.

Lawyers billed more than 7,800 hours related to Paxton's impeachment, The News reported after seeking copies of all invoices and related documents. Co-counsel Dick DeGuerin defended the amount of work done by attorneys.

“Everything we did was justified, and I won't re-

Star Courier advertisement including contact information for Barbers Hill, Dayton, and North Channel, and listing staff members like Gilbert Hoffman and Mei-Ing Liu Hoffman.



# Credit Union opens doors to Santa Claus and Holiday Visitors

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Eight-year-old Jasiah Bush couldn't wait to get his photo with Santa Claus at Community Resource Credit Union in Crosby with his siblings, Aliana Bush, 5, and Asiah, 3. Their mother Emily had dressed them all out in black and red checkered matching flannel shirt and dress. When the photos were done, most of the children walked away with their parents, but not Jasiah. He had questions. He stuck around by Santa's side to ask him about the reindeer, chimneys, and other puzzling things.

It was a busy day for the staff at Community Resource, especially Tina Martinez, business development manager for the credit union.

"This is our second year to host Santa since COVID," she said.

Last year, they counted more than 300 youngin's taking photos with the jolly guy.

"In addition to having Mr. Claus join us, we're also hosting a toy drive where the toys are donated back to residents in the Crosby area," she said.

This year they are working with Barrett Elementary. The toy drive lasts through Dec. 14 and the public is invited to drop by and donate new toys, no toys.

They also donate to Bridgehaven Children's Advocacy Center.



Staff at the Community Resource Credit Union in Crosby invited their pal Santa Claus to come and visit with children at their location on FM 2100. Joining Claus from left is Chloe Busby, Chelsey Long, Dominique Aramburo, and Karla Solis.



Eight-year-old Jasiah Bush had some more questions for Santa after the photos were taken at Community Resource Credit Union in Crosby. His sister, Aliana, 5, looks on.

Donating back to the community has been a tradition now for a decade at Community Resource.

"Last year we adopted and sponsored 140 kids," Martinez said. "This year we have already signed up 120 plus we will be adding more schools."

The community involvement has brought new business to the financial institution.

"As long as you live, work, or worship within 10 miles of one of our branches, you can join the credit union," said Chelsey Long, branch manager.

"They are also able to join if they have a direct family member like mother, father, brother, or sister who are already members," Long said.

Martinez said there are many benefits in belong-

ing to a credit union.

"One of our newest promotions that we're doing is a new reward checking account where we can give up to 6 percent a month back in your checking account or average daily balance," Martinez said.

During the holidays, they are also offering Skip-A-Pay for those with loans for those who are on time with their payments. It's also possible to do it twice a year, six months apart.

"We also have Christmas Cash loans for the holiday up to \$3,000," she said.

Another benefit as a credit union member is quick cash.

"Our technology allows our members to go through our app and apply for a loan and get the money direct deposited to your account within 60 seconds for small amount loans," Martinez said.

The money can be used for doctor's bills, a flat tire, car repair, or any other need.

"It's also 24/7 which makes it really convenient," she said.

Checks can also be deposited 24/7 and members can check their credit score anytime.

"We can also offer refinancing if we can lower your vehicle interest rates," she said.

Money transfers are also a breeze.

Maybe little Jasiah was quizzing Santa on where he was banking?



Dear Santa, how your last day? my day was cool it was best day, i wanted a new toy is going to be cool and I wanted a trex toy and a crocodile toy.  
Saul, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa, I want a cellphone and a gold medal and a Disney set bike and a xbox.  
Aliya Gamino, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa, How do you live so long? I want a puppy and a ps5 and I want all the loke box bushy and I want robux.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, how old are you? how was your day? I want a Mexican dress and squishmallows and a cool clothes summer dress also I want a new backpack.  
Nova Garret, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, I want a bingo cards, Camean doll and a book and hoow neofahz.  
Evelyn del Angel, 6 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, How are you? I wish for a iphone and you have a merry christmas.  
Oscar Ramirez, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, How are you doing I would like Hoover bar and I stress ball and a ps5.  
Hoover board.  
JoJo, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa, How is twissler at the noth pole for christmas would like a iphone 15 and not book are nowpens. it is ok if you don't get all of my gifts I mosley want the iphone 15.  
Oliver, 8 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa, I want a drone and nerth gun I wanted.  
Rebel 6, yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa, Spinhes rox splesh Ruegirl rilthe boardgams big mosh tuck acer tha I can eled lights.  
Emerson Henry, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, I would like a ps5 dad and mom also want a dog.  
Terrel Griffin, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 520543; Estate of MICHAEL KENT WALKER, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on DECEMBER 13, 2023 to:

