

## UHV University Commons construction completes milestone

Construction on the University of Houston-Victoria's new \$32 million student center and library passed another milestone Wednesday when a "topping out" ceremony took place, marking the end of foundation and framing work on the building.

"The UHV University Commons is going to be one of the most beautiful buildings on campus, and we are ready for it to open for our students," UHV President Vic Morgan said during the ceremony.

Representatives from the UH System, UHV, BE&K construction, Gensler architecture firm and construction workers each signed a piece of galvanized steel decking that was put in place on the roof of

the building later in the day along with a small evergreen tree, as is tradition during a topping out ceremony.

"We're happy to arrive at this point in construction," said Frank Sotelo, senior project manager at BE&K Building Group of Houston. "This building will be a nice addition to an already nice campus."

Groundbreaking on the 80,124-square-foot, three-story University Commons took place in April 2017, and the building is expected to be completed by January in time for the start of the spring semester. Although most of the building will be ready by October, the library needs to move into the

See UHV, pg. 10



This rendering shows what UHV University Commons will look like once it is completed. *Contributed art.*



Cinco de Mayo. *Contributed photo.*

## Celebrating el Cinco de Mayo in Texas

by José Antonio López

Happy Cinco de Mayo, Victoria, Texas! This annual Mexican celebration recalls the Battle of Puebla on May 15, 1862, commemorating the Mexican Army's victory over the French Army. However, if Texas was already part of the U.S. on that date, why do we celebrate the event here in Texas? Actually, there's a logical answer.

General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín, born and raised in nearby Goliad, led the Mexican army that defeated the French forces of General Charles de Lorencez. Moreover, General Zaragoza's army included many Tejanos. Why?

That's because in 1862, Texas had been in the U.S. for only fourteen years. As a result, Tejanos and Tejanos had immediate and

extended family living in Mexico, and volunteered to help them in their time of need.

Indeed, besides General Zaragoza, there is much more that unites early Victoria and the adjoining Mexican state of Nuevo Santander (Tamaulipas). Hopefully, the following history details will help Victoria Advocate readers to learn more of the seamless history of

See CINCO, pg. 9

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# Local newspaper editor exposed



Superman art aka Chris Cobler. Contributed photo.

by Jamie Raya

My father, Santiago, is a newspaper man and I am following in his footsteps. This is my first published article, and I hope the Associated Press picks this up.

Got a call from a person that wanted to talk to me but did not

want to give me her last name; she sounded desperate. Her first name is Clara, said she didn't want the public to know who she is, but had very sensitive information to give to me if I would use it. According to Clara, it was March 23rd, a few weeks ago, that she was at the DeLeon Plaza in downtown Victo-

ria, Texas. It was close to midnight and she was waiting on a bench for a person who had information for her. While she was waiting, all of a sudden she saw a bird flying from behind the courthouse, but upon closer look she thought it was a plane. It was dark, but there was no question, it looked like Superman as it passed by. He was wearing blue with a red cape.

We had a few reports dating back several years, but all investigations resulted in dead leads. This time, I launched an investigation into the information we had. This was one too many sightings, and we need to know if there is a Superman among us.

I thought I would start in Kansas where Clark Kent, alias Superman, was from, then proceed to the Daily Planet in Metropolis. I know he worked as a newspaper reporter, so I called them to get the run down. Talked to a Mr. Olsen, who had worked there for many a year, and knew the scoop. Asked him if Mr. Kent still work there, and he said “No”. According to Mr. Olsen, “He quit about 13 years ago, changed his name and wanted a new start. Apparently when Lex Luther was locked up for life and Clark Kent exposed, things got a little slow for him. Clark Kent married his girlfriend, Lois and moved somewhere maybe in Texas.”

I made several inquires to numerous newspapers in Texas to see where it would get me. After calling about every newspaper in Texas, I got nowhere. I thought surely I would get a lead. I would ask if they had anybody working there from Kansas and probably a fan of the Jayhawks, who happen to be blue and red colors just like Superman. I would also ask for a husband and wife team.

