

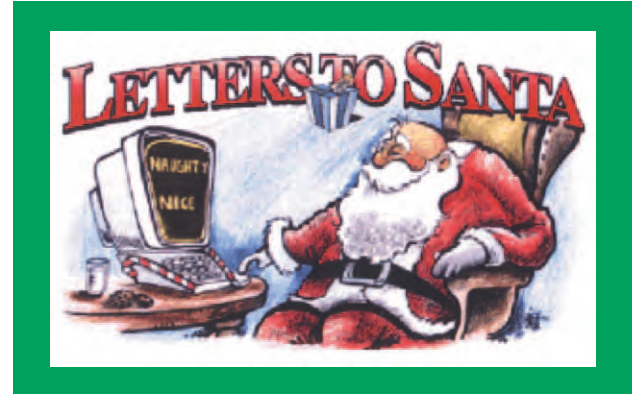


HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

# Star Courier

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

P.O. DRAWER 446, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

## 27th Annual Crosby-Huffman Chamber Christmas Parade

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

Despite threatening weather around them, like last year, the parade got off on time and very few if any raindrops interrupted the fun at the 27th annual Crosby Christmas Light Parade.

Leading off the parade as grand marshal and title sponsor, LyondellBasell used a pickup truck and one of the plant fire trucks to sound off the start.

There were dozens of floats, vehicles, motorcycles, and golf carts, many of which were covered in Christmas lights.

Tow trucks, spider motorcycles, and other unique vehicles have never looked as festive as they did Saturday night in the long



SECOND PLACE: Crosby Church

Yuletide motorcade that stretched down FM 2100. Estimates of more than 1,000 lined the route down 2100 to First Street, left on Wahl St, and back down 2100 to the middle school.

"It was so fun seeing all the lit-up floats coming through town and watch-

ing the glowing faces of those watching the parade," said Velma Ellison, chairman of the board for the Crosby-Huffman Chamber of Commerce.

"I think it was a lot of fun for everyone who attended," she said.

The judge's stand was

stationed in front of the chamber office. As entries drove by, they had their photo taken and answered some quick questions from the panel.

Ellison thanked the judges who stuck around over an hour after the parade to tally the votes and

review the photos of the entries to make their final decision.

For those wanting to know what judges were looking for, here's some of their recorded comments on each float that placed. Congratulations to the winners and those who

were honorable mention entries.

**FIRST PLACE:** Crosby Middle School Cheerleaders

Judges' comments: "It's wonderful and looks just

Continued. See LIGHTS, FLOATS SHINE BRIGHT AT 27TH, Page 5



FIRST PLACE: Crosby Middle School Cheerleaders

## Annual Share Your Christmas in Highlands



Back row L to R: Renee Stripling- Highlands Elem Counselor, Weston Cotten- Highlands Rotary, Daisy Trenado- LJA Engineering, Theresa Cashion- SYC Coordinator, Nieketta Batiste- BP Hopper Counselor, Tricia Scott- Highlands Rotary, Nadine Goodney Catholic Daughters  
Front Row: Delene Cotten- Highlands Horizons, Dehlia Mullins- Catholic Daughters, Dora Castillo- LJA Engineering, Maria Harding- Student Success Specialist BP Hopper, Chrissa Teel- Teel Civil Engineering  
Sponsors Not pictured: Claudia Birdsong with First Baptist Church, Brian Wilson- Setco pipe Woodforest Bank

Highlands community members came together once again to support local students through the **Share Your Christmas** project. Thanks to the generosity of our community partners & neighbors, children in our area received new clothing, toys, and other gifts to brighten their holiday season.

Founded more than 15 years ago, **Share Your Christmas** has continued to grow in impact. This year, we are proud to share that the program sponsored **137 students** in the Highlands community.

Thank you to every individual, business & organization who donated, volunteered, or helped spread the word—your kindness continues to make a meaningful difference for local families."



The Rotary Club of Highlands completed one of its yearly projects, Share Your Christmas. Rotary partnered with other organizations and individuals to supply gifts to needy families in the Community. Rotarians pictured that helped with the project: (L to R) Wayne Prescott, GayLynn Prescott Milliorn, Denise Smith, Diana Weaver, Jim Holden, Anne Woodall, Patricia Scott, Andy Scott, Dr. Larry White, Weston Cotten, Robert Woodall, Cora Lynn Miller Blackketter, Ricky Garcia.

## Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber Christmas Luncheon Honors Retiring O'Brien, Welcomes his Successor

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

The Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Christmas luncheon, bringing together community members for a festive celebration filled with music, gratitude, and a heartfelt leadership transition in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCC ISD).

The event featured special musical performances by the Highlands Elementary choir, directed by Marsha Goodwin, and the Goose Creek Memorial High School varsity choir, led by Josh John-Louis. Their renditions of Christmas carols set a joyful tone for the gathering.

A highlight of the luncheon was the recognition of retiring Superintendent Dr. Randal O'Brien. Re-



Superintendent Dr. Randal O'Brien

flecting on his decade of service, O'Brien expressed deep appreciation for the community.

"It's been my honor to serve as your superintendent of schools. As I close out this chapter and move on to retirement, I just wanted to tip my hat to you because receiving the Terry Davis Lifetime Achieve-



Dr. Joe Rodriguez will be the new GCC ISD Superintendent

ment Award was about five or six years ago. It was an amazing experience for me to be recognized by such an esteemed group. You made me feel loved that year," O'Brien said to chamber members. "And every day that I come in this room, I feel loved by you. Thank you for your support. Our job is to edu-

cate the children of this community and prepare them for adulthood. We work our very hardest to do that for you as superintendent and as educators across our community."

O'Brien also introduced his successor, Dr. Joe Rod

Continued. See CHAMBER LUNCHEON MARKS GCC ISD, Page 6



Members of the Highlands Elementary choir, under the direction of Marsha Goodwin, sang several Christmas carols at the annual Christmas luncheon for the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce.



More Christmas choral selections were sung by the Goose Creek Memorial High School varsity choir led by Josh John-Louis.

