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 VOL. 43, NO. 47 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 & 24, 2019 HOUSTON, TEXAS www.nenewsroom.com

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-20,
 King James Version

1: And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2: (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3: And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David)

5: To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6: And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9: And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10: And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12: And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15: And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16: And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17: And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18: And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19: But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



East Aldine holds Partner Awards

The East Aldine District held their annual Strategic Partner Awards last Thursday night, at the Greer & Lowdermilk Conference Center in Aldine. The event is meant to honor those citizens or organizations who have contributed during the year to the quality of life improvements that are the goal of the district.

Emcee for the evening was Joyce Wiley, a board member of the East Aldine District. Over a hundred persons attended the festive occasion. Many of them were supporters of the district's activities.

See PARTNER AWARDS, Page 8



Gilbert Hoffman, publisher of the Northeast News, received the Chairman's Award from Chairman Gerald Overturff.



Some of the Awards recipients pose for a photograph after the ceremony, including Sheriff's deputies Eleazar Agrait, Josue Herrera, and Ronnie Jones, who received the Governmental Award. Also second from left, Abel Garza with the Education Award, Valencia Dotson with the Volunteer award, and Gilbert Hoffman, Chairman's Award.

ELECTION RESULTS Turner wins mayor's runoff

Harris County reported that over 200,000 voters turned out for the runoff election held last Saturday. Incumbent Mayor Sylvester Turner defeated challenger Tony Buzbee, the most interesting of several races.



Others of local interest elected were City Councilmen David Robinson, Michael Kubosh, Letitia Plummer, Sallie Alcorn, and Karla Cisneros, who won by 12 votes out of 10,554 cast.

Aldine ISD honors building Namesakes at luncheon

Many of the schools and buildings in Aldine Independent School District are named after individuals that left an indelible mark in the community. Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney reached out to the district's many namesakes to honor them and let them know their spirit for giving students the best educational experience continues.

Nearly 20 honorees or their family members attended the inaugural Namesake Luncheon held Tuesday, December 10, at



Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney visits with former Trustee Marine Jones at the 2019 Namesake Luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. Jones Middle School is named in Mrs. Jones' honor.

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LSC-Houston North Greenspoint
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Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I've been a good boy at school and I want a Fortnite Blaster.
David Montemayor, 8
Thompson Elementary

Dear Santa,
I've ben a good girl Santa. I want a slime for Xmas and a Sausashie. Please. Merry Xmas, Santa.
Gizell Lopez, 7
Thompson Elementary

Dear Santa,
Hi my name is Diana. I want an iPad and a new TV set. I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2020. My sister needs new dishes, my neice a new toy. Nephew a new toy truck for him.
Diana, 52
MacArthur HS

Dear Santa,
I know you are checking your list to see who is good or bad. I know I am bad but I am trying to make it up by helping my mom. Also can I please please please get the New Iphone with dark pink case for my phone. Thank you Santa!
Emily Alexis, 11 years old

Dear Santa,
I have been a little bad, but I listen well. I what you to take care of people who need a home. All I what for Christmas is a tablet to play games on and listen to music. Thank you.
Mia Aguilar, 9 years old

Dear Santa,
I would like a pacet watch. I also would like a new haverboard. I would also like a nap. I have been very good this year.
Brooke, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
My name is alex Pacheco eli. I want a xbox and for trite game and more light For my bike and a poser and a iPhone and a hover-board and a Nintendo.
Alex Pacheco, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
I would like a camera, poster, boards, also a

sunyday toy and fancy nancy, and a rilly sparkly dress, also a glitter and paent, grafts set. I also for everyone to get what thay want, and a good day for my mom dad and brother.
Kelsie Blas, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
I would like a Dollhouse. I would alos like Christmas books. I have been really good this year. Cleaned my room. I help my sisters.
Abby Carley, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
I would like an haver-bord. I would also like clothes and an American girl doll. I have been jolly good this year. I have been helping my mom do the dishes. And I help my dad put wood up.
Addison Sebren, 9 years old

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I would like 20 gange shot gun for runtn2. Woiders Bottom Land. I would like cüMbin stone.
Erodr Srarks, 9 years old

Dear Santa,
I would like Boxy girls. I would also like Beare Stuff. I have been

phone case for my phone have been really good this year. I was a good boy this year kept my room clean.
Aiden Gonzalez Pet, 9 years old

Dear Santa,
I have done a lot of things and went trew a lot during the past few years, my dog that I had a while ago got taken by some people and have been wanting another one even since then, though I might get another one sometime in the future. One thing more recently that has been bothering me is that my room has been destroyed and has been under construction for the past year now and had to sleep in the living room since then, and I wasn't able to have much privacy because of that. My brother had heart failier a couple of months back and had like 2 to 3 different surgeries. So I've been going threw a lot and I would help if I had a yert microphone, and some good video capture card that could record video games in really high quality. Just so I could have some cool videos to have so I could just have something to occupy my time and look back on some times when I was having then.
Adam Hampton, 13 years old

Dear Santa,
How is everything going I cleaned my room thank you for the ps4 last year. This year I would like a new Phone. Merry Christmas.
Anthony Rodriguez, 9 years old

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
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.