**THERESA LYNETTE WALKER**

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten  
1500 E. Wallisville Road  
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
Dated this DECEMBER 18, 2023

*Weston Cotten*  
by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for Docket No. 519752; Estate of JEWEL KATHERINE (SLAGLE) CORLEY, Deceased; In Probate Court No. 4 of Harris County, Texas, were issued on DECEMBER 11, 2023 to:

**MILTON LAROY CORLEY**

The residence address of the administrator is in Harris County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o Weston Cotten  
1500 E. Wallisville Road  
Highlands, TX 77562

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
Dated this DECEMBER 18, 2023

*Weston Cotten*  
by WESTON COTTEN  
Attorney for the Estate

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Public Sale of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale to be held at STEVE'S STORAGE, LLC at 5625 Hwy 90, Crosby, TX 77532 on December 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Items sold as-is to highest CASH bidder. Property contents of tenant spaces of HENRY CAMPBELL, MIKE GILLESPIE, and FRANK HOWELL: Furniture, tools, etc.

47-2t

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SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 17

Texans, Browns meet in key game for both teams: Cowboys head to Miami to take on high-scoring Dolphins

The NFL is giving fans plenty of games to watch during Christmas weekend as the league has game scheduled for Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and a triple-header on Christmas Day.

Ah, nothing says the holidays like the NFL saturating the airwaves.

The Texans host the Browns on Christmas Eve at NRG Stadium in an important game for both teams. The winner keeps their AFC Wild Card hopes alive, while the loser will need some help in the final two weeks of the season to earn a playoff spot.

But then again, if Jacksonville continues to struggle down the stretch (they entered last Sunday night's game against Baltimore riding a two-game losing streak) and the Texans win out, Houston has a chance to win the division.

Stranger things have happened in the NFL and when the season began, most experts figured a six-win season would be quite an accomplishment for first-year head coach DeMeco Ryans. Well, the Texans had seven wins heading into last Sunday's game at Tennessee and they return home on Sunday to face a tough Browns team that is also in the hunt in its division, the AFC North.

Two weeks ago, the Texans suffered a bad 30-6 loss to the lowly Jets as the weather and the New York defense never let C.J. Stroud and the Houston offense get going. The game was played in horrible conditions as wind and rain persisted throughout the contest. To make matters worse, Stroud sustained a concussion late in the game and was placed in the NFL concussion protocol. Ryans hopes Stroud was able to play against the Titans and if he missed that game, he should be cleared by Sunday when the Texans face a solid Cleveland defense.

With just two weeks to go after this game, the Texans know they can't afford anymore slip ups if they hope to continue to be one of the good stories of the 2023 season.

While the Texans host the Browns, the Dallas Cowboys hit the road for the second straight week and face a second straight AFC East foe (Dallas played at Buffalo last Sunday) when they travel to Miami to take on the Dolphins and their high-scoring offense.



KEENEY'S KORNER BY MIKE KEENEY

Two weeks ago, the Cowboys dominated the Eagles 33-13 at Jerry World to move to 10-3 on the season and move into a tie with Philly atop the NFC East. Dallas has a tough final three weeks. After the trip to Miami, Dallas returns home to face NFC North leader Detroit then closes out the season with a road game at Washington.

The Eagles, on the other hand, face the woeful Giants twice and three-win Arizona in the final three weeks of the season. The Eagles are probably the favorites to win the division, and relegate Dallas to a Wild Card team.