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# Letters to Santa

Dear Santa, I hope you fly safe to chafna and my very own side by side play and a VR 90,000,000 rowbucks all dogmans book. Ice cartel, chain braslet. Elisea, age 9 Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, 40.5 blow gift card 50 squichmeoows pet ragdiet, iphone 17, ps5 4 weedet books laptop coats dog for my dad. Good Chirstmas, slime, bike, water bottel, stuffed animals, 2 charm bractets. Emma, age 9 Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, I would like for your Elves to make me some toys. Some things I would like is Slime. Kenetic-slime nee dough. play dough or a insta camera. Santa if you are reading this, I will buy you cookies! And I hope you have the best Christmas ever! Stefania Cuevas, age 9 Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, For Christmas I'd like jolly ranchers, sol de janiero sert 68, funcho pops, face masks, row charms, rows, jelly cats, plushes, money both my family and cake pops. I have been nice. Brielle, age 8 Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, I wish to be on the news. to have a pet, to meat KATSEYE! to have a new barn!! Well... I don't have one. for my family, to have more money, not me they deserev it and to have a tiny miny bake pak and to have tellucundsus... or daber choch! Sereane, age 8 Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, Your Elf is crast because he wrapped my tree with toilet paper. Jonah, age 8 Highlands Elementary

I love Christmas and I cant wait to see Christmas so I can be with my family and open presents. I want for Christmas is a computer and a phone. Joshua, age 8 Highlands Elementary

I forgot 2 thing that i want. It is a blake and blue moon ball and 1 billeon. Liam, age 8 Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, for Christmas I want a iPad but I really want more than 2 gifts. I want pink palm puff and headphones and a bracelet kit for my friends. I want 200 dollars for my family. Jelly car and a Camera. Your friend Gracelynn, age 9 Highlands Elementary

I want a ipod a 4 reller 20 cards of rubux 40 gift cards of 5 below and jellyfish in a can or 50 squish mellow 20 squishy wicked books 10 papits paint paper andy in my staking. Milena, age 8 Highlands Elementary

For Christmas I want a styles pen and a pegboard and a cute water battle, markers. A bible a back pack for my ju-jitsu clothes. And a diary. And a phone. Thea, 9 Crosby Elementary

I have been a good kid so here is what I want. Littlest pet shop, lol dolls, squishmellows, graphic novels, and snow this year. I would appreciate if you got me this. thank you! Sasar, 9 Crosby Elementary

Can I have a necklace for Christmas because I broke my other one at school. And one Tv that you can play games on. Weston, 9 Crosby Elementary

I will like for Christmas is a dog and a pet turtle. Natalia, 8 Crosby Elementary

Can I have a tablet and some play food and a toy elf or a real elf for a little bit and you can get what you want to get me. Samantha, 8 Crosby Elementary

What I want for Christmas is ps5, xbox, Nintendo swich, iphone 17, xxxtentation, juicewrld, king von figures, ipad, imac. Cameron, 8 Crosby elementary

I want to get a PS2 X Box a phone a tablit and thank you fore caring for th hole class. Thank you becose you are the best pursin I ever met. thank you. Eric, 8 crosby elementary school

All I want for the most is to my bother to come back alive and also want stuff animals and makup like my sisters. And a pantin2 set like my sisters. And, that is it, merry chrimass, Hoho ho! Addi, 8 crody elemiche

I want stufes and a color set and headphone Lashyla, 8 Crosby Elementary

I what for cristmas is crorzow first odisoHR I want 2 new etvs 3: I want 20 etvr, 4 I what a red play stoshon 4 cohtider, 5 I what a lego jrostick world plasta shoh 4game. 6 I woht a peace of gum. Dokazi, 8 ces

For Christmas can I have a baby golden retriever? If you can't give me a golden retriever you can give me a Ronaldo jersey? Jayden, 8 Crosby elementary

## Season's Greetings

from **WESTON COTTEN**  
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From Our Family to Yours,  
Best Wishes for the New Year



Joe Stephens and family

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Feb. 7, 2026  
Win a 2026 Chevy Trailblazer, or 2024 Chevy Trax SUV  
Tickets \$100  
Call 713-906-2337



Wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Your commissioner,  
**Tom S. Ramsey, P.E.**  
Harris County Commissioner, Pct. 3

**STAR COURIER**  
wishes you **Happy Holidays**  
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From Our Family to Yours

Merry Christmas

## Christmas with Friends

Join us as we worship the newborn King!

**DECEMBER 24 7 p.m.**

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

5202 First Street, Crosby



# Barbers Hill Press

## Dayton

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

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

### ON THE HILL

#### Senac Seeks Precinct 4

Former Beach City Mayor and County Commissioner A. R. Rusty Senac announced his candidacy for Chambers County Commissioner Precinct 4 in the Republican Primary scheduled for March 3, 2026. This Commissioner Precinct encompasses portions of the City of Baytown, Beach City and Southwest Chambers County.

"For the past three years, I have been proud of our current Precinct 4 Commissioner Ryan Dagley who has worked earnestly to meet the many challenges of our County. Commissioner Dagley has announced his candidacy for the Chambers County Judge position, and it is my intent to once again seek the Commissioner Precinct 4 position. I hope that you will join me in thanking Commissioner Dagley for his outstanding contributions and service and to support him for Chambers County Judge in the March 3, 2026, Republican Primary. It's amazing what you can get done when everyone is working together as a team and being positive."

"It was an honor for me to serve on the Beach City Council for 21 years and to serve as Precinct 4 County Commissioner from 2011 to 2018. I subsequently supported former Commissioner Billy Combs and Commissioner Ryan Dagley as Precinct 4 Commissioners." Senac said.

"My wife Jenny and I have lived and worked in Chambers County for forty plus years since 1980. I had the privilege of working for the residents of Precinct 4 and on the Boards of a number of Non-Profit organizations supporting various needs in Baytown and Chambers County. These included Baytown West Chambers County Economic Development Board and Executive Committee, Lee College Foundation Board and LCF Investment Committee, Barbers Hill Scholarship Association Board, a member of the Baytown & Mont Belvieu Area Chambers of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Baytown and the Barbers Hill Lions Club."

Senac said "My extensive experience in local government and business has provided me with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively represent the residents of Precinct 4 in Chambers County. I look forward to this campaign process over the next 3 months."

Visit our New Website for Chambers County News:  
[www.BHDPRESS.com](http://www.BHDPRESS.com)

## The Sandy & Archie Foundation Triples Annual "Coats for Kids" Impact, Donating Over 250 New Coats

Baytown, TX — December 2025 — The Sandy & Archie Foundation is proud to announce the remarkable success of its annual Coats for Kids donation drive, delivering warmth, hope, and community support to elementary students across Goose Creek CISD.

Founded in loving memory of Sandy Lopez Martinez and Archie Moyers, the Foundation was created to honor their shared passion for children and their unwavering belief that every child deserves a strong foundation for success. Their legacy of compassion continues to guide the Foundation's mission to serve local youth and families in need.

Last year, the Foundation collected 67 new coats and delivered them to Carver Elementary School. This year's campaign exceeded all expectations, resulting in the donation of more than 250 brand-new coats—nearly tripling last year's impact.



