





Letters to Santa

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
I want a my look and akichin and a doctor set and for Kaitlyn to leave me alone to move in class because Kaitlyn and to see asprase and to have a great time and love.  
Royale Walker, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

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Dear Santa,  
What I want for Christmas is slime because my mom doesn't let me have slime. And when my dad gives me money, my mom says can't buy slime.  
Kamila Villanueva, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

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Dear Santa,  
I have been wanting this for a long time. I have always wanted this but I kept getting something else but I'm sure that I want this; what I want is tiny army myh trucks, I should have this because I have been good.  
Miquil Garza, 9 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa,  
Can you get me a line and red ciencs, mini soccer ball and soccer gloves please?  
Gabriel, 9 years old,  
Stephens Elementary

Dear Santa,  
What I want for Christmas is all of this: -a new stereo plush -some new clothes for my baby brother. He's a newborn -some new shoes and done.  
Ariel Correa, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
I want a baby, realistic doll, I want an iPhone. I want a puppy, I want my mom to have a week off of work. I want my dad to have a week off. I want a notebook and a pen, I have been good in school, so that's why I think I should have the stuff.  
Aubree Rae Pesina, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I would like iPhone 15 T-shirt, pants. Camping wall restroom bathroom, kitchen bedroom set, make up. 4 LOL baby dolls and brushes. I really want to know if you reindeers are real.  
Anahi Hernandez Rivas, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I need a backpack that is nike color black or pink. I also wan shoes 6.5. And also a pencil that is 3D.  
Noemi Cruz P, 10 years  
Stephens Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I wish to have Mario Wonder, Kirby Forgotten land; lego luigi, lego peach, lego bowser. All captain underpants boots. All dog man book. Villan clue, ten dollars, scented markers.  
Erick Arguella, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

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Dear Santa,  
This Christmas, I would like some shoes and a Christmas doll. I think you should give me these because I have been a good girl, well a little naughty, I think I should get it.  
Jimena Reyna, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary


\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
I want to know if your elves are good or bad because my elf has not came yet. Is Rodolfo the red nose reindeer, is his nose really bright, is Miss Claus and you to.  
Kaitlyn Martinez, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary


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Dear Santa,  
I want FIFA world cup sticker and they sell them on Walgreens.  
Miguel Pineda, 10 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

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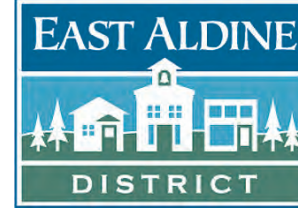
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SCHOOL NEWS PAGE

Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney Sworn in as the Next NABSE President

Superintendent Dr. LaTonya M. Goffney was sworn in Sunday as the next National Alliance of Black School Educators president. She will serve a two-year term as head of the international educational organization. Goffney has been a NABSE member for more than a decade. The ceremony occurred during the 51st NABSE Conference in New Orleans, LA, from November 29 through December 3, 2023

In her inauguration speech, Goffney thanked her friends and family who were in attendance, as well as Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE), Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators (HABSE), and her team from Aldine ISD. Also supporting the celebration was Carver High School junior Alyssa Dorsey, who performed Alicia Keys' Girl on Fire after Goffney was officially named NABSE President. She promised a new tomorrow for NABSE and its members — one filled with hope, possibilities, and endless opportunities- to leave a legacy, allowing future generations of students and NABSE members to thrive.

"I am honored and humbled that you've placed your trust and confidence in me to serve as your next NABSE President," Goffney said. "I realize I am standing on the shoulders of great leaders and representing legends. Since my first NABSE Conference, I have been inspired. Bold leaders, including those without an education or title like my grandparents, passed down the passion and promises of hope and change. Those things ignited my ambition to serve and lead. It is also the spirit of leaders with no title or education who came before us ... those who were enslaved, fought for freedom and equality, and couldn't dare to dream. And those who sacrificed it all to ensure we could teach and lead.

"I do not take the responsibility of leading lightly and feel it to the core of my very being. Nothing about my past would have predicted I'd be where I am today. Thankfully, with the love and encouragement of my grandparents and through education, I pursued more than I was 'assigned' to accomplish. It is on that journey — this journey — that I have come to understand the importance of education and how it can change the lives of so many. Together, we can shape a world that is better, brighter, and full of endless possibilities for all."



Dr. Goffney poses with her husband Joseph and daughter Joslyn at the 2023 NABSE Conference.



LaTonya M. Goffney Sworn in as the Next NABSE President

Dr. Goffney shared that the swearing in was a moment that left her in awe.

"Who knew a small-town girl from East Texas could achieve this and more? In my speech, I referenced the 1985 film The Color Purple. Oprah Winfrey calls Alice Walker's seminal novel one of the 'national anthems for women's empowerment.' It definitely impacted me. Those who know my story can see how I identified with the protagonist, Celie. While my story began in abject poverty and abuse, I had points of light guiding and encouraging me. I am grateful

for everyone in my life, like my grandparents, family, teachers, mentors, friends, and colleagues, who have made an edible mark in my life personally and professionally. It comes down to the people who make an impact on our lives."

Education leaders, including teachers, administrators, superintendents, school board members, parents, and instructional support staff, comprise NABSE.

As the NABSE leader, Goffney will focus on NABSE's next 50 years, including the National Teacher Institute and building a coalition of allies.

To meet the organization's goals, NABSE empowers educational leaders through professional development and provides a network of leaders to share information to transform schools, giving more students access to high-quality educational experiences and opportunities.

