

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

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Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015

www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CHATTER

### Two men killed when car hits truck

Two men were killed early last Saturday when a Chevrolet Impala crashed into the back of parked flatbed trailer.

The accident happened at East Sam Houston Parkway North feeder road near Tidwell Road, Harris County Sheriff's authorities said.

Samual Guana and Ha Saun Caston were both killed, deputies said.

Guana was driving at a high rate of speed and Caston was in the front passenger seat, when Guana fail to avoid a parked semi-tractor trailer and struck it around 3:00 a.m.

The driver of the truck has stopped to verigy an address, reports said.

### GP/JC CIP Meeting

February 5, 2015-Building Plant Awareness of the CIP Community History. Meetings take place at Alvin Baggett Recreation Building beginning at 5:45 p.m.

Sue Edwards, who was born in a log cabin on 2nd Street in Galena Park, will share her knowledge of the history of that city. Lon Squyres, CIP member and city manager of Jacinto City will share his knowledge of that city.

And Dorothie Harding will talk about the Harding Hotel that occupied the site of what is now McDonald's.

### North Channel Chamber luncheon

February monthly luncheon, Friday, Feb. 6, 2015, 11:30 a.m. at San Jacinto North in the Monument room of the Student Center, 5800 Uvalde Rd. Guest Speaker Dr. Gerardo Kalife.

## Construction progressing for San Jacinto College's new Maritime Training Center at port

PASADENA, Texas -- A recent groundbreaking of the Maritime Training Center was held to mark the beginning stages of construction of the future home of all maritime training at San Jacinto College.

At the site of 3700 Old Highway 146 in La Porte, one can see the view of concrete piers that will support the 45,000-square-foot San Jacinto College Maritime Training Center.

San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer explained how the rapid growth of the College's maritime program over the course of four years has brought the program to this point of expansion.

"When we began envisioning what we wanted to see for our maritime training program, we knew we had to build a world-class facility," said Dr. Hellyer. Since 2010, the College has awarded approximately 3,200 U.S. Coast Guard-required certifications and developed the state's first associate degree maritime transportation program. In 2012, the College purchased 13 acres of land along the Port of Houston to begin the process of building the Maritime Training Center.

"We looked at a lot of different locations



The 45,000-square-foot facility will prepare new mariners and serve as local training site

along the water, and we kept coming back to this property," added Dr. Hellyer. "The Maritime Training Center was developed based on industry input and leadership, and will allow us to put in place the training areas that are required to make this program a success now and in the long term."

Maritime employment remains strong in Texas, as the state leads the nation in export tonnage and imports. Well over 1 million jobs are related to marine cargo activity at the Port of Houston and private terminals, according to a report by the Port of Houston Authority. Issues such as an aging workforce and expansion of the Panama Canal also drive the need to train and prepare more mariners for the industry.

See MARITIME CENTER, page 8

## Fire erupts at trash site in Cloverleaf area

Cloverleaf Fire Department was called to the scene of a smoky trash fire last Tuesday afternoon, at the corner of McNair and Frankie Streets in the Cloverleaf area.

Two firetrucks fought for several hours to suppress the flames and smoke, which kept burning due to the way trash was piled and compacted on the site.

A representative of the family that owns the property, Paula Neal, said that workmen were in the process of clearing the property when the fire was discovered. The property is for sale, with new construction anticipated on the site.

At presstime, no cause for the fire was known. Witnesses said that some of the containers were being used as shelter for the homeless, but it was not known if that was related to the fire.



Construction equipment can be seen in the process of clearing the site of debris and ship containers, but flames and smoke rise in the background. A plume of smoke could be seen for miles on Tuesday.



Cloverleaf Fire Department responded to the fire with two pumper trucks and other equipment, as Precinct 3 constables kept traffic away from the site. In the photo above, a deluge nozzle was used to reach fire in the interior of the property.

### TOWN HALL MEETING:

## Congressman Green hosts senior town hall meeting

Congressman Gene Green, representing the Texas District 29, was busy last week, hosting a Senior Town Hall Meeting for his district on Thursday morning at the Northeast Community Center, and a Health Fair at M.O. Campbell Center on Saturday.

At the Senior Town Hall, Green was accompanied by government officials that answered questions and presented new information in their respective fields. These included Andy Hardwick, Social Security Administration; Paula Johnson, HC Area Agency on Aging; and Michael Coulter, Medicare Outreach Centers.

Continued on Page 8. See SENIOR TOWN HALL



Congressman Gene Green hosted the annual Senior Town Hall, and addressed with audience with updates on legislation affecting them. Government officials, seated, also answered questions.

### STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS:

## Governor Abbott, Lt. Gov. Patrick sworn into office

By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — January 20 was inauguration day for Gov. Greg Abbott, successor to Rick Perry, who completed a record-setting 14 years as governor. Abbott is the 48th governor of Texas.

Abbott expressed gratitude to the people who elected him and promised to "promote policies that limit the growth of government, not the size of your dreams."

