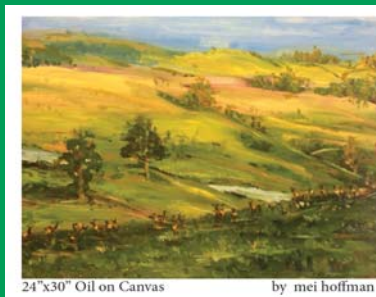


CANDIDATES  
FOR SENATE  
DISTRICT 6, PAGE 8

# NORTHEAST NEWS

Artist's Showcase:



24"x30" Oil on Canvas by mei hoffman  
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Serving the Neighborhoods of Aldine, Greenspoint, US59 Eastex, Beltway 8 and North Forest for over 42 Years  
VOL. 42, NO. 49 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

## NEWS NOTES

LETTERS TO SANTA  
in this Issue

### Kujawa Senior Citizen Gala

Aldine Council of PTAs, Aldine ISD and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren presents this annual Senior Gala. Monday, December 10, 2018 from 10 am - 1 pm at M.O. Campbell Arena located at 1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, TX 77032. All seniors welcome (lunch will be provided). Please R.S.V.P. by December 7 to Shirley P. Reed at shirleyportier@gmail.com.

### Lanzate Houston

Competencia de Plan de Negocios, Diciembre 7, 2018, 6-9 pm, BakerRipley East Aldine Campus, 3000 Aldine Mail Rt.

### Toy Drive & Open House

Aldine Family Hope Center is collecting new, unwrapped gifts for boys and girls ages newborn to 17 years old for Bucker Houston. Also in need of wrapping paper, tape, boxes, ribbon and bows. Drop location: 4700 Aldine Mail Rt. OPEN HOUSE, December 11 from 11 am - 1 pm.

## East Aldine District holds annual Awards Ceremony

The East Aldine District held its annual Strategic Partner Awards ceremony and dinner, last Friday evening at the Greer & Lowdermilk Conference Center in Interwood.

This annual event recognizes and thanks the many partners that have worked with the District in achieving their goal of improving the quality of life in Aldine.

About 100 persons attended. See East Aldine Awards, Page 3



DAVID HAWES, East Aldine District executive director, was emcee for the evening.

## Greens Bayou Coalition has 1st Annual Gala

Joyce Wiley, East Aldine District receive recognition

On Saturday, October 20 the Greens Bayou Coalition held their 1st Annual Gala to raise money and share the work of the Coalition with the community. The East Aldine District was a title sponsor of the event. Other sponsors were - CenterPoint, the North Houston Association, Hawes Hill and Associates, Lone Star College, San Jacinto College, RBAP, Trail of the Lakes MUD, Storm Water Solutions, and Four and One Landscape Architects.

Gala Chair, Joyce Wiley was honored with the Volunteer of the Year Award and the East Aldine District received the Bayou Buddy Award.

Joyce welcomed guests and shared the mission and the vision of the Coalition which seeks to benefit the economy and enhance the quality of life for the more than 500,000 residents in the Greens Bayou watershed through flood mitigation, parks and trails development and economic development.

The Coalition's vision is to foster, encourage, coordinate, advocate for and participate with Houston-area infrastructure providers and other community



Joyce Wiley GBC Volunteer of the Year

and stakeholder groups to develop an essential, attractive and well-planned multi-use waterway (drainage, recreation, economic, and transportation) by:

- enhancing drainage systems to decrease flooding and property damage;
- increasing and varying types of mobility (park and trail system, water transportation, roads and highways);
- allowing for a higher-functioning utility corridor (electrical, gas, water and sewer, and fiber optics); and
- improving economic development within the watershed (industrial, commercial, and residential)

See Greens Bayou Gala PHOTOS, Page 8

## GREENSPOINT

### Underserved Northside Children receive stockings stuffed with books, legos

After 12 weeks, the Curiosity Cruiser Mobile Library Program in Greenspoint wrapped up this past Thursday.

In the spirit of holiday giving, on December 6, 60 underserved children received stockings with Legos and books to culminate the end of the Curiosity Cruiser Program for the season in the Greenspoint area.

The event was part of a partnership between the Harris County Public Library, the North Houston Management District and Villa Serena Apartment Communities.

See Holiday Giving, Page 3

Pictured left to right David Martinez, 9; Angel Granado, 9; Brian Gutierrez, 8, received Lego kids and book gifts after completing the 12-week mobile library outreach program at Northpointe Apartments.



