

# NORTH CHANNEL STAR

Your News, Your Newspaper

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
VOLUME 3, NO. 28(#81) WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2015 www.northchannelstar.com

## CHANNEL CHATTER

### HIRING FAIRS

•July 29, 9 am - 2:30 pm. Workforce Solutions. 14355 E. Wallisville Road, Houston, TX. 77049.

•August 5, 9 am - 2:30 pm. Workforce Solutions. 4308 Garth Road, Suite C, Baytown, TX. 77521.

On-site interviews will be conducted, and job offers will be made, at this hiring fair. Apply in person. For more information, please call Donna Sonnenburg at 713-393-5836.

### Rep. Hernandez to host Legislative Town Hall Meetings

Join State Representative Ana Hernandez on:

•Wednesday, August 19, 2015 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM at Alvin Baggett Recreation Bldg., 302 Keene St., Galena Park, TX., 77547.

•Thursday, August 20, 2015 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM at Channelview High Joyce Hendrix Educational Center, 898 Sheldon Rd., Channelview, TX. 77530.

•Tuesday, September 15, 2015 from 6:45 pm - 8:30 pm at Neighborhood Centers, Inc. Ripley House, 4410 Navigation, Houston, TX. 77011.

Come get an update on new laws passed during the 84th Legislative Session.

For more information call 713-675-8596.

### Galena Park-Jacinto City CIP meeting

Thursday, August 6, 2015. 5:45 pm at Alvin Baggett Recreation Building, 13092 Keene in Galena Park. Points to talk:

• Kirk Higbie, Director of Safety & Environmental, will talk about the Port Terminal Railroad Association (PTRA) and its role in rail transport and how it compares to that of the major rail lines (Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Southern Pacific (BNSF).

•Starting a Food Bank – AARP Chapter 1160 in cooperation with Galena Park Recreation Department and Jacinto City/Galena Park Rotary is working to establish a Food Bank in Galena Park. Details are available from AARP President Chuck Lewis, 713-455-4698.

## GP COUNCILWOMAN RESIGNS; BLAMES MAYOR

"I refuse to be part of the Moya drama show."

GALENA PARK – In a dramatic statement made at last Tuesday's City Council meeting, Lois Killough read her resignation message, and at the end of the meeting quit as a member of the City Commission. She held Position #2, responsible for the police and fire departments.

Killough had been elected last May 2014, along with new council members Maricela Serna and Juan Flores, Jr. with the idea that they would bring fresh ideas and changes to the city government. Esmeralda Moya also campaigned for Mayor on these ideas, but with the promise that she would change department heads and "clean up" the way the city was run. Her confrontational style was obvious after she took office, when

See KILLOUGH RESIGNS, p. 3



GALENA PARK CITY COUNCILWOMAN LOIS KILLOUGH finishes her statement to the public on her resignation from the City Commission, or Council, and the reasons why she feels that she cannot continue to serve the public properly in the "circus" atmosphere created by Mayor Moya.

## Sheldon ISD's Giles retires, Kirchner appointed interim superintendent

Sheldon ISD announced recently that Mr. John Kirchner will be serving as the Interim Superintendent for Sheldon ISD during the period of time that the District conducts a search for a new full-time superintendent.

Mr. Kirchner is the current Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services and the school district has full confidence in his ability to guide the District through this transition period.

Outgoing Superintendent Dr. Vickey M. Giles released the following letter:

June 24, 2015  
Dear Sheldon ISD family and friends,

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside you in



Dr. Vickey M. Giles, Retiring Superintendent

this wonderful district. When I came to Sheldon ISD seventeen years ago, I did not imagine that the path I had put my feet on would lead from the Dean of Instruction position at C. E. King High School, to the role of Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, and



Mr. John Kirchner, Interim Superintendent

finally to work as Superintendent of Schools in this great district. It is you – the people of this district – who make this a great place for our students! We have laughed together, cried together,

See RETIRING, Page 3

### OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF GALENA PARK

July 21, 2015

I have lived and worked in the Galena Park and Northshore communities for 50 years. I have served on County Boards, PTA Boards, Retired Teacher Boards and many other community organizations. I led a staff of about 110 people and a student population of 1000 students. I hoped to be able to improve the city of Galena Park by serving on City Council.

All the new commissioners and the mayor were required to attend training. We were trained in how to legally run city council meetings and our charters were explained to us by legal experts.

I am not able to properly serve the people who elected me because of the actions of the mayor. She refuses to run a legal council business meeting.

During her campaign she violated many rules of the Ethics Commission. She has not filed appropriate campaign finance reports. She has threatened council members. She has illegally fired city workers.

In her hunger for power, her actions and the many frivolous lawsuits she has filed have cost the taxpayers \$100,000 to date. She filed a lawsuit to freeze the city bank accounts. She refused to sign a contract that kept our sewer plant operating. She has lied to voters promising to lower their water bills. We purchase 90% of our water from the City of Houston. They can charge whatever they like and their fees will only go up. Shame on you, Mr. Moya.

What has this mayor done in 13 months to move our city forward? NOTHING! What has she accomplished, besides making our council meetings and her Mayorship a laughing stock across the state? NOTHING!

WE HAVE SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME! Our sewer and drainage problems require a long range plan. In these 13 months the mayor has not had one planning meeting with the other commissioners to address the serious needs of our city.

This mayor is not a victim. She is a Drama Queen who wants to run the city like a Dictator. She refuses to follow the rule of law. Our council meetings are a circus. She encourages RUDE and BELIGERANT behavior. When we try to interject, she refuses to allow the rest of us to give our opinions by HOLLERING over us. She attacks us, our attorney, our police chief and the city administrator who saved the city from bankruptcy.

She cannot make unilateral decisions which involve the city assets, buildings, or resources. She must present initiatives to the rest of council for a vote. WE ARE ALL EQUAL.

The rest of the council members have records of volunteering in the community for many years. All of us have experience on various boards. What volunteer record does this mayor have?

I appreciate the 71% of the voters who voted for me. However, my voters are not the kind of people who want to disrupt council meetings and the business of the city. I have enjoyed my work with the commissioners and with the workers who keep our city going. I hate to disappoint them. I am tired of our meetings being run like a circus orchestrated by the mayor.