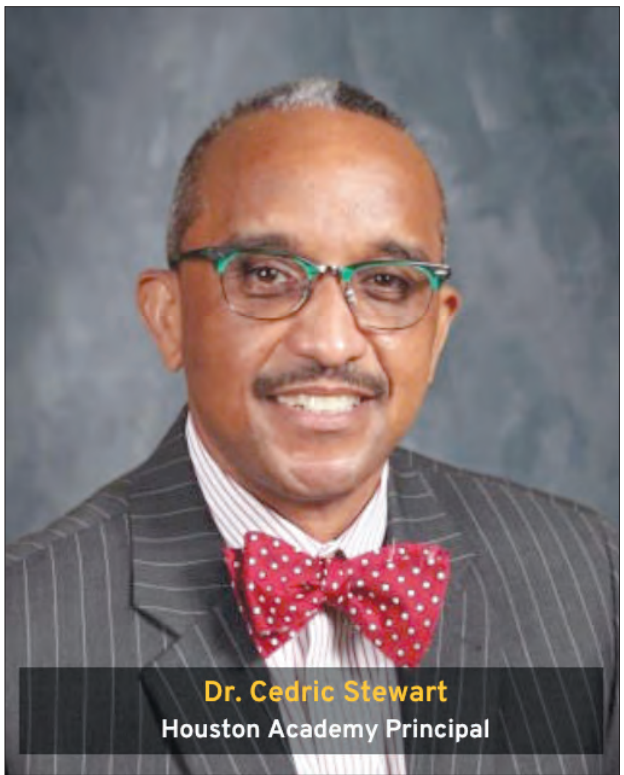
Jones-Koumba Receives NABSE's Mary McLeod Bethune Educator of the Year Award

Carver High School's theater director, Roshunda Jones-Koumba, and Principal Dr. Cedric Stewart of Houston Academy have much to be proud of. Last weekend, they were bestowed awards at the National Alliance of Black School Educators Conference in New Orleans, LA.

Jones-Koumba received the Mary McLeod Bethune Educator of the Year Award. The Mary McLeod Bethune Outstanding Teacher Award is bestowed upon teachers whose innovative teaching techniques have increased student achievement through demonstrating unparalleled commitment and innovation toward enhancing classroom instruction quality.

Jones-Koumba received the 2022 Excellence in Theatre Education Award from Carnegie Mellon University during the Tony Awards® at Radio City Music Hall. Earlier this year, she was inducted into the EBONY Power 100 Class of Honorees.

Jones-Koumba is currently in her 20th year of education. She has dedicated all those years to AISD students, especially her theater students at Carver High School for Engineering, Applied Technology, and The Arts. In 2020, Jones-Koumba was inducted into the Texas Thespians Hall of Fame and received the inaugural Arts Educator of the Year from the TUTS Leading Ladies organization. She was the Texas Educational Theatre Association's 2017 Educator of the Year and Aldine ISD Carver High School's teacher of the year in 2009 and 2014. As the Carver Panther Players Director, the troupe has been successful on the state and national level at UIL One-Act Play (OAP) contests, Tommy Tune Awards, Texas Thespians State, and International Thespian Festival. Most recently, Jones-Koumba received the Stephen Schwartz Musical Theatre Teacher of the Year Award and the



International Thespian Society Inspirational Theatre Educator Award. The ASCAP Foundation presented the Stephen Schwartz Award. The award represents the highest level of achievement for a middle or high school theatre teacher.

Jones-Koumba is a Board member for Texas Thespians, the Black Theatre Educators' Caucus, and the UIL OAP Advisory Committee.

NABSE named Houston Academy a National Demonstration School. The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) magnet Choice School option for Aldine ISD students has earned numerous Magnet Schools of America hon-

ors, including School of Distinction Awards (2006, 2009, and 2015) and School of Excellence Awards (2007 and 2022). Principal Cedric Stewart, recently named the HAABSE Principal of the Year, was recognized for his leadership. He and fellow National Demonstration School Award recipients participated in the NABSE National Demonstration Schools Panel, "Improving Student Outcomes by Sharing Best Practices and Innovative Strategies to Meet the Needs of Today's Students." Stewart shared his leadership style and best practices that consistently show what is possible for all students every single day.

Aldine ISD Chief of Police Paul Córdoba Shares His Passion for Chess With Students



Chief Paul Córdoba and Blanson CTEHS student Dagan Ponce de León begin their round of chess

At an Instructional Leaders Team (ILT) meeting earlier this school year, everyone played the ice-breaker game "Tell Us Something We Don't Know About You." Here, everyone learned that the Chief of Police, Paul Córdoba, played chess in school and even won a trophy for

his skills. Upon hearing this, Susan Pelezo, executive director of advanced academics (Gifted and Talented Program), who oversees Aldine ISD's chess programs in schools, invited Córdoba to play with students during practice dates.

Córdoba was seen recently at the chess prac-

tice meet at Blanson Career and Technology High School on Tuesday, December 5. It was an afternoon of "rooks" and "pawns" as Córdoba played with students. The Blanson CTEHS chess team, sponsored by Kevin Díaz, was practicing for their next tournament.

In addition to boosting students' confidence, Córdoba says chess meetups foster trust.

"I hope to impart some knowledge for the game I enjoy playing. But there is also another layer. Interactions like these, a chess match, will lead to positive interactions between police officers and students in our schools and neighborhoods."

He says it's also a way to know the people he and his officers serve while utilizing the game of chess as the vehicle for engagement. Chess empowers students through respect, responsibility, and relationship-building while teaching how to resolve conflicts cooperatively and constructively.

Chess Clubs

\*Chess offers many academic benefits. Research and studies have shown a direct connection

between playing chess and developing analytical skills. Chess helps children develop focus, concentration, and observation skills. Children learn that if they don't watch what is happening, they won't be able to respond to it, no matter how smart they are. Careful observation also helps children learn to strategize and plan ahead.

\*Beyond academic skills, chess helps children develop social skills, learn to respect their opponents, learn how to handle defeat, and build teamwork skills as they compete together as a school team against other schools.

Córdoba says the students play to win.

"I always try my best when I play chess. Sometimes I win, sometimes the students win."

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# Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

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

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

Dear Editor—

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

Virginia  
O'Hanlon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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## STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



# Legal Challenges to Amendments Appear to be Quashed

A half-dozen lawsuits challenging the 13 approved Texas constitutional amendments appear to be dead in the water, The Dallas Morning News reported. The secretary of state's office last week declared the propositions approved and now a part of the Texas Constitution, while Gov. Greg Abbott canvassed the election and certified the results. One proposition that would have raised the retirement age of judges was rejected by voters.