Finally a big break, I just happen to read and see a picture of somebody with a Superman t-shirt doing volunteer work for the United Way in Victoria. Superman also would often do good things for his community. Most important the person is from Kansas, a journalist and upon further investigations his wife had a journalism background. This sounded far too coincidental. Superman is from Kansas, married to Lois Lane, a journalist.

See EDITOR, pg. 5

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# VC student selected to study this summer in Spain



Victoria College's Norma Zelaya was one of 25 students nationwide chosen to participate in the Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program in Spain on June 1-30.

Norma Zelaya wasn't expecting this upcoming summer to include a trip of a lifetime.

The Victoria College student is one of 25 students nationwide selected to participate in the Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program on June 1-30 in Spain.

"I wanted to cry because it was so amazing," Zelaya said. "I have never travelled abroad. I have never flown before. I am excited and slightly nervous."

Zelaya will fly from Austin to New York to Madrid on May 29 and join 24 other current and former TRIO participants for a month-long study of Spanish language and culture at the University of Salamanca.

"Whenever we get to Spain, we'll have an introduction, and they will walk us around the city," Zelaya said. "Then on Monday we will start classes. The classes will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m."

Zelaya, who was a recipient of last year's What's Your Story? Scholarship for her winning essay, will have the opportunity for sightseeing in Segovia, La Alberca and Pena de Francia to learn about Spanish history, culture and art.

Victoria College KEY Center Director Pam Neuman nominated Zelaya for the trip. Zelaya was notified in February that she was chosen.

"We are so proud of Norma, and I can't think of anyone who could better represent Victoria College, the KEY Center and our TRIO program better than she," Neuman said. "We have seen Norma work hard to achieve her academic goals, and it is fitting that she is rewarded for her hard work."

The Victoria College Foundation is covering most of Zelaya's tuition for her studies in Spain.

"The Victoria College Foundation is honored to partner with the VC KEY Center to help Norma take advantage of this amazing

opportunity," said VC Foundation Executive Director Amy Mundy. "She has worked hard to qualify for the program, and we are looking forward to hearing about her experiences when she returns."

"I definitely want to thank the VC Foundation and Pam Neuman for helping me out through this entire process," Zelaya said.

The Federal TRIO Programs are designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. The KEY Center is a TRIO Student Support Services program that promotes participation in postsecondary education by encouraging intellectual growth and social development.

"I'm a first-generation college student, so it was a little bit difficult for me to get started as far as the college process goes," said Zelaya, who wants to enter Victoria College's Physical Therapist Assistant Program. "But a lot of the people here at the KEY Center helped me out with my advising, my major, and what I planned to do."

For information on VC's KEY Center, call (361) 582-2414 or email KEY@VictoriaCollege.edu.

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# Noticias del Mundo

por Gloria Rivera

**VATICAN** – Para aquellos de ustedes que quieren visitar la Ciudad del Vaticano, el mejor momento

para ir, si quieren un momento tranquilo, eso sería entre noviembre, y febrero. ¿Para ver al Papa?

Todos los miércoles, el Papa celebra una audiencia pública en

la Plaza de San en el verano y en el Auditorio en el invierno.

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Kim Jong-un. Contributed photo.

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AM.

**ENGLAND** – Recientemente, la Reina Isabel cumplió 92 años. Ella anunció a los Jefes de Gobierno de la Commonwealth que nombren a su hijo, el Príncipe Carlos, como su sucesor durante una reunión oficial en el Palacio de Buckingham.

El Príncipe Carlos es el primero de una larga lista de herederos del trono.

**NORTH KOREA** – El presidente Donald Trump dijo que tres prisioneros de los Estados Unidos fueron liberados de Corea del Norte y se dirigieron a sus hogares.

Trump dio la bienvenida a los estadounidenses a los Estados Unidos.