# LONE STAR COLLEGE NORTH HARRIS

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Letters to Santa

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa, I will like a Play Station from Santa. Please, you are so cool!!!! to me and nice. I been a good kid this Christmas. Love, Dillon Lawrence, 10, Felix Cook Jr. Elementary

Dear Santa, I want s magic pad, radio, shoes (11), clothes (5T), necklace, nail set, and an ice cream maker. Mirakie Nash, 4

Dear Santa, Slame and a phone and a camera and video camera and movies and board games, Mellissa Kennard, 12

Dear Santa, I want a xbox in the game I wan't on my xbox is call Duty with the controler. Thank you Santa so much and have a good day. Denzell Lawrence, 9, Felix Cook Jr. Elementary

Dear Santa, Guess what? I have not talked back to my elders. I have been 100% nice. Therefore, I want a PC desktop to play my favorite games. Santa, I love and thank you! David Prado, 10

Dear Santa, I have been a wonderful kid this year. My mom is always asking me to help her cook. I don't want to do it, but I do it because I love her. By the way, I want new games for my PS4. Thank you. Aangel Coronado, 10

Dear Santa, On Christmas Day will you please bring joy to all the kids. I hope you tell Jesus to heal all the sick kids with cancer. Also, I hope you take care of my family and give us gifts that we need on Christmas Eve. Bryan, 10

Dear Santa, Hol Hol! And Merry Christmas. I am counting the days down to your stop at my house. I am the best son a Mother could want. Please bring me a laptop and leave my mom a new purse. My mom works hard to take care of me. Justin Diaz, 10

Dear Santa, I want an American doll with the clothes, easy bake oven and clothes (7/8). Dontclueya Dierson, 8, Felix Cook Jr. Elementary

Dear Santa, Thank you for being a wonderful father for me. I found out who was my Santa at the age of 17 years-old. But I still believe in you. Rowen I potty seta, and a musical toy. He's 6 months. Thank you so much. Sherree D. Lawrence, A mother that truly believe.

I don't ask for much, but what I really want for Christmas is that you help all the poor people. Why? God says that it is good to help others and not treat them badly. Thank you Santa! Nadia Valadez, 11 years old

I know I have been a little bad, but I still helped my parents clean. For example, I cleaned my little brothers room. Well, I think I deserve a special present. Santa do you agree? Teresa Tzinlun, 9

SEASON'S GREETINGS

May the season fill your home with love and joy through the closeness of friends, family, and the comfort of home. And may our nation renew ourselves to serving the least amongst us and treating one another with respect and dignity. Sylvia R. Garcia

Happy Holidays from Armando and Debbie Walle & Family. Thank you for giving me the honor of representing you at the Texas House of Representatives.

Merry Christmas From the members of The Aldine Optimist Club Supporting the youth of Aldine. Includes Optimist International logo.

Season's Greetings from BEASLEY TIRE. Includes Beasley Tire Service Inc. logo.

North Houston District Season's Greetings & Best Wishes for the New Year! Includes contact info: 281-874-2131, northhouston.org.

Merry Christmas from STEVE MEAD. Aldine School Board & Optimist Club President. Component Sales & Service 281-442-8127.

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO THE EAST ALDINE COMMUNITY. HAWES HILL & ASSOCIATES LLP.

Best Wishes to Everyone in our Community For a Happy New Year. Airline Improvement District 281-757-1788, airlinedistrict.org.

We thank you for another Year of Support for your Community Newspaper. Best Wishes for the Holiday Season. Northeast/Beltway 8 News.

Happy Holidays. Best Wishes to all the residents of Aldine and Northeast Houston. Have a safe and prosperous New Year! EAST ALDINE DISTRICT 713-595-1232.



Best Wishes for the Holidays. Ranney W. McDonough, P.E. President. McDONOUGH ENGINEERING CORPORATION. 5625 Schumacher • Houston, Texas 77057. Tel: (713) 975-9990 • Fax (713) 975-0464. mcdonough@mectx.com.





# SEASON'S GREETINGS

## 700 families receive hams for Christmas meal at BakerRipley East Aldine Campus

Houston, TX, November 28, 2018 - Last Wednesday, Dec. 5 a team of Kroger volunteers donated 700 Hormel Cure 81 half hams to help feed Houston families in need. The donation took place at BakerRipley's East Aldine campus, located at 3000 Aldine Mail Route Rd., Houston, TX 77039.

The donation aims to support families year-round and fill the gap for those in need.

"We are proud to partner with Hormel to feed 700 families here in Houston," said Sparkle Anderson, Corporate Affairs Manager for Kroger. "At Kroger, we are continually working toward our goal to end hunger in our communities and eliminate waste in our company by 2025. BakerRipley is a staple in the Houston community and we couldn't have picked a better recipient for this donation."

The makers of the Hormel Cure 81 brand created the Hormel Cure 81



Team of Kroger volunteers helped distribute hams and other items at newest BakerRipley East Aldine campus.

Hams for Hunger program in 1989. The program involves a partnership between Hormel Foods and grocery retailers across the country. Throughout the years, more than \$13 million dollars in hams have been donated, feeding tens of thousands of families.

"Hormel Foods is proud to partner with Kroger to

support hunger-relief efforts in the communities served by Kroger stores," said Stephanie Postma, Brand Manager, Meat Products Marketing at Hormel Foods. "The Hormel® Cure 81® Hams for Hunger™ program highlights our long-standing relationship with Kroger, and we are honored to

work together and make such a substantial contribution for those in need."

Hormel Foods will donate more than 55,000 hams (retail value of \$1.1 million) to charities nationwide through the Hormel Cure 81 Hams for Hunger program this holiday season.