I refuse to be part of the Moya drama show.

I am resigning my Council position at the conclusion of tonight's meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Lois Killough

## Man fatally stabbed at Channelview trailer park

Harris County Sheriff's Office Homicide Investigators have arrested and charged a suspect in the fatal stabbing of a male at a residence in east Harris County.

On Monday, July 20, 2015, at approximately 3:40 A.M., Arturo Mirafuentes arrived at Lionel Jaimes' residence, located at 16038 2nd Street. Mirafuentes was upset about Mr. Jaimes dating his ex-wife and wanted to talk

with his ex-wife who was at Jaimes' residence. When Mirafuentes' wife refused to exit the residence and talk with him, Mr. Mirafuentes kicked the front door



Arturo Mirafuentes charged with murder

See FATALLY STABBED, page 3

### COMMUNITY PROFILE:

## 30 Years Rotary perfect attendance, Dr. Lambert honored

GALENA PARK – The Galena Park/Jacinto City Rotary Club held their annual Officers and Board installation ceremonies last Wednesday, July 15th.

One of the important awards was given to club member Dr. Alan Lambert, retired medical doctor, and a Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary.

Attendance is an important part of Rotary membership, but not many achieve the record that Dr. Lambert has.

Dr. Lambert is now 89 years old, and was a family doctor since 1953, practicing in Jacinto City until his retirement in 2014.

He also was affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine, on the faculty and practiced family medicine there since 1976.

GP/JC Rotary was pleased to honor Dr. Lambert at their annual awards ceremony.



DR. ALAN LAMBERT, M.D. receives a perfect attendance pin from Rotary Club president Maria Rodriguez, for his 60 years of faithful perfect attendance with the club.

### JACINTO CITY

## Youth participate in Discovery Tour with city leaders

By Allan Jamail

Jacinto City, TX. July 16, 2015 – The Discovery Youth Foundation (DYF) a non-profit organization with a mission of exposing and motivating students to develop and achieve in both business and government spent a day in Jacinto City to learn about city and state government.

Their first stop was to visit State Representative Ana Hernandez's district office where they met Chief of Staff Maria Delgado and Community Liaison Linda Jamail. They learned how a District Office serves the constituency at the local level and where citizens can come to get help for the services the State provides.

This was important because just two weeks before the students made a trip to Washington

D. C. and toured the nation's Capitol building



City Secretary Joyce Raines presents Discovery Youth Foundation founders, Minister Gary Smith of the Fifth Ward Church of Christ and his wife Karen a pictorial Jacinto City history book.

where legislators debate and pass laws, they also visited the office of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

By visiting the U. S. Capitol and then to visit a District Office where citi-

zens within a District can more easily access their elected representatives it provided a full-circle explanation of how government functions by having both

See DISCOVERY TOUR, page 8



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Crosby Volunteer Fire Dept's new equipment



Crosby Fire rescue also acquired a shorter brother B-83, in case the rescue team is heading to the river fast or knocking out little problems that get bigger.

## Barrett Station celebrates Homecoming with parade



Barrett Station shows off its beauty as cars and prettiest girls ride the parade route last Saturday morning.

## High temperatures pose safety threat this week

What is the danger? The National Weather Service forecasts temperatures will hit nearly 100 degrees this week with the heat index (the "feels like" temperature) closing in on 108 degrees. These conditions can pose serious, even fatal, health hazards. The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) reminds residents to take safety precautions during the hot summer months to avoid heat-related illnesses.

What you should do:

- Stay indoors as much as possible. If you don't have air conditioning, stay in the coolest part of the house and use electric fans.
- Drink plenty of water regularly, even if you don't feel thirsty. Your body

needs fluids to keep cool. Avoid beverages with caffeine and alcohol.

- Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity. If you work outside, do it during the coolest part of the day.
- Eat smaller meals, but eat more often.
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing and a hat.
- Always use sunscreen. Sunburn makes the body's job of keeping cool more difficult.
- Although all are vulnerable to excessive heat, be sure to check on the elderly, children, and those who are ill as they are particularly at risk.
- Ensure that your pets are provided with shade and adequate water.

The Electrical Reliability Council of Texas (ER-

COT) monitors the state's electrical system to ensure there is enough electricity to meet demand. On very hot days, high demand can cause ERCOT to issue a conservation alert during the peak hours of 3-7 p.m. If that occurs, residents are urged to take the following steps to help conserve power:

- Set air conditioning thermostats as high as comfortable.
- Cool rooms with fans.
- Close blinds and drapes on windows that get direct sun.
- Turn off all unnecessary lights, appliances, and electronic equipment.
- Avoid using big appliances such as dishwashers between the hours of 3 to 7 p.m.



Putting the value on education the Homecoming parade chose Doloise Richardson as the 2015 Grand Marshal of the parade owing to her 50 years in public education. Crosby ISD had floats for each of the schools during the parade, one for the staff and administrators also. The parade was extended to almost twice as long as it had previously been with much more Crosby participation this year.

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For additional information regarding preplanning go to [www.preplanfunerals.texas.gov](http://www.preplanfunerals.texas.gov).



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Summer Fun at Alvin D. Baggett Center

Kids ages 5-12 are invited to join fun this summer at the Alvin D. Baggett Community Center in Galena Park.

The program consists of: arts/crafts, reading time, swimming, movies. Games and activities both inside and outside. Summer Fun ends August 14, 2015. Cost is \$25 per week/per child. Time is Monday - Friday 10 am - 2 pm.

**SWIM LESSONS:**

Swim lessons, for ages 5 and up. Session 3: July 21 - Aug. 1. Call 713-674-1741 for more info. Register at the Alvin D. Baggett Community Building, 1302 Keene Street. Call 713-674-1741 for more information.

### Summer Meals For Kids

Summer meals for kids at 12:00 noon at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church located at 13125 Indianapolis St., Houston, TX 77015

Children under the age of 18 and disable students under the age of 21. The program ends on August 15th.