**KENYA** – Decenas de personas están desaparecidas después de unas tormentas lluviosas en Kenia.

**CHINA** – China prohíbe las bib-

lias en las tiendas en línea. La prohibición se produce cuando China y el Vaticano intentan negociar un acuerdo sobre el nombramiento de obispos.

**SINGAPORE** – El Presidente Trump va para Singapore para una junta con Kim Jong-un en junio.

**ENGLAND** – El Príncipe Harry y Meghan Markle se casan muy pronto. El papa y mama de ella ya están en Inglaterra para la boda.

**SYRIA** – Siria esconde objetivos militares después de la amenaza de los Estados Unidos.

**ITALY** – La canciller alemana, Angela Merkel, dijo que Europa necesita hacer más para poner fin a la guerra en Siria.

**USA** – Kim Jong-un, Donald Trump entre los favoritos nobel de Premio de la Paz, dice la agencia de apuestas del Reino Unido.

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# Garcia sisters qualify for Miss Texas Pageant



Ryley Garcia. Contributed photo.

Miss Rosalie Bea Garcia, age 7, qualifies as a state finalist in the National American Miss Texas Pageant to be held June 15-16, 2018 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Houston, Texas.

The pageant is held for girls ages four through eighteen in five different age divisions. The newly crowned Miss Texas Jr. Pre-teen will receive a \$1,000 cash award,

the official crown and banner, a bouquet of roses, and air transportation to compete in the national pageant at Disneyland in California. She will also tour Hollywood and has the chance to represent the great state of Texas for one entire year.

Miss Garcia's activities include competing in pageants, volleyball, basketball, and soccer. She also enjoys music, crafts, playing with her friends and riding her bike. Miss Garcia's sponsors include Prestige Painting.

Miss Ryley Jo Garcia, age 6, qualifies as a state finalist in the National American Miss Texas Pageant to be held June 15-16, 2018 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Houston, Texas.

The pageant is held for girls ages four through eighteen in five different age divisions. The newly crowned Miss Texas Princess will receive a \$1,000 cash award, the official crown and banner, a bouquet of roses, and air transportation to compete in the national pageant at Disneyland in California.



Rosalie Garcia. Contributed photo.

nia. She will also tour Hollywood and has the chance to represent the great state of Texas for one entire year.

Miss Garcia's activities include competing in pageants, basketball, and soccer. She also enjoys music, dancing, playing with her friends and riding her bike. Miss Garcia's sponsors include Prestige Painting.

## EDITOR, from pg. 2

I took the picture to the lady named Clara so that she would identify the individual. After looking at the picture, she could not give a positive ID. Clara said, "From where I was sitting, I could see him flying but his features were not very clear. It looks like the same person, I am almost sure of it."

I contacted an artist to draw a sketch of the person Clara saw flying to see if we could make a



Ambassador Court Celina Yoast, Chris Colbler and Jennifer Rayburn. Contributed photo.

match. We put the sketch out to the public to see if anybody can

identify him, and hopefully we can ID the person.

Please look at this picture, he is suspected of being Clark Kent, a.k.a., Superman.

Questions to ask: 1. Is he from Kansas? 2. Is he a blue and red fan? 3. Does his wife have a journalist background? 4. Have you ever seen him next to Superman? And 5th. Is he weak around kryptonite? If you can answer 4 of the 5 questions correctly, we could have our Superman.

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# Charlando de TV y Cine

por Gloria Rivera

¡Hola, el mes pasado se fue muy pronto!

William Levy dice, “Yo no soy guapo...lo que soy es seguro de mí mismo!”

Pues se ve muy bien el William siempre.

¿Qué tal, Willie? ¡Estás muy bien!

Uno de los cantantes muy bien



William Levy. Contributed photo.

pero ella canta muy bien. La canta esta canción en You-Tube cantada por él, Charlie Zaa.

Hace mucho tiempo que murió Pedro Infante. Pero gente por mucho tiempo y todavía dicen que murió hace poco. Él fue un actor y cantante y lo hizo tan bien.