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NORTHEAST/BELTWAY 8

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Hambrick student to compete in International Soccer Tournament

Another round of applause and congratulations goes to Hambrick 8th Grade student Luis Orozco. Orozco was chosen to participate in the International Champions Cup (ICC) Futures Tournament. This tournament will be held in Orlando, Florida from December 9-16. The ICC Futures Tournament is a premier youth tournament that showcases the world's future soccer stars from all over the world. Orozco plays soccer with the Houston Dynamo Academy youth program and previously participat-



Luis Orozco

ed in the US Soccer Development Academy Regional Showcase in Dallas earlier this year.

Near Northwest Management District recognizes 2 Aldine ISD schools for campus improvements

The Near Northwest Management District acknowledged the campus improvements and facility upgrades at Hoffman Middle School and Eisenhower High School during its December Business Network Celebration.

The improvements were made using funds from the \$798 million bond referendum passed by voters in 2015.

The management district presented Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney and each of the school's principals with the Grow Near Awards for the district's work to improve the visual appearance of each school. The work aligns directly with the organization's focus on re-branding the area.

Work at Hoffman Middle School included new sidewalks and drainage improvements. Eisenhower



Near Northwest Management District presenting awards to Superintendent Dr. LaTonya and school principals.

er's construction was similar and focused on the installation of drainage and fire hydrants around the campus.

The Near Northwest Management District was created in 2001 to address

concerns about public safety and economic development in the area of Houston between T.C. Jester Boulevard on the east, Pinemont Drive on the south, Hollister Drive on the west, and State Road

249 on the north. The organization is made up of small business owners, commercial property tenants, and community leaders who promote economic growth in the area.

Yuroba Harris receives St. Hope award

The St. Hope Foundation Award was received by recipient Yuroba Harris recently, at a Gala Celebration in celebration of St. Hope's 20th Anniversary Celebration, held at the Hobby Center. Pictured is Yuroba holding the award.



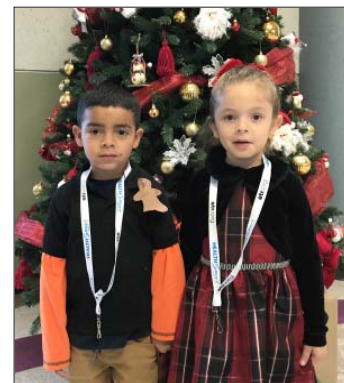
Letters to Santa

Dear Santa, How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? I hope you are doing well? I have been doing good with Reading! Thank you for the tablet last year. This year I would want a doll. I would be so thankful for it. Merry Christmas don't get sick yall.
Kalli Oree, 8 years old

Dear Santa, How is everything going? I hope you are doing well! I try hard to be helpful. Thank you for the stuff that you gave me last year! I really loved the pony! This year I want a intend sich. It wode make me happy! Merry Christmas!
Anabell Salinas, 8 years old



JINGLE BELL RUN: Students at Vardeman EC/PK enjoyed a Jingle Bell Run during PE class last week! Students were timed on a 300 meter race! Our Pandas rocked their running assessment! Submitted: By Linda Nigro



Namesakes,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the M.O. Campbell Educational Center. Dr. Goffney, Board Trustee President Steve Mead, and fellow trustees greeted and spoke with honorees.

Dr. Goffney also took a moment to share the new choices and opportunities AISD offers students, the five-year strategic plan, current work, and how it all impacts the future of Aldine.

"Before I came to Aldine, I knew about the district's strong history to give every student the best

educational experience possible," Goffney said. "During my listening tour, one common theme emerged: Aldine is a wonderful school district with a history of success. That is a testament to the mark you — our namesakes — left on our district. Since coming on board, I have sought to build on that foundation as we move forward.

Before leaving the luncheon, honorees received a gift from the school named after them.

Take Pride in our Community Keep it Clean

The gift of love. The gift of peace. The gift of happiness. May all these be yours this holiday season.

Aldine ISD will observe Midwinter Break for Students Dec. 20-Jan. 6 and Dec. 23-Jan. 3 for Employees.

AldineISD.org

PREMIERE CINEMAS
FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY 12/13-12/18

Opens THURSDAY, Dec. 19
*STAR WARS: SKYWALKER (PG-13) 2D & 3D - 6:00p 9:20p
*CATS 7:00p 9:30p

*Black Christmas (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 2:15pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm
*HELL ON THE BORDER (R) - 12:45pm, 3:45pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm
*JUMANJI: The Next Level (PG-13) - 12:30pm, 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm
*JUMANJI: The Next Level (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 6:00pm, Spanish Dubbed
*JUMANJI: The Next Level 3D (PG-13) 3:00pm, 3:30pm, 9:00pm, 9:30pm
*RICHARD JEWELL (R) - 12:15pm, 3:10pm, 6:10pm, 9:10pm
*En brazos de un asesino (R) - 12:10pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 9:30pm
Spanish w/ English Subtitles
KNIVES OUT (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm

QUEEN & SLIM (R) - 12:15pm Closed Caption
QUEEN & SLIM (R) - 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm
21 BRIDGES (R) - 6:00pm, 8:45pm
FROZEN II (PG) - 12:30pm, 6:00pm
FROZEN II (PG) - 3:00pm, 9:00pm Spanish Dubbed
*FROZEN II in RealD 3D (PG) - 12:30pm, 6:00pm Spanish Dubbed
*FROZEN II in RealD 3D (PG) - 3:30pm, 9:30pm
HARRIET (PG-13) - 12:00pm, 3:00pm
TERMINATOR: Dark Fate (R) - 6:00pm, 8:50pm
COUNTDOWN (PG-13) - 12:15pm, 2:30pm, 4:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:10pm
MALEFICENT: Mistress of Evil (PG) 12:00pm Spanish Dubbed
*MALEFICENT: Mistress of Evil 3D (PG) - 3:00pm Spanish Dubbed

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El Don del amor. El Don de la paz. El regalo de la felicidad. Que todo esto sea suyo en esta temporada festiva.

Aldine ISD observará las vacaciones de invierno para los estudiantes del 20 de diciembre al 6 de enero. Y del 23 de diciembre al 3 de enero para los empleados.

AldineISD.org

Un alumno de Aldine ISD visita a Santa Claus durante la 16ª Gala Anual de Ciudadanos Mayores de Nadine Kujawa.



Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty – Retired Public Servant Surprised by “WEP”

Dear Rusty: I turned 62 in October 2018. A few months prior to my birth month, I went on the Social Security website which said my estimated benefits would be between \$900-\$1000 at full retirement age and between \$600-\$700 at age 62. I receive a pension from a city government where I was a firefighter for almost 20 years where I did not pay Social Security tax on my income, but I have over 20 years invested in Social Security from other jobs. I expected the cut in benefits for retiring early (62), but I was totally caught off guard by my benefits being cut in half again because of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). My city pension is about \$1700 monthly, and it's my understanding that WEP is not supposed to reduce my Social Security by more than half of my government pension. My current Social Security benefit is \$348 a month which is considerably less than half of my \$1700 pension. Am I missing something? Shouldn't I be getting \$600-\$700 in Social Security benefits? Signed: Retired Firefighter

Dear Retired Firefighter: WEP rules are complicated and you certainly aren't alone in your dismay over how WEP affects Social Security benefits for public servants in certain states which didn't participate in Social Security. I'll try to shed some light on what happened to your benefit amount.

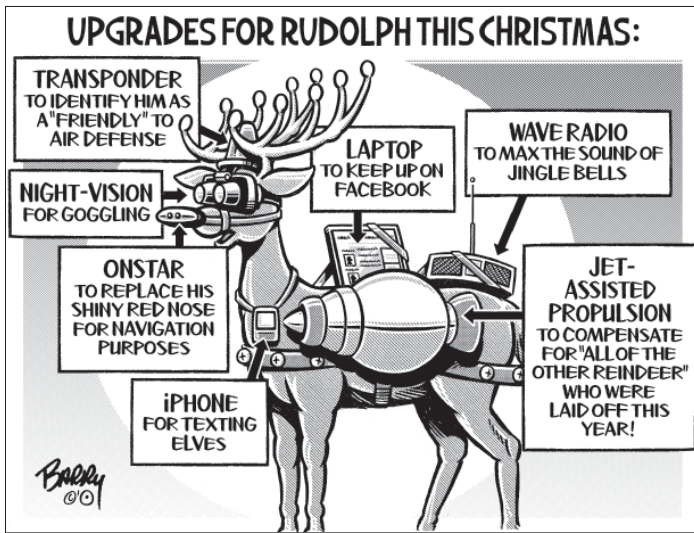
The first thing you should know is that the estimates you received from Social Security before you claimed were just that – estimates. If you were working in SS-covered employment prior to getting the estimate, the amounts given assumed you would continue to work at your recent SS-covered earnings until your full retirement age. If you didn't, your full retirement age (FRA) benefit amount would be less than the amount quoted. The estimate given at that time didn't take WEP into account either. The WEP reduction takes place before the reduction

for claiming early at age 62. WEP affects your “primary insurance amount” (PIA), which is the amount you're normally entitled to at your full retirement age from SS-covered work.

When you applied for Social Security your PIA was recomputed using a special WEP formula. Your PIA is based on your “average indexed monthly earnings” or “AIME”, which is the monthly average of the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime in which you contributed to Social Security. Your PIA is determined by breaking your AIME into 3 parts (called “bend points”), multiplying those parts by a certain percentage for each part, and totaling up those three computations. When WEP applies, the first part of your AIME is multiplied by 40%, rather than the normal 90%, of the first \$895 of your AIME (this is the amount for your “eligibility year” 2018). So, the first part of your WEP AIME would contribute \$358 (instead of the normal \$805) to your PIA and, thus, to your FRA benefit amount – a reduction of \$447. (If you have more than 20 years of substantial earnings in SS-covered employment, the impact of WEP is lessened by about 5% for each year over 20). There is a maximum WEP reduction (\$447 for 2018) and there is also a rule which says your WEP reduction cannot be more than half of your non-covered pension amount. But since half of your city pension is more than \$447, that rule does not change the WEP reduction.

