

## Pct. 2 breaks ground for James Driver All-Inclusive Park



The official groundbreaking for the new James Driver Park took place last Wednesday, Dec. 16. Speaking at the ceremony were Harris County Pct. 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia, State Senator Carol Alvarado, and State Representative Armando Walle.

Built for people of all ages and abilities

Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia proudly broke ground on the expansion of James Driver Park last Wednesday. The expansion, the first of its kind in Precinct 2, will make James Driver Park an all-inclusive park, a regional destination for persons of all ages and abilities. Local community members and leaders, including Texas State Senator Carol Al-



Conceptual View shows the extensive development of the park, with facilities developed especially for people of all ages with limited abilities.

## Walle holds District 140 Virtual Town Hall Meeting

By GILBERT HOFFMAN

State Representative Armando Walle held a virtual Town Hall last Thursday night, by way of Facebook Live on the Internet. About 30 persons joined the session, to listen and chat. The session lasted for over an hour.

Walle covered legislation that affected conditions in his district, Texas HD140. He started by reviewing the accomplishments in the last session,



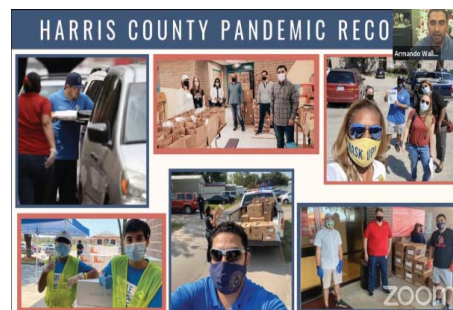
State Representative Armando Walle

the 86th that met in 2019. The next session, which occurs every two years, is due to start on January 12 of next year. The session will last 140 days, and set a state budget for the next two years.

Walle said that much of the focus in that session was on mitigating flooding, since Hurricane Harvey had just devastated much of the Gulf Coast counties. Locally severe flooding occurred in District 140, as well as other parts of

Houston and Harris County. Because Walle sits on the Budget committee, he was able to help get aid for local neighborhoods. \$13 million was appropriated for flood relief in Kingwood, for instance, and also help for HCC and Lone Star College. In all, the legislature voted \$2.1 Billion for Harvey relief, and an additional \$1.8 Billion for other flood mitiga-

See WALLE TOWN HALL, page 3



This slide from the Town Hall illustrates some of the Relief effort extended to families due to the COVID pandemic.

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### Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I want  
or a bish is a new  
byeclce of rainbow and  
new house for my toys  
for me and my little  
sister can play with the  
house.  
Melanie Nunez, 9,  
Oleson Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I wish for Christmas  
that I can go to the  
past and to see me  
grandpa so I can hug  
and I wish to have a  
cat for Christmas.  
Brianna Romero, 10,  
Oleson Elementary.

Dear Santa,  
What I ask for  
Christmas is a kit for  
bracelets because all  
of my stuff to do  
bracelets. I don't have  
anymore. That what I  
want thanks Santa for  
your time!  
Tania Mondragon  
Santana, 9, Oleson  
Elementary

Dear Santa,  
Hola Santa yo quiero un  
perro para jugar todos  
los dias , Santa te  
quiero mucho y que  
Dios te cuide mucho  
Santa eres bonito con  
todos los ninos  
y te quiero  
mucho santa  
cuidate mucho  
te quiero, que  
Dios te cuide.  
Franklin Jasue  
Orellana, 11,  
Oleson  
Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I want to tell you what  
I'd like for  
Christmas...I'd really  
like it if you cold bring  
these things: soccer  
ball, head phones,  
books, gaming chair,  
new controller, a clock,  
a pair of clothes, nerf  
gun, computer, a mic,  
magnet, Denis plusnies,  
Alex plushies, guitar,  
and a piano.  
Isaac Ramirez, 8,  
Oleson Elementary

Dear Santa,  
My name is Kristy I 8  
years old and I live in  
Houston very Far from  
the North Pole I really  
have been trying hard  
to do nice all year. Now  
I'm looking forward to  
Christmas and I want  
to tell you if you code  
bring me some uniceorn  
lamp.  
Kristy Cisneros, 8,  
Oleson Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I want a controlor for  
play with my ps4 and I  
want a phohz to play  
with my brother and  
sister.  
Christopher Gutierrez,  
10, Oleson Elementary

Dear Santa,  
Can you get me a line  
and red ciencs, mini  
soccer ball and soccer  
gloves please?  
Gabriel, 7 years old,  
Stephens Elementary

### Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
Ryan egg, T-rxe, super  
Mario toy, Legos glime,  
Batman hat, art book,  
ruler, glue, Batman  
socks.  
Joshua Strybelt, 7,  
Stephens Elementary

Dear Santa,  
Can I have a teed ber  
please and a new bikes  
and a Barbie and a  
computer and a toy  
phone.  
Mia Pineda, 7,  
Stephens Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I very to have a  
ps4 But I net a  
ps5 and my box  
play on ps4.  
Matthias, 7,  
Stephens  
Elementary

Dear Santa,  
This year I was a good  
as I can so this year I  
want a pair of yeesyis  
and may you give e a  
triopis kit? Also may  
you give me an sce-guz  
plush and a ps5?  
Jeremias, 8, Stephens  
Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I Want another sister  
because I don't have  
sister and last year I  
posed to these grate  
and I thankful God and  
my parents and my  
teachers and I love  
Ms. Zuniga.  
Jelenn Mendez, 10,  
Oleson Elementary

Dear Santa,  
Can I please nice for  
Christmas ps-1 love so  
much but December is  
the cool months of the  
year.  
Jacoby Gonzales, 8,  
Stephens Elementary