Carver Elementary Principal Erica Smith and staff along with Kenny Martinez and Tammy Moyers Martinez and the Martinez and Moyers children.

This incredible increase allowed the Foundation to expand its reach to three local GCCISD elementary campuses.

Coats were delivered to Carver Elementary on December 10 and will be delivered to Highlands Elementary on December

15 and Harlem Elementary on December 16. Highlands Elementary and Harlem Elementary hold special meaning, as they are the alma maters of Archie Moyers and Sandy Martinez, respectively.

The Foundation's annual event is unique in that

the only entry fee is the donation of a new coat for an elementary-aged child. Thanks to an extraordinary outpouring of support from the Baytown community, the Foundation was able to not only double last year's donations—but triple them.

The Sandy & Archie Foundation extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made this year's drive possible, including volunteers who organized committees, individuals and businesses who donated coats, food, silent auction items, and monetary contributions.

Special thanks are extended to Amegy Bank, the Baytown Chamber of Commerce, Good Times Bar, the Baytown Youth Fair, Shottenkirk Kia and dedicated supporters Tracey Garcia and Randy Garcia for their exceptional support and generosity.

Through this annual initiative, the Sandy & Archie Foundation continues to honor the legacy of Sandy and Archie by sharing warmth, love, and hope with children in our community.

For more information, The Sandy & Archie FoundationEmail: [kjmartinez268@yahoo.com](mailto:kjmartinez268@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 713-249-3688

## Bates Collision Center Gives Away 50<sup>th</sup> Car to Needy Family

By David Taylor  
Managing Editor

In a heartwarming gesture of community support, Michaela Rojo, a dedicated mother and teaching assistant, was surprised with a refurbished 2017 Ford Escape filled with gifts, courtesy of Bates Collision Center as part of its 27th Annual Responsible Parenting Awards.

Each year, Bates Collision Center gifts two refurbished cars to parents involved in the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) Head Start program, recognizing those who demonstrate exceptional commitment to their children's lives. Shop owners Lee and Leila Bates have made this giveaway a tradition, acknowledging the sacrifices parents make to provide for their families.

The selection process is thorough: parents are nominated by Head Start staff and chosen by a committee of Bates employees. "This year, Michaela Rojo stood out for her resilience and dedication," said Leila Bates. "After leaving an abusive relationship to ensure a safer environment for her three-year-old daughter, Kailey, Michaela moved in with her sis-



Michaela Rojo with her newly refurbished 2017 Ford Escape filled with gifts, courtesy of Bates Collision Center as part of HCDE Head Start 27th Annual Responsible Parenting Awards. Lee and Leila Bates are at left.

ter and began rebuilding her life. Despite transportation challenges, she never missed a day getting Kailey to school and actively participated in volunteer opportunities at Fonwood Head Start."

Receiving the gift of transportation marks a turning point for Michaela. "Receiving the gift of transportation will allow Rojo to start rebuilding her life, exploring the possibility of pursuing higher education and allowing her to be more actively involved in her daughter's school activities," Bates explained.

The event, held at Bates Collision Center in Channelview, was attended by community leaders and

supporters. Judge Joe Stephens, a longtime supporter of the program, shared inspiring words. "This is a hand up and not a handout," the judge said. "Michaela, to you and your beautiful daughter, have the audacity to hope, have the audacity to dream and dream big because that car cannot only take you around Houston, that car right there can take you around the world because the opportunities and the doors that the access is going to open up for you guys. Dream big. And now you have the opportunity to access anything that you need to access in this city and in this world so this lit-

tle baby can go on to be successful," Stephens said.

Dr. James Colbert, superintendent of Harris County Department of Education, echoed the sentiment. "It's not 50 cars. It's 50 families who've been impacted by the generous donations that you've done," he said to the Bates couple and employees. "Really, this serves as a model for what we need to be doing in our society nowadays, is why can't private industry and public entities come together and be force multipliers to help produce productive citizens to our society?" Colbert asked.

The program's success is built on volunteerism

and community partnerships. Bates employees donate their time and skills to refurbish the vehicles and fill them with gifts, while local businesses contribute gas, insurance, and other essentials. "Our staff tirelessly signs up to participate and volunteer every single moment of their time on this project car and for your sweet family, all volunteer. So if it wasn't for their willingness to put their time, talent and skills towards helping these families, we would not have this program," said Lee Bates.

As Michaela received her keys, the community celebrated not just her new car, but her perseverance and commitment to her daughter's future. The Responsible Parenting Award recognizes parents like Michaela who, despite adversity, continue to inspire through their strength and dedication. 121525 Bates Collision NC 01 – Michaela rips off the wrapping paper of her newly refurbished 2017 Ford Escape filled with gifts, courtesy of Bates Collision Center as part of its 27th Annual Responsible Parenting Awards.

## Goose Creek CISD Share Your Holidays



From left Aaron Espinoza, Kamyryn Lyons, Rocio Lopez, Toni Dilan RSS PALS. The students are helping unload vehicles and loading boxes of food the food bank.



unloading food that was donated to the food drive. From left Rocio Favela, Analiese Lopez

OPINION PAGE

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

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

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

Dear Editor—

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

Virginia O'Hanlon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



THE POSTSCRIPT By Carrie Classon

The Right Way to do Christmas



I know there are a lot of opinions about the right way to do Christmas.

My husband, Peter, feels the holidays are too commercial—too much time spent in preparation, too much added stress buying everyone presents. I know there are people who stand in long lines for sales and put debt on their credit cards, and I don't think this is what the holidays are supposed to be about. I understand Peter's point, and I can imagine a Christmas that was nothing more than a good meal and time with family.

But I don't feel that way. I like having my Christmas tree hogging up space in the living room. I like piling presents underneath it, and I love using fancy ribbon on the presents I wrap. I love the look, the night before Christmas, when everything is sparkly and stuffed full of surprises—even if those surprises are nothing more than new hot pads and cat toys.

I've been fortunate that Christmas has never felt overwrought with expectations. (Unless you count getting my grandmother's recipe for rice pudding correct on Christmas Eve. That recipe is not easy and has caused more than its share of stress.)

But when I think of presents, I don't think of stress. I have given my young nephew inappropriately dangerous gifts (what young man does not need a pickax?) And I've given joke presents (my friend, Andrew, at one time had an impressive collection of shower caps). I remember the fun I've had giving them over the years, and the giant mess of paper and ribbons that is left after the present opening is over. I love giving presents to pets. I love hearing my mother exclaim, "What on earth..." as she opens a box.

And many decades later, I still remember one of the few years I spent Christmas away from my family. I was performing in a show that ran over the holidays, and coming back home wasn't feasible. Working as an actor, I didn't have a lot of money. But I remember I went to an art fair where there were local artists displaying their wares. Everything was decorated for the holidays and music was playing and I remember feeling very homesick.