So, using your general numbers, if your FRA benefit (before WEP) was “\$900-\$1000”, let's say that your normal PIA was about \$950. After the WEP reduction your WEP PIA would be about \$503, which is what you would get if you waited until your full retirement age to claim Social Security. By claiming at age 62, your benefit was reduced by about 27%, which would make your benefit about \$367/month. This isn't far from what you are now getting, considering that we're using only estimated numbers in these calculations. Remember, the SS rule doesn't say that your WEP reduced benefit amount can't be less than half of your non-covered pension amount. Instead it says that the WEP reduction to your PIA can't be more than that.

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Governor proclaims results in constitutional amendment election

AUSTIN — Before voter-approved amendments to the Texas Constitution are set in stone, it is the governor's duty to publicly proclaim the results of the election.

On Dec. 4, Gov. Greg Abbott posted such a proclamation, having first certified the tabulation prepared by the Texas secretary of state, the state's chief election officer.

In his proclamation, Abbott listed the nine of 10 proposed amendments that passed in the Nov. 5 constitutional amendment election. The one that did not pass, and therefore not included in the proclamation, was Proposition 1, the proposed constitutional amendment allowing a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time.

Complete results of the election are available at sos.texas.gov and analyses of proposed constitutional amendments are available from the Legislative Research Library of Texas at lrl.texas.gov.

Data resource launches

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Nov. 29 announced an online resource to update the public on response efforts regarding the Nov. 27 TPC Group Plant Explosion in Port Neches.

More than 20 federal, state, county and local government entities worked together in response to the explosion that resulted in three injuries and the release of butadiene, a petrochemical used in the manufacture of tires. The EPA and the TCEQ continue to be focused on providing the assistance and coordination needed to address on-site and off-site environmental impacts.

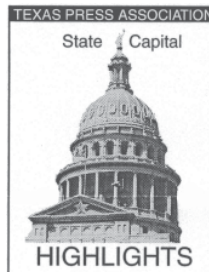
The resource, called Story Map, can be accessed online via epa.gov and tceq.texas.gov. Response actions, maps and photos are featured.

Revenue total is higher

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on Dec. 3 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$3.18 billion in November, 6.2 percent more than the amount

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



reported in November 2018.

Hegar said growth was led by collections from the wholesale trade, construction and restaurant sectors, while collections from the oil and gas mining sector declined from last year. Also, total sales tax revenue for the three months ending in November 2019 was up 4.8 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

The sales tax is the largest source of funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections.

Goal: Strengthen trade

Texas Secretary of State Ruth Hughs on Dec. 2 posted details about a recent cultural and economic trade mission to Japan hosted by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.

Attending with Hughs were Texas business and workforce development leaders. The group met with Nakayama Norihiro, Japan's parliamentary vice minister of foreign affairs, and representatives of Toyota Motor Corporation, Daiwa House Group, Omron Industrial Automation, Japanese External Trade Organization, Japanese Business Foundation and Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

"As one of the Lone Star State's largest trade partners, it is vital that we not only maintain, but continually strengthen our relationship with Japan," said

Hughs, who serves as chief international protocol officer for Texas.

"By working collaboratively to promote opportunities for cultural exchange and economic growth, both Texas and Japan stand to mutually benefit," Hughs added.

Disaster hearings are set

The Texas General Land Office on Dec. 6 announced three regional public hearings on the state's plan for distributing some \$4.3 billion in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds for Hurricane Harvey recovery purposes.

The hearings, which also will address flood disasters that occurred in 2015 and 2016, are set for Dec. 9 in Dallas, Dec. 10 in the Rio Grande Valley and Dec. 11 in Houston.

"Hurricane Harvey was a storm of historic proportions, with more than \$100 billion in property damage and immeasurable disruption to the lives of Texans," Land Commissioner George P. Bush said. "Many communities in Texas have faced repeated flooding, including the 2015 and 2016 floods. With this action plan, the GLO will prioritize large-scale projects to maximize available infrastructure funding to improve the resiliency of Texas homes, businesses and infrastructure from future storms."

The plan has been published for public comment on the GLO's recovery website at recovery.texas.gov/public-notices/index.html.

Abbott extends declaration

Gov. Abbott on Nov. 27 extended his Aug. 23, 2017, disaster proclamation and subsequent amendments to it, certifying that Hurricane Harvey still poses a threat of imminent disaster for 60 counties.

The proclamation states that due to catastrophic damage caused by the hurricane, a state of disaster continues to exist in those counties, and it authorizes use of all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster.