### 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 281-458-0799 or 832-444-5000.

### MONDAYS Galena Park Senior Dance

Senior Dance is every Monday at the Alvin D. Building, 1302 Keene St., Galena Park. 7 pm - 9 pm. No cover charge. Live band Country music. Call for more information: 713-455-7335.

### 2nd & 4th THURSDAY San Jacinto Pilot Club meeting

San Jacinto Pilot Club meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays at noon at the Galena Park ISD Administration Building.

### JULY North Channel Library events

-Thur., July 23, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 4:30 pm, Teens-Superhero Legos.  
-Saturday, July 25, 3-4 pm Pokemon Club.  
-Monday, July 27, 2:30 pm, Monday Movie Madness (tickets required)  
-Tuesday, June 28, 10:30 am, Toddler Time; 1:30 pm, Preschool Time; 4:30 pm, Teens-Tech Make.  
-Wednesday, July 29, 2:30 pm, Incredible Events: Captain America Reading Show.  
-Thursday, July 30, 10:30 am, Baby Time; 3:30 pm, Teens-TeenScene Captain America: The Winter Soldier.  
-Friday, July 31, 4:30 pm, Family PiYo.

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

### JULY Galena Park Library events

-Thursday, July 23, 11 am, Baby Time; 3 pm, Domino's Pizza.  
-Friday, July 24, 3 pm, Movie.  
-Monday, July 27, 3 pm, Teen Time-Video Game Day.  
-Wednesday, July 29, 10:15 am, Ayuda a Estudiantes; 11 am, Para los niños program; 1:30 pm, Student Help Session.  
-Thursday, July 30, 11 am, Baby Time; 3 pm, Traveling Naturalist.  
-Friday, July 30, 3 pm, movie. Please call the library at 713-450-0982 for more details.

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

### John S. Dunn Foundation gives \$110,000 for San Jacinto College nursing since 1997



PHOTO CUTLINE: (left to right) Dan S. Wilford, first vice president, Dunn Foundation; Van Wigginton, San Jacinto College provost; Sarah Day, San Jacinto College nursing student and Dunn Foundation scholarship recipient; Michael Kane, San Jacinto College dean of health sciences; Dagmar Dunn Pickens Gipe, vice president and daughter of John S. Dunn, Dunn Foundation; J. Dickson Rogers, president, Dunn Foundation; David G. Key, vice president, Dunn Foundation; Ruth Keenan, executive director of the San Jacinto College Foundation; John R. Wallace, vice president, Dunn Foundation; Charles M. Lusk III, vice president, Dunn Foundation; Veronica Jammer, department chair of the nursing program at San Jacinto College; Gilbert Austin, San Jacinto College nursing student and Dunn Foundation scholarship recipient; Martha Van Buskirk, San Jacinto College grant writer. Photo credit: Jeannie Peng-Armao, San Jacinto College marketing, public relations, and government affairs department.

PASADENA, Texas – Just as San Jacinto College nursing students have made their decision to care for others, so has the John S. Dunn Foundation in caring for the program that trains them.

The board members and officers of the Dunn Foundation recently visited the College's nursing program to meet faculty members, tour the health sciences facility, and meet with two nursing students who each received \$1,000 scholarships from the Dunn Foundation's June 2014 grant of \$25,000.

"There are so many worthy causes which make our selection for grants very difficult," said Dagmar Dunn Pickens Gipe, vice president of the John S. Dunn Foundation and

daughter of the late John S. Dunn. "We have loved everything we've seen here at the San Jacinto College nursing program. The students are very impressive, and it was wonderful to hear their stories and let us know about their experiences."

The Dunn Foundation has given a total of \$110,000 in grants since 1997 to San Jacinto College for nursing scholarships. Scholarship recipient, Gilbert Austin, considers his scholarship as a sign to persevere in his studies toward becoming a nurse.

"This is God's way of whispering in my ear to keep going," said Austin. "When I learned that I received this scholarship, I immediately wanted to

know more about Mr. Dunn and to thank the Dunn Foundation for this gift."

John S. Dunn formed the John S. Dunn Foundation in 1977. The foundation's current focus is to support nursing programs, health care clinics for the underserved, mental health programs, and medical research and education within the greater Houston area.

To be eligible for a John S. Dunn Foundation Nursing Scholarship, a student must be admitted to the San Jacinto College associate degree nursing program, have a minimum GPA of 2.5, and be enrolled in a minimum of eight credit hours. To learn more, visit the San Jacinto College Foundation Web page.

### GALENA PARK ISD: School library receives grant for books

Once a teacher and librarian, Former First Lady Laura Bush has advocated the importance of reading as the foundation of all learning. Studies show that the quality of a school library has a major impact on the academic success of children. The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries helps students by awarding grants to school libraries in an ef-



Amy Cole, principal of Tice Elementary



Students at Tice Elementary will enjoy updated reading material for use at school and home.

fort to improve student achievement.

Earlier this year, The Foundation awarded Tice Elementary a \$7,000 grant to add and update their book and media collections. The students of Tice Elementary will begin enjoying new reading material this school year as the librarian of the school begins to utilize the grant money.

"It's exciting to be able to provide new materials for the students. These books will give the students new reading material for use at school and at home. We are grateful to the Laura Bush Foundation for caring enough about students to offer grants such as this," said Amy Cole, Tice Elementary Principal.

## COMMUNITY WATCH

### Suspect wanted for assault

Harris County, TX - Crime Stoppers and Investigators with the Harris County Sheriff's Office need the public's help in locating fugitive Edward Rodriguez.

On May 10, 2015, Rodriguez entered a residence, located in the 1100 block of Willersley in Channelview, TX. Without permission, physically assaulted the female complainant and ripped a necklace off of her neck.

Rodriguez has several convictions of assaults in the past. Edward Rodriguez, 31, is 5'9" tall and weighs 240 pounds. He has brown eyes and black hair.

Anyone with informa-



Edward Rodriguez

tion about this case is urged to call the Crime Stoppers of Houston tip line at 713-222-TIPS (8477). All callers will remain anonymous and could receive a reward of up to \$5,000.