I saw a little garnet necklace that cost more than I planned to spend, and I thought of my sister, who was still in her teens at the time. I missed her. Email didn't exist. Phone calls were expensive. Letters took forever (although she wrote to me regularly). So I bought a little gem for my sister and mailed it to her for Christmas. I never regretted that.

But because he really does not enjoy it, Peter and I never exchange presents. "Let's not give each other presents," Peter said early in our relationship.

"I'm fine with that," I told him. And there have been years when my family has put a moratorium on Christmas gifts. "Let's take a year off from exchanging gifts and pick a charity instead!" No one seemed to mind. Honestly, if we should decide not to give presents again some year, it would not bother me at all. (Although I do love packages under the tree, and I think I'd wrap up a bunch of boxes, just for the sake of the ribbon!)

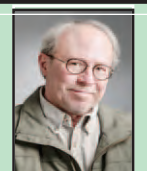
Christmas can make do with very few things because Christmas is not about the things.

I don't think there is a right way to do Christmas. And as long as there is enough love to go around, I don't think there is a wrong way.

Till next time, Carrie

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Supreme Court Upholds State's Redrawn Congressional Map

The U.S. Supreme Court's 6-3 decision to reverse a lower court's ruling and uphold the mid-decade redrawn congressional map for Texas sent candidates scrambling to file or opt to retire with the filing deadline on Monday, Dec. 8. The map is likely to give Republican candidates wins in up to five congressional districts previously held by Democrats.

The majority on the court agreed that the redistricting was done for partisan purposes, calling it "indisputable," The Dallas Morning News reported. Those opposing it claim it was redrawn to dilute the voting power of the state's minorities in Houston, Dallas and South Texas.

SIX TEXAS GOP MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE LEAVING

At least six Texas Republican members of Congress are retiring or seeking a higher office, the Houston Chronicle reported. The latest to announce his retirement is U.S. Rep. Troy Nehls, R-Richmond, one of President Trump's most ardent backers in that chamber. His brother, Trevor, has announced he plans to run for that seat.

Others planning to leave when their term ends in 2027 include U.S. Reps. Jody Arrington, R-Plainview; Morgan Luttrell, R-Magnolia; Michael McCaul, R-Austin; Wesley Hunt, R-Houston, who is running for the U.S. Senate spot now held by John Cornyn; and Chip Roy, R-Hays County, who is running for Texas attorney general.

Republicans currently hold a 219-seat majority in the House, with Democrats holding 213 seats. There are three vacancies.

'BOUNTY HUNTER' LAW TARGETS ABORTION PILLS

A new Texas law targeting women accessing abortion pills shipped from out of state allows private citizens to sue out-of-state abortion pill prescribers, manufacturers and distributors, the Houston Chronicle reported. Each violation could bring with it \$100,000 in damages, similar to the enforcement mechanism used in 2021 to ban abortions in the state after six weeks of pregnancy.

The law targets groups that operate outside of Texas and ship abortion pills to people in the state, as well as doctors in states where abortion is still legal who write prescriptions to Texas women. They will now be open to civil liability claims if they "knowingly fail" to prevent their abortion drugs from reaching Texas.

The bill's author, state Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, said the goal of his bill was to protect mothers from the



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS By Gary Borders

potential side effects of the pills. However, research shows that complications from abortion pills are rare. Their use is supported by major medical associations.

Texas first state to invest in crypto

After passage of a bill last regular session that gives the state comptroller authority to create a publicly funded cryptocurrency reserve, the state has purchased about \$5 million of bitcoin, the Texas Standard reported. Backers say crypto has been surging in value for the past five years and the state should get involved, especially with the rapid growth of data mining centers in Texas.

Opponents say crypto is a risky asset with volatile swings.

The state has appropriated a total of \$10 million that can be invested in crypto, which is a small fraction of the state's general fund.

STATE'S 'BATHROOM BILL' NOW IN EFFECT

Transgender people in Texas will no longer legally be allowed to use multi-stall restrooms that do not match their gender identity at birth, as a new law took effect Dec. 4, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The law applies to all public buildings, as well as public schools and universities.

The bathroom bill passed last September after a decade of failed attempts. When similar legislation was introduced previously, some members of the business community argued its passage would harm Texas' ability to attract new business and jobs.

Rather than punishing individuals who use a bathroom not conforming to their birth gender, the law requires public agencies to take "every reasonable step" to ensure the law is being followed. Violations can be reported to the attorney general, who could file lawsuits and seek fines.

"The actual legislation doesn't re-

ally tell folks what they should be doing as far as enforcement is concerned," Brad Pritchett, CEO of Equality Texas, an LGBTQ advocacy non-profit, said. "What it does is kind of creates a kind of threat to any municipality. At any time, someone could accuse them of being noncompliant with the law."

The law does not apply to non-public spaces, including private universities or colleges.

PATRICK PROPOSES GIVING TEXAS NEWBORNS \$1,000 EACH

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has proposed a state program to give every newborn baby in Texas \$1,000 invested in the stock market, The Texas Tribune reported. He said the proposal would be a priority during the 2027 legislative session. It mirrors a federal plan created under Trump's tax and spending bill.

The initiative, if passed by the Legislature, would cost the state around \$400 million annually. The money could not be accessed until the child turns 18.

"If I see a great idea from the President that helps Texans, my first question is always, 'why not do it in Texas, too?'" Patrick posted on social media. "This is a great way to return money back to families and to teach the value of savings and compound interest to young Texans."

Some conservative groups are pushing back, saying it would increase state spending and the growth of government.

"Creating state-run wealth accounts for every newborn violates key liberty principles: It expands government rather than limiting it, replaces personal responsibility with state dependency and undermines free enterprise by turning the state into an investor," the Texas Policy Research nonprofit posted on social media.

TEXAS HEMP INDUSTRY FEELING EFFECT OF LOOMING BAN

A nationwide ban on THC, the psychoactive ingredient in some hemp products, is already affecting business owners selling products derived from hemp, according to the Chronicle. But the owners are hopeful they can convince Congress to overturn the ban before it takes effect next November.

A state ban was passed by the Legislature and vetoed by Gov. Greg Abbott. However, by executive order, he has banned minors from buying such products. The hemp industry in Texas is worth anywhere from \$5.5 billion to \$10 billion, depending on how it is calculated. Approximately 8,000 retailers are scattered around the state.

"Everybody knows, as a standalone bill, this ban would not have passed, and that's why I think everybody is pretty much of the mindset that this won't hold," said Lukas Gilkey, co-owner of a hemp product store who led a public lobbying campaign against the state ban.