Dear Santa,  
All I want for  
Christmas I want a  
bike and a scooter and  
Last I want the show  
to come.  
Ray, 7, Stephens  
Elementary

Dear Santa,  
My name is Amy, I am  
8 year odd and I live  
very far from the  
North Pole, in Houston  
Texas. I want to tell  
you what I  
like for  
Christmas I  
really like it if  
you could  
bring me  
these things,  
slime, clay,  
Christmas  
book and  
Christmas  
doll.  
Amy Abrego,  
8, Oleson  
Elementary

**Season's Greetings**

**Harris County  
Department of  
Education**

**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  
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& Best Wishes  
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Christmas**  
from  
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MEAD**  
Aldine School Board &  
Optimist Club President  
Component Sales & Service  
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SEASON'S GREETINGS  
TO THE  
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Everyone  
in our Community  
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for the  
Holiday Season**

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NORTHEAST/BELTWAY 8

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**Happy  
Holidays**

Best Wishes to all the residents of Aldine  
and Northeast Houston  
Have a safe and prosperous New Year!

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**Best Wishes for a Safe  
and Happy Holiday**

**HARRIS COUNTY  
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**NEWS NOTES**

**Two HCPH Locations Offering Free COVID-19 Testing**

There are two stationary sites. At the M.O. Campbell Education Center in Aldine, children can also be tested. Hours are 6am-1pm. Register at [www.hcphtx.org](http://www.hcphtx.org) or call **832-927-7575**. For the Pasadena stationary site at San Jacinto Central Campus, people must be 13 or older to be tested and people can register at [www.doineeda-covid19test.com](http://www.doineeda-covid19test.com) or call **832-927-7575**.

**New ACCESS2Health Services now open**

Pct. 2 has installed a Medical Smart Pod office in the parking lot at the Northeast Community Center on Bentley. The public can get Free COVID-19 tests, and many other medical services. According to Dr. Bernice Koko of United Health Partners, all services are free and walk-ins are welcome, no appointment necessary.

**COVID-19 Cases as of December 15, 2020**

**HOUSTON AREA 19 COUNTIES**

**324,651 POSITIVE**  
**4,031 DEATHS**  
**275,467 RECOVERED**

**TEXAS**

**1,492,701 POSITIVE**  
**24,445 DEATHS**  
**1,185,628 RECOVERED**

**UNITED STATES**

**16,598,094 POSITIVE**  
**302,046 DEATHS**  
**5,714,557 RECOVERED**

**WORLDWIDE**

**73,211,434 POSITIVE**  
**1,629,792 DEATHS**  
**41,469,858 RECOVERED**

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**Letters to Santa**

\*\*\*

Dear Santa, I want a dounot white frosting with rainbow sprikels and a candel, amogus plushy, and a wish is that we play amogus to school, and for 100 tiktes a toy plushy, some chips, and a cherry slushy from sonic.  
Brianna Gomez, 11, Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*

Dear Santa, For Christmas I will like a skateboard. Because I have bin practicing with my cuzinz skateboard. Know I think I am good at skateboarding. And I will like having my own skateboard.  
Sopia Guzman, 9, Oleson Elementary

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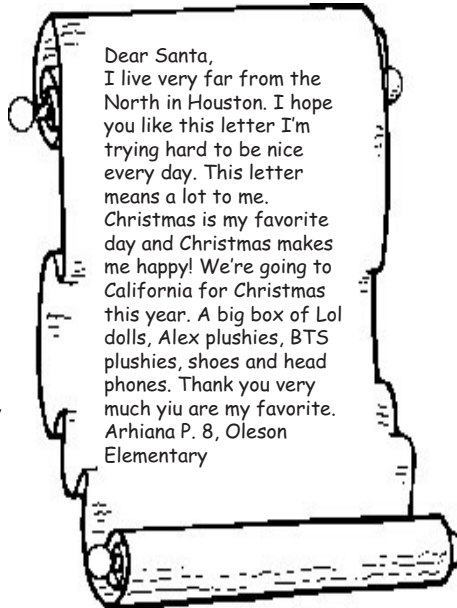
Dear Santa, For Christmas I would like a pet dog chow chow dog color white, please and thank you if you get me it.  
Auareee Esquivel, 10, Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*

Dear Santa, I wish for this world to end and this virus because I want everyone to be safe and healthy and not go out too much and I wish for peace and 2020 to end.  
Melany A. Oavedo, 10, Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*

Dear Santa, I want a Pc and I want a dog.  
Oswaldo Cramona, 10, Oleson Elementary



Dear Santa, I live very far from the North in Houston. I hope you like this letter I'm trying hard to be nice every day. This letter means a lot to me. Christmas is my favorite day and Christmas makes me happy! We're going to California for Christmas this year. A big box of Lol dolls, Alex plushies, BTS plushies, shoes and head phones. Thank you very much yiu are my favorite.  
Arhiana P. 8, Oleson Elementary

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Dear Santa, I wish for some stuff. The first thing I want is new joy-cons for my Nintendo, and a bunch of legos. The most important thing I want is peace to people.  
Gerardo Sanchez Jr., 10, Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*

Dear Santa, Today I've been good for all day long, and for my gifts I want a beyblade (rock dragon) and I want a ps5 (Spider man) miles morales.  
Jeremiah, 9, Oleson Elementary

Dear Santa, I've been wanting a long time to write you the letter and I'm looking forward to Christmas and New Year eve too.  
Isaiah Salinas, 8, Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*

Dear Santa, For Christmas I would like a toy and that toy is named mini brands I want 3 balls of those and another thing and that thing is called I want bows because I love bows a lot and that is it thank you.  
Maria Duarte, 9, Oleson Elementary

\*\*\*

Dear Santa, What I want for Christmas is xbox1 and a card with ten dollars only cable using ir for games.  
William Garza, 11, Oleson Elementary

Dear Santa, For Christmas I only wNT few things. I want confetti vans, flower white vans, and blue slide on's. I also want Ago Pro water proof, and to go fix my James Avery Charm bracelet, and a new Christmas charm. Love, Valeria. P.S. White sock snow man.