In addition, the Texas attorney general's office said the lawsuits had improper "citation and return of service." The plaintiffs are unable to correction those citations because the election results have been certified.

The six nearly identical lawsuits claimed the state used uncertified polling machines that exposed the election to voter fraud, and the plaintiffs called for the courts to throw out the Nov. 7 results and hold a new election using paper ballots only, The News reported.

The suits threatened to delay voter-approved property tax cuts and a raise in retired teachers' pensions.

### ABBOTT ENTERS PRIMARY BATTLE FRAY, MUM ON FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

The Texas Legislature's fourth special session ended last week with the House and Senate still at loggerheads over Abbott's push to allow the use of taxpayer money to pay for private school costs, commonly known as school vouchers. Last month, 21 House Republicans joined with Democrats to remove the voucher provision from a broad education bill that did not pass both chambers.

Abbott is sticking to his promise to endorse primary challengers to House Republicans who voted against the voucher plan, the Texas Tribune reported. With the holiday season underway, it appears unlikely there will be another special session this year, but Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said he believed the best day to come back for another session "would be Feb. 5, 30 days before the election."

The impasse means legislation to increase public school funding, provide teacher bonuses and hike



funding for school safety measures also died on the vine.

### STATE HALTS EFFORTS TO TAKE FAIRFIELD LAKE PROPERTY

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has ceased its efforts to seize a 5,000-acre tract of private land that once included a state park and adjoins Fairfield Lake, The News reported. A private developer purchased the property from a utility company for about \$103 million last June and plans to close Fairfield Lake State Park were announced. The land for the park had been leased from Vistra Corp., the utility company for 50 years.

Todd Interests, the developer, plans to build luxury homes with a golf course, restaurants and shops, as well as access to a private airstrip. Less than two weeks after the developer bought the property, the state voted to condemn the land using eminent domain.

A judge-appointed commission of three Freestone County residents put the fair market value of the property at \$418.3 million—more than four times what the developer paid for it. Fairfield Lake is considered the largest privately owned lake in the state and possibly the nation, The News reported.

### STATE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON BROADBAND INTERNET PLAN

The Texas Broadband Development Office is soliciting input from the public on the proposed Texas Digital Opportunity Plan, which seeks to improve and expand broadband access across the state. Almost 7 million Texans lack access to high-speed

internet, or nearly 25% of residents.

"Access to reliable, high-speed internet as a means of advancing education, training, employment opportunities, healthcare, and delivery of essential services is critical to the future of our state," said Glenn Hegar, comptroller.

Through Jan. 5 of next year, Texans can give their opinions on the plan by visiting [broadbandfortexas.com/tdop](http://broadbandfortexas.com/tdop).

The newly created broadband office is partnering with chambers of commerce, the Texas Workforce Commission, industry associations and elected officials to highlight the importance of access to high-speed internet in today's digital world.

### WORKERS' COMP COSTS DROP IN STATE

A report issued by the Texas Department of Insurance indicates that the cost of treating injured employees in the state's workers' compensation system dropped considerably from 2012 through 2022. Total health care costs dropped 30%, from \$1.15 billion in 2012 to \$812 million last year, while the total number of claims dropped 20% during the same period, from 319,000 to 256,000.

Hospital costs also dropped 20% in that decade, while the costs for professional services—such as physicians—was down 26%, from \$657 million to \$483 million.

The report used administrative data reported by insurance carriers for the 10-year period. The costs were not adjusted for inflation, which would have made the decrease in costs even greater.

### PUC APPROVES NEW PRICE PROTECTIONS DURING POWER EMERGENCIES

The Public Utility Commission has implemented a new Emergency Pricing Program that limits consumer exposure to high wholesale electricity prices during power emergencies, as occurred during Winter Storm Uri in February 2021.

"Implementing the Emergency Pricing Program provides another layer of financial protection for Texas consumers and will ensure their electricity bills remain affordable even when conditions are tight in the ERCOT system," Thomas Gleeson, PUC executive director, said.

The new program comes after passage of Senate Bill 3 during the last regular legislative session.

"This is a key part of our ongoing work to ensure electric reliability for Texans at a reasonable cost," Gleeson added.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com)

★

TWO CENTS WORTH

By Charlie Farrar

## Road Trip

Me and the Mrs. took a road trip to South Carolina recently to visit my sister as she had a stroke. Fortunately, there is no paralysis, but it did effect her mentally.

That is over a thousand miles there and another grand back to the Lone Star State. We have not been in the direction in over 3 years, so we got to see lots of familiar places during the trip. Still lots of dummies on the road and huggers in the left lane of traffic.

We followed Sherman's route through Atlanta but took the Perimeter around Atlanta to avoid the downtown mess. They have rebuilt Atlanta and continue road work to this day. Mercy day at the people. This road goes under the airport runway for a bit and a sight to see.

The Mrs. always looks forward to going to this part of the country as they have restaurant chains called BOJANGLES. She has to have her country ham fix (that is the salty kind).

The temperature dropped to freezing one morning along the backwaters of the Catawba River. Makes one appreciate our Gulf Coast temperatures.

Got to go to a local fish camp one evening for suppers. They had two kinds of slaw, sour and regular. Had to try the sour and only a small portion as I wouldn't hit a hog in the butt with such. They added vinegar to make it taste that way.

Auburn was playing LSU on the day of the trip and so thankful that we stopped and had a bite to eat before traveling through War Eagle territory. That gave traffic a chance to thin way down by the time we made it through there.

Sister has one of the prettiest cats, a solid black and shiny male. Oh so pretty and both cats remembered me from past visits or maybe it was the rattling of the cat treat container. She named the black cat Panther and the name fits.

Meanwhile back in Texas one must say there have been too many good friends passing lately. Don't care for that, hits too close to home.