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
How is everything going? I'm good at helping and math. Thank you for the stuff you gave me I liked to play with them. I had my hart on a faseblade. If I got it I will be happy. Merry Christmas.
Tate White, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? I hope you are doing well. I am doing good in reading I really need to try harder in math. Thank you for the gifts last year. This year I would like to have a LoL doll's and I will share it to my friend's and I will like to have a alppe watch and I really need it to call my mom when something goes wrong so pls.
Zoeybeth Valencia, 9 years old

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I hope you had a great year! I have been good I only got a couple conduct marks better than last year. Thank you for the presents last year I would like a nurf gun bullets and a nededo. If I got that my heart would be blown up. Merry Christmas.
Brycen Schroden, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
How is everything going? I've been helping my mom. I really love the ipad. This year I would like a xbox one. I would love it! Merry Christmas!
Lane Landree, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
I hope your doing well! I will be on my best behavior. Thank you for the gifts you gave me last year. I would love a phone and it will make me so happy. Merry Christmas Santa.
Madelyn Sebren, 9 years old

Dear Santa,
I would like cupcakes and cake and a pex fish and cookies and a new backpack and a doll-house.
Zady bejarano, 9 years old

Dear Santa,
I would like an Nintendo switch, Minecraft toys, phone, super Mario toys, Sonick toys, Lost Kiteets toys. I have been relly good this year. I helped my with chohes.
Anthony C., 8 years old

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? I hope you are doing well! I have improved a lot! I have good grades! Thank you for the dool you got me! This year I hope for a baby a live! I would share it a lot! And it would fill my hart with joy. Merry Christmas!
Kyndra Thompson, 9 years old

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? I tried to do my best and I did king of good. Thank you for the Xbox 1 last year. This year can I get some books and Legos. And I will be really really happy! Merry Christmas!
Keegan Mcgee, 9 years old

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Founded in 1977 by Vic & Donna Mauldin
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Published each Tuesday by GrafikPress Corp. Any erroneous statement which may appear will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher. Liability for errors is limited to the reprinting of the corrected version. Submissions are encouraged, in person, by mail, by Fax, or by email, to nnewsroom@aol.com

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Keep East Aldine Clean & Green!

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Texans need to be wary of Bucs: Cowboys, Eagles meet for NFC East title

Just when you thought the Texans had turned the corner and were ready to be considered a viable contender in the AFC, they fell on their face with an embarrassing 38-24 home loss to at the time a four-win Denver team.

The week before the Denver debacle, the Bill O'Brien recorded his biggest regular season victory as Houston's head coach when his team defeated the defending Super Bowl champions in prime time in front of a national television audience.

And what did the Texans do for an encore? They allowed a rookie quarterback making just his second NFL start pick them apart and run out to a 31-3 halftime lead to take the wind out of Texans' fans sails.

That loss is all on O'Brien. Anyone who watched that farce could tell the Texans were simply going through the motions. They probably figured they had the game won before it began, but like the old saying goes, on any given Sunday, anything can and will happen in the NFL.

The Denver loss, coupled with Tennessee's 42-21 win at Oakland, left the two teams tied atop the AFC South. The Texans played at Tennessee last Sunday and could very well enter this week's game at Tampa Bay in second place a game out with two to play in the 2019 regular season.

Houston hosts Tennessee in Week 17 at NRG Stadium in what could very well be a winner-take-all game, but first the Texans need to take care of business against a Tampa Bay team that can be dangerous on offense behind turnover-prone quarterback Jameis Winston.

While the Texans travel to Tampa, the Titans host a New Orleans that suffered a tough 48-46 loss to San Francisco two weeks ago in the regular season game of the year. The Saints are still in contention for a first round bye, but need to win out and hope Seattle or the 49ers lose at least one more game in the last two weeks of the season.

The NFC East race could very well be decided on Sunday when the Cowboys visit Philadelphia. Both teams have struggled lately as Dallas lost at Chicago two weeks ago and the Eagles had to rally at home to beat a two-win Giants team in overtime to keep their division hopes alive.

Other interesting games this week have the Bills facing a struggling New England team in Foxborough, while the resurgent Rams travel to San Francisco with hopes of pulling off the upset and remaining in the NFC Wild Card hunt. The Sunday Night Football game has the Chiefs visiting Chicago and there's a good one on Monday Night Football as the Packers visit Minnesota in a key NFC North contest.

In the amateur ranks, the College Football Playoff (CFP) is set with No. 1 LSU facing No. 4 Oklahoma in the Peach Bowl and No. 2 Ohio State facing No. 3 Clemson, and the defending national champion, in the Fiesta Bowl. OU got in thanks to its overtime win over Baylor in the Big 12 title game and Oregon's route of Utah in the Pac 12 title game.

As the bowl games move closer, we'll preview them, but these next two weeks will be devoted to the NFL's final two weeks.

Before we take a look at Week 16, let's review last week's record. A 6-6 mark (thanks Texans, Cowboys and Patriots!) brought the season record to 107-55 (66%).

Now, onto this weekend's game.

NFL

Houston at Tampa Bay - The Texans and Bucs kick off a Saturday tripleheader in a game Houston must win. Enough has been said about the disappointing Denver game, so it's time to focus on the future for O'Brien's team. Look for quarterback Deshaun Watson (3,425 yards, 24 TDs) and wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (93 receptions, 1,023 yards, 7 TDs) to have a big day against a suspect Bucs defense. Winston (4,115 yards, 26 TDs) and wide receiver Chris Godwin (81 receptions, 1,212 yards, 9 TDs) could do the same against a Houston secondary that was shredded by a rookie QB two weeks ago. My pick, Houston