Other key games this holiday weekend has New Orleans visiting the Rams on Thursday Night Football, Cincinnati visiting Pittsburgh and Buffalo visiting the Los Angeles Chargers. Both of those games will be played on Saturday.

Detroit will look to wrap up the NFC North on Sunday with a win at Minnesota, while Jacksonville visits Tampa Bay. On Christmas Day, we get a triple header leading off with Las Vegas at Kansas City, followed by New York at Philadelphia and the nightcap is a good one as Baltimore visits San Francisco.

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, let's review last week's record. A 4-4 week brought the season record to 101-49 (67%).

I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This has been a tough year for me and my family, but thanks to all of the love and support we have received, it's made a very difficult year a bit more bearable.

Now, onto this weekend's games.

NFL

New Orleans at Los Angeles Rams: Week 16 kicks off with the Saints visiting the Rams on

Thursday Night Football in a game both teams need to win to remain in the NFC Wild Card hunt. The Rams have been playing well as of late thanks to the play of QB Matthew Stafford (3,062 yards, 19 TDs), and wide receivers Puka Nacua (82 receptions, 1,113 yards, 4 TDs) and Cooper Kupp (41 receptions, 547 yards, 3 TDs). They also have a strong running game led by Kryn Williams (801 yards, 7 TDs). The Saints have struggled on offense due to inconsistent play from quarterback Derek Carr (2,880 yards, 13 TDs). Carr should rely on running back Alvin Kamara (564 rushing yards, 5 TDs/63 receptions, 402 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Chris Olave (72 receptions, 918 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Rams defense to force a turnover or two from Carr as the Rams get the win on Thursday night. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 26, New Orleans 23

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh: The first of two Saturday games is a key AFC North contest between the Bengals and Steelers. Despite losing starting QB Joe Burrow to a season-ending wrist injury, the Bengals are still in the AFC Wild Card race. Backup QB Jake Browning (649 yards in three games, 3 TDs) has done an admirable job of running the offense. It helps that running back Joe Mixon (689 yards, 6 TDs) has been playing well in recent weeks. Browning still has star wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase (86 receptions, 1,063 yards, 7 TDs) to throw to. The Steelers just aren't very good on offense and if starting QB Kenny Pickett misses another game with an ankle injury, the Steeler faithful could be in a foul mood at the end of the day. It won't be a Merry Christmas in the Steel City. My pick, Cincinnati 23, Pittsburgh 16

Buffalo at Los Angeles Chargers: The Bills head west to take on a beat-up Chargers team

that is simply playing out the string, which could cost head coach Brandon Staley his job. Two weeks ago, Buffalo may have saved its season, and its head coach Sean McDermott's job, with a 20-17 win at Kansas City. That win gave the Bills new life. Look for QB Josh Allen (3,447 passing yards, 25 TDs/374 rushing yards, 10 TDs) to carve up the Chargers defense. Buffalo finally has a running game led by James Cook (789 yards, 4 total TDs) and Allen will look to Cook to soften up the LA defense and then make plays down field to wideout Stefon Diggs (87 receptions, 993 yards, 8 TDs). LA should be without starting QB Justin Herbert, who fractured the index finger on his passing hand two weeks ago in a loss to Denver. Backup Easton Stick just doesn't have what it takes to win at the NFL level, even with a strong running back in Austin Ekeler (497 rushing yards, 5 TDS/36 receptions, 344 yards, 1 TD) and steady wide receiver Keenan Allen (108 receptions, 1,243 yards, 7 TDs). Look for the Bills to get another road win on Saturday in LA. My pick, Buffalo 31, Los Angeles Chargers 23