...

Dear Santa, I want PJ masks toys, City PJ mask jump suit, PJ Jacket shears. All PJ mask roller skates.  
Love Danny, 5 years old

Dear Santa, For Christmas I want or a wish is a new byecle of rainbow (arcoiris) and new house for my toys for me and my little sister can play with the house.  
Melanie Nunez, 9, Oleson Elementary

**Pct. 2 breaks ground for Driver All-Inclusive Park**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Conceptual View of the Splash Pad and the All-Inclusive equipment.



Conceptual View of the extensive development of the 29 acre park.

varado and Texas State Representative Armando Walle, celebrated the exciting occasion at the park on Wednesday, December 16th.

"We have to make sure that we recognize the fact that people, children in particular, with physical and cognitive disabilities are among the largest underrepresented minority groups in the Houston/Harris County area, and we need to do more for them," said Commissioner Adrian Garcia. "This park will be addressing an entire spectrum of special needs – a space where chil-

dren with disabilities can play alongside with friends and siblings, as well as their parents, caregivers, physical therapists, educators, or even physicians."

The \$7.6 million project, has already been recognized as having an important role in the county. Texas Parks and Wildlife awarded the park a \$1.5 million grant to transform James Driver Park to a space for residents of all ages and abilities to exercise, socialize, and play. Located in an underserved part of Harris County, this expansion project should also help to revitalize the

surrounding community and will serve as a destination to visitors of the city.

"One of the things that this park will do is provide opportunities for other children who grew up just like us. If it weren't for these parks, we would not have a place to go hangout, to go play basketball, to come bring family members that may have special needs," said Representative Walle, an Aldine area native.

The expansion will include an improved and widened walking trail that will accommodate people

in wheelchairs, a playground specially designed for people of all abilities, both physical and cognitive, an outdoor gaming and fitness area featuring bocce, shuffleboard, chess tables, corn hole, bean bag toss and fitness equipment. It will also include a misting area and plenty of shade to providing relief from the heat, covered dining space and outdoor picnic areas, sensory garden featuring indigenous perennials, an event lawn and pavilion for musical and other entertainment, and so much more!

"This [park] will be put

to good use for generations and generations to come. The kids are going to be able to feel welcome, to feel at home, to feel safe, and this is just another jewel in the cap of Precinct 2," said Senator Alvarado.

Construction is expected to be complete in the Summer of 2021. For more information on the project, visit: <https://hcp2.com/All-Inclusive-Park>.

James Driver Park, a 29-acre park and community center located in northeast Houston along US Highway 59 with plenty of premier greenspace to create the premiere park.

**Walle holds District 140 Virtual Town Hall Meeting**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion. The total two year budget that passed was about \$250 Billion. As a member of the budget committee, Walle helped pass \$6.5 Billion for public schools, of which \$2 Billion went for teachers' raises, and all-day Pre-School.

Another priority for Walle was support and funding for parks within the district. He was able to get dollars for rehab, maintenance and expansion of the area parks. These included \$3 Million for Squatty Lyons Park (with matching funds from the city), \$1 Million for Keith-Wiess park so that it could connect with the East Aldine Town Center, \$1 Million for Melrose Park (with a match from Pct. 1 Rod-

ney Ellis), and \$1.5 Million for construction of an All-Inclusive rehab of James Drive Park.

Walle also sits on the important Redistricting Committee, which will be drawing new lines to define districts for 3 new Congressmen for the site of Texas, expected from the 2020 Census.

Next Walle spoke at length about the COVID19 pandemic, and how it had affected every aspect of life. As appointed Recovery Czar for Harris County, he said he spends a great deal of time meeting and helping resolve public health issues. He explained how COVID had affected Food insecurity, Housing stability, and the so-called Digital Divide, where families

don't have internet or don't have enough devices for everyone that needs them. Government funds for free lunches, and rental assistance have helped the former, and a county program to provide \$30 million toward digital facilities has helped. He noted that in Aldine, 80% of the children qualify for food assistance or free lunches.

Walle said that twice a week he is on a conference call with healthcare leaders in the county, planning ways to combat or alleviate the virus. He noted that cases of the virus are still high, that the Texas Medical Center reported a 9% increase in admissions since last week, and the rate of positive cases is cur-

rently 8.4%, much too high.

When the 87th Legislative Session starts in January, Walle says the priorities will be Food Insecurity, Housing Stability, Public Health, and Consumer Protection. Although the state income is down, due to the pandemic, he thinks it can be made up by using reserve funds and additional federal programs.

Food Security issues include funding Food Banks, and streamlining the SNAP program to improve work requirements and job training. For Housing Security, Walle would require that apartment tenants be informed of flood dangers, and ban evictions during disasters

and public health emergencies. In Public Health he would pass strict controls on Concrete plants, expand Medicaid coverage for mothers, and accept federal monies to get a 90/10 share of funds in the ACA program. Consumer Protection legislation would limit payday lenders' collection practices, and bar negative credit reporting due to COVID.

Walle acknowledged each participant at the Town Hall by name, and answered many of their chat questions or comments. The format of using Facebook Live seemed to work quite well, and no doubt Walle will use this for reports from Austin in the next few months.

OPINION PAGE

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-20,  
King James Version

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



2: (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)  
3: And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.  
4: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.)  
5: To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.  
6: And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.  
7: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger: because there was no room for them in the inn.  
8: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.  
9: And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shined 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.