## RETIRING,

Continued from page 1

worked together, played together, and celebrated our successes together as we have made this district stronger each year.

Now I will begin a new journey. I will be retiring as superintendent of Sheldon ISD on August 31, 2015. I am grateful for the eight years I have been privileged to serve as superintendent of Sheldon ISD. The board of trustees truly has a heart for the children of this district and they have supported our efforts to constantly learn how to better educate our students.

Our goal from the beginning was to provide an education to our students that would give them choices about what they want to do and be after they graduate from King High School. We may be small, but we truly have a

BIG vision for our students and our district. Each year, we have added to that vision, even as we have continued to add students to our fast growth district. I have been a proud superintendent as I watched Sheldon ISD grow and change for the better.

I love this district – that has made this decision difficult for me. However, I am also excited about a new learning journey. I have accepted the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at Houston Baptist University beginning in the fall. I will once again be a "teacher" and that idea excites me. I will be able to use my knowledge and experiences to work with a new generation of leaders for our schools.

Thank you for allowing me to be your superintendent, your colleague, and your friend.

Reading, leading, learning,  
s/Dr. Vickie M. Giles,  
Superintendent of Schools

## KILLOUGH RESIGNS,

Continued from Page 1

she immediately changed locks on City Hall doors and fired the City Administrator and demoted the Police Chief, at least temporarily. The new council members and one remaining, Danny Simms, were not able to work with Moya, nor concur with her decisions and methods, and council meetings and governing soon deteriorated into chaos, according to Killough.

Her statement, as printed here in the *North Channel Star*, refers to the "circus" atmosphere, and the lack of progress in improving the city. She blames Moya for obstructing, and not leading, and not following legal methods of running council. She indicated the stress was affecting her health, one reason for resigning.

Moya told the *Star* that she thinks the decorum in the meetings has improved, and that she has been polite and listened to all, including the public that Council often ignores.

Council will hold a Special Meeting next Monday, July 27 at 3:00 p.m. to vote on a replacement for Killough, according to City Secretary Mayra Gonzalez.

## FATALLY STABBED,

Continued from page 1

open. Mr. Jaimes was on the telephone with the 911 Dispatcher requesting police when Mr. Mirafuentes entered the residence.

Once Mr. Mirafuentes entered the residence, he and Mr. Jaimes began fighting. Mr. Mirafuentes grabbed a kitchen knife from the counter and used it to stab Jaimes multiple times. Mr. Mirafuentes's ex-wife went to the children's room and escaped the residence through a window with the children. Mr. Mirafuentes fled the scene on foot. Mr. Jaimes succumbed to his injuries and died at the scene.

While Harris County Sheriff's Investigators

were investigating the offense, Mirafuentes's ex-wife received a telephone call from a friend, who said she saw Mirafuentes walking on Freepoint Street. Deputies were dispatched to Freepoint Street and Alderson where Mirafuentes was last seen. Patrol deputies located Mirafuentes entering a nearby apartment complex and detained him.

Mr. Mirafuentes was transported to the Homicide Office where he later confessed to the murder of Lionel Jaimes. Arturo Mirafuentes is currently in the Harris County Jail awaiting arraignment.

### HIRING FAIRS

July 29 & August 5

HydroChem, a proven leader in industrial cleaning, has immediate opportunities for **Field Technicians** and **CDL Vacuum Truck Operators/Drivers** in the Deter Park area.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must have a valid state-issued ID
- Must have a TWIC Card
- Must be able to travel and work any shift
- Vacuum Truck Operators must have a valid Class A or B CDL with Tanker endorsement and must be able to operate a manual transmission truck
- All eligible applicants must be able to pass a background check and pre-employment drug screen.

Industrial experience required. EXCELLENT BENEFITS!

**July 29, 9:00am - 2:30pm**  
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14355 E. Wallisville Road  
Houston, TX 77049

**August 5, 9:00am - 2:30pm**  
**Workforce Solutions**  
4308 Garth Road, Suite C  
Baytown, TX 77521

\*\* On-site interviews will be conducted, and job offers will be made, at our hiring fair. Apply in person. For more information, please call Donna Sonnenburg at 713-393-5836.

**HydroChem** EOE



OPINION PAGE

★

TEXAS

With Russell A. Graves

Scuba

For ten years, I've been a certified scuba diver. While I can't claim that I've been to all sorts of exotic, international locales to explore underwater haunts, the activity is intriguing nonetheless and I've dove extensively in freshwater locations around the state.

When I learned to scuba dive, I did all of the work and studying from a thick workbook given to me by my instructor. Then, once a week for six weeks (I think), I would leave my classroom at Childress High School, drive two hours to Amarillo, and take classes in a public, indoor swimming pool that started at 6:00pm. When the class adjourned around 8:00pm, I'd drive home and do it all over again the next week.

While the in-pool classes were finished, I still wasn't done.

When I learned to scuba dive, the training was in three parts. Part 1 was the self directed workbook study that was part reading assignments and part dvd video. Part 2 was the in-pool training under closed and supervised conditions. Here I learned the basics of safely using scuba equipment, got comfortable with breathing underwater with scuba equipment, and finally, swimming around underwater with all of the gear on.

The final part of scuba diving training involves open water diving. Here, you dive under actual conditions that you may experience on any dive and all of the safety lessons are enforced. I did my open water diving at Balmorhea State Park and after two or three months of training, I had my scuba card.

This year, my eleven year old son Ryan decided he water to learn to scuba dive. To be classified a junior diver, a child needs to be ten years old and be able to pass a swimming test to gauge their water worthiness. My kids have grown up swimming so from the jump, I knew he'd be ready.

Nowadays, however, obtaining scuba training is a bit more convenient. Instead of a workbook and DVD's, Ryan's classes were all on-line and self paced. He'd sit down at the computer to read the lessons, watch the on-line videos, and take quizzes as he mastered each chapter. For his pool work, I took him and his 14-year old cousin (who trained at the same time) to Scuba Toys in Carrollton, Texas. Scuba Toys' training regimen is efficient. Instead of multiple classes over multiple days, the closed condition swimming pool lessons take place on a Saturday and Sunday one weekend and the open water portion takes place the next weekend.