"Texas truly is the land of opportunity, the place where anyone can achieve anything," Abbott said. "But as great as Texas is there's more we must do: More for the families stuck in traffic. More for parched towns thirsty for water. More for parents who fear their child is falling behind in school. More for employers searching for skilled workers. More for our veterans who return broken from battle."

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, successor to David Dewhurst who served at the post for 12 years, also addressed the crowd at the inauguration. "In my cam-



Governor Abbott sworn in as Texas' first new governor since 2000.

paign," Patrick said, "I pledged to secure the border, to lower property and business taxes, prioritize, reform and improve public education, build our infrastructure and protect life, family and the Second Amendment. That's what I pledged to do as a candidate and that's what I will do as lieutenant

governor." Patrick is the state's 42nd lieutenant governor.

### Patrick awards chairmanships

On Jan. 21, the Texas Senate voted to cut the number of standing committees from 18 to 14 and Lt. Gov. Patrick, as

See CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS, p. 3



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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## CenterPoint Energy Incentive

(front, from left) Michael Sciortino, account manager for CLEAResult, and Kristi Hardy, program manager for CenterPoint Energy, present Goose Creek CISD with an incentive check for \$81,305.87 at a recent meeting of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees for energy efficiency accomplishment in the CenterPoint Energy SCORE/CitySmart Program. The program helps participants reduce energy operating costs, and the incentive checks are to help motivate energy efficiency upgrades within organizations. Also pictured are Brenda Garcia (front, second from right), project inspector; David Fluker, executive director of facilities; (back, from left) Randal O'Brien, GCCISD acting superintendent; Agustin Loreda III, GCCISD Board of Trustees vice president and Ray Brown, senior project inspector.



## Culinary Arts Students Honor GCCISD Board of Trustees

Culinary Arts students from Stuart Career Center prepared dinner for members of the Board of Trustees and presented them with cutting boards made at SCC in honor of School Board Recognition Month. Pictured are (front, l to r) Tina Andrade, Culinary Arts teacher; Vicky Melo, GC Board of Trustees, Board secretary; Jenice Coffey, Board member; Alyssa Curiel, Goose Creek Memorial; Natassja Davis, Sterling; (back, l to r) Rex Miller, Meat Processing teacher at SCC; Agustin Loreda III, Board vice president; Randal O'Brien, GC acting superintendent; Ken Martin, Board assistant secretary; Joe Ayala, GCM; Noe Ramos, GCM; and Pedro Martinez, GCM.

## GCM Students Chosen for All-State Band

(from left) Amanda Essoh, Trenton Carr and Sierra Moody, Goose Creek Memorial High School Band members, were selected to perform with the Texas All-State Band in San Antonio Saturday, February 14, 2015, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center as part of the 2015 Texas Music Educators Association Clinic/Convention. They are under the direction of Richard Lewis at GCM.



## REL Student Council Sponsors Teens for Jeans

The Student Council from Robert E. Lee High School is collecting jeans for Teens for Jeans, a national campaign in partnership with Aéropostale and DoSomething.org, the largest not-for-profit organization for young people and social change. Teens for Jeans encourages young people across the country to run a jeans drive in their school or community to help provide clothing for youth experiencing homelessness.

Over a million young people experience homelessness in the United States every year, and one of the most requested items that young people in homeless shelters ask for is a pair of jeans. In the past seven years, young people across the country have collected over 4.3 million pairs of jeans through Teens for Jeans. This year, the top collecting high school, middle school, elementary school, and college will each win a \$5,000 school grant. In addition to the

school grant, the school that collects the most jeans will win a private school concert by pop band The Vamps and Aéropostale t-shirts for the entire school. Members of the community can support the drive by dropping off their gently used denim of any size at Robert E. Lee High School, 1809 Market St., Baytown, TX 77520. For more information, please visit TeensForJeans.com or contact Lee High School at 281-420-4535.

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HUMBLE 3/2 home. Living area open to kitchen & dining. Nice open concept, great for entertaining! Spacious master bed & bath with large closet. Fully fenced backyard w/ patio. Call Terry.

ADORABLE 3/2 home located in Lakewood Heights. Well maintained, open plan. Over sized lot w/fenced backyard. Located on cul-de-sac street within walking distance to schools. \$135,000. Call Terry.

Nice size lot in Huffman ISD ready for your new home! No mobiles, per deed restrictions. \$13,000 Call Viola.

1.5 story located in Indian Shores has been recently remodeled. Great open plan w/ soaring ceilings. 3 beds down, loft up. Kitchen w/ custom cabinets, granite counters. Oversized patio. Call Terry.

BEAUTIFUL 2 STORY w/ many upgrades. Located on approx 1 acre. Great open plan w/ soaring ceilings, gourmet kitchen, spacious master suite, media room. Located in Saddle Creek Farms. Call Terry.

Amazing Waterfront home on Lake Houston. Open concept, living area w/ large glass windows & doors maximizing the view. Some recent updates. Covered patio, bulkhead w/ slip boat dock. Call Terry.

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There is a very high demand for homes in our area right now. If you are thinking of selling your current home, we would love to talk to you. Rates are still great, making it a great time to purchase a new home. Either way, we can help! Call for a free assessment of your home's value.