One was an old RM2 on the ship in Boston. Nice guy, apple farmer knows Morris code and rolled his own Bull Durham.

The other was an old friend from Highlands, Texas. He was my gardening guru. About as nice a guy, you'd ever want to meet.

Counted over 60 tomatoes on one of his tomato plants, awesome and you'd have to see it to believe. Had another friend call me and ask the secret of how his success is growing tomatoes.

Charlie Farrar is a retired banker residing in Baytown, Texas



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SPORTS PAGE

SEASON FOOTBALL WEEK 16 - Continued from Page 1

Texans hit road to take on Titans: Cowboys face tough task at Buffalo

would like to be in mid-December, but the schedule is what the schedule is and if Dallas wants to remain in the hunt for the NFC East title, they will need to forget about the weather and just play.

The Bills are in danger of not making the playoffs, which will not well with their fans. Should Buffalo fail to qualify for the post season, head coach Sean McDermott's job could be in jeopardy.

This is the time of year when the NFL plays Saturday games just as the college bowl season cranks up. The league gives us a triple header on Saturday as Minnesota visits Cincinnati, Pittsburgh visits the Colts and Denver heads to the Motor City to take on the Lions.

The Sunday Night Football crew has a good one as Baltimore visits Jacksonville, with the winner remaining in the hunt for the No. 1 seed in the AFC. Baltimore, Jacksonville and Miami entered last weekend's games with nine wins each. It's going to be an interesting finish in the AFC.

Week 15 concludes with Monday Night Football with the Eagles visiting the desperate Seahawks. Seattle can't afford to lose any more games if Pete Carroll's team hopes to make the playoffs. Hosting Philly won't be easy.

As the bowl season starts up, college football fans will have plenty of games to watch as they wait for the College Football Playoff semifinals on Jan. 1. Texas (ranked No. 3 in the CFP ranking) fans are ecstatic over landing one of the four CFP berths and they will face No. 2-ranked Washington in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's night, while No. 1-ranked Michigan faces No. 4-ranked Alabama in the Rose Bowl. Florida State fans are livid that their 13-0 Seminoles were excluded from the CFP in favor of 12-1 Alabama. While I understand their frustration and anger, the CFP committee got it right. Alabama defeated No. 1-ranked Georgia, the two-time national champ and in the



process ended Kirby Smart's teams 30-game winning streak. I think an SEC title outweighs an ACC title, but that's just me. FSU and Georgia will meet in the Orange Bowl and take out their frustrations on being excluded from the CFP on each other.

Before we take a look at this weekend's key NFL games, let's review last week's record. A 6-2 mark upheld the season record to 97-45 (68%). Now, onto this weekend's game.

NFL

**Los Angeles Chargers at Las Vegas:** Week 15 starts with Thursday Night Football as the Chargers and Raiders meet in an AFC West contest. The Chargers are one of the most disappointing teams in the NFL. They have a lot of talent, but always seem to underachieve. Two weeks ago, they won an ugly game at New England, 6-0. This could turn into an offensive shootout as Justin Herbert (3,038 yards, 20 TDs), running back Austin Ekeleer (446 rushing yards, 4 TDs/31 receptions, 295 yards, 1 TD) and wide receiver Keenan Allen (102 receptions, 1,175 yards, 7 TDs) look to take out their frustrations against the Raiders. Vegas is once again playing for next year and is giving rookie QB Aiden O'Connell (1,933 yards, 4 TDs) a look. He'll count on running back Josh Jacobs (771 yards, 6 TDs) and wide receiver Davante Adams (69 receptions, 814 yards, 4 TDs) to help him out against the Chargers. Look for the Raiders to continue to make things miserable for the Chargers. My pick, Las Vegas 31, Los Angeles Chargers 27

**Minnesota at Cincinnati:** Two desperate teams meet in

Cinci on Saturday as the Vikings visit the Bengals. Both of these team's playoff chances are slim, so look for both teams to play hard on Saturday to keep their fledgling postseason hopes alive. The Vikings need a better effort from QB Joshua Dobbs (832 yards, 5 TDs/5 interceptions). He has some weapons in tight end T.J. Hockenson (80 receptions, 786 yards, 5 TDs), and rookie wide receiver Jordan Addison (54 receptions, 686 yards, 7 TDs). Dobbs should also have star wideout Justin Jefferson (36 receptions, 571 yards, 3 TDs in just five games) back after he missed five games with a hamstring injury. The Bengals have been ravaged by injuries, most notably to starting QB Joe Burrow. The Bengals picked up a big road win two weeks ago when they upset Jacksonville, 34-31 in overtime. Backup QB Jake Browning (649 yards, 3 TDs) is playing well in place of Burrow, but he will need help from running back Joe Mixon (689 yards, 6 TDs0 and big-play wideout Ja'Marr Chase (86 receptions, 1,063 yards, 7 TDs) to keep the Bengals' playoff hopes alive. My pick, Cincinnati 23, Minnesota 20

**Pittsburgh at Indianapolis:** Two weeks ago, the Steelers were embarrassed at home by the then two-win Arizona Cardinals, 24-10. They also lost starting QB Kenny Pickett to an ankle injury. If Pickett is unable to play this week, the Steelers are going to be in deep, deep trouble. Running back Najee Harris (661 yards, 4 TDs) will need to pick up the slack. Two weeks ago, the Colts defeated the Titans 31-28 in overtime behind backup QB Gardner Minshew (2,284 yards, 10 TDs) and wide receiver Michael Pittman (87 receptions, 889

yards, 4 TDs). Look for the Colts to defend their home turf on Saturday as they look to remain in the AFC Wild Card race. My pick, Indianapolis 24, Pittsburgh 18