Cleveland at Houston: A key game for both teams as both the Texans and Browns hope to keep their playoff hopes alive on Sunday at NRG Stadium. Cleveland has remained in the playoff hunt thanks to veteran QB Joe Flacco (565 yards, 5 TDs in his first two games after signing with the Browns in early December). Two weeks ago, Flacco led the Browns to a 31-27 win over Jacksonville as he hooked up with tight end David Njoku (59 receptions, 600 yards, 4 TDs) for two TDs. The Houston defense will need to first stop running back Jerome Ford (698 yards, 3 TDs) and then set their sights on the immobile Flacco. The Texans hope to have starting QB C.J. Stroud (3,631 yards, 20 TDs) back for this game. Stroud sustained a concussion two weeks ago in Houston's 30-6 loss to the Jets and Stroud had his worst day as a pro throwing for only 91 yards. The Texans could also be without wide receiver Nico Collins (60 receptions, 1,004 yards, 6 TDs) who suffered a calf injury in the New York game. If Collins is out again, that could make things dicey in the passing game. Someone else needs to step up, but that's been the case all season long for this team. Look for the Texans defense to rise to the occasion as they lead the hometown team to a huge win on Sunday. It won't be pretty, but a

win is a win at this point in the season. My pick, Houston 16, Cleveland 13

Jacksonville at Tampa Bay: The Jags visit the Bucs on Sunday with both teams needing a win to remain in the playoff hunt. Two weeks ago, the Jags dropped their second straight game losing at Cleveland, while TB took over the top spot in the weak NFC South with a road win at Atlanta. The Jags will need a big day from QB Trevor Lawrence (3,261 yards, 17 TDs), running back Travis Etienne (806 yards, 9 TDs) and wide receiver Calvin Ridley (55 receptions, 742 yards, 5 TDs). Tampa Bay will be led by QB Baker Mayfield (2,934 yards, 20 TDs), running back Rachaad White (745 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Mike Evans (62 receptions, 1,002 yards, 10 TDs). Look for Lawrence to step up and lead the Jags to a much-needed win on Sunday. My pick, Jacksonville 26, Tampa Bay 23

Dallas at Miami: The Cowboys head to South Beach to face a Dolphins team that lost at home to a four-win Tennessee team two weeks ago. Not only did Miami lose the game, but star wide receiver Tyreek Hill (97 receptions, 1,542 yards, 12 TDs) suffered an ankle injury. Hill returned to the game but was limited. If that injury lingers, that will be a huge blow to Tua Tagovailoa (3,697 yards, 24 TDs) and the rest of the Miami offense. Hill is definitely the star of this offense, but Miami has other weapons in running backs Raheem Mostert (924 yards, 16 total TDs), and De'Von Achne (581 yards, 7 TDs) and fellow wideout Jaylen Waddle (63 receptions, 822 yards, 3 TDs). Miami will face a Dallas defense that is playing as well as any unit in the NFL. Two weeks ago, they did not allow a touchdown to the high-powered Philly offense and forced three turnovers in the 33-13 win. The Dallas offense is also rolling behind QB Dak Prescott (3,505 yards, 28 TDs). Prescott is firmly in contention to be the league MVP and a big game on another national stage could go a long way in securing that honor. But Dallas is not a one-man offense. Running back Tony Pollard (796 yards, 5 TDs) has been playing well lately and wide receiver CeedDee Lamb (96 receptions, 1,253 yards, 8 TDS) is having an All-Pro year. Second-year tight end Jake Ferguson (51 receptions, 570 yards, 5 TDs) is becoming a clutch receiver as well. This should be a high-scoring game but look for the Dallas defense to make a play or two down the stretch to hand the Cowboys a huge road win on Sunday. My pick, Dallas 33, Miami 26

Las Vegas at Kansas City: The Raiders and Chiefs meet on Christmas Day as these two renew one of the NFL's most storied rivalries. To say the Raiders have struggled on offense would be an understatement. Two weeks ago, Vegas only mustered 196 total yards of offense in a 3-0 home loss to Minnesota. That's inexcusable in today's NFL. Rookie QB Aiden O'Connell (1,365 yards, 4 TDs) just doesn't seem to have what it takes to be an NFL QB. Vegas will need a big day from running back Josh Jacobs (806 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Davante Adams (76 receptions, 805 yards, 6 TDs) if they hope to pull off the upset. The Chiefs haven't exactly been lighting things up on offense, which is strange with a QB of Pat Mahomes (3,398 yards, 23 TDs) ability. The problem is, Mahomes has only one dependable receiver to throw to in tight end Travis Kelce (80 receptions, 896 yards, 5 TDs). The wideouts are suspect. The offense should get a boost with the return of running back Isiah Pacheco (779 yards, 7 total TDs) who missed KC's 20-17 loss two weeks ago against Buffalo with a shoulder injury. Look for the Chiefs to roll on Christmas Day. My pick, Kansas City 34, Las Vegas 12