Edith Gonzales regresa a las novelas. Va a ser el papel de villana. Ella estuvo enferma del cáncer hace tiempo. Pero ahora se ve bien y está trabajando como a ella le gusta.

Angelique Royer se está preparando para hacer una nueva telenovela muy pronto. Tienen hace tiempo no ha hecho una novela ahora pronto.

José José esta todavía en el hospital porque se reporte que este crítico y que está en agoniza.

José José está recluido en un



Pedro Infante. Contributed photo.

asilo con visitas control roladas. Él está muy enfermo.

Jaime Moreno estuvo casado See CHARLANDO, pg. 7

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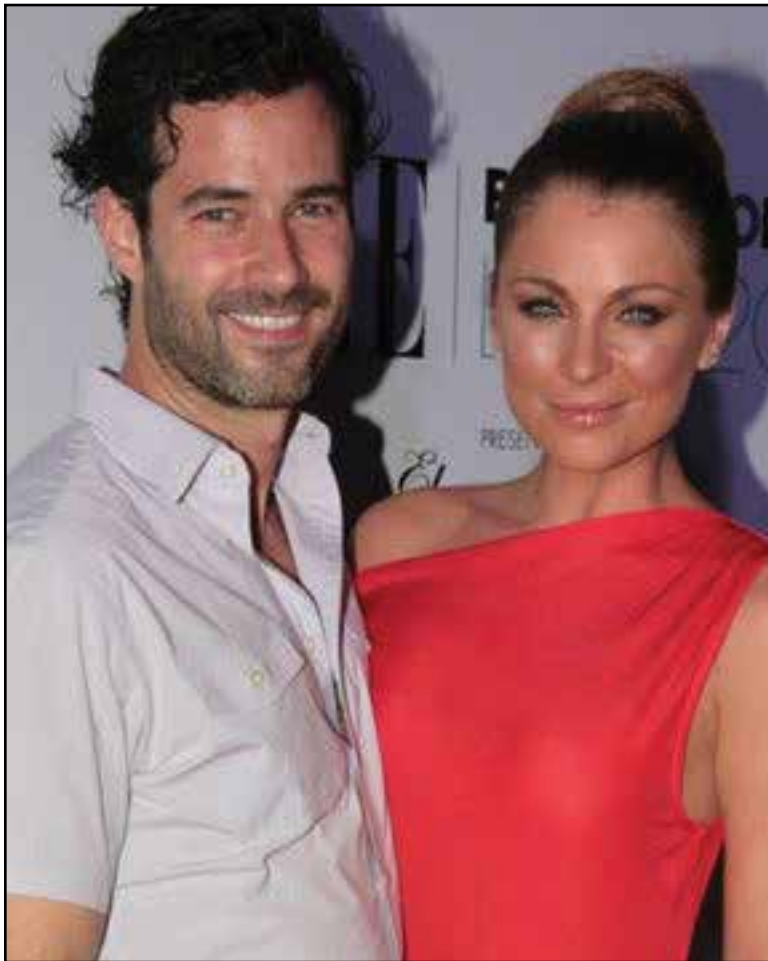
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Emilio Salinas y Ludwika Paleta. Contributed photo.

**CHARLANDO**, from pg. 6 con Olivia Collins por un tiempo vera ahora están separados. Él dice que Olivia era violenta.

El Hollywood actor Michael Douglas está en terminal y le dan nomas 6 meses de vida.

Ludwika Paleta y su esposo Emiliano Salinas ahora están en mal tiempo ahora. Se reporta que

su esposo está en una secta que no es nada bueno.

La gente dice que la separación de Angela Vale su esposo esta la separación de ellos es extraña. ¿Pero por qué?

¡Hay un rumor que Victoria Ruffo quiere ser el papel en una telenovela como la villana! Hace un año que ella reporto esto.

¡Hasta pronto!



Victoria Ruffo. Contributed photo.