A ROCKEFELLER CENTER CHRISTMAS TREE

THE POSTSCRIPT  
By Carrie Classon

“Midcentury Modern Christmas”

“I’ve forgotten the funny name of the tree you helped us pick out,” my mother said. “Our tree this year is named Melinda.”

The greenhouse where my parents get their Christmas tree every year has festive tags hanging from the trees with their names and prices. These are not inexpensive trees, so it’s fitting they are all individually christened. My mother likes to support this local business — and they do have nice trees.

“Caleb. The tree I picked out with you was named Caleb.”

We both agreed Caleb was a silly name for a Christmas tree, although I wasn’t sure Melinda was a whole lot better.

Christmas trees are a matter of strict personal taste. I know people who had one-too-many years of needles in the carpeting and became artificial tree owners forever after. Then there are people who insist you need a live tree — but it doesn’t count unless you cut it yourself.

My husband, Peter, bought the house we live in before we met. It was built in 1955 and Peter was born in the ‘50s, so when I moved in, both the house and its owner had a midcentury modern vibe, and I was fine with that. We have midcentury modern dishes and lamps and furniture. But I draw the line at a midcentury modern Christmas tree.

Peter has a Christmas tree from the ‘50s that is made entirely of aluminum. It is pokey and shiny and Peter thinks it is wonderful. “It matches the house perfectly!” Peter says.

That may be, but it doesn’t look like Christmas to me.

So, last year, I went downtown looking for a tree. There was a lot filled with perfectly coiffed trees that would have put Melinda or Caleb to shame, but they were exorbitantly priced — and they didn’t even have names. The fellow selling them seemed to have come from a background in car sales.

“So, what kind of tree did you have in mind?” he asked me.

“One that doesn’t cost more than two weeks’ worth of groceries!” I wanted to say.

Instead, I went looking for the second, less-fancy lot in town, but it was hard to find. I got directions twice and drove around in circles until I finally saw a half-dozen straggly trees poking up over an embankment. I drove down into the deserted parking lot and there was a spindly bunch of trees, all of them over 10 feet tall. A sign was posted nearby. “Family Emergency — Pay at Hair Salon.”

I went across the street and, sure enough, the proprietor of the tree business had been called away and the trees were all being sold for a fixed price — any size. I gave my money to the hairstylist, picked out a gangly tree, and strapped it to my car.

When I got home, I cut four feet off the bottom, put it in the tree stand and saw ... it was perfect.

This year, once again, we will be home for the holidays and, unlike last year, I don’t expect anyone will see our tree except Peter and me. And I don’t care.

I’m headed downtown today, to the lot with the disreputable-looking trees. Peter will cluck his tongue and say something about the perfectly good aluminum tree he has stashed away in a box somewhere. But he’ll be a good sport (as he always is) while I decorate my midcentury modern home for Christmas and smell the fresh spruce.

This year, I might even give my tree a name. I’m thinking of naming it Peter.

Till next time,  
Carrie

Carrie Classon’s memoir is called, “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com)

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS  
By Chris Cobler



U.S. Supreme Court rejects Texas AG’s lawsuit

Supreme Court rejects Texas AG’s lawsuit

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear a lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton challenging the results of the presidential election.

President Donald Trump and 17 Republican attorneys generals had joined the lawsuit, which asked the Supreme Court to toss out the elections in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. The lawsuit claimed the states “exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to justify ignoring federal and state election laws and unlawfully enacting last-minute changes, thus skewing the results of the 2020 General Election.”

Texas Democrats accused Paxton of filing the lawsuit to distract voters from his own legal problems. More than 100 Republican members of Congress signed an amicus brief supporting the Texas lawsuit.

Sen. John Cornyn, the senior Texas Republican, did not. He told CNN that “I frankly struggle to understand the legal theory of it. No. 1, why would a state, even such a great state as Texas, have a say-so on how other states administer their elections? We have a diffused and dispersed system and even though we might not like it, they may think it’s unfair, those are decided at the state and local level and not at the national level.”

Shining less bright

The Texas Education Agency partially extinguished STAAR for this school year because of the pandemic. The agency said the A-F ratings would be paused for 2020-21 school year because of the disruptions to learning. Students still will take the STAAR test to provide information about individual learning. “The last nine

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



HIGHLIGHTS  
By Chris Cobler

months have been some of the most disruptive of our lives.

The challenges have been especially pronounced for our parents, teachers and students,” Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said in a statement. “We continue to prioritize the health and safety of students, teachers and staff in our schools this year while working to ensure students grow academically.”

The Texas State Teachers Association, which has opposed the standardized testing, said the TEA’s decision didn’t go far enough. “Teachers already can tell parents how their children have been performing during this school year,” the teachers union said in a statement. “All the STAAR test will do is what it always has done: Measure a student’s ability to take a test. And it will force teachers, who already are working long hours adapting lesson plans for virtual and in-person instruction, to waste invaluable time on STAAR preparation and administration.”

COVID black market

Federal agents seized more than 100,000 counterfeit N95 surgical masks being stored in an El Paso warehouse. The fake masks, likely made in China, were headed to a hospital on the East

Coast, officials said.

The raid was conducted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. ICE launched Operation Stolen Promise in April to protect U.S. consumers from fraud and other crime stemming from the pandemic.

The federal agency warns “that high public demand for access to vaccines and treatments will lead to illegal attempts to introduce counterfeit versions of these items into U.S. and global marketplaces.”

In response, Homeland Security has started Operation Stolen Promise 2.0, which focuses on this emerging public health threat. Officials urged the public to report suspected fraud involving counterfeit vaccines and treatments to [covid19fraud@dhs.gov](mailto:covid19fraud@dhs.gov).

Fewer surprises

Texans’ complaints about surprise medical bills are down 96% through the first 10 months of the year, according to a new report from the Texas Department of Insurance.