31, Tampa Bay 26

Buffalo at New England - The middle game of the tripleheader pits Buffalo against a New England team that is having issues on offense, but then again, so are the Bills. Two weeks ago, Buffalo lost at home to Baltimore, 24-17 as quarterback Josh Allen (2,737 yards, 17 TDs) struggled against a quality defense. That could very well be the case again this week when he takes on a New England defense that is one of the better units in the league this year. It's the NE offense that needs to step things up. Two weeks ago, Tom Brady and Co. could only muster one touchdown against the Chiefs in a 23-16 loss, which was New England's second straight. I'm sure Brady (3,437 yards, 19 TDs) and Julian Edelman (90 receptions, 1,010 yards, 6 TDs) righted the ship last week against the Bengals, but they will face a much better opponent when they face a very good Buffalo defense. Look for the Patriots to get the running game going to help open up the passing game for Brady as the Pats send the Bills packing on their way to another AFC East title. My pick, New England 26, Buffalo 16

Los Angeles Rams at San Francisco - The Saturday tripleheader concludes on Sunday night with a good one as the Rams visits the 49ers in a key NFC West contest for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Rams picked up their second impressive win with a 28-12 thumping of Seattle on Sunday night, while the 49ers won a thrilling 48-46 decision at New Orleans. This could turn into another shootout as the Rams Jared Goff (3,712 yards, 15 TDs) and Jimmy Garoppolo (3,245 yards, 25 TDs) will be throwing the ball all over the field. Goff will be looking to hook up with Cooper Kupp (77 receptions, 990 yards, 7 TDs) and the speedy Robert Woods (71 receptions, 933 yards, 1 TD), while Jimmy G



will be looking to make plays with tight end George Kittle (60 receptions, 754 yards, 4 TDs) and Deebo Samuel (47 receptions, 640 yards, 3 TDs). The 49ers proved in the New Orleans game that they are a resilient team and look for their grit to be the difference maker in this one as the 49ers close in on the NFC West title. My pick, San Francisco 31, Los Angeles Rams 28

New Orleans at Tennessee - As reported earlier, the Saints lost a tough one at home to the 49ers two weeks ago, but not because of quarterback Drew Brees (2,140 yards, 17 TDs). Brees threw five touchdowns and ran for another in the two-point loss and this week they face another stern test against one of the hottest teams in the league. Since head coach Mike Vrabel inserted Ryan Tannehill (1,993 yards, 15 TDs) as the starting quarterback, the Titans have won six of their last seven heading into last Sunday's game against the Texans. Running back Derrick Henry (1,243 yards, 13 TDs) has also been a factor and look for him to attack the Saints early to soften up the secondary. Rookie wide receiver A.J. Brown (39 receptions, 779 yards, 6 TDs) gives the Titans a deep threat they haven't had in quite awhile. In their 42-21 win at Oakland two weeks ago, Brown caught five passes for 153 yards and two touchdowns, one covering 91 yards. You can bet the Saints secondary will be aware of Brown come Sunday. Brees has a pretty good weapon in wide receiver Michael Thomas (121 receptions, 1,424 yards, 7

TDs), who is getting close to breaking the single season reception record held by former Colt Marvin Harrison. It would help the Saints if they could get a big day from running back Alvin Kamara (612 rushing yards, 1 TD/68 receptions, 462 yards, 1 TD), who has struggled a bit this year. I think this is the week Kamara explodes as the Saints pick up a big road victory. My pick, New Orleans 30, Tennessee 26

Pittsburgh at New York Jets - The Steelers will be looking to hold onto one of the two AFC Wild Cards slots with a win against the Jets. Pittsburgh is getting it done with a stout defense that has done a great job of forcing turnovers. Rookie quarterback Delvin "Duck" Hodges (682 yards, 4 TDs) isn't flashy, but has been making key plays since he took over the starting QB job three weeks ago. The Jets have been playing better lately, but look for Mike Tomlin's defense to be the difference maker in this one as the Steelers close in on a playoff berth. My pick, Pittsburgh 23, New York Jets 16

Carolina at Indianapolis - The Panthers visit Indianapolis looking to play out the season as owner Mike Tepper begins looking for a new head coach after he fired Ron Rivera two weeks ago. The Colts' playoff hopes took a big hit two weeks ago when they lost at Tampa Bay, but they are still technically alive, so look for quarterback Jacoby Brissett (2,496 yards, 18 TDs) to have his team ready to face Christian McCaffrey (1,120 rushing yards, 12 TDs/86

receptions, 726 yards, 4 TDs) and the porous Panther defense. My pick, Indianapolis 31, Carolina 17

Arizona at Seattle - Two weeks ago, Seattle fell to the Rams 28-12, which put a crimp in their NFC West title hopes. Look for Russell Wilson (3,422 yards, 26 TDs), running back Chris Carson (1,057 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Tyler Lockett (67 receptions, 874 yards, 6 TDs) to take it to Tyler Murray (3,060 yards, 16 TDs) and the Cardinals, as the Seahawks will make it a miserable day for the visitors from Arizona. My pick, Seattle 34, Arizona 16