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## A new perspective on crime



Be protected with a comprehensive security system. *Contributed photo.*

by Officer John Turner

I've been a police officer for quite a while. I've investigated thousands of burglaries and spent a lot of time talking to people about burglary prevention and home security. It wasn't until my home was burglarized that I was able to truly understand the victim's perspective.

A few years ago we got an alarm system because several acquaintances had their homes burglarized. If nothing else, it provided a little peace of mind. Even though, the alarm didn't keep burglars from entering our house, it sure got them out in a hurry. Had we not had an alarm system, they could have cleaned us out.

Here's a terrible thought. What if you come home while burglars are inside your house? Most people, even criminals, don't want to go to jail. If you get between them and their escape, you have no idea what they may do to get away. An alarm system may prevent this.

In a perfect world, the alarm sign, prominently displayed in the front yard should be enough to deter a burglar but it works only if the burglar makes the effort to read it. It certainly doesn't hurt though.

Camera systems are a potential deterrent as well, but like

the alarm sign, they must be seen to be effective. The main benefit of a camera system is suspect identification. If you can positively identify a suspect, it makes prosecution much more likely. If burglars see the cameras and decide to move on to an easier target, that's just a bonus. Also, many camera systems allow you to access a live view from your smart phone or computer.

If you get a call from your alarm company advising you of activation, you can immediately check your camera system to view any activity at your home. If it's being burglarized, you'll be able to advise responding officers what you see (suspect or vehicle descriptions, etc), all without leaving the safety and comfort of wherever you may be.

One suggestion I can offer on choosing a camera system is to get one with the highest possible resolution during playback. There is nothing more frustrating than hav-

ing a crime on video and it being too blurry to identify the suspect.

Should burglars ignore any of your other security measures, another recommended tip is to have a detailed inventory of your valuables. When investigating thefts or burglaries, officers will ask for the brand, model (name or number) and value of the stolen items. Officers will also ask for a serial number, owner applied number, and damage; whatever may distinguish your particular item from the millions of others made just like it. They also come in handy for insurance claims.

One argument against home security that we hear at almost every presentation is "it's never happened to me before". Well, our houses don't burn down everyday but we have fire extinguishers and smoke detectors, we don't get into accidents everyday but we have insurance and wear seatbelts (or should) when we drive.

We don't prepare because something bad does happen every day, we prepare because something bad may happen. For those who may be curious, a burglary (residential, commercial or vehicle) is reported on essentially a daily basis in Victoria.

John Turner is a Crime Prevention Officer with the Victoria Police Department. For information on home security or other crime prevention topics, he may be contacted at 485-3808.

## ¿Embarazada? ¿Necesita Ayuda?



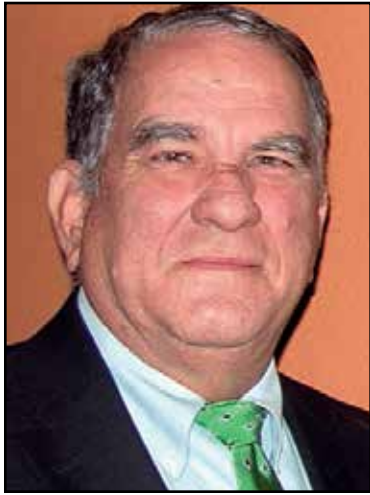
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José Antonio López. Contributed photo.

## CINCO

from pg. 1  
this great place we call Texas.

For starters, both Victoria and Goliad share similarities in the way each town was named. Victoria was named after Guadalupe Victoria, President of Mexico (1824-29). His battle cry at the 1812 Battle of Oaxaca against the Spanish Army was “Va mi espada; en prenda voy por ella.” (There goes my sword; as a pledge, I’m going after it.) His encouraging words motivated his men to follow him across a stream marking the battle lines and won the contest!

Shortly after, the young military officer, José Miguel Fernández Félix, changed his name to Guadalupe Victoria, crediting his victory to La Virgen de Guadalupe. As proof of the high esteem Mexican citizens in Texas regarded their leader, Martín de León’s 1824 land grant petition was formally named “La Villa de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Jesús Victoria”.