## Soccer Star in the Making at Hambrick Middle School



Congratulations to Cesar Cordova! As a part of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy Cesar was invited to participate in the Development Academy Boys' Winter Showcase. This showcase was held November 29-December 3 in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. In a letter from U.S. Soccer Federation Development Academy manager Nicole Idowu, Hambrick administrators and staff learned the matches played at this showcase are "an integral part of the U.S. Soccer's national team training program...designed to facilitate the development and identification of prospective Olympic and Youth National Team players." Hambrick is excited for Cesar's participation in the program and his potential as an Olympic hopeful in the future. Cordova, an 8th grade student, has previously participated in international tournaments in conjunction with the Houston Dynamo Dash Youth Soccer Club.

## East Aldine Strategic Partner Awards,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tended the ceremony, in spite of heavy rains and street flooding. Emcee for the evening was East Aldine executive director David Hawes.

Awards were presented in the following categories: VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, Ms. Sara Garcia. Various organizations including the Little League.

COMMUNITY AWARD, Ms. Shirley Reed, head of the local Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, and instrumental in securing a Sheriff's storefront office in Aldine.

PUBLIC SAFETY, Deputy Grace Luna. Active in the Community Services Division of the Sheriff's Office, and mentor to the Explorers troupe.

GOVERNMENTAL, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. Former City Councilman, and now Sheriff, leading a 5000 man force. Instrumental in moving the 9-1-1 Call Facility to Aldine.

PUBLIC HEALTH, Amy Corbett. Community Relations director at the local EMS, HCEC#1.

BUSINESS, Brookside Funeral Home and Memorial Park. Serving the community, while preserving a beautiful cemetery and park. Accepting, Jorge Cotte-Cruz and Ms. Kineta Lewis.



CHAIRMAN'S AWARD, to Susan Hill. With Gerald Overturff and David Hawes



EDUCATION AWARD, to Gerald Napoles. With Gerald Overturff



PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD, to Deputy Grace Luna. With Gerald Overturff



INNOVATION IN PUBLIC SAFETY, to the DRT team, Jose Pena, Sgt. Eric Stormer, Raymond Radney, David Peterson

EDUCATION, Dr. Gerald Napoles. President of the Lone Star College - North Harris, and leader in developing East Aldine's Lone Star College campus.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD, Ms. Susan Hill. A partner in Hawes Hill Associates, and a leader in community activities.

INNOVATION IN PUBLIC SAFETY, to the DRT or Differential Response Team of the Sheriff's office. This team is using new techniques to combat crime and

improve the community. Accepting were Sgt. Eric Stormer, Deputies David Peterson, Raymond Radney, and Jose Pena.

EXTRA MILE AWARD, Scott Bean. Responsible for overseeing the sewer and water infrastructure projects for the District. Managed \$43 million in projects, with \$17 million from the District and \$26 in grant dollars.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS were presented to Taylor Fitzgerald

of Centerpoint for help in utilities at the Town Center; to Jim Ainsworth, for engineering work on the water supply system and the recycling center, and the District creative team, Roan Matthews, Juan Islas, and Margaret Eister.

The evening ended with a humorous video by Jib-Jab of district individuals dancing away.

Major sponsors for the evening included A&S Engineers, and PGAL architects.

## Holiday Giving,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Angelique Segovia, 6, is one of the children registered in the Harris County Public Library's mobile library outreach program at Northpointe Apartments.

The Curiosity Cruiser is a state-of-the-art super library on wheels that engages children to read and explore other interactive activities. The mobile library is made possible through a partnership with Harris County Public Library (HCPL), the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation and Ladies for Literacy Guild.

For the past 12 weeks, the Cruiser has made its way to the Northpointe Apartments so that chil-

dren could explore the state-of-the-art mobile library for books after school, register for a library card, and enjoy building mini robots and STEM computer applications. Twenty-two children registered for library cards at the end of the program.

Overall, the program promotes and increases child literacy in underserved communities that have limited access to library services.

## Holiday Concert at Vardeman EC/PK/K



What an amazing concert at Vardeman's EC/PK/K Holiday Concert!! The Pandas have learned to Sing and Dance in Ms. Cooper's Music Class. The stage was stunning and thank you to all volunteers who helped make this Holiday special at Vardeman. Happy Holidays from Vardeman. Great Job to Ms. Cooper who helped us celebrate Celebramos Juntos!! Lets Celebrate Together Program!