As I suspected, Ryan aced the classwork. He's a good student who is bright and curious and took to a new task with all the enthusiasm and trepidation that I suspected.

On the pool part, he and his cousin Adam mastered the equipment aspect of the training. Adam sailed through the pool training though Ryan did hit a bit of a snag. With a little coaching by me and the instructor he was back on track.

It's not every day you are asked to breathe underwater.



Governor's order enhances readiness on military bases

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on July 18 authorized Adjutant General John Nichols of the Texas National Guard to arm personnel at military facilities across Texas.

Abbott's action comes following the July 16 shooting on two military facilities in Chattanooga, Tenn., that resulted in the deaths of four U.S. Marines and one U.S. Navy sailor. A suspect was killed at the scene. An investigation is in progress.

"It is with a heavy heart that I issue this order," Abbott said. "After the recent shooting in Chattanooga, it has become clear that our military personnel must have the ability to defend themselves against these type of attacks on our own soil."

"Arming the National Guard at these bases will not only serve as a deterrent to anyone wishing to do harm to our service men and women, but will enable them to protect those living and working on the base."

Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard and Texas State Guard, referred to collectively as the Texas National Guard, are administered by the adjutant general.

Senator urges recapture

State Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, on July 13 posted a statement regarding the recent escape and disappearance of drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman from a federal prison in Mexico.

"As a senator who represents over a third of the Texas-Mexico border, I'd like to propose that if Mexico needs help keeping him behind bars once he is found, I know just the place: Texas," Uresti said. "I find it incomprehensible that he was able to escape from a maximum-security prison. I urge Mexico to pursue and hold responsible those who aided in the escape and move swiftly to bring El Chapo back into custody."

Sales tax holiday is set  
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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



of the site is at [AvancemosJuntosTexas.org](http://AvancemosJuntosTexas.org).

Visitors can enter their ZIP code to search for support groups, services, and events that are specific to their region. Data provided on the site has been vetted by parents, physicians, parent organizations, subject matter experts, and state agencies.

5th Circuit hears arguments

Oral arguments in a preliminary injunction appeal in *State of Texas, et al. v. USA, et al.* were made before the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on July 10.

This is another step in a case brought by Texas and 26 other states who are challenging President Obama's November 2014 executive order allowing an estimated 4 million undocumented residents to remain in the country and offer them a path to citizenship. Texas Solicitor General Scott Keller argued for the states.

On May 26, the Fifth Circuit denied the Obama Administration's request to begin implementing the order after the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas granted a preliminary injunction on Feb. 16, halting the president's executive action on immigration from taking effect.

Eat local, Ag chief says

State Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller on July 9 encouraged "all Texans to mark their calendars and eat out during the month of July for the eighth annual GO TEXAN Restaurant Round-Up."

Participating restaurants are hosting local events "offering the finest Texas produce, meats, cheeses and beverages. By dining out during Restaurant Round-Up, folks will give back to our economy and support our incredible chefs, farmers and ranchers. Eat out this month and enjoy a large helping of Texas," Miller said.

Diners will also be helping to feed hungry Texans. Participating restaurants will give back to their local communities by contributing to local food banks as part of Restaurant Round-Up.

RRC chief testifies in DC

Texas Railroad Commission Chair David Porter on July 14 testified before the U.S. Agriculture Committee in Washington, D.C.

Porter suggested to lawmakers that allowing Texas and U.S. producers to compete in international energy markets would "create jobs and economic prosperity for American workers and continue to strengthen the nation's economy."

Jobs for individuals with disabilities

(NAPSI)—About 56.7 million people have some kind of disability, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. If you or someone you care about is ever among them, you may be encouraged to know that despite a U.S. Department of Labor report that says people with disabilities face an unemployment rate of more than 11 percent—double the national average—there is good news. Changes to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 have resulted in increased efforts by employers to recruit candidates with disabilities.

More Opportunities To Work

The Rehabilitation Act has supported people with disabilities for more than 40 years by prohibiting the federal government, and businesses that work with the government, known as federal contractors, from discriminating based on a disability. Recent changes to the Act now require these federal contractors to take positive steps to recruit, hire, train, promote, and retain people with disabilities. The changes include a new goal for federal contractors to have people with disabilities make up 7 percent of their workforce. This means that thousands of the businesses that provide goods and services to the government now need to hire more people with disabilities. These companies are also required to invite job applicants to identify themselves as people with disabilities both during the application phase and after a job offer is extended.

A Ticket to Work

Another help is the Social Security's Ticket to Work program. The program offers free employment support services to people age 18 through 64, who receive disability benefits, and who want to work. There are 14 million Americans who are eligible for this voluntary program through which they can select a service provider to help them prepare for, and find, a job. The provider may be a state Vocational Rehabilitation Agency or an Employment Network—a public or private organization that contracts with Social Security to provide:

- career planning
- job leads and job placement
- ongoing employment support.

Many of these service providers have been using the change to Section 503 to build relationships with federal contractor employers in their communities to help them locate qualified candidates so that they can meet their recruiting and hiring goals.

Finding A Path To Financial Independence

The road to financial independence looks different for each person. Whether joining the workforce for the first time, or returning after a difficult diagnosis, there are challenges that each person must navigate. Taking advantage of new opportunities related to Section 503, and using the free resources offered through the Ticket to Work program can remove some of the speed bumps on the journey to work.

Learn More

For more information about the Rehabilitation Act or the Ticket to Work program, call (866) 968-7842 (V), or (866) 833-2967 (TTY), or visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work).

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LIFESTYLE

Donald Dwight (Don) Shoemaker

Donald Dwight (Don) Shoemaker, Crosby, TX was born November 27, 1939 to Edna Rowles Shoemaker and Dwight Shoemaker in a log cabin, the home of his maternal grandparents, five miles north of Bolivar, MO. He passed away June 30, 2015 at Legend Oaks Healthcare Center in East Houston, TX.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Rita Joyce Crochet Shoemaker; son, Daniel Meyers; and brother, Douglas Shoemaker .