**Denver at Detroit:** The Saturday triple header concludes on Saturday night as Russell Wilson (2,385 yards, 21 TDs) and the Broncos visit the Lions. Two weeks ago, Denver saw its five-game winning streak come to an end with a loss to the Texans, while the Lions offense got rolling in a 33-28 win at New Orleans. Denver has a solid defense and should make Lions QB Jared Goff (3,288 yards, 20 TDs) earn his yards. Goff has a lot of talent to turn to in running back David Montgomery (704 yards, 10 TDs), wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown (84 receptions, 1,042 yards, 6 TDs) and rookie tight end Sam LaPorta (64 receptions, 677 yards, 6 TDs). Detroit is tough to beat at home and head coach Dan Campbell can smell a division title. Look for the Lions to fire on all cylinders on Saturday night. My pick, Detroit 31, Denver 23

**Houston at Tennessee:** The Texans can expect the Titans to pull out the Luv Ya Blue uniforms on Sunday, which should serve as motivation heading into this key AFC South contest for Houston. Stroud (3,540 yards, 20 TDs) has thus far proven he is up to the task either playing at home or on the road and he will face a Titans team that would like nothing more than to put a wrench in the Texans playoff hopes. With Dell gone, Stroud will rely on fellow wide out Nico Collins (59 receptions, 991 yards, 6 TDs), tight end Dalton Schultz and Noah Brown to make plays in the passing game. The Houston defense will need to slow down their nemesis, running back Derrick Henry (he has rushed for more than 200 yards four times against the Texans). Henry has 841 rushing yards and eight TDs this year. Look for the Houston defense to get after rookie QB Will Levis (1,266 yards, 7 TDs) as that unit steps up and helps lead the Texans to a key road win. My pick, Houston 26, Tennessee 23

**Dallas at Buffalo:** After playing three straight home games, the Cowboys face a

stern test when they visit Western New York on Sunday to take on a desperate Bills team. Dallas QB Dak Prescott (3,234 yards, 26 TDs) is having perhaps his best year as a pro and he has plenty of weapons to help him out in running back Tony Pollard (737 yards, 5 TDs), wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (90 receptions, 1,182 yards, 7 TDs) and tight end Jake Ferguson (46 receptions, 498 yards, 5 TDs). The Dallas defense will need to bring it's "A" game when it faces Bills QB Josh Allen (3,214 passing yards, 24 TDs/342 rushing yards, 9 TDs), running back James Cook (731 yards, 1 TD) and big-play wide receiver Stefon Diggs (83 receptions, 969 yards, 8 TDs). Two weeks ago, Seattle torched the Dallas secondary for 334 yards and three TDs. If that unit doesn't tighten things up, Dallas could be in for a long day against Allen. My pick, Dallas 30, Buffalo 27

**Baltimore at Jacksonville:** A good one on Sunday Night Football pits two of the best teams in the AFC. Both teams are alive (along with Miami) for the top seed in the AFC, so look for a tight, competitive game on Sunday night in Jacksonville. The Ravens are once again led by QB Lamar Jackson (2,618 yards, 13 TDS/574 rushing yards, 5 TDS). He's getting help in the running game from Gus Edwards (590 yards, 10 TDs) and in the passing game by rookie wide receiver Zay Jones (58 receptions, 613 yards, 2 TDs). The Jags suffered a big blow two weeks ago in their 34-31 overtime loss at home to Cincinnati when starting QB Trevor Lawrence (3,004 yareds, 14 TDs) suffered a right ankle sprain. It's not known how long Lawrence will be out, but if he's unable to go against the Ravens, the Jags could be in for a long night. The Jags will need a big night from running back Travis Etienne (771 yards, 9 total TDs) and wide receivers Christian Kirk (57 receptions, 787 yards, 3 TDs) and Calvin Ridley (51 receptions, 689 yards, 5 TDs to make life easier for backup QB C.J. Bethard if Lawrence is unable to play. The Jags are tough to beat at home and the Ravens will discover that on Sunday night. My pick, Jacksonville 26, Baltimore 23 (if Lawrence plays); Baltimore 24,

Jacksonville 17 (if Lawrence does not play)

**Philadelphia at Seattle:** Week 15 concludes on Monday Night Football as the Eagles travel cross country to take on the Seahawks. Two weeks ago, the Eagles were dominated at home by the 49ers en route to a 42-19 thrashing, while Seattle lost a shootout at Dallas, 41-35. The Eagles defense must play better than it did against SF and should be able to force a turnover or two from Seattle QB Geno Smith (2,918 yards, 15 TDs/9 interceptions). Seattle should get running back Kenneth Walker III (613 yards, 6 TDS) back after he missed a couple of games with an injury. Smith will look to make plays in the passing game to wideouts DK Metcalf (49 receptions, 812 yards, 6 TDs) and Tyler Lockett (59 receptions, 622 yards, 4 TDs). Philly will need a big game from QB Jalen Hurts (2,995 passing yards, 19 TDs/430 rushing yards, 12 TDs), running back D'Andre Swift (783 yards, 4 TDs) and wide receivers A.J. Brown (81 receptions, 1,164 yards, 7 TDs) and DeVonta Smith (64 receptions, 834 yards, 6 TDs). The Eagles have the Cowboys breathing down their necks in the NFC East, so look for Philly to pick up a big road win on Monday night. My pick, Philadelphia 31, Seattle 24

Help keep East Aldine clean...



Toss it into the can. It's a neat idea.

Walle celebrates Holiday Giveaways,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

coupons for free turkeys ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. In addition to giving those coupons to seniors at the warming event, Rep. Walle also provided coupons to students at Lone Star College Houston North and at La Promesa in Aldine ISD.

Rep. Walle said his office appreciated everyone's help serving the community through these events, and look forward to finding more ways to spread the holiday spirit through the end of this year.

Whitmire elected Houston Mayor,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

campaign also had to deal with fallout from the release in October of an unverified audio recording that purported to capture her profanely berating her staff.

Whitmire built an insurmountable lead among early voters, winning among those voters by 30 percentage points.

Standing before a ballroom full of cheering supporters in the city's convention center, Whitmire said he was fired up and ready to go to work as mayor.