-Submitted by Linda Nigro/Physical Education Teacher



### PREMIERE CINEMAS

FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 12/7-12/18

<p>Opens THURSDAY, Dec. 13</p> <p>* MORTAL ENGINES (PG-13) 3:00pm, 9:00pm</p> <p>2D - 7:00 3D - 9:30</p> <p>* SPIDER-MAN: INTO SPIDER-VERSE (PG) 2D - 7:00 3D - 9:30</p>	<p>* FANTASTIC BEASTS: The Crimes of Grindelwald 3D (PG-13) 12:15pm, 2:45pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 9:30pm</p> <p>* DR. SEUSS: THE GRINCH (PG) 12:00pm, 4:30pm, 9:00pm</p> <p>Spanish Dubbed: Stadium Seating</p> <p>* DR. SEUSS: THE GRINCH (PG) 12:20pm, 4:45pm, 9:15pm</p> <p>Stadium Seating</p> <p>* DR. SEUSS: THE GRINCH in 3D (PG) 2:30pm, 7:00pm</p> <p>Stadium Seating</p> <p>* DR. SEUSS: THE GRINCH in 3D (PG) 2:15pm, 6:45pm</p> <p>Spanish Dubbed; Stadium Seating</p> <p>* NOBODY'S FOOL (R) 12:15pm, 2:45pm, 5:20pm, 8:00pm</p> <p>Stadium Seating</p> <p>* The Nutcracker and the Four Realms in 3D (PG) - 2:40pm, 7:20pm</p> <p>Stadium Seating</p> <p>The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (PG) - 12:00pm, 5:00pm, 9:40pm</p> <p>Stadium Seating</p> <p>* HALLOWEEN (2018) (R) 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm</p> <p>Stadium Seating</p> <p>* VENOM (PG-13) - 12:30pm, 6:00pm</p> <p>Stadium Seating</p> <p>* VENOM 3D (PG-13) - 3:15pm, 8:45pm</p> <p>Stadium Seating</p>
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\*No passes on these movies \*\* No passes accepted for 3D movies. ID Required for R rated movies.  
 \*New Releases, no passes accepted for the first two weeks \*\*\*Sorry No Passes CC CLOSED CAPTION  
 \*\*Policy prohibits admission of ANY child 6 or under to any R-rated movie after 6pm. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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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.



## Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush dies Nov. 30

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Dec. 1 issued the following statement on the Nov. 30 death of George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st president of the United States:

"The state of Texas mourns with the nation at the passing of one of our greatest presidents. George H.W. Bush was an American hero and icon, he was a friend to all he met, he embodied class and dignity. Texans are genuinely honored that he called the Lone Star State home and we collectively grieve this monumental loss. On behalf of Texas, Cecilia and I offer our thoughts and prayers to the Bush family in their time of need."

Bush, 94, a Republican, served as the president from 1989 to 1993. He served as vice president from 1981 to 1989 alongside President Ronald Reagan. He served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Texas Congressional District 7, from 1967 to 1971, and went on to serve the nation in many other high-level appointed positions.

### Fund transfer is completed

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Nov. 29 announced the transfer of \$2.77 billion into the State Highway Fund and the Economic Stabilization ("Rainy Day") Fund. Each fund received more than \$1.38 billion or 50 percent of the total transfer, Hegar said.

The transfer amounts are based on crude oil and natural gas production tax revenues in excess of 1987 collections. If either tax generates more revenue than the 1987 threshold, an amount equal to 75 percent of the excess is transferred.

In November 2014, voters approved a constitutional amendment allocating at least half of these severance taxes to the Rainy Day Fund, with the remainder going to the SHF for use on non-toll highway construction, maintenance and right-of-way acquisition.

When fiscal 2018 ended on Aug. 31, the Rainy Day

## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Fund balance was \$11.04 billion. The new balance of \$12.48 billion, not accounting for currently outstanding spending authority, will decline as agencies spend down the remaining appropriation authority, Hegar said.

Also, the high balance helps Texas maintain its AAA credit rating. "That's why I have asked the Legislature to authorize me to invest a portion of the fund in a more prudent and responsible manner and use the returns to address the types of long-term liabilities that have crippled the finances of states such as Illinois and New Jersey. Significant portions of this money have not been keeping up with inflation, and we must not allow the power of this asset to erode over time," Hegar added.

### Returns reach landmark

Comptroller Hegar on Nov. 29 announced his office had returned \$1 billion in unclaimed property to rightful owners since he took office in January 2015.

"This landmark achievement represents the commitment this office has made to reuniting unclaimed property with its rightful owners," Hegar said. "I'm proud of the folks in our Unclaimed Property program, and I encourage everyone to go to our website and see if there is money waiting for them."

About 830,000 claims have been approved while Hegar has been comptroller, he said, and since 2015, the comptroller's office has redesigned its unclaimed property website and internal systems to make the claims process faster, easier and more efficient.

ClaimitTexas.org allows users to upload claim documentation and is mobile-optimized to make it easier to search for unclaimed property on smartphones and tablets. The state has returned more than \$3 bil-

lion in unclaimed property to its rightful owners since the program's inception in 1962, Hegar added.

### Tax scammers target many

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Nov. 26 warned Texans that entities impersonating the Internal Revenue Service are sending fraudulent email messages.

Fraudsters may use the subject line "tax transcripts" in email messages that attempt to bait Texans into opening links and documents that contain malware designed to steal sensitive financial data.

Paxton said the IRS never calls or emails citizens to demand repayment for penalties, and if any citizen receives a fraudulent call or email message they should call the IRS directly at 800-829-1040.