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Rep. Gene Green Town Hall meeting

Congressman Gene Green is hosting a Town Hall Meeting:  
•Thursday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the North Channel Branch Library, 15741 Wallisville Road, Houston, TX. 77049.

### Affordable Care Act social gathering

Save the date, Feb. 5, 2015 for a Native American gathering social dinner event at no charge at The United Way, 50 Waugh Dr., Houston, TX, 77007 from 7 pm - 9 pm. Food will be served. For more information, please call 281-686-1462 or 281-384-5992. Visit [nativeamericanhealthcoalition.org](http://nativeamericanhealthcoalition.org) for more information.

### Black History Month celebration

HOUSTON – San Jacinto College will celebrate Black History Month with an array of events. This year's events offer a range of entertainment and education from traditional African music and dance, panel discussions, lectures, guest speakers, film showings, and a talent show featuring performances from local acts and students. Below is a list of activities going on throughout February in commemoration of Black History Month.

#### North Campus

•Feb. 5: Black History Month Kick-off Celebration- 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., N-12 lobby

•Feb. 10: Community Leader Panel Discussion- 6:30 p.m., N-1.103

•Feb. 11: Bingo and Trivia- 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., N-12 lobby

•Feb. 25: Media and the Misrepresentation of Blacks- 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monument Room

For more information, visit [sanjac.edu/events](http://sanjac.edu/events).

#### JANUARY

### North Channel Library events

-Thursday, Jan. 29, 10:30 am, Baby Time.

CLASES DE COMPUTACION:  
-Intermedio Excel, Práctica, Jan. 29, 10 am - 12 pm.

\*Se require registrarse.

Library is located at 15741 Wallisville Rd., Houston, TX. 77049. Call 281-457-1631 for more information on other classes.

#### JANUARY

### Galena Park Library events

-Wednesday, Jan. 28, 11 am, Story Time.  
Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details.

The library is located at 1500 Keene St. Galena Park, TX. 77547.

#### SATURDAY NIGHTS

### The Buckshot Jamboree

Enjoy Classic Country music every Saturday night from 7 pm - 10 pm with The Buckshot Jamboree at 7414 Hartman near Old Beaumont Highway. More info, call 281-458-0729 or 832-444-5000.

### FREE PARENT TECHNOLOGY TRAINING!

Galena Park ISD is offering FREE technology training for parents who have children in one or more GPISD schools!

Registration: Call 832-386-1038 Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Training Topics include Word Processing and Internet Tools.  
There will be snacks and FREE babysitting for children under 12.

Training is being offered in both English and Spanish. Training will take place at Joyce Zolt Education Center, 13801 Holly Park, Houston  
Training Dates/Times: Select one training week (Monday-Thursday)

February 9-12 (5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.)

February 23-26 (5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.)

#### GALENA PARK

## Science Survivor Series - Science Gets Serious

GPISD held its first Elementary Science Survivor Series (S3) on Friday, January 16th at the Administration Building. To showcase skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), all 15 GPISD elementary school sent a team of six to represent their campus to compete in three challenges - academic, building, and creativity. The teams and their sponsors have been working together all year in preparation for this event; however, they did not know what the challenges would entail until the day of the competition.

For the academic portion, teams were asked to showcase their science content knowledge. In a game called *Picture It*, a team member was selected to sketch up to 21 science terms while their teammates guessed as many as they could in five minutes. To showcase their building and writing skills, one student described a pre-built creation to a teammate, who then used a pre set tub of materials and their partner's written notes to replicate the creation as closely as possible. Creativity was demonstrated with a Texas appropriate task - students were challenged to determine how to best insulate an ice cube to



Drawing depictions of science terms on the board, the sketcher's teammates had five minutes to guess as many as they could.

keep it from melting.

Judges from local partners with Texas STARBASE, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Harris County Department of Education, and UH STEP Program carefully evaluated each team's project. The teams displayed some serious strategizing, teamwork and determination, so the competition was intense. But, three teams outlasted all others to take a trophy back to their campus:

**First Place Team:** Normandy Crossing Elementary, coached by LaTandra Hicks & Jimmy Giacona

**Second Place Team:** Cimarron Elementary, coached by Priscilla Diosdado & Margeaux Fisher

**Third Place Team:** Sam Houston Elementary, coached by Isaias Cerdá

All students had a memorable experience and received a delicious breakfast donated by the United Community Credit Union, colorful shirts from Munchie's at New Forest Crossing, and gift certificates for Menchie's and Peter Piper Pizza. The top three teams also got a bonus pizza party to celebrate their success!

## CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS,

Continued from page 1

president of the Senate, named committee chairs and members of each committee.

Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Grapevine, was named chair of the body's 15-member Committee on Finance and will manage the writing of a state budget to be melded with a version originating in the Texas House. Nelson served as chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services for several legislative sessions. Earlier this month, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said some \$113 billion is available for general-purpose spending in the state's 2016-2017 fiscal biennium. For comparison, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' revenue estimate for the current 2014-2015 biennium was \$92.6 billion.