Dallas at Philadelphia - The Cowboys and Eagles meet for the NFC East title on Sunday in Philly. Both teams entered the season with high hopes, but mid season slumps by both squads have fans questioning their head coaches and front office personnel. Two weeks ago, the Cowboys lost at Chicago on Thursday night as once again the offense bogged down after a good start. Quarterback Dak Prescott (4,122 yards, 24 TDs), running back Ezekiel Elliott (1,071 yards, 9 TDs) and Amari Cooper (71 receptions, 1,154 yards, 8 TDs) and the offensive line are just too talented to be stalling as much as they do. They face an Eagles defense that is beat up and can be thrown on. Look for Prescott to come out firing the ball to set up Elliott to wear down the Philly front seven. Dallas has struggled on defense lately, and Eagles QB Carson Wentz (3,165 yards, 22 TDs) and tight end Zach Ertz (79 receptions, 827 yards, 5 TDs) should have a field day against the Dallas linebackers. Ertz caught two touchdown passes two weeks ago in the Eagles' 23-17 overtime victory over the Giants, but I have a feeling Jason Garrett's team will rise to the occasion on the road as the Cowboys look to pick up their second straight NFC East title. My pick, Dallas 24, Philadelphia 20

Kansas City at Chicago -

The Chiefs face the Bears on Sunday Night Football in what should be a competitive contest. Two weeks ago, the Chiefs picked up a hard-earned win at New England, while the Bears overcame an early deficit to take down the Cowboys. The Chiefs have been playing better on defense and that might be bad news for the rest of the AFC because everybody knows what KC is capable of doing on offense with Patrick Mahomes (3,266 yards, 21 TDs), tight end Travis Kelce (75 receptions, 989 yards, 4 TDs) and speedy wide receiver Tyreek Hill (44 receptions, 600 yards, 4 TDs). Chicago has a good defense, but Mahomes and Co. will be too much for them on Sunday night. My pick, Kansas City 26, Chicago 18

Green Bay at Minnesota - Week 16 ends with a good one on Monday Night Football as the Packers visit the Vikings, with the NFC North title hanging in the balance. Two weeks ago, Aaron Rodgers (3,260 yards, 23 TDs) and the Packers were lethargic in their 20-15 home win over Washington, while the Vikings took care of business against the Lions at home. Rodgers will need a big game from running back Aaron Jones (779 yards, 15 TDs) and wide receiver Davante Adams (56 receptions, 685 yards, 3 TDs), but that might be tough against a very good Vikings defense. Conversely, Minnesota QB Kirk Cousins (3,274 yards, 24 TDs) will lean on running back Dalvin Cook (1,108 yards, 13 TDs) to soften up the GB defense so he can make plays down field to Stefan Diggs (56 receptions, 997 yards, 5 TDs). If fellow wide receiver Adam Thielen returns after missing four games with a hamstring injury, that could be a huge advantage for the Vikings. I think the home field also comes into play here as the Vikings tie the Packers for the division lead on Monday night. My pick, Minnesota 24, Green Bay 20

Posting Date December 16, 2019

Amber Waves



R.F.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with clues and difficulty level: Moderate. Includes instructions: 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.

HOCUS-FOCUS



King Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Grill fill, 6 Easily split rock, 12 Give in, 13 Beer gut, 14 Fitting, 15 "Camelot" role, 16 First victim, 17 Bullets and such, 19 Big bother, 20 Director, 22 Unruly group, 24 Trouble, 27 Taj Mahal city, 29 "Mis-behavin'", 32 New Orleans neighborhood, 35 Criterion, 36 Yanks, 37 Sauce source, 38 That girl, 40 Send forth, 42 Raw rock, 44 Sheltered, 46 Capri, e.g., 50 Swiss city, 52 Country, 54 TV's Superman portrayer, 55 Nasal qualities, 56 First-born, 57 Have a hunch, 11 "Comin' - the Rye", 12 Masseur's workplace, 18 Theater canopy, 21 Fond du --, Wis., 23 Scull need, 24 Sternward, 25 Anger, 26 Diminished, 28 Increases, 30 Ultramodernist, 31 Have a go at, 33 Ultimate, 34 "- was saying ...", 39 icicles' homes, 41 Saturn's largest moon, 42 Storybook baddie, 43 Stagger, 45 Survive, 47 Deadly septet, 48 Playgoers' box, 49 Type measures, 51 Previous night, 53 Shock and --

Trivia test

- 1. GOVERNMENT: When was the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency founded? 2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What gift arrives on the 10th day in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"? 3. MOVIES: What was the name of Shirley MacLaine's character in "Terms of Endearment"? 4. PERSONALITIES: At which sport did Babe Didrikson Zaharias excel in the 1940s? 5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How do baleen whales eat? 6. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Which early American statesman once said, "A good conscience is a continual Christmas"? 7. MUSIC: Which singer was nicknamed "The Material Girl" in the 1980s? 8. BIBLE: What was Moses' wife's name? 9. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with discovering X-rays? 10. MEDICAL: What does the Ishihara test gauge?

1. 1947; 2. Ten Lords-a-Leaping; 3. Aurora Greenway; 4. Goff; 5. Filtration; 6. Benjamin Franklin; 7. Madonna; 8. Zipper; 9. Wilhelm Roentgen; 10. Color blindness


Solution time: 24 mins.