Adding to the bond between Victoria and Nuevo Santander is the fact that Bernardo de León, Martín de León’s father, headed one of José de Escandón’s initial Las Villas del Norte pioneer families. Moving from Queretaro, they established the new colony of Nuevo Santander. Later, in 1825, Martín and Patricia de la Garza de León’s colony included families from Nuevo Santander (Tamaulipas).

As for Goliad, it was first established in 1722 as La Bahia, making it part of the earliest Spanish Mexican presence in Texas. Later, in 1749, Count José de Escandón moved the presidio and mission to Goliad’s present location by the San Antonio River. (Named after Padre Miguel Hidalgo, a Roman

Catholic priest and leader of Mexico’s September 16, 1810 independence movement.)

Padre Hidalgo was so beloved by La Bahia citizens that in 1829 Alcalde (Mayor) Rafael Manchola received approval to rename the town. However, the name “Hidalgo” was already taken. Undeterred, he and local officials rearranged the letters without the H to spell “Goliad”.

Incidentally, Goliad was the site of the first Battle of Goliad in 1813, fought by Tejanos, Native Americans, and Anglo volunteers against the Spanish Army. In fact, it was the second of five battles and is remembered as the make-or-break victory for Mexico’s Army of the North (First Texas Army) under the leadership of Lt. Colonel José Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara, the first President of Independent Texas, April 6, 1813.

What about other Texas connections with Mexico? Texas was born in 1691 when Domingo Terán de los Ríos was named its first Governor. In fact, there were over 30 Spanish-surnamed Texas Governors from 1691-1821.

Also, at the time Victoria was settled in 1824, Texas was part of Mexico’s interior provinces, including sister states of Nuevo Santander (Tamaulipas), Nuevo León, Coahuila, Sonora, Chihuahua, Nuevo México, and California. It was this arrangement that welcomed Stephen F. Austin to Texas. In 1829, Austin lauded the

Guadalupe Victoria government’s friendship by calling Mexico the most benevolent country in the world toward immigrants.

In summary, why is it that we celebrate el Cinco de Mayo in Victoria, Goliad, and elsewhere in Texas? In two words, Family Values. That is, Tejanos throughout the state answered the call of duty to join Goliad native son, General Zaragoza, and extended family at the 1862 Battle of Puebla. By the way, some of those family bonds are as strong today as they were then. In the final analysis, it was the right thing to do for all the right reasons. ¡Viva el Cinco de Mayo! ¡Viva Victoria! ¡Viva Goliad! ¡Viva el General Ignacio

Zaragoza!

About the Author: José Antonio “Joe” López was born and raised in Laredo, Texas, and is a USAF Veteran. He now lives in Universal City, Texas and is the author

of several books. His latest is “Preserving Early Texas History (Essays of an Eighth-Generation South Texan), Volume 2”. Books are available through Amazon.com.



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## UHV, from pg. 1

new building between semesters to avoid a disruption of services to UHV and Victoria College students and faculty.

In addition, a project that will allow UHV to reduce the number of traffic lanes on Ben Wilson Street in front of the University Commons must be started to allow students and employees to safely cross the street.

Jay Lambert, vice president for UHV Student Affairs, said he is excited about University Commons for both the students and employees.

“The University Commons will completely change how we serve students, how they connect to the university and their general sense of belonging,” he said.

The new building is located on the east side of Ben Wilson Street,

directly across from the UHV University Center. The first floor will include a food court; a market with a coffee bar featuring Starbucks coffee and grab-and-go food and convenience items; a Barnes & Noble bookstore; a video game area; a multipurpose room with seating for up to 250 people; and study and lounge areas. The food court will feature Chick-fil-A and Asado, a Latin American fast-food restaurant serving design-your-own tacos, burritos, ensaladas, rice bowls and tortas. The food court will have space for a third restaurant that will open once student enrollment is larger.