Other standing committee chairmanships assigned by the lieutenant governor include: Sen. Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills, Committee on Administration; Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, Agriculture, Water and Rural Affairs; Sen. Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, Business and Commerce; Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, Criminal Justice; Sen. Larry Taylor, R-Galveston, Education; Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, Health and Human Services.

Also, Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, Higher Education; Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr., D-Brownsville, Intergovernmental Relations; Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, Natural Resources and Economic Development; Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, State Affairs; Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, Transportation; Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, Veteran Affairs and Military Installations. Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, was named chair of the Border Security Subcommittee of Campbell's committee.

#### 'Three-fifths rule' adopted

On Jan. 21, the Texas Senate voted on procedural rules for the current legislative session.

Notably, the body dispensed with the traditional "two-thirds rule" requiring that at least 21 members of the 31-member body agree to bring up a bill before it could be de-

bated on the Senate floor. All 20 Republican members of the Senate and one Democrat, Sen. Lucio of Brownsville, voted in favor of adopting a "three-fifths rule" so that as few as 19 members of the body need agree on whether to bring a bill to the Senate floor for debate.

In the course of a two-hour debate opponents said, in effect, that the rule change would give too much power to the majority party and erode the body's history of bipartisan cooperation and consent. Sen. Eltife said the "three-fifths rule" would help the Senate "to govern in regular session and complete our work in a timely manner."

#### Unemployment rate falls

Job growth continued with an upward trend in December and Texas saw an increase of 457,900 seasonally adjusted total non-farm jobs over calendar year 2014.

December was the fifth straight month of record-breaking annual job growth for the Lone Star State "and over the month, the state gained 45,700 jobs, marking 51 straight months of employment growth," the Texas Work-

force Commission reported on Jan. 23.

In addition, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.6 percent in December, down from 4.9 percent in November and down from 6.0 percent a year ago. This was the lowest Texas unemployment rate since May 2008, Texas Workforce Commission said.

Andres Alcantar, chairman of the state agency, said, "Every major industry added jobs over the year, benefiting from a strong business climate and a growing, competitive and high quality Texas workforce."

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

How can so many stores offer credit with no payments for months, even years? What's the catch?



**The answer is... Card Tricks!** We're talking *credit card* tricks. The expensive kind, in which over-limit fees, residual interest, default APRs and other surprises suddenly appear as if by magic on your credit card statement. In each instance, they are within their rights to take your money, thanks to the often inscrutable terms of your cardholder agreement. But just like Three-Card Monte, these tricks can clean out your wallet faster than you can pick a card, any card. Some of these tricks may soon be outlawed by the Federal Reserve Board's proposed Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices reforms.

In the meantime, keep your eye on your statement, your hand on your wallet and watch out for these five sneaky credit card tricks.

**This is the second in a series of 5.**

#### 2. The over-limit limbo

At the other end of your minimum payment is the credit limit on your card. What happens to those Icarus-like cardholders whose spending flies above their credit limit? They get burned by an over-the-limit fee that not only typically exceeds \$35, but keeps recurring every cycle that they remain out in the blue. It's the credit card fee that keeps on taking.

There are numerous ways to accidentally soar over your limit. You can charge over it, of course. A stray automatic payment for an annual or semi-annual insurance bill could do it. If you're close enough already, an annual fee

or even additional interest on purchases could exceed the ceiling.

Some card companies also use this clever trick: They suddenly lower your limit below your balance and then ding you with an over-limit fee.

Weston says the practice runs counter to what those credit card TV ads would have you believe. "Everybody has seen the commercial where the guy is taking his boss out to dinner and his card gets turned down," she says. "Well, typically, they won't turn you down because they can charge you that fee. The time you get declined is when you're really screwed up and it has gone to collections. You can wind up paying these fees to infinity."

Solution? Weston suggests using online personal finance programs such as Wasabi, Mint or Quicken to monitor closely your available credit.

Flying a little lower financially may be your best option, however. "Try to stay under half your limit," says Hillebrand. "It helps avoid the problem, it's better for your credit score and it also leaves some reserve if you have to get your car fixed."

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jmills@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jmills@pineforestjewelry.com).

*Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).*

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LIFESTYLE

In Loving Memory of  
Robert Lee Creel  
September 11, 1922  
– January 20, 2015



Robert Lee Creel, known as R.L. to all his friends and relatives, passed away January 20, 2015 with his family by his side. R.L. was born in Livingston, Texas, the 2<sup>nd</sup> child of 10 children born to Jim and Leora Creel. The family moved to Pelly, Texas where R.L. went to school and worked. R.L. learned his work ethics at an early age. He delivered ice into customers home during the depression years in the early morning hours before school. Imagine that today. R.L. enjoyed his time at Robert E. Lee High School making friends that would last a lifetime. He excelled in sports and was the co-captain of the 1939 Gander football team. He stated he liked football because it enabled him to travel and see other towns and places.

Sometimes, they would even spend nights with families of opposing teams due to the long drive home. He was

★  
OBITUARIES

honored his senior year by his peers to be named Mr. Robert E. Lee of the class of 1940.