"My office stands ready to assist hard-working Texas consumers. The consumer protection section of our website contains several resources on how to recognize, prevent and report scams like this. Being informed is the best way to prevent fraud and loss," added Paxton.

### Many may purchase units

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush on Nov. 28 announced the Federal Emergency Management Agency granted a program under which Hurricane Harvey survivors still residing in temporary housing units may purchase the federally funded manufactured housing units and travel trailers.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance is set to expire on Feb. 25, 2019, 18 months after the date of the disaster. Currently, there are 1,582 households in temporary housing units — manufactured housing and travel trailers — administered by the Texas General Land Office.

## DPS reminds Texans to prepare for winter weather

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) encourages Texans in all regions of the state to make preparations for staying safe as we approach the official start of winter.

"As we know all too well, Texas weather can change in an instant," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Every year, Texas faces serious dangers brought on by winter weather conditions, including freezing temperatures, ice, sleet and even snow. Taking extra safety precautions now could make all the difference during these potentially severe weather events this winter."

Texans can prepare their vehicles for the winter by checking the battery, windshield wipers (including appropriate freeze resistant fluid), tire pressure, tire tread and fluid levels, as well as taking time to lubricate door and trunk locks to prevent freezing. In addition, the following is a list of emergency supplies drivers can keep in their vehicle:

- Blankets/sleeping bags;
- Extra clothing, including gloves and a hat;
- Cell phone, radio, flashlight and extra batteries;
- First-aid kit and pocket knife;
- High calorie, non-perishable food and bottled water;
- Bag of sand or cat litter to provide traction for tires; and
- Windshield scraper, tool kit, booster cables, tow rope and a shovel.

DPS offers the following additional tips for staying safe during possible winter weather:

- Monitor local weather broadcasts and follow up-to-the-minute weather conditions at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).
- Purchase an all-hazards weather radio for up-to-date warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information.
- Sign up for your local emergency notification system.
- Make sure you have inclement weather contact numbers for schools and work.

• Check on friends and family members whose health or age may put them at greater risk from cold weather.

• Allow extra time when traveling in inclement weather.

• Avoid traveling when sleet, freezing rain or snow is predicted, and monitor road conditions by visiting [www.drivetexas.org](http://www.drivetexas.org) or by calling 1-800-452-9292.

• On icy roads, drive slowly and increase distance required for stopping, and avoid using cruise control.

• Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained before any trip, and keep your gas tank full.

• Watch for downed trees and power lines across roads. If power is out, treat all intersections as four-way stops.

• Insulate outside faucets and pipes near outer walls.

• Make sure that furnaces, heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves are clean, well-ventilated and in good working condition.

• To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, NEVER operate generators and other fuel-powered devices inside a home or an enclosed space, such as a garage. The deadly odorless, colorless gas is produced any time a fossil fuel is burned, with sources including motor vehicle engines, generators and fuel-burning appliances or heating systems. Consider installing a carbon monoxide detector.

• Make arrangements for proper shelter and an emergency supply of food and water for your pets and livestock.

• Stock up on firewood and supplies, including canned goods and bottled water.

• If you will be away from home for a long period of time, set your thermostat to 55 degrees or higher and open cabinets under sinks.

During the winter season, Texas residents can dial 2-1-1, the state's free 24-hour helpline.

## DENTAL Insurance

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

A less expensive way to help get the dental care you deserve

- ✓ If you're over 50, you can get coverage for about \$1 a day\*
- ✓ Keep your own dentist! You can go to any dentist you want
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SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Texans hit road for first time in three weeks: Chargers look to close gap on Chiefs in AFC West

The 2018 NFL season enters Week 15 with a slew of key games highlighted by the Thursday night matchup of the Los Angeles Chargers against the Kansas City Chiefs in an important AFC West game for both teams.

A KC win should pretty much wrap up the division title for Andy Reid's team, which lost a huge piece of its offense two weeks ago when running back Kareem Hunt (824 yards rushing, 14 total TDs) was released due to an incident with a female in which Hunt is seen on video pushing and kicking the female individual at a hotel in Cleveland in February of 2018.

Things will get much tougher this week against a Chargers team that has a load of offensive weapons itself led by quarterback Philip Rivers. Two weeks ago, the Chargers overcame a 23-7 halftime deficit at Pittsburgh to rally for a 33-30 win on a last-second field goal.

This should be a good one on Thursday night.

The Texans will leave the confines of NRG Stadium for the first time in three weeks and travel to New York to take on the Jets on Saturday afternoon. Houston could very well be the AFC South Division champs if they defeated Indianapolis last Sunday at home.

In other key games this weekend, New England visit Pittsburgh, Philadelphia visit the Rams on Sunday Night Football and New Orleans visits Carolina on Monday Night Football. Philly quarterback Carson Wentz returns to the LA Coliseum where almost a year ago he sustained a season-ending ACL injury and we all know what happened after that.

Speaking of the Patriots, they visit Pittsburgh for the second straight year looking to hold off the Texans for the second seed in the AFC playoffs. The Steelers need to shore up things on defense if they hope to fend off Tom Brady and Co. on Sunday.