Survivors are his three sisters: Maye, Gulley (Jim) of De Soto, KS; Wanda Taylor of Bonner Springs, KS; and Geraldine Hignight of Bolivar, MO , three nieces , one nephew, seven great nieces, several cousins and many friends.

Early years for Don were spent on farms in Bear Creek, and Dunnegan, MO where he learned to drive a tractor at a very young age. He went to Fair Play Schools in MO from first grade through his sophomore year and then the family moved to Kansas City, KS where he graduated from Wyandotte High School in 1957, at the age of 17.

After high school he worked at Proctor and Gamble in Kansas City, KS, earning \$2 an hour and saved \$1000 toward college that first summer. He attended Kansas University and graduated from Emporia State Teachers College with a Bachelors Degree in Science in 1973. As a teach-



er he taught chemistry, physics, and math, teaching at Hoyt, KS, Austin Sr. High in Houston, TX and Hardin School north of Liberty, TX.

Don was an army veteran of the Vietnam Era.

Don met Rita Joyce Crochet at Austin Senior High School in Houston, TX in 1976 where they were both teaching. They married June 7, 1977 and were married 37 years.

Don owned and operated Don's Automotive, a car repair shop and A-1 Trailer Service in Crosby, which repaired 18 wheeler trucks. Previously to this, he had worked at Armo Steel in Houston.

Don was diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis in the late 1990s and developed a close relationship with his doctor, Aziz Shaibani of Houston, TX.

Memorial contributions may be made to Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, 355 Lexington Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10017.

Cremation was by Carnes Funeral Home of Houston, TX. No services were held.

★  
OBITUARIES

Rita Joyce Crochet Shoemaker

Rita Joyce Crochet Shoemaker, Crosby, TX was born February 21, 1943 in Port Arthur, TX to Inez and Roy Crochet. She passed away at her home in Crosby, TX February 17, 2014, after battling pancreatic cancer for a year.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Mary Louise Crochet Hailey; step-son, Danny Myers; brother-in-law, Terry Thierheimer.

Survivors are her husband, Donald Shoemaker of the home; brother, Roy Crochet (Yvonne); Las Vegas, NV and his children: Brian, Michele, Christopher and Stephen; sister, Frances Gayle Thierheimer, Kirbyville, TX; nephew, Chris Thierheimer of Arnaudville, LA; nieces: Kaye Thierheimer of Spring, TX; Vicky Louise Pierce and Marilee Carr of Cleveland, TN; Judy Lynn Stafford of Chattanooga, TN; cousin Travis Landry and his daughters: Kristy Landry of Lufkin, TX, Marilyn Nicole (Nicky) Ross of Spring, TX, Julie Mazzuca of Rockwell, TX.

Joyce graduated from Bishop Byrne High School, Port Arthur, TX. Growing up in Port Arthur, she was very proud of her Catholic and Cajun heritage. She received Bachelor and Master Degrees from Lamar University in Beaumont, TX.

Joyce met Don Shoemaker at Austin Senior High School in Houston,



TX in 1976 where they were both teaching. They were married June 7, 1977 and spent most of their 37 years in Crosby, Texas.

Joyce taught deaf children and children with learning disabilities and for 29 years she taught at Hardin School north of Liberty, TX.

Joyce was an expert swimmer and as a young woman she taught swimming. She played several musical instruments, enjoyed singing, and was an avid reader. She loved animals and always had dogs and sometimes cats. She loved her school children like they were her own. She loved people and always had a large smile and a big hug for those who were dear to her.

Memorials may be made to National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation at NPCF, P.O. Box 1848, Longmont, CO 80502

Cremation was by Carnes Funeral Home in Houston, TX. No services were held.

Michael Dean Jones, Florence

Michael Dean Jones, Florence, OR, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on July 9, 2015, after a battle with ALS. He is survived by his loving wife, Katherine Jones, Florence, OR, his daughter Micah (Michael) Semmelmann , Round Rock, TX, grandchildren Mason & Malea, Step-children, Derek (Sarah) Brotherton, Crosby, TX, and Macie (Beau) Sharpe, Round Rock, TX. one sister Pat (Bill) Baker, Somerville, TX, nieces & nephews, Missy Baker, Jackson, TX, Cody (April) Baker, Roy, Cordie, Mallory, and Phillip, Pearland, TX , Clint Baker, Houston, TX, Brooke (Troy) King Huntsville, TX, Uncle Jimmy & Aunt Betty Jones and Uncle Butch and Aunt Jan Simms, Houston, TX and several cousins. His parents, Derwent and Etta Jones preceded him in going home.

Mike has many friends and loved ones that will miss him. Growing up in Deer Park, graduating class of 1968, he was athletic, fun and full of spirit. He was a Veteran of the Air Force Reserves. Mike served the HFD for 35 years, most of that career as a Captain in EMS, before retiring in 2004. He also spent 25 years riding with the Old Spanish Trail Ride .

In 2000, Mike made the best and most important decision of his life, deciding to give his life to Jesus Christ. He got saved in the tack room on the floor of a barn, drove 50 miles to get a phone signal to call his daughter Micah to tell her, never hesitating to share that story. He dedicated



his time to helping men and those struggling with addiction come to know Christ through Celebrate Recovery, Christian Motorcycle Association. He also loved children, always serving in the children's ministry at church and VBS, and volunteering for many different Christian outreach programs. His reach and influence truly made a great impact on many lives and his humble nature to give the glory to God was what really made him a light in this world.

Mike loved riding horses while in Texas and also riding motorcycles which took him on many great adventures with his wife, Katherine, one of which was moving to Oregon where he was going to stay because "there ain't no ugly and I'm the one that talks funny."

A going home service will be held July 25, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m. at Newport Community Baptist Church, 17818 FM 2100, Crosby, TX 77532. Donations in honor of Mike may be made to: Joni and Friends of Southern Oregon, Family Retreat, P.O. Box 526, Talent, OR 97450

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Beverly Jean Calhoun Bradley



Beverly Jean Calhoun Bradley was born August 7, 1949 in Harris County, Texas to the late Darace Hendrick and the late Wade Calhoun. She peacefully passed away on July 15, 2015 in Houston, Texas, at the age of 65. She is survived by her son Alexander W. Obregon and his wife, Skyler Obregon, and

her sister, Karen Sue Wooldrige.