After graduating from REL High School, he worked various jobs helping to support his family until joining the United States Air Force in 1942. R.L. was honorably discharged in November 1945. He returned to Baytown and began working at Ted's Auto Supply. There he advanced to lead salesman taking great pride in knowing the various parts by site.

In November of 1945, he married the love of his life, Thelma Adams Creel. To this union was born five children, Sharon Lee, Robert Dwayne, William Reeves, Mark Allan and Mary Margaret. R.L. and Thelma moved to Highlands, Texas in 1953 where they opened their business, Creel's Auto Parts and Service. R.L.'s business endeavors included several hats. While maintaining his auto parts business R.L. began a career in real estate in 1958. This career would span 53 years and he was recognized by the TX Real Estate Commission in 2010 as maintaining his broker license for 50 consecutive years. R.L. was instrumental in developing several subdivisions in the Highlands area, which provided new homes for the growing community. R.L. was proud of his community and was involved with various organizations. He joined the Highlands Rotary Club in 1955 and remained an active member for 55 years. He was awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow in 1981. As his children got older and were able to help him in his different businesses, R.L. put on another hat and began his 38-year career with

New York Life Insurance Company. R.L. loved to work! He enjoyed meeting and greeting and helping people. He woke up every morning looking forward to what the day would bring. R.L. was able to continue to work in the insurance and real estate business until 2010 when he changed hats again. He retired to be primary caregiver for his wife during her battle with cancer.

As much as he loved his work, he loved his family more. R.L. was a devoted son, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, loving uncle, brother and friend. R.L. was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 67 years, Thelma Adams Creel, brothers Lemuel (J.L.), Cullen Bryant (C.B.) and George Dennis; sister, Karen White; and his youngest son, Mark Allen Creel. He is survived by five sisters, Jimmyrle Rogers, Daris Galloway, Jeanette Haddox, Coxa Eddleman, and Loretta Moreau; and by two sons and two daughters and their families; Sharon Biehle of St. Louis, MO, Robert Dwayne and wife Patty of Bryan, TX, William R. and wife Cindy of Dayton, TX, and Mary Margaret Creel of Humble, TX. R.L. was "grandpa" to eight grandchildren, Blake Spanier and wife Bonnie of St. Louis, MO; Coady Creel and wife Ty of Buda, Texas, Hungary; Casey Creel and wife Jennifer of Humble, TX; Blair Biehle and wife Sarah of St. Louis, MO; Hillary Armstrong and husband Luke of Dayton, TX; Alex Creel of Baytown, TX; Jana Creel of Pensacola, FL; and Mary Catherine Creel of Bryan, TX. In addition, R.L. was "grandpa" to five great grandchildren: Colin and Lila

Creel, Randy and Ryan Armstrong, and Brooklyn Biehle.

R.L. enjoyed a long and successful career, a wonderful loving family, but his top priority was living for the Lord. R.L. and Thelma raised their children attending Peace Tabernacle Church and later Harvest Temple. He was a devoted Christian, living his life by example for others to witness. He maintained his faith throughout, both good and bad times. He will be missed by all who knew him, but he is in a better place today, resting in the arms of his lord, reunited with Thelma, enjoying all the rewards God has promised.

The family wishes to express gratitude to the staff and residents at Remington Park, who helped make R.L.'s latter years both enjoyable and fulfilling. Additionally, the family appreciates the caregivers from IPR Home Health Care and the staff at Magnolia Place Skilled Nursing Facility for their compassionate care during his final days.

Services were held at 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 26, 2015 at Navarre Funeral Home with Rev. Orin Flynn officiating. R.L.'s nephew, James (Buddy) Creel and wife Jeannie from Casper, Wyoming provided music for the service. Burial followed at White Cemetery in Highlands.

Honoring the family as pallbearers were Coady Creel, Casey Creel, Luke Armstrong, Alex Creel, Rocky Creel and Weston Cotten.

In lieu of usual remembrances, donations in R.L.'s memory can be made to the Highlands Rotary Club, PO Box 892, Highlands, TX 77562.

To view his online obituary, or post a tribute to his family, go to [www.navarrefuneralhome.com](http://www.navarrefuneralhome.com).

Arrangements were under the direction of Navarre Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 2444 Rollingbrook drive, Baytown, Texas 77521, (281) 422-8111.

THOUGHTS FROM MARANATHA CHURCH

By Dr. Mark Trice Maranatha Church

“Bless You!”

Bless you! These are two very powerful words, words that we too often underestimate or even use carelessly. When was the last time you really thought about what happens when you bless someone?

Consider just one incident that took place during the three years Jesus was ministering on this earth. In Luke nine's account of the feeding of the 5,000, He faced a multitude of people who had been with Him for hours. They were hungry and far from the market; He determined that they would not stay hungry. What did He do? He gathered together the food they did have, five loaves of bread and two fish, and He *blessed it*. After this, He gave it to His disciples and the food was multiplied so greatly that they had twelve baskets of leftovers.