The president of the Texas Hemp Growers Association said several members are considering pulling out of growing hemp amidst the uncertainty.

"You throw in all this regulatory uncertainty and the rules changing, it gets real tricky, real fast," Kyle Bingham said. "I don't think it makes sense for anyone to grow right now, any form of the plant."

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park.

Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

Advertisement for HOFFMAN-LIU DESIGN ASSOCIATES featuring a snowman illustration and contact information.

Advertisement for Star Courier newspaper including contact info, staff list, and subscription rates.

# Lights, floats shine bright at 27th Annual Crosby Christmas Parade,

## Letters to Santa

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

like a winter wonderland." "I loved that they also gave us a show and whole routine." "The snow blowing was also a nice added touch to the overall scene." "It was very well lit, and the girls were very enthusiastic!" "Despite it being 70 degrees outside, the girl's efforts made it seem like a cold, wintry scene."

### SECOND PLACE: Crosby Church

Judges' comments: "The first thing I thought when I saw it was nostalgic and Christmasy. Is that a word?" "I loved they put a choir on the float. Next year they should sing!" "They were all dressed like it was cold outside even though it was a balmy 70 degrees." "There was lots of forethought and effort...the painting, the porchlights, the Christmas trees, and the lanterns on the doors." "I like that they were kissing under the mistletoe! Carrying on the tradition!"

### THIRD PLACE: Otis Heating & Air

Judges' comments: "This just looks like Christmas like a long time ago!" "I love there is a full family, with grandparents, children, and grandchildren." "This definitely



THIRD PLACE: Otis Heating & Air



HONORABLE MENTION: Crosby Youth Football



HONORABLE MENTION: Newport Elementary

looked like a Hallmark Christmas card." "It reminded me of those days when the whole family sat in the room together to celebrate and share their

lives with each other." "It was so homey looking and it was a lot of work, plus it was well lit too!

### HONORABLE MENTION: Crosby Youth Football

## FOOTBALL SEASON WEEK 17:

# Aggies host Miami in first round of CFP: Texans to remain hot against lowly Raiders

This is going to be a great weekend for football fans of both the collegiate and pro fandom.

The College Football Playoffs (CFP) begin and Texas will be well represented with Texas Tech ranked No. 4 and earning a first-round bye, while Texas A&M is ranked seventh and will host No. 10 Miami at Kyle Field on Saturday at 11 a.m. on ABC.

The CFP playoffs kickoff on Friday night when two SEC teams go at it as No. 9 Alabama hosts No. 8 Oklahoma in a rematch of their regular season game in November, which the Sooners won in Tuscaloosa. That game will be on ABC at 7 p.m..

Other first round games will pit No. 6 Oregon against No. 12 James Madison in Eugene, OR, on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. on TNT.

No. 2 Ohio State will face the Miami-A&M winner on New Year's Eve Cotton Bowl at 6:30 p.m. on ESPN. On New Year's Day, No. 4-ranked Texas Tech, winner of the Big 12 regular season and conference title game, will face the winner of James Madison-Oregon in the Orange Bowl at 11 a.m. on ESPN. No. 1 Indiana (who would have thought Indiana would be ranked No. 1 in the nation and CFP?) will take on the 'Bama-OU winner in the Rose Bowl at 3 p.m. at 3 p.m. The nightcap will feature No. 3 Georgia, the SEC champ, against the Tulane-Ole Miss winner in the Sugar Bowl at 7 p.m. on ESPN.

All 12 teams will be vying for a spot in the CFP title game, which will be held on Monday, Jan. 19 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami and will be telecast on ESPN.

The CFP committee upset some folks, most notably those in South Bend, IN by not including a 10-2 Notre Dame team in the 12-team playoff. The Irish did win 10 straight games after losing their first two games of the season on the road at Miami and at home against the Aggies and did dominate their opponents in their 10-game winning streak. The committee felt James Madison, winner of the Sun Belt, and Tulane, winner of the American Conference were more deserving of bids. The hierarchy in South Bend were not happy with their exclusion from the CFP field and declined a bowl bid. As an avid Irish fan, I found that infantile. The administration looks petty with this move. What's wrong with rewarding your seniors a chance to play a 13th game, allow your younger players to get in 15 extra practices and give your fans a chance to travel to say Florida for a bowl game? Notre Dame should be ashamed for taking its football and staying home.

In the NFL, the Texans, the hottest team in the NFL, will look to make it six straight wins when they host a bad Las Vegas team at NG Stadium on Sunday. Two weeks ago, the Texans defense came through once again and was the difference maker in their 20-10 road win at Kansas City. With the Colts losing starting QB Daniel Jones to a season-ending Achilles injury, the



AFC South is now a two-team race between Houston and Jacksonville. Who would have thought that after the Texans lost their first three games of the season.

While the Texans host the Raiders, Week 16 is loaded with key games, starting with the Rams visiting the Seahawks on Thursday Night Football in a huge NFC West game. Both teams improved to 10-3 two weeks ago and the winner of this one could very well win the division and be in line for the top seed in the NFC come playoff time.

Week 16 also brings us Saturday games and there's another big one in the NFC North as the Packers will visit the Bears at 7:30 on FOX. Two weeks ago, Green Bay took over first place in the division with a 28-21 win over Chicago at Lambeau Field. A Packers win could go a long way in securing the North title, but it won't be easy in what should be a frigid night in the Windy City.

In other key games, the Cowboys hope to keep their slim playoff hopes alive when they host the Chargers on Sunday. AFC East leader New England visits a desperate Baltimore team, which lost to Pittsburgh two weeks ago to put a dent in its playoff hopes.

There's also a big one in the NFC South as Tampa Bay visits the surprising Carolina Panthers. Two weeks ago, the Bucs lost at home to a two-win New Orleans team, while the Panthers enjoyed their bye week. The loss left the two teams tied atop the division.

Texans fans will be rooting for Denver on Sunday when the Broncos host Jacksonville, which currently leads the AFC South. In another key game, Pittsburgh and Detroit meet in the Motor City. Both teams need to win to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Week 16 concludes with Monday Night Football as the surging San Francisco 49ers visit the struggling Colts.

Before we look at this weekend's huge schedule, let's review last week's record. A 5-5 week brought the season record to 106-56 (65%).

Now, onto this weekend's game.