"I don't mind telling folks what a great city we have. But we've got great challenges. If we will come together and realize it won't be easy. In fact, we will face challenges. But I see that as an opportunity. And I need you to join

hands with me. We'll meet our challenges. It'll be an opportunity to show the nation what the city of Houston can do," Whitmire said.

In another races of local interest, the City Controller position was won by Chris Hollins with 58.6% of the vote, versus Orland Sanchez 41.4% of the vote.

At her election night party, Jackson Lee thanked her supporters, congratulated Whitmire and said she was committed to working with him. Jackson Lee said she planned to announce in the near future a decision on whether she would run for re-election next year for her congressional seat. A number of local politicians have expressed an interest, if she decides not to run.

COMMUNITY WATCH

Suspect Arrested in Fatal Shooting at 832 West Greens Road

Charges have been filed against a suspect arrested in the fatal shooting of a man found at 832 West Greens Road about 10:50 p.m. on November 12.

The male suspect, 16, has been referred to Harris County Juvenile Probation authorities on charges of murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Juvenile suspect information is not releasable.

He's accused in the death of Jeffry Martinez Menjivar, 18.

HPD Homicide Division Detectives W. Huff and J. Nguyen reported:

HPD patrol officers responded to a person down call at an apartment complex at the above address and found the victim unresponsive sitting

in the driver's seat of a vehicle. He had suffered apparent multiple gunshot wounds. Houston Fire Department paramedics transported the man to HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest where he was pronounced deceased.

Further investigation identified the juvenile as the suspect in this incident. He was arrested on Tuesday (Nov. 28) and admitted to investigators his involvement in the incident. He was subsequently charged on Wednesday (Nov. 29).

The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600 or speak anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS.

AIRLINE LIBRARY NEWS

Bilingual Tots

We'll read stories, sing songs, and use our hands (for fingerplays) to help toddlers build their early literacy skills. This program is appropriate for children ages 18 months to 3 years old. **Monday, Dec. 4, 11 - 11:45am.**

Leeremos historias, cantaremos canciones y usaremos nuestras manos (para juegos con los dedos) para ayudar a los niños pequeños a desarrollar sus habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa es apropiado para niños de 25 meses a 3 años.

Bilingual Story Time/ Tiempo de cuentos Bilingue

You're invited to attend Story Time **every Tuesday at 11 am.** Story Time is a great way for children to build early literacy skills with stories, rhymes and songs. Parents are encouraged to participate by sitting with children and singing (and learning!) new songs. Children of all ages are welcome!

¡Estás invitado a asistir a tiempo de cuentos cada martes a las 11 am. Tiempo de cuentos es una excelente manera para que los niños desarrollen habilidades de alfabetización temprana con libros, rimas y canciones. Animamos a los padres a sentarse con los niños y canten las canciones con nosotros. ¡Los niños de todas las edades son bienvenidos!

Apprenda Computers & Tech

Limited space/ Espacio limitado  
Pre-registrese aqui: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy>  
\* Important- Instructions are in Spanish language; Software (Windows OS, Office 365, Google) apps are all in English language.

Nivel -1 Habilidades Esenciales- **Martes- 5:00 PM 6:45 PM:** Computer Essential Skills (Spanish computer class)  
- Aprenderá a como obtener las habilidades esenciales sobre: Navegación con Windows, navegacion por Internet e interface, tipos de navegadores, consejos de seguridad, correo electrónico e interface, y otros temas relacionados a la tecnología con enfoque para empleos y uso personal en un nivel para principiantes

Para los Ninos

**Thursday, Dec. 7, 5-6:45pm**

The Children's Museum of Houston has prepared workshops for your local library! Each workshop includes learning activities to use at home related to the theme of the week. For parents and children ages 8 and younger (and siblings too!)

Apprenda Computers & Tech

Limited space/ Espacio limitado  
Pre-registrese aqui: <https://forms.office.com/r/rTQyUGd1Yy>  
\* Important- Instructions are in Spanish language; Software (Windows OS, Office 365, Google) apps are all in English language.

Nivel -1 Habilidades Esenciales- **Jueves - 5:00 a 6:45 PM:** Computer Essential Skills (Spanish computer class)  
- Aprenderá a como obtener las habilidades esenciales sobre: Navegación con Windows, navegacion por Internet e interface, tipos de navegadores, consejos de seguridad, correo electrónico e interface, y otros temas relacionados a la tecnología con enfoque para empleos y uso personal en un nivel para pricipiantes

Teen Thursdays

Teen Thursdays at Aldine Branch Library are a fun, safe environment for teens ages (12-18) to hang out after school! Join us as we play games, watch anime, and hang out! **Thursday, Dec. 7, 3:30 - 5:30pm.**

Para los Ninos

Each workshop includes learning activities to use at home related to the theme of the week. **For parents and children ages 8 and younger (and siblings too!). Saturday, Dec. 2, 10-11:30am**

Polling Location: Joint Runoff Location

The City of Houston, Texas, will conduct a Runoff Election (the "Election") on Saturday, December 9, 2023, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., at which there will be elected the following officers of the City of Houston:  
Mayor/Council Member, District DCouncil Member, District GCouncil Member, District HCouncil Member, At-Large Position 1Council Member, At-Large Position 2Council Member, At-Large Position 3Council Member, At-Large Position 4City Controller  
All Election Day Vote Centers are open to all eligible voters in

Harris County.

Election Day Vote Centers are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.Phone: 713-755-6965Fax: 713-755-4983Email: [voters@harrisvotes.com](mailto:voters@harrisvotes.com)**Current Election Day polling location information is available at:**  
**Harris County:** [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com) — **Harris County voting centers** — [www.harrisvotes.com/Vote-Centers](http://www.harrisvotes.com/Vote-Centers)

**Adult Volunteers**  
Would you like to be a part of making an impact on people's lives? Are you looking for a meaningful way to spend your time? We are looking for adult volunteers to help with tasks and programs at the library as well as volunteers to teach English language classes, citizenship classes, or computer classes in person and virtually. Pick up an application at the Aldine Branch Library, call 832-927-5410, or click here: <https://forms.office.com/r/qZSMSpi-aTL>.