In 2019, the Texas Legislature enacted a law to address the problem of surprise medical billing. The law removed consumers who have state-regulated plans, making up about 20 percent of residents, from billing disputes between health care providers and insurance plans.

The protections took effect in January. An agency spokesman provided highlights of the report: In the 10 months, the state agency received 37 consumer complaints about such medical bills. That compares to 854 such complaints received from January through October 2019.

Most of the 2020 complaints involved confusion about coinsurance amounts or concerned health plans not regulated by the agency. The new law enables providers and plans to resolve billing disputes through arbitration and mediation. The state agency, which helps carry out the law, established an online portal to enter the system and built a list of certified arbitrators and mediators.

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at [ccobler@texaspress.com](mailto:ccobler@texaspress.com).

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
I want a unicorn star bely team lion. A soirees for my DS lite. A big unicorn plushy. A Mario game and a toy Soward. Also a beautiful princess dress, a happy napper, a megnic dress set.  
Thank you, Phoenix Morrison

Dear Santa,  
I want goldPIZ and Amoog US plusher PIZ. I been good and a GOPICO  
And a tank

Dear Santa,  
This is With. I want for Christmas Jessica. Twins baby dolls, stroller, play laptop, prissce dress-up kit, baby close, baby toy high chair, baby shoes, baby diaper bag with lotto room, kids fake nail not glue on, a reborn toy box, 10 baby bottles, hanger for a baby close

Dear Santa,  
Toy Ice cream shop • My sisters list:  
A big toy car for outside. A toy shop a whole set bubbles, toy frog crayons. A new switch, new canceler batteries, over watch the game and holo 5 on my Xbox. This is what we want, Santa

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## SPORTS PAGE

# NFL season is winding down: Time for Texans to sit Watson?

Two weeks remain in the 2020 NFL season and there is still much to be decided in Week 16 and Week 17.

One thing is for sure, Texas' NFL franchises are going nowhere in 2020 and will go into their respective offseasons with a lot of questions to answer. In Houston, who will be the new general manager and head coach? Will J.J. Watt be traded for badly needed draft picks? In Dallas, will owner Jerry Jones sign quarterback Dak Prescott to a long-term contract or place the franchise tag on him to make sure he can return after that ghastly ankle injury he sustained in Week 5 against the Giants? Cowboy fans are also wondering why Jones would bring back head coach Mike McCarthy who has been anything but inspiring in his first year on the job.

While the Cowboys and Texans look ahead to 2021, folks in Green Bay, New Orleans, Kansas City, Pittsburgh and others are thinking about the postseason and a trip to Tampa and Raymond James Stadium, the site of Super Bowl 55.

While the country will be celebrating the holidays this weekend, the NFL will focus on the business at hand. Commissioner Roger Goodell is giving NFL fans the gift of football starting on Christmas Day when Minnesota visits New Orleans. On Saturday, there will be a triple header and the holiday weekend will conclude on Monday Night Football when the Buffalo Bills will travel to New England to bring an end to the Patriots reign as owners of the AFC East Division.

The Texans host Cincinnati and the biggest intrigue is whether or not the team will shut down quarterback Deshaun Watson (3,761 yards, 25 TDs) for the rest of the season to keep him from suffering a serious injury. Two weeks ago in the team's 36-7 loss at Chicago, Watson took a lot of abuse. Maybe it's time to sit down the talented signal caller and start looking ahead to next season.

The Dolphins visit Las Vegas on Saturday night in an important game for both teams. The winner remains in the AFC Wild Card race, while the loser will need a lot of help to qualify for the post season. The Colts visit the suddenly-struggling Steelers on Sunday afternoon, while the Rams visit Seattle with the NFC West title at stake. Sunday Night Football should be a good one as Tennessee visits Green Bay. The Packers wrapped up the NFC North two weeks ago with a win at Detroit, but they are still in contention for the top seed in the NFC, so don't expect the Packers to take this one lightly.

Before we take a look at those games and a handful of others, let's review last week's record. A 4-3 week brought the season record 92-46 (68%).

Before we take a look at this weekend's games, I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2020 can't end soon enough! Let's hope 2021 is a much better year.

## NFL

**Minnesota at New Orleans:** The Vikings and Saints will meet in New Orleans on Christmas Day in an important game for both teams. Two weeks ago, the Vikings lost at Tampa Bay to badly hurt their playoff chances, while the Saints were upset at Philadelphia, which prevented Sean Payton's team from clinching the NFC South title. Vikings QB Kirk Cousins



**KEENE'S  
KORNER**  
By  
**MIKE KEENEY**

ins (3,298 yards, 27 TDs) and running back Dalvin Cook (1,352 yards, 14 TDs) will face a Saints defense that was embarrassed rookie quarterback Jalen Hurts two weeks ago. The NO defense recorded no sacks and gave up 24 points to the first-time starter. Don't be surprised if Drew Brees returns at quarterback for the Saints. That should be good news for running back Alvin Kamara (723 rushing yards, 10 TDs/77 receptions, 694 yards, 4 TDs), who thrives in the passing game with Brees on the field. Look for the Saints to make it a Merry Christmas for their fans. My pick, New Orleans 31, Minnesota 23

**Miami at Las Vegas:** As stated earlier, this is an important game for both teams. They each need to win to remain alive in the AFC Wild Card hunt. Two weeks ago, the Dolphins dropped a tough 33-27 decision at home to the Chiefs, while the Raiders were blown out at home by the Colts, 44-27. Miami rookie QB Tua Tagovailoa (1,214 yards, 9 TDs) had his first 300-yard passing game in the KC loss and it appears he has a favorite target in tight end Mike Gesickie (44 receptions, 602 yards, 6 TDs). The Raiders will need a big night from quarterback Derek Carr (3,443 yards, 24 TDs) and tight end Darren Waller (84 receptions, 817 yards, 7 TDs). Look for the Miami defense to be the difference maker in this one as the Dolphins continue to be one of the feel good stories of the 2020 season. My pick, Miami 33, Las Vegas 25