We also know, from Scripture, the importance of the father's blessing upon his child; it could quite literally make a man's future! Luke 6:28 tells us to bless those who curse

us, which is a supernaturally powerful thing that can mightily change situations and even people. Over and over throughout the Bible, you find supernatural power accompanying the blessing.

I encourage you to bear this in mind as you go through your days. Bless the people you come in contact with. They don't necessarily have to hear you do it, but you can speak blessings over them just the same. Bless your spouse, bless your children, bless the man who cuts you off on the freeway... Sometimes your first instinct may be just the opposite, but knowing the power of the blessing as you do, you should realize that God can work mighty miracles in the heart of that person. Maybe tomorrow his actions will be different.

“Bless you.” They're two very simple words that bring far from simple results. Let's use them!

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# Sadie Priutt has the birthday of a Century

CROSBY – Last Saturday at Sacred Heart Church a 100 year old Highlands resident was blessed by Father O'Connor, friends, her children, grandchildren and great-grand children for being such a delightfully pleasant person to encounter.

Sadie Marie Broussard Priutt was born January 20, 1915 on a Lorrville, Louisiana farm. One of six children of Edmund Broussard and Mathilda Bernard Broussard.

She grew up in New Iberia, Louisiana and as a teen she worked as a carhop at Delaware's Burgers where she would meet the love of her life– Bill Priutt. She and Bill would enjoy roller skating together. She would graduate at New Iberia at midterm as Valedictorian. Her beau Bill worked in the oil fields and told his friends when he first saw Sadie he was going to “marry that girl.” And he was right, they married in Humble at the Priutt home in 1935.

Sadie with her female descendants cutting birthday cake.

They would buy a home in Crowley, Louisiana and lived there for 10 years. They were blessed with 4 children. The oil business took them far and wide. Rosemary was born in Houston. Pat was born in New Iberia. Henry was born in Corpus Christi and David was born in Houston. The family had lived in such exotic locations as Maracaibo, Venezuela; Trinidad, Morocco; Kuwait and

# Little Biddy Bits

By Danny Biddy

## Been There, Done That

A recent Little Biddy Bits, about how auto correct when sending a text can get you in trouble, drew the following response from a lady named Nancy:

“I can relate! I was driving, so I used my voice option to send a text to Bob. I thought I was saying, ‘I’m going to Sally’s, and then we’re going to Sam’s. I’ll be home later.’ Well, what came through was ‘I’m going sailing with Sam; be home later!’”

“There is no temptation overtaken you except that which is common to all, but God who is faithful, will make a way of escape.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Sadie with her four children remembering the fun at Sacred Heart Church.

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All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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1 Corinthians 16:13

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Leviticus 19:32

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SPORTS

This Super Bowl could be one for the ages

The Super Bowl will celebrate its big "50" in 2016, but No. 49 might be one of the best matchups ever as the defending champs will be taking on a team that will be looking to win its fourth Lombardi Trophy and leave its head coach and quarterback with a legacy few have attained in the NFL.

Much will be at stake when New England and Seattle tee it up at around 5:30 p.m. on Sunday from Glendale, AZ.

The Seahawks will be looking for their second straight Super Bowl win, which will make them the eighth franchise to accomplish that feat (Seattle would join back-back winners Green Bay, Miami, Pittsburgh (accomplished twice), Dallas, Denver, New England and San Francisco), while the Patriots will be looking to become a four-time winner (Pittsburgh has six, Dallas and San Francisco have five each, and Green Bay and the Giants have four each).

If the Patriots win, head coach Bill Belichick would join Steeler great Chuck Noll as the only head coaches in the history of the NFL who have guided their teams to four Lombardi Trophies, while quarterback Tom Brady would join Pittsburgh's Terry Bradshaw and San Francisco's Joe Montana as the only quarterbacks to lead their teams to four Super Bowl titles.

A Seattle victory would give head coach Pete Carroll his second straight title, and he would join the ranks of head coaches (Noll (4), Joe Gibbs (3), Bill Walsh (3), Tom Landry (2), Jimmy Johnson (2), Vince Lombardi (2), Bill Parcells (2), Tom Flores (2), Mike Shanahan (2), Tom Coughlin (2) and George Siefert (2)) who have one two or more crowns.

A Seattle win would also move quarterback Russell Wilson into elite company and make him one of 12 NFL quarterbacks who have two or more Super Bowl title under their belts (Bradshaw (4), Montana (4), Troy Aikman (3), Brady (3), Bart Starr (2), Bob Griese (2), Roger Staubach (2), Jim Plunkett (2), John Elway (2), Ben Rothlisberger (2) and Eli Manning (2)). That's definitely an elite list!

With so much at stake for each team and individual players, there will be plenty of side stories to report on during Super Bowl week and the game

itself will pit the top seeds from their respective conferences.

Both teams took different paths to get to Glendale. Seattle struggled early and was 6-4 after 10 games and looked like they may not even make the playoffs, but in early November, Carroll addressed the team's leaders and the message was well received as Seattle ran off six straight regular-season wins and then added two more in the playoffs to enter this game riding an eight-game winning streak. The defense was downright dominant the last half of the season, allowing 39 points during Seattle's six-game winning streak (6.5 points per game).