In the college game, the bowl season is set with Alabama, Clemson, Notre Dame and Oklahoma earning berths in the College Football Playoffs (CFP). I think the committee got it right, although there could be an argument for a two-loss Georgia team to earn the fourth spot that OU got thanks to its Big 12 title game win over Texas.

The national semifinals will pit No. 2 Clemson against No. 3 Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl and No. 1 Alabama against No. 4 OU in the Orange Bowl. Both games will be played on Dec. 29. Texas earned a trip to the Sugar Bowl to face Georgia, while Texas A&M will look for its ninth win of the season when it faces North Carolina State in the Gator Bowl.

We will take a look at those games in the coming weeks, but this week we will focus on Week 15 of the NFL schedule.

Before we take a look at this week's game, let's review last week's record. A 7-2 mark upped the season record to 99-62 (61%). Now, onto this week's game.

NFL

Los Angeles Chargers at Kansas City - An excellent game to start Week 15 pits two of the league's best offenses as Philip Rivers (3,418 yards, 28 TDs) and the Chargers take on Patrick Mahomes (3,923 yards, 41 TDs) and the Chiefs. LA might get running back Melvin Gordon (802 yards, 13 total TDs) back for this game. Gordon missed the Chargers last three games with a knee injury, but the Chargers have said he should return at some point this season.

Houston at New York Jets - The Texans hit the road for the first time in three weeks to face a Jets team that is playing out the string. Look for Bill O'Brien's team to take the fight out of the Jets early. Look for quarterback Deshaun Watson (3,031 yards, 21 TDs) and wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (80 receptions, 1,119 yards, 8 TDs) to hook up on some big plays down field to open up things for Lamar Miller and the

running game. Defensively, J.J. Watt, Jadeveon Clowney and their mates will look to apply a lot of pressure on Sam Darnold and Josh McCown and force a turnover or two. Even if the Texans have the AFC South wrapped up, don't expect a let up from them. They are in position to earn the second seed and a first-round bye in the AFC playoffs, so there is still much to play for. My pick, Houston 30, New York Jets 15

Tampa Bay at Baltimore - Thanks to back-to-back losses by the Steelers, and three straight wins by the Ravens, Baltimore is back in the hunt for the AFC North title. John Harbaugh's team hosts a Tampa Bay team that has been playing better, but they will face an uphill climb this Sunday in Baltimore. It appears this is now Lamar Jackson's team, even though veteran quarterback Joe Flacco has been cleared to play after sustaining a hip injury earlier this season. Jackson (540 passing yards, 2 TDs; 404 rushing yards, 3 TDs) gives the Ravens a mobile quarterback who can make plays with his legs. Look for him to have a big day against a suspect TB defense. Now that they have been given new life, I don't think the Ravens will look past the Bucs. There is too much at stake, plus the Ravens have one of the best defenses in the league and should feast against turnover-prone Jameis Winston (1,941 yards, 12 TDs) come Sunday. My pick, Baltimore 26, Tampa Bay 13

Green Bay at Chicago - The Packers visit Chicago with hopes of playing spoilers in the AFC North now that their playoff chances are pretty much dashed. Two weeks ago, Green Bay dropped a 20-17 decision at home to the lowly Arizona Cardinals and

that loss cost head coach Mike McCarthy his job. He was fired after his post-game press conference and offensive coordinator Joe Philbin was named interim head coach. It will be interesting to see how the Packers, especially quarterback Aaron Rodgers (3,504 yards, 21 TDs) react to McCarthy's firing. Rodgers and McCarthy had a frosty relationship the last couple of years and many thought McCarthy's days were numbered. It will be interesting to see what direction the Green Bay front office takes in its search for a new head coach. Now, the Packers need to play like professionals and close out the season on a high note. Beating the Bears in Chicago would be a good start. That's going to be easier said than done. Two weeks ago, the Bears lost a wild 30-27 overtime game to the Giants, but Minnesota also lost so the Bears remained on top in the division. Look for the Chicago defense to be the difference maker in this one as they harass Rodgers all afternoon in the Windy City. My pick, Chicago 23, Green Bay 20

Seattle at San Francisco - These two teams meet for the second time in three weeks and 49er fans hope their team is more competitive than it was in the 43-16 beat down Seattle administered two weeks ago. In that game, quarterback Russell Wilson (2,716 yards, 29 TDs) threw four touchdown passes and he should have another big day against a depleted SF defense. Look for Wilson to hook up with speedy wide receiver Tyler Lockett (44 receptions, 713 yards, 9 TDs) and then turn things over to Chris Carson (704 yards, 4 TDs) and the running game to close things

out. My pick, Seattle 33, San Francisco 12

Dallas at Indianapolis - This could be a tough road game for the Cowboys when they face Andrew Luck (3,360 yards, 32 TDs) and the much-improved Colts. But if the Dallas defense plays like it did two weeks ago during its 13-10 win over the Saints, the Cowboys should be fine. The Dallas defense was flying all over the field and pressured Saints QB Drew Brees all night long. Quarterback Dak Prescott (2,675 yards, 14 TDs) and running back Ezekiel Elliott (1,150 yards, 9 total TDs) hooked up on a scoring pass in the first half and the offense added two field goals and let the defense take over. The Dallas offense will have to produce more than 13 points against an Indy team that can light up the scoreboard. Look for another quality effort from the Dallas "D" as the offense does a bit more to pick up a key road win. My pick, Dallas 26, Indianapolis 19