**Indianapolis at Pittsburgh:** Don't look now, but the Colts are surging while the Steelers are struggling down the stretch. Two weeks ago, the Colts put up 44 points on the road in Las Vegas, while the Steelers struggled once again on offense and were only able to score 15 points in their loss at Buffalo. Indy QB Phillip Rivers (3,507 yards, 20 TDs) and rookie running back Jonathan Taylor (759 yards, 6 TDs) are getting hot at the right time. Pittsburgh needs Ben Roethlisberger (3,292 yards, 29 TDs) to put the team on his back and turn things around as the play-offs approach. The Steelers are struggling to run the football, so look for Big Ben to come out firing against the Colts. Pittsburgh will need a strong effort from its defense to slow down the Colts and it says here they do just enough on defense to carry the Steelers to a very important win on Sunday. My pick, Pittsburgh 26, Indianapolis 20

**New York Giants at Baltimore:** The Giants saw their five game winning streak come to a close two weeks ago when they fell at home to the Cardinals. New York struggled on both sides of the ball and things won't get any easier for Daniel Jones (2,462 yards, 8 TDs) when they face a Baltimore team that must win out to land a playoff spot. Look for Ravens QB Lamar Jackson (2,218 passing yards, 18 TDs/793 rushing yards, 6 TDs) to have a bit day as the Ravens look to finish with a strong kick. In Baltimore's 47-42 win at Cleveland two weeks ago, Jackson rushed for 124 yards and scored two touchdowns and passed for another score in a game they had to have to keep their playoff chances alive. My

pick, Baltimore 33, New York Giants 18

**Cincinnati at Houston:** Talk about a stinker of a game! If Watson does play, the Texans should jump on the injury-depleted Bengals early and let A.J. McCarron play the majority of the second half. Two weeks ago in their 36-7 loss at Chicago, the Texans looked bad in all three phases of the game. This might be a good time to start auditioning for a new running back. I think we all know what David Johnson can and can't do and Duke Johnson is more of a third-down back. It's time to see what the Texans have on the practice squad and the Bengals would be the perfect team to give someone else a chance at toting the mail. My pick, Houston 26, Cincinnati 13

**Los Angeles Rams at Seattle:** A big one in the NFC West race pits the Rams against the Seahawks. Two weeks ago, the Rams looked like solid on both sides of the ball in their 24-3 thrashing of the Patriots in LA, while Seattle ran roughshod over the Jets as quarterback Russell Wilson (3,685 yards, 36 TDs) and wide receiver DK Metcalf (69 receptions, 1,180 yards, 10 TDs) hooked up for a touchdown. Wilson returned to his early-season form when he looked like a lock for the MVP award as he threw four touchdown passes in the route of the Jets. Wilson will face one of the league's best defenses led by defensive tackle Aaron Donald. The Rams have a pretty good offense as well led by quarterback Jared Goff (3,509 yards, 18 TDs) and two quality receivers in Cooper Kupp (79 receptions, 869 yards, 3 TDs) and Robert Woods (76 receptions, 796 yards, 5 TDs). The team that runs the ball the best should win this game and I like the Rams three-headed rushing attack against a suspect Seattle front seven. My pick, Los Angeles Rams 32, Seattle 29

**Philadelphia at Dallas:** When the schedule came out in the spring, may thought this game might decide who would win the NFC East, but after injuries have decimated both teams, this one is being played for pride and bragging rights. Two weeks ago, the Eagles upset the Saints at home as rookie quarterback Jalen Hurts (309 yards, 2 TDs) won his first start and might have signaled the end of the Carson Wentz era in Philly. While the Eagles were winning at home, the Cowboys put forth one of their better efforts of the season with a 30-7 drubbing of the Bengals in Cincinnati. Now, it was the Bengals, so let's not get too carried away with ourselves Cowboy fans! It was a nice win for quarterback Andy Dalton (1,340 yards 9 TDs) who returned to the place where he started for nine years. Look for running back Ezekiel Elliott (832 yards, 5 TDs) and wide receiver Amari Cooper (80 receptions, 942 yards, 5 TDs) to pad their stats against a beat up Eagles defense as the Cowboys look to finish the season on a positive note. My pick, Dallas 31, Philadelphia 23

**Tennessee at Green Bay:** A good one for the Sunday Night Football crew as the Titans visit Lambeau Field and the Packers. The Green Bay defense will have its hands full trying to

slow down running back Derrick Henry (1,532 yards, 14 TDs), who is looking for his second straight NFL rushing title. If Henry gets going early, that will set up the play action passing game for quarterback Ryan Tannehill (3,209 yards, 28 TDs) and speedy wide receiver A.J. Brown (51 receptions, 837 yards, 9 TDs). The Packers have a pretty good signal caller as well in a guy named Aaron Rodgers (3,685 yards, 39 TDs) and a big-play wide receiver in Davante Adams (91 receptions, 1,144 yards, 14 TDs). GB will need to get running back Aaron Jones (823 yards, 7 TDs) going to offset the Titans pass rush. I think weather might play a factor in this one as the Packers thrive in cold-weather games. My pick, Green Bay 33, Tennessee 26

**Buffalo at New England:** The Bills could very well enter this game with the AFC East title in their possession, but you can bet they will want to let the rest of the AFC know that they will be a force to deal with in the playoffs. Quarterback Josh Allen (3,641 yards, 28 TDs) and wide receiver Stefon Diggs (100 receptions, 1,167 yards, 5 TDs) should have another big day against a New England defense that appears to be wearing down. Bill Belichick's playoff run appears to be over, but don't expect the Patriots to be down for too long. Belichick is too good of a coach. He will address what needs to be fixed in the offseason, but this is the Bills' year and winning at New England would be the icing on the cake for the 2020 Bills. My pick, Buffalo 23, New England 20



Sidney Brewer, chairman of the Aldine Education Foundation's M.B. "Sonny" Donaldson Golf Tournament, reacts after sinking a putt during the seventh annual event held on Friday, Dec. 11 at Oakhurst Golf Club.