**Passport Services**  
Do have plans to travel out of the country for the holidays? You need to get your passport in order NOW! Current routine processing is estimated at 10 weeks and expedited processing time is estimated at 7 weeks. You can make an appointment for passport services at Aldine Branch - <https://www.hcpl.net/services/passport-services>.

Our passport hours - Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm - 5pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am - 12pm; Saturdays 12pm - 7pm and 2pm - 4pm - Appointments required. We also have walk-in service from 2-4pm on Fridays on a first come first served basis. Those wishing to get a passport executed must have all necessary documents, photos, copies, and required people present with them to be added on the list to be seen. Sign-in starts at 1pm.

**Michelle Pichon**  
Library Program Specialist  
**Harris County Public Library**  
Aldine Branch Library  
11331 Airline Dr.  
Houston, TX 77037  
832-927-5410



Dear Santa,  
Hello Santa, I know you are busy, but can you give me Robux, nano board, and some clothes, you don't have to give me a lot of stuff.  
Edith 6, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Hi Santa, make up and toy for my sister and mom and for me price 13 max to see my real dad, bye Santa.  
Kyize, 9 years old  
Orange Grove elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I would like for Christmas rolling skates, Make Up, robots, bike, scooter, pool, iPhone, swif box, ps5.  
Blanca, 9 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary



Dear Santa,  
I want you to know that I have been good at what I want for Christmas issues and clothes and science kit.  
Emily Flores, 9 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
This year I want an oculus I deserve it because I help people and I am nice.  
Bryantley Gibson, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa,  
Laptop, game six Nintendo, wish gema, zode gema, code sawcade, cat, iPhone.  
Alejandro, 9 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Hello Santa, what I want for December is a pool, teenager mutant ninja turtle toys, Xbox, and Pokémon cards.  
David, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I know that you are busy, but can you give me an air force one and a TV and two LED lights and PS five that's all.  
Edson, 10 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I know that you are busy, but can I please get some box, it is the 800 and cash. I get a bumblebee please, and Xbox for my brother.  
Ayden, 9 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa,  
This year, I want to go to Guyana with my cousins. I also want my aunt not to work so hard. I deserve this because this year I listened and not give my dad any trouble this is why I deserve these gifts.  
Etina Jordan, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
What I want for Christmas is a camera that I can film with in a pet dog because I have been good all year. I get A's on my report car and progress report. I also want monopoly chace, twister air and a mini kitchen or something like that. I have been good all year.  
Adrian Diaz, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa,  
Rollers rabs, drum set, mini crafts, couper star play, air force charms, Jordan 4s robocob.  
Constanza, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I'm sorry if you are busy, I want for my family it's a lot of peace for me and my brother want some new Jordan 4s, my brother doesn't like Jordan 4, it's OK him Air Force one.  
Axzel, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want for Christmas is a robot dog and a robot cat and art supplies and for posters and a new game set.  
Saui, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

CHURCH PAGE

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Bethlehem (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Where did the angel Gabriel appear to Mary saying, "Blessed art thou among women"? Nazareth, Tyre, Ninevah, Gazi
3. With perhaps two different biblical answers, who was the father of Joseph? Jacob/Heli, Gideon/Ishmael, Solomon/Nahum, Samuel/Pilate

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.

MICAH 5:2

4. Which Old Testament prophet predicted Jesus would be born in Bethlehem? Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum
5. For the journey to Bethlehem, how did Mary and Joseph travel? Bible not specific, Cart, Rode donkey, Small raft
6. Which of these wasn't a gift from the wise men (Magi)? Silver, Myrrh, Gold, Frankincense

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Nazareth, 3) Jacob/Heli (Matthew 1:16, Luke 3:23), 4) Micah, 5) Bible not specific, 6) Silver  
Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).

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# Medical imaging students gather at intercollegiate radiologic consortium

HOUSTON — Hundreds of medical imaging technology students from Greater Houston attended the 2023 Houston Area Radiologic Consortium (HARC) today for a day of academic enrichment and professional networking.

Houston Community College, San Jacinto College, Lone Star College, Galveston College, and MD Anderson Cancer Center all participated in this intercollegiate event held at HCC Coleman College for Health Sciences in the Texas Medical Center.

At HARC, students engaged in breakout sessions taught by imaging professors from the participating colleges. The sessions covered a wide range of imaging modalities, including X-ray, mammography, computed tomography (CT), sonography, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Between sessions, students were also able to meet with human resource representatives from several healthcare systems, including Memorial Hermann Health System, HCA Healthcare, Texas Children’s Hospital, CHI St. Luke’s Health, and Baylor Scott and White Health.

According to Elizabeth Ho, DHSC, ARDMS, diagnostic medical sonography program director at HCC Coleman College and HARC coordinator, the consortium began in 2016 with the common goal to expand the knowledge and opportunities of imaging technology students.

“The wonderful thing about HARC is that students are also learning from professors from other colleges. It gives the students more insight and

even allows the professors to learn from each other,” Ho said. “The students also meet recruiters from hospitals and other students who may be their coworkers one day.”

Medical imaging continues to become increasingly important for doctors to diagnose and treat diseases, so the job and earning potential for imaging technologists is strong.

“Perhaps the best part of this field is that general radiologic technologists can make a good starting salary,” Ho said. “Then they can expand their knowledge and certifications and specialize into different branches, like sonography, CT, or nuclear medicine. There’s a lot of opportunity for growth, especially as technology continues to evolve.”

Melva Marshall, a radi-

ography student at San Jacinto College, believes the event will help her career.

“I’m learning about different jobs and modalities in the field, as well as discovering various cancer treatment options,” Marshall said.

ABOUT HCC - COLEMAN COLLEGE FOR HEALTH SCIENCES: Houston Community College - Coleman College for Health Sciences is a public institution of higher learning dedicated to educating tomorrow’s health care professionals since 2004. Located in the Texas Medical Center, Coleman offers associate degrees and certificates in more than 20 health science fields in a state-of-the-art academic facility.