### CFP FIRST ROUND

**Alabama at Oklahoma** - The CFP begins on Friday night when Alabama visits Oklahoma in a meeting of two SEC teams. This is a rematch of the meeting between these two teams on Nov. 15 in Tuscaloosa, which was won by the Sooners, 23-21. 'Bama

suffered a number of untimely turnovers and the OU offense took advantage of them. The Sooners are stout on defense, but their offense has struggled all year long behind dual-threat QB John Mateer (2,678 passing yards, 12 TDs/416 rushing yards, 7 TDs). Mateer will need help from running back Tony Blaylock (444 yards, 4 TDs) and wideout Isaiah Satenga (65 receptions, 948 yards, 7 TDs) if they hope to make it two straight over the Crimson Tide. Alabama needed the extra time to prepare for this game after it was roughed up by Georgia in the SEC title game, falling 28-7. 'Bama has struggled to run the ball all year long and that was very evident when they rushed for -3 yards against the Bulldogs. The Tide should have starting running back Jam Miller (493 yards, 3 TDs) back for this game and that might help QB Ty Simpson (3,268 yards, 26 TDs) open up the passing game and make plays to wide receivers Gernie Bernard (57 receptions, 782 yards, 7 TDs) and Ryan Williams (42 receptions, 631 yards, 4 TDs). The 'Bama offensive line will have its hands full with an OU defense that recorded 41 sacks this season. Something tells me Alabama will turn the 'tide' this time around. My pick, Alabama 24, Oklahoma 20

**Tulane at Mississippi** - No. 11 Tulane heads to Oxford, MS for a rematch against Ole Miss on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. on TNT. The Green Wave are hoping they play better than they did in September when they were blown out 45-10, who at the time were led by head coach Lane Kiffin. Kiffin left for the LSU job and defensive coordinator Pete Golding. Tulane will rely on QB Jake Retzlaff (2,862 passing yards, 14 TDs/610 rushing yards, 16 TDs) and wide receiver Shazz Preston (35 receptions, 598 yards, 4) to make plays on offense. The defense will have its hands full with an explosive Ole Miss offense led by QB Trinidad Chambliss (3,016 passing yards, 18 TDs/470 rushing yards, 6 TDs), running back Kewan Lacy (1,279 yards, 20 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Harrison Wallace III (46 receptions, 719 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Rebs to be focused for this one and will make it another long day for the Green Wave. My pick, Ole Miss 34, Tulane 13

**Miami at Texas A&M** - The No. 7 Aggies host the No. 10 Hurricanes in what should be the best first-round game of this year's CFP at 11 a.m. on Saturday on ABC. The Aggie defense will look to force Miami QB Carson Beck (3,072 yards, 25 TDs) into making some key mistakes as he is prone to get rattled at times. A&M has a stout pass rush and if they can slow down Beck, running back Mark Fletcher (685 yards, 10 TDs) and solid wideouts

ball  
Judges' comments: "Wow! So colorful! The design was really good except we couldn't see the little football players very well and it needed more lighting." "I think that one was the most colorful in the parade."

### HONORABLE MENTION: Crosby Elementary Starlettes

Judges' comments: "They were so fun, cheering and that balloon arch looked like a city with the colors!" "I loved they were singing and dressed in Christmas clothes and Santa hats!" "There was a lot of work put into that float!"

### HONORABLE MENTION: Newport Elementary

Judges' comments: "I love the blue and white. I don't think anyone else used those colors." "All of them had matching blue hats giving it a wintry mix kind of feel!" "The whole float needed more light, maybe even some more on the kids. They are so cute at that age!" "I liked that they were so festive and excited!"

NOTE: See additional photos online.

Malachi Tony (84 receptions, 970 yards, 7 TDs) and Keelan Moore (41 receptions, 557 yards, 1 TD), they should be able to take care of business at Kyle Field. The Miami defense will have its hands full with a loaded Aggie offense, led by dual-threat QB Marcel Reed (2,932 passing yards, 25 TDs/466 rushing yards, 6 TDs), running back Ruben Owens II (618 yards, 6 TDs) and explosive wide receivers KC Conception (57 receptions, 886 yards, 11 total TDs) and Mario Craver (52 receptions, 825 yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Aggie defense to make some key plays in the fourth quarter to advance A&M to the second round meeting with No. 2-ranked Ohio State. My pick, Texas A&M 33, Miami 23

### NFL

**Los Angeles Rams at Seattle** - Week 16 begins with a big one for the Thursday Night Football crew with an NFC West showdown between the Rams and Seahawks. Both teams entered Week 15 with identical 10-3 records, but LA holds the tie breaker thanks to their 21-19 home win over Seattle on Nov. 16. Both teams have a number of weapons on offense as the Rams are led by QB Matthew Stafford (3,354 yards, 35 TDs), running back Kyren Williams (952 yards, 11 total TDs) and wideouts Puca Nacua (93 receptions, 1,186 yards, 6 TDs) and Davante Adams (56 receptions, 718 yards, 14 TDs). Seattle is led by QB Sam Darnold (3,162 yards, 22 TDs), running back Kenneth Walker III (762 yards, 4 TDs) and big-play wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba (89 receptions, 1,428 yards, 9 TDs). Both teams are solid on defense, but I give the edge to Seattle's especially since this game will be at home and the Seahawks fans will be loud and raucous. The winner of this game could very well earn the top seed in the NFC, so there will be a lot at stake come Sunday. My pick, Seattle 26, Los Angeles Rams 23

**Green Bay at Chicago** - The NFL starts its Saturday package and has a good one set for prime time as the Packers will visit the Bears on FOX at 7:30 p.m. in a key NFC North contest. Two weeks ago, Green Bay won the first meeting, 28-21, which moved the Pack into sole possession of the division lead. The Bears know they must win this one to remain in the hunt for the division crown. Chicago will need a big night from QB Caleb Williams (2,908 passing yards, 19 TDs/321 rushing yards, 3 TDs). The Packers struggle to stop the run, so look for the Bears to feature their two-heading rushing attack led by D'Andre Swift (837 yards, 5 TDs) and rookie Kyle Monangai (648 yards, 5 TDs). The Packers will look for another solid game from QB Jordan Love (3,028 yards, 22 TDs), who tossed three TD passes in the win over the Bears two weeks ago. Love has a solid runner as well in Josh Jacobs (817 rushing yards, 12 TDs/31 receptions, 231 yards). Look for Micah Parsons and the GB defense to get over Williams and force a key turnover or two as the Packers pick up a big road win and set their sites on the NFC North title. My pick, Green Bay 26, Chicago 23

**Las Vegas at Houston** - The Texans look to continue their post-season run when they host a bad Las Vegas Raiders team on Sunday at NRG Stadium at noon. This one could get