## Donaldson Golf Tournament benefits Education Foundation

It has been almost an entire year that the nation and Texas have dealt with the global pandemic and a host of people are still struggling, especially teachers and our most vulnerable children in Aldine ISD. 89.2% of the children in Aldine ISD are economically disadvantaged.

Aldine Education Foundation (AEF) hosted the M.B. "Sonny" Donaldson Golf Tournament at Oakhurst Golf Club on Friday, Dec. 11 as a fundraiser for Aldine ISD student scholarships and educator grants. Practicing social distancing, using separate golf carts, wearing masks, using hand sanitizers and an outdoor registration made the afternoon a perfect day to raise much-needed funds for student scholarships and educator grants.

Former Aldine ISD Superintendent (and the event's namesake) Sonny Donaldson helped to welcome Title Sponsor WCA as well as many returning supporters and new sponsors. Including this year, AEF's golf tournament donors have raised more than \$386,000 for programs improving educational opportunities for Aldine ISD students.

The biggest fundraising event of the year began outdoors with grab-and-go breakfast tacos and ended with an awards box-lunch celebration al fresco under the veranda and on the lawn.

AEF President Lisa McBride welcomed the players, introduced fellow AEF board members and introduced the new Director of the Aldine Education Foundation, Linda Flores Olson. Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney gave gratitude to the Aldine Education Foundation for their hard work to raise money for Aldine ISD, thanked title sponsor WCA and all of the sponsors. Finally, chair of the 2020 tournament, Sidney Brewer announced this year's winner and distributed unique, hand-crafted awards made by students from Carter Elementary.

Flores Olson was happy with the day, stating "It is so heart-warming to know that our community cares so much about our future leaders to come out during a global pandemic to give the students in Aldine ISD hope for a brighter future."

The Tiger-Rock Martial Arts team finished in first place, followed by ACME Brick and the Men of Bethany.

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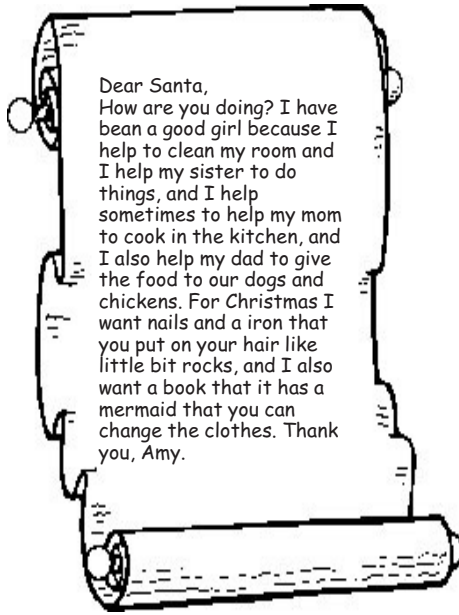
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Dear Santa, Is it grid in the North Pole? I want a mine craft plash a my Lee 33 and stasy plays. Lol Dolls. Love, Elle, 7 years old.

Dear Santa,I have bin a good groll . I have bin bruning my wurk at schooll. Wht I want four Chremis is a born. Laney, 6 years old.

Dear Santa, Wht is it like at Nufl Puot? Can I hav crayons, Can I hav Sillycents, Can I hav bike, Can I hav ibises, Can I hav Xbox, Can I hav a ... Morgan, 7 years old.

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



Dear Santa, How are you doing? I have bean a good girl because I help to clean my room and I help my sister to do things, and I help sometimes to help my mom to cook in the kitchen, and I also help my dad to give the food to our dogs and chickens. For Christmas I want nails and a iron that you put on your hair like little bit rocks, and I also want a book that it has a mermaid that you can change the clothes. Thank you, Amy.

Dear Santa, How are your ranger? I was a lettuce SoDr for cosmos. I sow at sis mostcus. Luke,

Dear Santa, How are eu and deers. Could I please hav a good toys. Love, Travis, 6 years old.

Dear Santa, How are your reindeer? I have been a good boy today and I LOVE Christmas. I want a Firebalsby. Luke, 7 years old.

Dear Santa, Haw are you? Haw are rarders in the NOR PLL? Can you a tteickop and RC plan. Orian, 6 years old.

Dear Santa, I have been a little naughty but I will do better. Although I did very well on my last report card. I know I can do better. All I want for Christmas is for you to help the homeless people get shelter and food. Alina Cavazos, 9 years old

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# CHURCH PAGE

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey —

1. The main Christmas story is paraphrased from what two New Testament books? Mark/John, Acts/Romans, Matthew/Luke, Jude/Revelation

2. From Luke 2:34, who prophesied to Mary that this Christ child is set for the fall and rising again of

many? Melchior, Simeon, Cyrenius, Felix

3. What bright phenomenon led the wise men (Magi) to the young Jesus and Savior? Whirlwind, Star, Rainbow, Rainfall of sparkling gold

4. Where was the young child when the Magi came to visit Him to present gifts? Manger, Under the stars, House, Temple

5. By what method did the

shepherds learn of Christ's birth? New star, Angel appearance, Walking stranger, Donkey speaking