New England at Pittsburgh - The Game of the Week is set for Heinz Field in Pittsburgh as the surging Patriots visit the Steelers who need to prove to themselves that they can beat NE. A year ago, the Steelers squandered an 8-point lead in the third quarter to allow Tom Brady (3,342 yards, 20 TDs) to rally the Pats for a 27-24 victory. Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (3,945 yards, 26 TDs) has plenty of weapons to attack the NE defense with led by speedy wide receivers Juju Smith-Schuster (83 receptions, 1,104 yards, 4 TDs) and Antonio Brown (81 receptions, 1,028 yards, 12 TDs). Running back James Conner (909 yards, 12 total TDs) sustained a leg injury in the loss to the Chargers two weeks ago, but it was not considered serious. He should be back for this game and his presence could be a big key for the Steelers. Two weeks ago in their 24-10 win over Minnesota, the NE defense played one of its best games of the year and you had better believe head coach Bill Belichick will have something up his sleeve for Big Ben come Sunday afternoon. Something

tells me the Steelers right the ship this week and get that big win they've been needing this year. My pick, Pittsburgh 30, New England 27

Philadelphia at Los Angeles Rams - A good one for the Sunday Night football crew has the Eagles visiting the Rams for the second straight year. As stated earlier, Philly lost starting QB Carson Wentz to a season-ending knee injury when these two met last December but Wentz (2,846 yards, 18 TDs) looks completely healthy and has led the Eagles back into the playoff hunt after they lost four of their first six games. Wentz and tight end Zach Ertz should make plays against a suspect LA secondary, but it's the Eagles defense that will have its hands full against the high-scoring Rams, led by quarterback Jared Goff (3,754 yards, 27 TDs) and running back Todd Gurley (1,175 yards, 19 total TDs). Look for wide receivers Brandin Cooks (63 receptions, 1,026 yards, 3 TDs) and Robert Woods (64 receptions, 971 yards, 5 TDs) should feast on a poor Philly secondary as the Rams make up for last year's loss to the Eagles and help the Cowboys in the NFC East race. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 34, Philadelphia 23

New Orleans at Carolina - Week 15 concludes on Monday night with the Saints visiting the Panthers in what could be a must-win for Panthers head coach Ron Rivera. Two weeks ago, Carolina lost its fourth straight game, falling 24-17 at Tampa Bay. Rivera's seat is getting very hot and he could be coaching for his job in the last four weeks of the season. The Saints need to prove they can win on the road and will be looking for a better output by the offense after it was shut down by the Dallas defense two weeks ago during its 13-10 loss. Look for Drew Brees (3,262 yards, 30 TDs), Alvin Kamara (742 rushing yards; 65 receptions, 555 yards, 15 total TDs) and wide receiver Michael Thomas (91 receptions, 1,120 yards, 8 TDs) to get things back on track as the Saints look to wrap up the AFC South on Monday Night Football. My pick, New Orleans 33, Carolina 23.



KEENEY'S KORNER By MIKE KEENEY

Posting Date December 10, 2018

King Crossword

ACROSS 1 Leno's network 4 Plant bristle 7 Outdoor garment 11 Cupid's alias 13 Luau dish 14 "Do - others" 15 Hindu wrap 16 Type measures 17 Adolescent 18 Gear parts 20 Tempo 22 Gratuity 24 In the same place (Lat.) 28 Swiss Guards' site 32 Japanese cartoon art 33 Verve 34 Fix the soundtrack 36 Smile 37 Harsh 39 Pavlova performances 41 Improved 43 Sticky stuff 44 Aware of 46 16 ounces 50 Overly proper person 53 Witty one 55 - gin fizz 56 Apiece

DOWN 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president declared that Thanksgiving would be celebrated on the last Thursday in November? 2. TELEVISION: What was the name of Roy Rogers' horse on the TV series? 3. ACRONYMS: Where did the name "jeep" come from? 4. ASTRONOMY: The planet Venus has how many moons? 5. LANGUAGE: What is unusual about the words facetious, abstemious and arsenious? 6. FOOD & DRINK: What is foie gras? 7. GEOLOGY: What is the only rock that floats? 8. LITERATURE: In what 19th-century novel is the character of Captain Nemo introduced? 9. GEOGRAPHY: What inland U.S. state has the longest freshwater coastline? 10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the birthstone associated with the month of June?

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Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D. by Mike Marland



The Spats by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle. Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine. DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: Moderate - Challenging

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTHOFF. Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Trivial Pursuit style grid with numbers.

Answers to the crossword puzzle.