Students attending the conortium.

# LSC-UP Unveils new Visual and Performing Arts Center

The new Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) center at Lone Star College-University Park, pictured in this rendering, is set for its inaugural ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 6, with classes commencing in Spring 2024

Houston, TX (Nov. 20, 2023) - Lone Star College-University Park (LSC-University Park) is eagerly anticipating the grand opening of its Visual and Performing Arts Center (VPA), a premier facility encapsulating the essence of cultural and artistic expression. The ribbon-cutting ceremony is set to take place Dec. 6 at 4 p.m., marking a new era of creative arts education within the community.

The opening of the VPA completes Lone Star College-University Park’s triumvirate of cutting-edge facilities, joining the esteemed ranks of the Center for Science & Innovation (CSI) and the Energy & Manufacturing Institute (EMI). Together, these buildings embody the college’s holistic approach to academic excellence.

“The addition of the Visual and Performing Arts Center to the Lone Star College-University Park campus is a testament to the unwavering commitment of Lone Star College to educational excellence and community enrichment,” said Mario K. Castillo, J.D., Lone Star College chancellor. “The arts are a vital aspect of a well-rounded education, and with this new state-of-the-art center, we ensure that our students and community have a place to learn, grow and be inspired.”

The grand opening will feature a ceremonial ribbon cutting, followed by guided

tours of the VPA’s impressive facilities. The celebration will also include speeches by State Representative Sam Harless and other distinguished participants. The evening concludes with a student performance of “A Christmas Carol” radio play.

LSC-University Park President Virginia M. Fraire, Ph.D., reflected on this milestone, stating, “The VPA is more than a building; it’s a bridge connecting our students to the global stage and stands as a testament to our belief in equitable access to the arts. It promises to be a cornerstone of cultural enrichment and a platform for students of diverse backgrounds to engage with the world through the universal language of the arts.”

The 30,000-square-foot VPA center is set to welcome students for classes in the Spring of 2024. It includes a 338-seat mainstage theater with an orchestra pit, a 100-seat Black Box Theatre, an art gallery, an art studio, a lobby with LED video walls, and many other state-of-the-art facilities.

For more information on the VPA and upcoming events, visit [www.lonestar.edu/UP-VPA](http://www.lonestar.edu/UP-VPA). To learn about program offerings or to register for classes at LSC-University Park, visit [www.LoneStar.edu/Start-UP](http://www.LoneStar.edu/Start-UP), call 281-290-2600 or email [UPAdvising@LoneStar.edu](mailto:UPAdvising@LoneStar.edu).

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begin January 16.



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Dear Santa,  
I want a robucks and food, toys, and I want new clothes, iPhone for gaming set up, thank you I'm done.  
Jacob, 8 years old  
Orange Grove elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I know that you are busy, but I just need one thing, can I have robucks and a scooter, and LED lights and my dad together.  
Asael, 8 years old  
Orange Grove elementary

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Dear Santa,  
What I would like for Christmas is a drum set, Air Force 11, star charms, iPhone.  
Janell, 9 years old  
Orange Grove elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Hello Santa I want an art set. I want books. I want a cat. Stitch toy. Thank you.  
Love, Ariana Q., 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa,  
I don't know what I want from you, but I know.  
Matthew Arroyo, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
What I will want for Christmas is a stitch shirt. A canvas to paint and some paint. Some mechanical pencils. Some boot cut pants. And a onel bracelet. A guitar. A realism sweater. I deserve this because I work hard and help my mom.  
Ariana Herrera, 8 nothing years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
I want is a roller skates and a dog puppy. I made 100 on my spelling but I need to be good and have A's and B's on my test and spelling test and science test and the last thing on my list is a big buy kit.  
Nyla Norsworthy, 8 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

Dear Santa,  
How are you? I would like 11 bucks, sonic, surfer, sonic toys.  
Alex, 8 years old  
Orange Grove elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? Fine. What I would like it's robots, roller stars, charms, mini bros toys, and make up.  
Isabell, 9 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

\*\*\*\*  
Dear Santa,  
Hi Santa, I know you are busy but I would like to have is a new hovar board and Robux and roller skate and Lechrick scotter. Thank you, Santa, bye, have a good day.  
Katalina, 9 years old  
Orange Grove Elementary

# East Aldine Tree Lighting,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 -- PHOTOS BY MARINA SUGG

Camel Rides were a unique new experience for most, and they provided trips around the perimeter of Town Center, and again there was a long line to enjoy this opportunity. There was also a Petting Zoo for the kids to enjoy.

There were other activities to keep people busy and having fun, too. A Giant Snow Globe was a special attraction. There was a raffle, where the East Aldine District gave out Christmas prizes, and to top off the evening, toys were given out that had been collected during last month's Toy Drive, and others donated. This allowed them to distribute hundreds of toys and gifts to needy families.

The crowd was estimated at between 500 to 1000 persons, and many brought lawn chairs and blankets to spend the evening. Parking was well managed by the Sheriff's department, with Lone Star College providing space. Most people indicated they were having a great time, and looking forward to the event every year in the future.



Humble ISD String Ensemble performed Holiday music.




Families and Kids enjoyed the Holiday themed Jump House.



Toys and Gifts were distributed to Needy families.




Residents of Pilgrim Place 2 were present, enjoying the music and lights of the Holidays. Above, Seniors and Sandra Luna, standing, and PP2 manager Coco Martinez at right.



AldineISD.org

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. 18-Jan. 3 and  
Dec. 18-Jan. 1 for Employees.





AldineISD.org

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  
18 de diciembre al 3 de enero. Y del 18 de  
diciembre al 1 de enero para los empleados.





Participating in the Holiday Festivities are L to R, Kenneth and Marina Sugg, Patti Acosta with friend, Sandra Luna, Coco Martinez, and of course in the front are Santa and Mrs. Claus. HO HO HO.

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