6. How many times does the word "Christmas" appear in the Bible (KJV)? Zero, 1, 2, 7

ANSWERS: 1) Matthew/Luke; 2) Simeon; 3) Star; 4) House; 5) Angel appearance; 6) Zero

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The angel answered,  
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Most High will overshadow you.  
So the holy one to be born will  
be called the Son of God."  
—LUKE 1:35



"Angel" by Thomas Derrick (1930)

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# BONDING AGAINST ADVERSITY 2020 IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY



2020 was an important year for Bonding Against Adversity (BAA) because we reached our 10-year Anniversary of service to the community. We started the first week of January with a Kick-off Breakfast event attended by a great number of our partners, sponsors and donors and continued with our regularly scheduled events, citizenship workshops and classes, parenting programs, volunteers trainings and other services until the week before the Spring Break 2020. Then, unfortunately due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we had to cancel all our events to comply with government guidelines and follow instructions to reopen. Since we did not know how long the Pandemic was going to last, we immediately started to work on creating virtual programs and services to continue our assistance to the community. Thanks to technology and the data we had, we were able to communicate with our participants and provided information about what to do in view of the Pandemic and provided referrals to other organizations to secure their basic needs of shelter, food, and other basic resources. While we were providing our assistance to the needy families in obtaining their basic needs, we were also working on converting our programs and our efforts to virtual events. So, since April we had been offering our services virtually.

When we started our virtual services and programs, we became aware that most of the people of the community which we serve needed to learn how to use technology and the type of platforms that will be more friendly for them. We started working with text messages using different platforms, completing applications by phone, and using every easy way to provide our assistance. At the beginning this required a great amount of our time until people became comfortable using technology. In the meantime, we communicated with our volunteers to find out their availability and willingness to help us virtually and to get our army of volunteers ready to help we created and provided the necessary virtual trainings.

Since March, we assisted every month an average of more than 100 people by text, telephone, and email, and also started offering virtual events. Using one of our platforms we were able to help a monthly average of 89 participants in completing and checking virtually citizenship applications. Also, we worked encouraging the community to participate in the Census 2020 in partnership with many organizations and the AISD school district with great results and despite the Pandemic we had more community participation than in 2010. We accomplished this effort by partnering with IMAGE INC for food distribution and helping people to complete the Census 2020 forms on the spot.

During the year we also provided civic engagement to people with information about voting and why it is



Sheriff Ed Gonzalez with Mariana Sanchez



10 Year Anniversary Banquet



Citizenship Classes



BiLingual ESL training sessions

important to register and vote. As a result, lots of people of our community went out and voted in the 2020 presidential election.

We are ending this year with great results despite the Covid-19 Pandemic. Our yearly numbers of 1046+ are not much lower, but they are almost the same, as years before of about 1500. In addition, our services were provided not only to the traditional communities that we have served in the past years, but our capacity has expanded to several new communities thanks to technology and our newly created virtual services. Bonding Against Adversity is growing fast as well as the need of our services. Fortunately, we count with the great support of our partners and our challenge for the future is to sustain our organization and to continue working to secure the funding we need to keep going in the right direction.

We want to thank all of you and especially our volunteers and partners for investing your time, efforts, and continued support to our organization. There still are hiding heroes behind all the nonprofit organizations who help us to extend our hands to people in need. Thanks to all of you for strengthening our Mission "Helping Others Help Themselves".  
Happy Holidays all of you,

**Mariana Sanchez**  
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer  
**Bonding Against Adversity**  
Phone: 2817999076 ; Text: 832-906-4214  
[www.baatexas.org](http://www.baatexas.org)

For your convenience, Bonding Against Adversity is available in two offices:  
**Lone Star Houston North Greenspoint**  
250 North Sam Houston Pkwy E.  
Suite 304  
Houston, TX 77060

**Lone Star College East Aldine Center**  
2430 Aldine Mail Route Rd.  
Suite 105E  
Houston, TX 77039

**Seasons Greetings from Bonding Against Adversity and the best for 2021.**



## CHILI FEAST

### Raffle & Auction

St. Jude's Catholic Church  
808 S. Main Street, Highlands  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Live Auction 12:30  
**Saturday, February 6, 2021**

Win a new Vehicle. Your choice of  
2021 CHEVY CAMARO or 2021 COLORADO Pick-up  
from Turner Chevrolet.



**Raffle Tickets \$100.00 Donation**  
**Meal Tickets \$10.00**

Raffle Tickets purchased prior to Jan. 6, 2021 will be eligible for \$500 Gift Card Drawing.  
Winners need not be Present to Win!  
Payment of all local, state and federal taxes will be the responsibility of the winner.  
Proceeds donated back to our Community for Scholarships & Community Programs.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ALL HIGHLANDS ROTARIANS



TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MANY AREA & HIGHLANDS STORES

ADDITIONAL PRIZES:

Early Drawing..... \$500 Gift Card	400th Ticket..... 65 Qt. Artic Cooler
1st Ticket Drawn..... \$200 Gift Card	450th Ticket..... Shotgun
50th Ticket..... Toshiba 32" Smart TV	500th Ticket..... \$250 Gift Card
100th Ticket..... Portable Ice Maker	550th Ticket..... Fire HD 10" Tablet
150th Ticket..... \$200 Gift Card	600th Ticket..... Outdoor Propane Fire Pit
200th Ticket..... 250 Amp Battery Charger/Starter	650th Ticket..... GoPro Hero/Black Waterproof Camera
250th Ticket..... Beats Solo 3 Wireless Headphones	699th Ticket..... 50" Roku/Smart TV
300th Ticket..... \$200 Gift Card	700th Ticket..... 2021 Chevy Camaro or
350th Ticket..... Fire HD 8" Tablet	2021 Chevy Colorado Pick-up

(Color & Model may vary from Pictures)

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