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey—
 1. Is the book of Immanuel in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. Which Old Testament prophet said the most about the birth of Christ? Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah
 3. From Matthew 1:18 when Mary became pregnant, she and Joseph were ...? Married, Engaged, Just friends, Strangers

4. In Luke 2:8-11, how did the shepherds learn of Christ's birth? Magi informed, Joseph announcement, Mighty wind, Angel appearance
 5. Where did the wise men go first when they arrived in the Holy Land? Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron
 6. What does the Bible record as to when Jesus was born? Late September, Dec. 25, March 17, Does not
ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Isaiah; 3) Engaged; 4) Angel appearance; 5) Jerusalem; 6) Does not



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Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

LUKE 1:26, 27

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Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? Santa am I a Bad kid or a good kid? Thank you for the toy I want. Santa I want a bowling pin and a bowling ball toy.
Jazmine, 9 years old.

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? In school I act good I make a lot of friends and get good grades. Thank you for the piano last year. I really liked it. This year I want headphones to have a mic and maybe some legos and a ps4. I feel like I deserve it a little bit and if you got me what I wanted for Christmas I'd be filled with joy J.
Gabriel Palacios, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Clause doing? I am beign nice to my frins? Thank you for the Diary I like it? This year I wood want to have a Book. So I cam read The Book? Merry Christmas.
Greenlie, 9 years old

Dear Santa,
How is everten. I Ben good Tese yery Thank you For the Ten Thes yery I wont A Netonses Anow p6t.
Raul, 9 years old

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well! I have been getting AB honor roll and thank you for the phone you got me last year. And I would like a new phone this year and it would make me so happy. I would be grateful. Merry Christmas.
Alexiya Thomas, 9 years old

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
How are you And Mrs. Claus. I have been helping my mom A lot. Thank you for the things last year. I would like beybade Metal fusion toys. I would be 100% happy to get one. Thank you And Merry Christmas.
Eric Villareal, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I have been very good this year. I have been helping my mommy. Thank you for the bracelet last year. I really liked it. This year and I would love to have a Phone So I could call my mom. I would be thankful of joy.
Hayden McMurray Dreyer, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
I would like a new Nintendo swich game the game Donkong. And a Hoverboard. And a fish. And do notfall off the roof!!!
Anthony Delgado, 9 years old

Dear Santa,
I would like a New par of jeans and a New Small bed and a iPhone also a desk for my laptop and a chair. I have been really good this year I have been good because I say please and thank you to santa please and thank you.
Priscilla Lopez, 8 years old

Dear Santa,
I Well like a Nintendo swech and a ps5 with fortnite. I was graut.
Marcus Celestine, 9 years old

East Aldine holds Partner Awards Gala

Continued from Page 1

During the evening, eight awards were presented to individuals or organizations that were "strategic Partners" with the District.

The Chairman's Award, the major presentation of the evening, went to Gilbert Hoffman, publisher of the Northeast News since 1999. The newspaper has been an advocate for the District and its goals for the last 20 years. Hoffman thanked the district, and in his remarks made the point that many in the audience were the focus of the news due to their work in the Aldine area. The award was presented by Chairman Gerald Overturf, who kidded about his "brotherhood" with Hoffman.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Valencia Dotson for her work with educators and children.

The Community Award went to Dru Gutierrez, now on the board of the YMCA, and previously with Harris County.

The Public Safety Award was given to Westfield Fire Department for their service to the community since 1942.

The Governmental Award went to Sheriff's deputies Eleazar Agrait, Josue Herrera, and Ronnie Jones, for their efforts to make Aldine a safer place.

The Public Health Award went to Pastor Darryl Broussard, and his Greater Pure Light Church for their leadership in providing health fairs and other services.

The Business of the Year Award went to Manny's Mexican Grill & Seafood.

The Education Award went to Abel Garza, of the Aldine school district.

Guests were treated to two videos, one showing construction progress of the East Aldine Town Center, and the other a cartoon of the board dancing about in a Jib-Jab manner.



East Aldine Board Chairman Gerald Overturf introduced the newest member of the Aldine ISD board, Randy Bates, who spoke about his educational interests.



Dru Gutierrez was awarded the Community Award for the work he has done as a board member of the Aldine-Greenspoint YMCA.



Pastor Darryl Broussard accepts the Public Health Award from Joyce Wiley, for the Health Fairs they have sponsored for the community.



The Public Safety Award went to the Westfield Fire Department for their service to the community, presented by Joyce Wiley.

Christian Student Union Toy Drive at Hambrick Middle School



Members of Hambrick Middle School Christian Student Union, along with sponsors Jennifer Reed, Linda Linzy, Viki Duncan and Mary Newsome, were able to collect toys for children during their annual Toy Drive.

The Hambrick Middle School Christian Student Union (CSU) sponsored a toy drive on December 9. The toy drive is an annual project taken on by this student-led organization

with a goal to collect toys for children so they can have gifts for the Christmas holiday. All of the donated toys will go to the Buckner Family Hope Center which is located next

door to Hambrick Middle School and has programs for children and families in the community. The toy drive was definitely a success with over 300 toys donated by the students and staff at Hambrick. This

event gave the students, and especially the members of CSU, the opportunity to be of service to the neighborhood in which they live; giving back in a way that would have a lasting impression.

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