Seattle righted the ship and took care of Carolina in the Divisional round of the playoffs, before coming through with a miraculous rally in the NFC Conference game against Green Bay.

Trailing 19-7 with less than five minutes left to play, Wilson shook off what had been one of his worst performances as a pro (four interceptions and a subpar passing day) and rallied his team to 15 points to take a 22-19 lead with just seconds to go. We all know what happened next. Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers drove his team to the game-tying field goal, but in overtime, Wilson threw the game-winning touchdown pass on Seattle's first possession to return the 'Hawks to their second straight Super Bowl.

Many experts were writing off the Patriots after suffering a humiliating 41-14 loss at Kansas City on Sept. 29. Some believed Brady was washed up and it was time for him to hang it up. Well, all Brady did was lead the Pats to seven straight wins after that debacle in KC and 10 wins in their last 12 games to quiet his critics.

In the first-round of the playoffs, NE fell behind by 14 points twice to the Ravens, but behind Brady, they rallied for a 35-31 win, and then blew out Indianapolis in the AFC title game, 45-7, as Brady and running back LeGarrette Blount led the way. Brady threw for three touchdowns and 367 yards, while Blount ran over and around the Indy defense for 148 yards and three touchdowns.

In two playoff games, Brady has thrown for 593 yards and six touchdowns, but he'll face his sternest test of the season



on Sunday when he faces Seattle's celebrated "Legion of Boom" secondary, which is chock full of All-Pros.

Two of those All-Pros, cornerback Richard Sherman and safety Earl Thomas suffered injuries in the Green Bay win and might not be at 100 percent come Sunday. Sherman suffered a hyper extended elbow, while Thomas sustained a dislocated shoulder. Both plan on playing in the Super Bowl.

You can bet Brady will test both of them early to see what effect their injuries have on them and look for tight end Rob Gronkowski to get plenty of looks early as Brady looks to establish the pass first to set up Blount and NE's host of other running backs.

The Seahawks will do just the opposite. They'll pound Marshon Lynch (157 yards, one touchdown in the NFC title game) at the New England defense and also look to get Wilson going in the running

game as well. The Seahawks don't have a game-breaker at wide receiver, but they have guys who make plays when called upon.

While Seattle will enter the game with the more celebrated defense, the Patriots can play a bit of defense themselves, and have their own shutdown corner in Darrell Revis. I expect Revis to clamp down on Seattle WR Doug Baldwin (the team's leading receiver) and force Wilson to beat them by going to more inexperienced wide outs.

I don't expect a blow out like we had last year when Seattle decimated Denver, 43-8. New England's offensive line is solid and Brady looks like his old self. He knows his legacy will be determined by a fourth Super Bowl win, and it says here he will be the one who makes the crucial play down the stretch to put him and Belichick on the Mount Rushmore of NFL head coaches and quarterbacks. **My pick, New England 33, Seattle 30**

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Cell phone store robbed twice

A new cell phone store was robbed last Monday morning for the second time in two weeks.

Two suspects wearing masks entered the A International store located in the 14500 block of Woodforest demanding cell phones and money.

Authorities said one sus-

pect acted as a looked while the other robbed the clerk at gunpoint; they got away with an iPhone and some cash.

Two suspects were found in a nearby house and apprehended but later release without charges; employees of the cell phone store could not identify them; the robbers were wearing masks.



Advertisement for San Jacinto College featuring the text: "Did you miss the registration deadline for Spring 2015? Don't worry, you can still Take 2 with classes that begin on Feb. 2, 2015. Enroll today! Some students may be required to have a meningitis vaccination. Find out more at www.sanjac.edu/meningitis. www.sanjac.edu 281-998-6150 Connect with us on [social media icons] SAN JACINTO COLLEGE Your Goals. Your College. [QR code] EO1"

Yellow Jacket swims to wins

On Saturday, January 24, 2015, Galena Park High School swimmer, Sebastian Reyna, won both the 100 Fly and the 500 Free at the District 21-5A Swimming Championships. Reyna, a junior, is a talented swimmer. His coach, Angie Fain said, "From what records I have, Sebastian is the fastest boys swimmer in Galena Park High School history, and he is on pace to beat his own record." He will have a good opportunity to shine once again when he enters the regional meet on February 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> at Victoria High School.



As district champion in two events, Sebastian Reyna is now preparing for the regional meet on February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.



Sebastian Reyna demonstrates his "fly" stroke that won him one of two district championship titles.

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# Sen. Garcia receives Committee Assignments for the 84th Legislative Session

*Education, Intergovernmental Relations, Transportation, Veteran Affairs and Military Installations*

AUSTIN - January 23, 2015 - Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick announced the Senate Committee appointments for the 84th Texas Legislative Session. Senator Garcia is honored to serve on the Senate Committees of Education, Transportation, Intergovernmental Relations, and Veteran Affairs. These appointments will allow Senator Garcia to serve the constituents of Senate District 6 and all Texans in a wide capacity, and encompass some of the most pressing issues facing the state today.