Beverly graduated with a bachelor of the arts degree from the University of Houston and the Harmon Hall School of Language in Mexico City, Mexico. She began her career as a buyer for the department store chain Joske's. In 1979, Beverly became a Partner for Coimex S.A. de C.V. in Mexico City where she led international sales between Europe and Mexico. In 1982, she opened "B.J.'s" beach club in Zihuatanejo, Mexico. Many of her fondest memories and greatest friends arose from her time on La Ropa beach in Zihuatanejo.

After moving back to Houston in the early 90s, Beverly began her second career as an educator. She spent the next seventeen years teaching Spanish and Special Education for Crosby I.S.D. Beverly was

especially effective at connecting with troubled youth. Her career as an educator brought her much joy.

Beverly will be remembered as having a heart of gold, the best sense of humor, the strength of a lion, and was the epitome of a great mother. She was a wonderfully sweet and caring person who had the opportunity to travel around the world and impact many lives. She was a stranger to no one. She loved to cook, loved to tell stories and loved being a mother. She was a true blessing to all who came to know her.

A memorial service, to celebrate Beverly's life, is to be conducted at ten thirty in the morning on Thursday, the 23rd of July, 2015, at Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 8300 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas.

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Leviticus 19:32



# COMMUNITY NEWS

New unique course combines algebra, composition  
Course encourages students to think differently about the two subjects

HOUSTON – San Jacinto College will launch a collaborative course in the Fall 2015 semester that incorporates algebra and English composition.

The new course will link college algebra and introductory composition, both gateway core courses for all students who plan to either earn associate degrees or transfer to universities.

"This is a novel concept at San Jacinto College," commented Mark Johnson, North Campus language arts department chair. "The course will explore the power of narrative in math and English. Give a person some facts and part of the brain lights up. Tell a person a story and the whole brain lights up. The goal is to help students think differently about algebra and composition, two courses that can hold back students from completing degrees."

Johnson says research indicates there are strong correlations between success in language arts and success in math. He cites, for example, an essay by Dr. Gene Fite, Kansas City Public Schools curriculum coordinator, that states: "The cognitive ability that drives symbol processing is the connection between language and math. The symbol processing ability is the basis for both language proficiency and math achievement... Reading and math share common elements. They both involve abstract, symbolic cognitive processes, and they both require a working knowledge of the interaction of numerous discrete skills."

Research also indicates that a key reason many students struggle in algebra is that they struggle reading and understanding the language that surrounds math. "In essence, they have difficulty understanding what is being asked of them," commented Johnson. "They can



A new combined math and English course is coming to San Jacinto College. Math professor Kate Dinwiddie, left, will teach the algebra component of the new course at San Jacinto College, while English professor Dr. Karen Hattaway will teach the composition component.

Photo credit: Rob Vanya, San Jacinto College

'do' the algebra, often, but fail at interpreting the verbal language around the math." San Jacinto College's new linked math-English course will help students to better interpret the narrative component that is integral to algebra.

In the linked math-English course, students will work in a "cohort" model, staying together for both subjects, which are taught in tandem by an English professor, and a math professor. Students who complete the linked course will satisfy the math portion, as well as one of the two communication components of basic college core requirements.

The course will be taught in a "learning community" environment that includes mentoring and tutoring. "Students will have peer support in and out of the classroom," remarked Johnson. "They also will receive specialized instructor support in and out of the classroom."

English professor Dr. Karen Hattaway, who will teach the composition component, says the algebra and English are actually two separate courses that

will be taught in a learning community, not one course that combines algebra and English. "Students will earn six hours of credit, working together in algebra on Mondays and Wednesdays, and then again in English on Tuesdays and Thursdays," she said. "The emphasis is on creating a community of learners. Studies show that learning communities support uncertain students more than stand-alone courses because the students have a recognized circle of classmates who become colleagues in learning."

Hattaway says the goal is to foster and improve critical thinking so that students can succeed in upper-division courses and in the business community. "There is a recent trend to split STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) from humanities with the result that STEM majors often struggle to express their ideas well enough to function in an information-heavy business environment. For students to succeed in a science and information age, they must be able to explain what they know and how this knowledge contributes to industry decisions. After all, even rocket science has to be explained to government budget developers," she said.

The new algebra-English course will be available at the North Campus, and will be offered exclusively in a traditional classroom environment, not in an online or hybrid format.

Losing a job opens door to rewarding new career path

San Jacinto College student prepares to launch air conditioning business

HOUSTON – Changing careers can be difficult and trying, but Isaias Tristan, who unexpectedly lost his job with a computer company, found new direction and a rewarding career path, thanks to San Jacinto College's Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR) program.

The 41-year-old North Shore resident did not intentionally choose HVACR as a career path. "Actually, HVACR sort of chose me," he commented. "I had been working for Compaq computer company for 10 years and liked my job, but was laid off due to downsizing. I am a U.S. Navy veteran, so I went to the Veterans Affairs office and they lined me out in this path, and here I am."

He says that losing his computer job due to downsizing turned out to be a blessing in disguise. "There is so much more to HVACR work than I had imagined," Tristan commented. "It involves keeping up with new technology and I am continually learning new things. I am really excited about this new career path."

Tristan plans to earn an air conditioning certificate of technology from San Jacinto College in December 2015, and an associate degree in air conditioning technology one year later. His career goal is to own his own residential air conditioning business. "My plan," he says, "is to be a respected HVACR technician – dependable, knowledgeable, fair, and honest." Tristan is a realist and understands that, like many careers, HVACR work has downsides as well as upsides. "I do not really like handling old insulation, nor crawling around in an attic," he commented. "But you learn to outsmart those obstacles by wearing long sleeves and good knee pads, and making use of good fans for ventilation. You remind yourself of the excellent pay and job security. I think about my wife and

three sons. I think about my dad, who always wanted me to have a business. He passed away last year and he is my motivation, along with my family. So, by far the good in HVACR work outweighs the bad."