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Dear Santa,  
I want a oculus, and plants vs zombies, pluchies and maybe a iphone spiderman action figures, really good pokeman cards and a pc. Hendrix, age 8  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Hope your having a good year. Hope you make what I wanted for Christmas. Hope that all the Elves are doing good and my Elf Dino and his pets Hawkes and Dasher. from Jaxon to: Santa Jaxon, age 9  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I am 7 years old and live in Baytown, Texas. I am proud of myself because I pay attention in school and I help people. I would like you to bring me a robot, hover board and VR head set. What is it like to be in the North Pole? Merry Christmas to you!  
Love, Sammy  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I am 7 years old and live in Highlands. I like my family and my friends. I

would like granola bars. I would like v-bucks, art supplies, and a pet fish. Were the cookies good last year? Was the rain deer food good for the rain deers?  
Love, Barrett age 7  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I am 8 years old and I live in Highlands Texas. I am proud of myself because I got A honor. I like playing baseball. I would like you to bring me a 67 outfit, robux and 67 Christmas outfit. How long does it take for to go around the world in one night? Merry Christmas Santa. Have a good trip. Love, Miguel age 8  
Highlands Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I am 8 years old and live in Highlands, TEXAS. I am proud of myself because I made the A honor roll. I like to read and spend time with my family. I would like you to bring me art supplies, mechanical pencils, and keychains. How long does it take you to make all the toys in the world? I hope you have a merry Christmas. Love, Maggie, age 8  
Highlands Elementary

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ugly early as the Texans defense, ranked No. 1 in the NFL, will look to tee off on a horrible Raiders offense. Look for edge rushers Danielle Hunter (11 sacks) and Will Anderson Jr. (110.5 sacks) to have a field day against a porous Vegas offensive line. On offense, the Texans are playing better with C.J. Stroud (2,181 yards, 12 TDs) playing better every week since he missed three straight weeks after he sustained a concussion against Denver. Rookie running back Woody Marks (554 yards, 5 total TDs) and wide receiver Nico Collins (61 receptions, 916 yards, 4 TDs) to have big days as the Texans roll to the win. My pick, Houston 34, Las Vegas 12

### Los Angeles Chargers at Dallas

The Cowboys host the Chargers looking to remain in the hunt for a playoff berth. The Dallas defense will have its hands full trying to contain LA QB Justin Herbert (2,981 passing yards, 22 TDs/419 rushing yards, 1 TD). Herbert played with a broken left hand two weeks ago but led his team to a 22-19 home win over Philadelphia. He led the Chargers with 66 rushing yards in that game. Herbert will look for help from running back Kimani Vidal (587 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receivers Ladd McConkey (59 receptions, 695 yards, 5 TDs) and Keenan Allen (63 receptions, 644 yards, 4 TDs). The LA defense will have its hands full when it takes on an explosive Cowboys offense led by QB Dak Prescott (3,637 yards, 26 TDs), running back Javonte Williams (1,022 yards, 11 total TDs), big-play wide receivers George Pickens (78 receptions, 1,179 yards, 8 TDs) and CeeDee Lamb (57 receptions, 865 yards, 3 TDs) and tight end Jake Ferguson (75 receptions, 554 yards, 7 TDs). Dallas knows it has little room for error from here on out, so look for the Cowboys to be very focused come Sunday. My pick, Dallas 32, Los Angeles Chargers 26

### New England at Baltimore

The Patriots head to Baltimore looking to keep control of the top spot in the AFC East, while the Ravens will be looking to remain in the AFC North race. Two weeks ago, the Ravens dropped a 27-22 decision at home to the Steelers. QB Lamar Jackson (2,060 passing yards, 16 TDs/307 rushing yards, 2 TDs) does not look like he's totally healthy and he could be in for a long day against a very good Patriots defense. Jackson will need a big day from running back Derrick Henry (1,025 yards, 10 TDs). NE will look for another big day from QB Drake Maye (3,412 passing yards, 23 TDs/319 rushing yards, 2 TDs), rookie running back TreVeyon Henderson (625 yards, 6 total TDs) and veteran wide receiver Stefon Diggs (64 receptions, 705 yards, 3 TDs). Look for the Pats to continue the Ravens woes come Sunday. My pick, New England 24, Baltimore 20

**Tampa Bay at Carolina** - When the season began, few people thought this late-season game would mean much, but it sure does now. TB looked like a lock to cruise to the NFC South title, while the Panthers were considered a team that would struggle once again. But the Panthers have been one of the surprise teams in the league this year thanks to QB Bryce Young (2,337 yards, 18 TDs), running back Rico Dowdell (929 yards, 6 total TDs) and

rookie wide receiver Tetairoa McMillan (57 receptions, 826 yards, 6 TDs). Carolina also has a solid defense, which will look to make life miserable for Bucs QB Baker Mayfield (2,722 yards, 20 TDs). Two weeks ago, TB lost at home to a two-win New Orleans team as Mayfield struggled to make plays in the passing game. He will need help from rookie wideout Emeka Egbuka (54 receptions, 806 yards, 6 TDs). Carolina is tough at home, which the Bucs will discover come Sunday. My pick, Carolina 26, Tampa Bay 24

**Jacksonville at Denver** - Texans fans will be rooting for the Broncos to beat the Jags on Sunday, which could help Houston's AFC South title hopes. Two weeks ago, the Jags dismantled Indy as QB Trevor Lawrence (2,880 yards, 18 TDs) tossed two TD passes. He will be facing a very good Denver defense, and will need help from running back Travis Etienne (917 yards, 7 TDs). While Denver is solid on defense, its offense has struggled at times as second-year QB Bo Nix (2,954 passing yards, 19 TDs/244 rushing yards, 4 TDs) is still learning head coach Sean Payton's intricate offense. He could use some help from rookie running back RJ Harvey (354 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Courtland Sutton (56 receptions, 773 yards, 5 TDs). Look for the Broncos defense to be the difference maker come Sunday as the Jags suffer a tough, late-season loss. My pick, Denver 23, Jacksonville 18

**Pittsburgh at Detroit** - The Steelers head to the Motor City looking to keep control of the top spot in the AFC North. Two weeks ago, Aaron Rodgers (2,370 yards, 20 TDs) and Co. picked up a huge road win at Baltimore, while the Lions remained in the NFC Wild Card hunt with a 44-30 win on Thursday Night Football over the Cowboys. The Lions offense will look to attack a struggling Steeler defense with QB Jared Goff (3,334 yards, 26 TDs), running back Jahmyr Gibbs (1,062 rushing yards, 13 TDs/58 receptions, 474 yards, 3 TDs) and wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (81 receptions, 976 yards, 9 TDs). Look for the Detroit offense to be too much for the Pittsburgh defense on Sunday. My pick, Detroit 31, Pittsburgh 23