Baltimore at San Francisco: The NFL is providing a nice Christmas night present when the Ravens and 49ers meet in prime time on ABC and ESPN. This could very well be a Super Bowl preview as both teams are the best in their respective conferences at this point of the season. Two weeks ago, the Ravens got a 76-yard punt return for a touchdown in overtime to upend the Rams, 37-31, while the 49ers rolled to a 28-16 win over Seattle at home. Baltimore QB Lamar Jackson (2,934 passing yards, 16 TDS/644 rushing yards, 5 TDs) will test a SF defense that has not been its dominant self this season. The Ravens also have a capable runner in Gus Edwards (605 yards, 10 TDs) and a big-play rookie wide receiver in Zay Flowers (64 receptions, 673 yards, 3 TDs). The 49ers are loaded on offense led by QB Brock Purdy (3,553 yards, 25 TDs), running back Christian McCaffrey (1,177 rushing yards, 12 TDs/52 receptions, 437 yards, 5 TDs), wide receivers Deebo Samuel (45 receptions, 739 yards, 9 TDs) and Brandon Aiyuk (56 receptions, 1,053 yards) and tight end George Kittle (53 receptions, 811 yards, 6 TDs). Look for the 49ers to send a message to the rest of the league that they are serious about winning it all this season. My pick, San Francisco 31, Baltimore 23

Advertisement for The Lodge at Pine Creek by Abby Senior Living. Includes text: '55+ LUXURY LIVING Warmth & Joy Awaits', 'ASK ABOUT OUR MOVE-IN SPECIALS!', 'amenities ensuring your utmost comfort and convenience', 'fully embrace your retirement years', 'Our dedicated staff is here to provide assistance whenever you need it', 'Experience The Lodge at Pine Creek, where value, comfort, care, family, and community come together.' Also features a photo of two women in a kitchen and a list of December social events: '12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS MOVIE MARATHON', 'REGIFTING DAY | CHEF'S TABLE & EGGNOG'.



# Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
How are you santa? I would like a phone, pokemon and a fancy hat, thank you.  
Jaxon, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I hope you have a merry christmas. I will like a brand enw football, dance stuff and art stuff. thanks you hope the cookies are good.  
Stella Ng-Chee, 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I would like a phone. merry christmas!  
Jett, 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

Dear Santa,  
How was your day today? I want for christmas a stuf kettey and the grinch stole christmas and new pajamas and a new bakpak and a new pair of shoes and pink headphones and a Alexa anad new pencil powch.  
Skylar Bailey, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa,  
How are you? are you having a great time? I would like a ps5, a 10000 robux, and godzilla toys. Thank you for giving me a gift but it is ok if you don't get everything.  
Uriah, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? I'm doing well and excited for christmas I would like a dream house v-bucks and OMG doll thank you.  
Melanie, 7 yrs old.  
Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I would like a squishy light night for this christmas.  
Natalie Wilson, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I would like a ps5, clothes, nintendo switch and spiderman 2 videogame.  
Antonio, 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I hope you are doing well. what I want for christmas is a bike, perfume and makeup. thank you have a merry christmas.  
Elizabeth Akpabeth, 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I hope Elfs are good. the present that I want is a let-trip toys and a xbox and a TV for christmas.  
Grayson Kelly, 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How's the ciendeer? can I have a batman toys, batman house or a dog.  
Enoch Elms, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? I would like a phone, house, and a cup of playdo. thank you!  
Jonathan, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I love Christmas santa how are you? I want a three lego sets please.  
Rayden, 8 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I have been good, I want a hoverboard and a squishie nightlight.  
Derek, 7 yrs old.  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I hope the Elfs are good. the present that I want is a TV, Scooter and a some money. I love you.  
Aaliyah, 7 yrs old.  
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