"As this new session begins, I am eager to serve my constituents and the Latino community across the state, and my new committee assignments allow me to represent them at the highest capacity."

"There is nothing more important than securing our future, and serving on the



Senator Sylvia Garcia

Education Committee will allow me to ensure that our youngest and most precious constituents will have all of the resources they need to live full and enriched lives. My work on this committee will be especially important this session, as school finance and other education reform matters are top priorities for the 84th session."

"As more people move into this great state and we experience unprecedented growth, addressing transportation funding and infrastructure deficits are a top priority for this legislative body. If we can't move goods and people across this state in a safe and effective manner, we will not be effective in serving our citizens."

"Having served as a Harris County Commissioner, and with full knowledge that local governments are imperative at executing the functions and programs that are vital to the day-to-day lives of our constituents, I relish the opportunity to serve a second term on the Intergovernmental Relations committee."

"I have the utmost respect and gratitude for the men and women that take the ultimate risk in protecting the freedoms and rights that we so all enjoy, and look forward to serving the nearly 27,000 veterans who live in my District. It is my turn to return the favor for their ultimate service to this country."

## Gene Green Senior Town Hall

Continued from Page 1

Green had some good news for Social Security benefits, that they have been extended by Congress to 2030 for Medicare, and 2033 for Social Security.

He also said that the Part D drug "donut hole" will be reduced over the next 10 years. He reminded attendees that full Social Security benefits are available after the age of 66 yrs.

In Social Security news, Hardwick noted that they now figure life span at 85 yrs. It is possible to establish and maintain your account online, avoiding waiting rooms at the Social Security office.

Johnson said that the Area Agency on Aging runs many programs for seniors, including Meals on Wheels, legal assistance, daycare center (for adults), health maintenance programs, home repair, non-emergency transportation, and fall-prevention surveys and construction.



Many Seniors from all over the 29th District attended the Town Hall meeting at the Northeast Community Center, as Congressman Green gave a talk on programs and benefits for seniors citizens.

Coulter reminded the audience that the annual enrollment period for Medicare was ending on February 15. He urged seniors to sign up for a Medicare Advantage program, and get a "wellness" exam free every year. He said that if you are on Medicare, you do not

need to sign up for ACA (Obama Care).

Green spoke about veterans programs and help from his office. Anyone can contact him at 713-999-5879 or 713-330-0761 for assistance with VA or other problems.



Left to right: Stephen H. DonCarlos, Commissioner, Port of Houston Authority; State Representative Mary Ann Perez, District 144; Roy Mease, Commissioner, Port of Houston Authority; Jack Morman, Commissioner, Harris County Pct. 2; Brad Hance, Member, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; John Moon Jr., Secretary, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Dr. Ruede Wheeler, Member, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Bob Fry, Mayor, City of West University; Mr. Dan Mims, Chairman, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Larry Wilson, Vice Chairman, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Keith Sinor, Assistant Secretary, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Rick Moses, Mayor, City of Shoreacres; Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor, San Jacinto College; John Kennedy, Commissioner, Port of Houston Authority; Mike Sullivan, Tax Assessor-Collector, Harris County; Roger Guenther, Executive Director, Port of Houston Authority. Photo by: Jeannie Peng-Armao, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations, and government affairs department.

## MARITIME CENTER,

Continued from page 1

The San Jacinto College Maritime Training Center, set for completion in approximately one year, will provide certificate, associate degree, and incumbent worker maritime training, and will include U.S. Coast Guard-required and approved deck and engineering coursework to prepare mariners for work commercial vessels, from deckhand on an inland towboat to captain of an oil tanker.

The building will sit 14 feet above ground. The ground level will showcase a training dock with lifeboats, davits, and fast rescue craft, and a separate industry dock for crew changes. This also will allow for vessel specific training for local maritime companies and

will serve as an aquatic training facility for sea survival and life raft training, complete with men's and women's locker rooms.

There will be 15 classrooms; engineering simulators to train maritime engineers for hydraulic, electric, pump control, motor control, heating and air conditioning, and refrigeration; and a multipurpose space for industry conferences and corporate partner meetings.

"This facility is going to make a big impact and help mariners stay competitive in a global industry. I believe it will become a center of excellence," said Rear Adm. William W. Pickavance, Jr., who serves as a consultant to the San Jacinto College maritime program.

Highlights of the new facility include three full-mission ship bridge simulators, acquired from the Houston Pilots in 2013. These room-sized replicas of ship control bridge

sets will become a part of a 3,748 square-foot simulation suite, complete with instructor stations, debrief classrooms, and development stations. A full-mission engine room simulator also is planned for the future and will interact and interconnect with the bridge simulators to allow vessel management exercises to accommodate deck and engineering officers and crew at the same time, in the same scenario.

"We're excited to be partners with San Jacinto College and to be on board with the Maritime Training Center," said Capt. Mike Morris, presiding officer of the Houston Pilots.

Tellepsen Builders serve as the general contractor for the development of the Maritime Training Center. Texas IBI Group is the architect; Brooks & Sparks is the civil engineer; and Rizzo & Associates is the program manager.

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