**San Francisco at Indianapolis** - Week 16 concludes with Monday Night Football as the 49ers visit the suddenly struggling Colts. Indy will be without starting QB Daniel Jones, who was lost for the season two weeks ago when he sustained an Achilles injury against Jacksonville. Backup QB Riley Leonard is hobbled by a knee injury. The Colts are so desperate for a QB, that they entertained thoughts of giving 44-year-old Phillip Rivers a tryout. Good luck with that. Look for the 49ers to roll behind QB Brock Purdy (1,147 yards, 13 TDs) and running back Christian McCaffrey (849 rushing yards, 8 TDs/85 receptions, 806 yards, 5 TDs). The Colts hope running back Jonathan Taylor (1,356 rushing yards, 16 TDs/35 receptions, 304 yards, 2 TDs) to have a big night, but he won't be enough to get his team past a hot SF team. My pick, San Francisco 30, Indianapolis 18

# Chamber luncheon marks GC CISD leadership transition,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

riguez, noting the Board of Trustees' commitment to finding a leader who is approachable, friendly, and knowledgeable. Rodriguez, with 27 years in education, shared his excitement about joining the community.

"Every once in a while, superintendents are approached about positions that really match what you've always said you're about," he began with his remarks. "Goose Creek CISD had a posting, and after much thought and family discussion, we felt this was the right fit for us. I look forward to communicating with you all the vision that the board has established. The community voice that has been allowed here has moved the school district forward, and I come here to serve everyone and to work."



More Christmas choral selections were sung by the Goose Creek Memorial High School varsity choir led by Josh John-Louis.

The luncheon also included announcements about the upcoming Chamber gala, calls for sponsorships and nominations for the Terry Davis Award and Business Organization of the Year, and reminders about community events and board elections. Attendees enjoyed a meal prepared by Hungry Jack of Restaurant Crosby, with

many expressing gratitude for the sense of togetherness and shared purpose that defines the Highlands-Lynchburg community.

As the meeting closed, the Chamber reflected on the importance of service, leadership, and community spirit—values embodied by both outgoing and incoming superintendents.



Dear Santa, I am 7 years old and I live in Highlans. I am proud of my self and I should be on the nice list because I helped a person in need. I would like for you to bring me a Eelfuber doll Gulind doll and a wicked bath room set. How is Mrs. Claus doing? Love, Aoricia Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, I am 7 years old and live in Highlands Texas. I love to ride by bike. I worked very hard on getting a bike last year. I would like you to bring me a Glinda doll, some Barbies and a Alfluba doll. How is Mrs. Claus doing? I hope you have a merry Christmas. Love, Gemma Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, I am 7 years old and live in Highlands Texas. I workk hard in school. I want a ejgy. I like roller skates, a new tablet and a toy dog. Hows the weather in the North Pole? I hopoe you have a merry christmas. Love, Liam Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, I am 7 years old and live in Highlands Texas. Im prooud of myself for helping decorate for Christmas. I like video games. I want a rc car also legos and rovux gift card. Did you like the gifts I gave to you last year? I hope you have a great Christmas. Love, Jacob Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, I am 8 years old and I live in Highlands Texas. I am prooud of myself because I am a hardworker. I like playing sports. I would like you to bring me a bed, a VR headset and V bucks. How has the weather been in the North Pole? Love, Mason Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, I am 8 year old and i live in highlans texas. I am of helping mido remote the hour. I lik to ride my bike. I wold like you to bring me a Nintendo with CR. a hoverbord and a RC car.

How is Mrs. Claus doing! Have a safe trip. Love, Andrew Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, I am 7 years old and live in Highlands, Texas. I think I am on the nice list because I am on the A honor roll. I enjoy playing football with my brother. I would like you to bring my Elf, Ps5 and a VR headset. hows the weather been up in the North Pole. Merry Christmas. Love, Braxton Highlands Elementary

Dear Santa, I am 8 years old and I live in Highlands Texes. I ashtioily helped my mom when she got hert. I rilly like action figers. I want Acriclet markrs. Action figers 10,0000 V-bukcs. Love, Castiel Highlands Elementary

**Merry Christmas**

This Christmas season, the Highlands Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce extends our warmest wishes to every member of our incredible community.

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Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I will like a pet dog, trampaling, telescope, mosauseraus dino toy and roblux. Christmas is fun with the presents.  
Luis, 8  
crosby elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I appricciate everything I have, but first I have a one question. How do you send presents to almost 8 billion presets to people

also, I want some legos and to visit more of my family. Lastly, can I have another cat and some robux.  
Jacoby, 8  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Can you give me air pods for christmas and a new toy uht a cnan with a monkey please I als want a new cup and a camera to make vedos.  
Ethan, 9  
ces

Dear Santa,  
This is what I want for chrismes I want a vr head set and a painting bord and a canvise and come candey in my salking and some roudux some plushes squish mellow's and I want some blue jolly ranchers.  
Carter, 8  
Chrosdey elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I appicerate the hard work to make Chrismas happen and gives us

presents.  
Layton, 8  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I really want some robucks it is okay if you just give me that but if you are nice this is whtt i want a menaeky anaringer ball.  
Isaiah, 9

crosby elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I rely want a American doll just like me. and I also want a coach to go with my American doll. I want some nails polish a mini fridge but a pink won. a expo maker and some colorpal maikers. and a lip gloss. and I want

a puppy. Love santa.  
Olivia, 8  
Crosby Elementary

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I woingt nana sproly. I'll lk strawberry scents. I wolw stoirbucks coffee. Thank You Santa.  
Jazlyn, 8  
Crosby Elemenetilr



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

**Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1**

Mark, Mike, Theresa, Leslie, Melissa  
The Field Crew & Board of Directors.



**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



FRONT ROW Erika, Kylie  
TOP ROW Jennifer, Dr. Larry White, Donna White, Denise




**IN TEXAS, WE SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS & HOWDY!**

FROM: THE CAIN FAMILY



State Representative  
Briscoe Cain  
House District 128

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.  
Romans 15:13




WRITTEN BY : BRISCOE CAIN  
GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS

MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR FAMILY AND LOVED ONES.

*Learn More at [BriscoeCain.com](http://BriscoeCain.com)*

AUTHORIZED & PAID FOR BY BRISCOE CAIN FOR CONGRESS

*To our customers and friends in the community,*

WISHING YOU A VERY  
**Merry Christmas**

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

*WHEN WE COUNT OUR BLESSINGS THIS HOLIDAY, WE THINK OF DEAR FRIENDS LIKE YOU! THANKS FOR BEING SO KIND THIS ENTIRE YEAR.*

*From Management & Employees*

**FOOD TOWN**



302 S. Main St. Highlands