Tristan says the training he is receiving at San Jacinto College is invaluable as a means to fulfilling his dream of starting his own air conditioning business. "The classroom, book-learning part of this business is very important, and I really like that part of it," he remarked. "But I also make sense. 'The program at San Jacinto College includes classroom work, as well as lab projects. There are instructors to help us understand and correct our mistakes. We learn through experience.'"


Ben Ficklin, San Jacinto College HVACR instructor, says HVACR is an ideal choice for people like Tristan who face making a career change. "The Houston area is considered the most air conditioned city in the nation, so the work pro-

vides job security because demand for HVACR technicians is always high," he said. "It's also one of the few skilled craft trades wherein a person can begin working entry level with only one semester of college training. More college equates to higher earning potential. Another strong selling point for the business is that many of our graduates become independent contractors, which means they are their own boss."

According to the Texas Workforce Commission Texas CARES website, the job growth potential for HVACR technicians and installers in the greater Houston area is above average. The average income of HVACR technicians and installers in the region for 2013 (the latest available figures) was \$20.87 per hour. Ficklin said that experienced HVACR technicians and installers can make at least \$100,000 a year, especially those who are self employed.

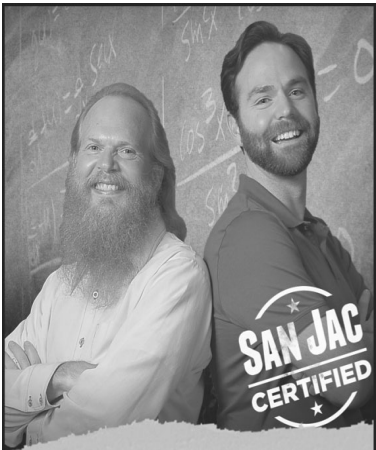
San Jacinto College offers a wide range of HVACR courses and degree options at the North and South campuses. For more information, please visit sanjac.edu/career/air-conditioning-technology.

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IN NEED

IN NEED OF  
2 hearing aides on fixed income, will pay some. I cannot pay for new ones.  
281-324-3601.

LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids, in duplicate, addressed to City of Galena Park will be received at the office of the City Secretary, Galena Park City Hall, 2000 Clinton Drive, Galena Park, Texas 77547 until 2 P.M. CST, Tuesday August 4, 2015 and then publicly opened and read aloud at 6:00 p.m. Work consists of CONSTRUCTION OF A MONUMENT TOWER, SMALL PLAZA AREA and LANDSCAPING. Invitation to Bidders and other bidding documents are available for pickup on CD-ROM, beginning at 8:00 A.M., July 16, 2015 at the City of Galena Park, City Hall or at the office of the Landscape Architect, Knudson LP, 8588 Katy Freeway, Suite 441, Houston, TX 77092 (attention Bryan Janhsen, RLA), or may be examined without charge at the office of the Landscape Architect, Knudson LP. A Mandatory Pre Bid Meeting will be held at Galena Park City Hall at 2:00 P.M., July 23, 2015. A cashier's check or bid bond in the amount of 5% of the total amount of the bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder must furnish a payment and performance and maintenance bond acceptable to the owner.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

HELP WANTED

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[wiliag@chemicalsinc.com](mailto:wiliag@chemicalsinc.com)  
or fax 281-576-5712  
EOE/AAP EMPLOYER

HELP WANTED

King Crossword

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedroom, 1 bath.  
\$800/month. 811 Nelson Ave, Crosby, TX.  
281-328-4351.

LEGAL NOTICE

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Community Center  
Backdraft Rest.  
Woodforest Bank  
Conoco Station  
Post Office (outside)  
**CROSBY:**  
Library  
Community Center  
Race Track  
Arian's Market  
Kroger's  
Community Bank (2)  
**HUFFMAN**  
Exxon Station  
Community Bank

LEGAL NOTICE

"Proposals will be received by the Galena Park Independent School District until 10:00 a.m., August 11, 2015 for **COURIER – SECURITY SERVICES CSP 16-001**. At that time proposals will be opened at the GPISD Admin Bldg located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Dept at 832-386-1008 or on our website: [http://galenaparkisd.com/purchasing\\_currentbids](http://galenaparkisd.com/purchasing_currentbids). The Galena Park ISD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals."

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HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

Star★Courier

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You now have the option of placing your Legal Ads in a local newspaper that meets your requirements, reaches more readers in your area, and costs much less. Rates are \$15.00 per column inch, plus \$10 for an affidavit, or 50¢ per word plus affidavit. We can give you an exact quote if required. Please call or email for assistance. Thank you for supporting our community and keeping our dollars local.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Abacus components  
6 America's Cup contenders  
12 Cyclist's need  
13 Ottoman, for one  
14 Ill will  
15 Perfectly  
16 Tousele  
17 Eastern potentate  
19 Conditions  
20 Ganges garment  
22 Corrode  
24 Citric quaff  
27 Smooch  
32 Quick pick-me-up?  
35 Information  
36 Cheshire countenance  
37 Supporting  
38 Midafternoon, in a way  
40 "The Thin Man" pooch  
42 Green machine?  
44 Wire measures  
46 Author Uris  
50 Clutches  
52 Using the Web  
54 Give the

DOWN

1 Sultor  
2 Right angles  
3 Off  
4 Calendar abbr.  
5 At the wheel  
6 Bigfoot's cousin  
7 "Moon-struck" subject  
8 Bookkeeper  
9 Become friends  
10 Not kosher  
11 Witnesses  
12 "Let me think ..."  
18 Strong wind of southern France  
21 Wanted-poster abbr.  
23 Alien of TV lore  
24 Help  
25 "CSI" evidence  
26 Rough guess  
28 Collagist's tool  
30 "The Matrix"

(Abbr.)  
31 Always, in verse  
33 Skater  
34 Can. prov.  
39 Suggest  
41 Soothe  
42 City of India  
43 Deuce defector  
45 Land in the water  
47 Green acres?  
48 Change for a five  
49 Homer's neighbor  
51 Vast expanse  
53 Trawler need

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