Trivial Test Answers: 1. Abraham Lincoln; 2. Trigger; 3. The military, where a "general purpose" vehicle was known as a GP; 4. None; 5. All three words are spelled with the vowels in correct order; 6. A plate made of duck or goose liver; 7. Pumice; 8. "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea"; 9. Michigan; 10. Pearl



# LETTERS TO SANTA

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## Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
 How are you? I know you are busy so I'll be quick. Please keep my family safe and send me a I-phone and a box of slime. Also, stay safe on your busy trip. Love, Destiny.  
 Destiny Cruz, 10

Dear Santa,  
 I know you have been watching me so you know I have been a terrific 4th grader. I have listen to my mom and I did everything they told me to do. Santa I want the new iPhoneRS with a blue and gold case. Love you Santa.  
 Damari Simmons, 10  
 \*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
 I've been a great boy this year and every year. Everyday I help my mom feed the chickens and I clean up my toys. After playing with them all I want is a Stick-Bot.  
 Trixten Lochart, 10  
 \*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
 I know you watch me all the time. I have been a wonderful kid and helpful. For example, I take care of my brother and help with his homework. I want everyone to have a present. I would want a Xbox One to play.  
 Ragelio Hidalgo, 8  
 \*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
 I am a hard working kid but I act up sometimes. I make up for it by helping my teachers and getting great grades. So I think I might deserve a one of a kind prize.  
 Juan Plasencia, 11

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# Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
I do my homework every time I get home and to tell you the truth I don't like it. Since I complete my homework please, please give me a brand new PS4 on Christmas morning. Also, don't forget all the children in the world!  
Eddie Moreno, 9

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been a wonderful boy all year. My parents have even said so. When I hear your sleigh come I thank you for leaving me a PS4 gift card.  
Edward Avila, 9

Dear Santa,  
Yes, I was super nice this year. I hope all the boys and girls around the world get something they love from you to open up. Santa all I want are some building Legos Address Turrubmirtes, 10

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been amazing this year you see, I always take care of my mom and sister. Lets not forget the dogs too I can't wait to see you and all my gifts.  
Remington, 9

Dear Santa,  
You are one of the greatest people in the world and I try to be one of the goodist kids I can. For all the girls and boys who try to be nice do it every-day then you will be on the nice list. Thank you Santa for all your doing around the world.  
Christy Reaux, 10

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I have been nice for about a year. I hope you give joy to all the children around the world. All I wish for is a lot of friends at my new school. Thank you Santa!  
Annanyah Ojeda, 10

Dear Santa,  
I have been trying to help my family and friends as much as I can. Also, I wish that kids all over the world are healed and get what they want in life. Love, Aspen and thank you Santal  
Aspen Sanford, 9

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I don't want anything for Christmas. All I want is that you heal my 6 month old cousin. She is too young and she needs surgery. She is in Texas Children's Hospital. Please help her!  
David A., 9

Dear Santa,  
I can hear your bells which means you are coming soon. I know Texas has no snow but you will still come. On Christmas Eve I plan to go to bed real early because in the morning I will quickly open the Nintendo Switch sitting under my tress.  
Anthony Vasquez, 9

\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I've been a good kid. I helped my mom with the table by cleaning it. I only have 2 wishes that are really important. My 2 wishes were that People around the world would never be sick or poor. My second wish is that my family would be safe.  
Brianna Diaz, 9

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Dear Santa,  
 This year I have been excellent! I know you have your elves checking the good list. I work hard in school and I recently earned a 90% on my report card. Santa I hope you leave me Calico Critters under the tree!  
 Isabella Buenas, 9

*Letters to Santa*

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**Greens Bayou Gala,**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



EAST ALDINE DISTRICT was awarded the "Bayou Buddy Award" for their support and partnership with the Coalition. Above, Reginald Lillie GBC chair, Regina Adams GBC vice chair, East Aldine's Richard Cantu, Deborah Foster, Joyce Wiley, and Kelly Snook GBC executive director.



JOYCE WILEY learns she was named GBC Volunteer of the Year, as distinguished guests pose behind her, including Elvin Franklin, chairman Reginald Lillie, councilman Jerry Davis, congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, commissioner Rodney Ellis, and school board president Rhonda Skillern-Jones.

**A New Generation of Leadership for Our Future**

**Ana Hernandez**  
 for Texas Senate • District 6  
 AnaForTexas.com facebook.com/AnaForTexas

ANA HERNANDEZ offers a new generation of leadership for the Texas Senate. She experienced life as an immigrant while growing up in Pasadena. She graduated from the University of Houston and went on to earn her law degree from the University of Texas. At the young age of 27 she was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Ana is also the mother of a young son and a partner in a small law firm.

This breadth of real life experience is what gives Ana the drive and passion to represent you fiercely in the Texas Senate.

Ana Hernandez will be a fierce and effective advocate for the future of Texas

- Make full-day Pre-K the standard in Texas schools
- Expand Medicaid to provide affordable healthcare to all
- Provide quality training and education to prepare Texans for good-paying jobs
- Continue the fight to give veterans the services they deserve
- Protect our Dreamers and their families from Donald Trump and his right-wing allies

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