“The new University Commons will bring a real ‘wow’ factor to the campus,” said Wayne Beran, UHV vice president for administration and finance. “When prospective students come and tour campus, it’s going to be a place where they want to hang out.”

The second floor will have space for the university’s Student Success Center, Student Life & Services, and offices for the UHV Student Government Association and other student organization offices. The new library, known as the Learning Commons because of its modern feel, will include public computers, circulation and reference desks, and a makerspace, an area that offers library patrons an opportunity to create materials. The makerspace could include a small recording space, media conversion area and specialty electronics such as a 3-D printer, a large-format printer and a planetary scanner.

“The new Learning Commons will allow us to serve both UHV and VC students better,” said Joe

Dahlstrom, senior director of the VC/UHV Library. “We will have more study rooms and more places for them to be able to work collaboratively.”

The third floor will house the Victoria Regional History Center, offices, meeting rooms, study spaces and the most-used books in the library’s collection. The remainder of the collection will be stored off-site and retrieved as needed. A deck on the third floor will have an outdoor seating area that overlooks the rest of campus.

Alvaro De La Cruz, the 2017-2018 UHV Student Government Association president, cannot wait for the University Commons to open so that he can enjoy it before he graduates in a year.

“UHV is growing, and this will give us more room to host university events,” he said. “The University Commons is just going to be a fun place for students to hang out.”

In February 2015, UHV students living within a 50-mile radius of Victoria voted on whether to fund the student center. More than 80 percent voted in favor of the fee, and then a few months later, the Texas Legislature approved a bill allowing for the student fee assessment. The fee first was assessed in fall 2015. That year, the Legislature also allocated \$60 million to UHV in construction bonds for academic expansion and land acquisition. A portion of that money is funding the library inside University Commons.

Go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-nzisSnCwQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-nzisSnCwQ) to see a flyover video of what the University Commons will look like once it is finished.



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# La Cocina de Tia Yole



Salmon and ravioli. Contributed photo.

## SALMON AND RAVIOLI

1 (9-oz. pkg.) refrigerated four cheese ravioli  
1 lemon  
2 (6-oz.) skinless, salmon fillets  
Salt and ground black pepper  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 (6-oz. pkg.) baby spinach  
3 cloves garlic thinly sliced  
2 tablespoons butter  
Shredded Parmesan cheese

1. Cook ravioli according to package directions; drain. 2. Meanwhile, half lemon. Squeeze juice from half one half of the lemon; cut remaining half into small wedges. Set lemon juice and lemon wedges aside. Rinse salmon; pat dry. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. 3. In a large skillet heat olive oil over medium heat; add salmon; cook for 6 to 8 minutes until salmon just flakes, turning once. Remove salmon; add spinach to skillet.

let. Cook 1 minute or until spinach just begins to wilt. Remove spinach from skillet. Add lemon juice, garlic and butter to hot skillet. Cook and stir over medium heat until butter melts. Cook and stir 1 minute more. 4. Slice salmon and divide among 4 plates. Add ravioli and spinach; pour pan juices atop. Serve with lemon wedges and pass Parmesan. Makes 4 servings.

## TUSCAN CHEESE POTATO BAKE

2 lbs. red potatoes  
3 or 4 cloves garlic minced  
1½ teaspoon snipped fresh thyme or ½ teaspoon dried thyme, crushed  
¼ cup butter  
1-cup buttermilk  
4 oz. fontina cheese shredded (1 cup)  
4 oz. Parmesan cheese, finely shredded (1 cup)  
1/3 cup crumbled blue cheese  
½ cup panko (Japanese-style bread crumbs)  
¼ teaspoon dried Italian seasoning, crushed  
1-tablespoon olive oil  
Snipped fresh parsley (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Lightly grease a 2-quart square baking dish; set aside. Scrub potatoes; cut in 1-inch pieces. In large saucepan cook potatoes in lightly salted boiling water 12 to 15 minutes or

until tender; drain. 2. In a 12-inch skillet cook and stir garlic and thyme in butter over medium heat for 1 minute; add potatoes. Coarsely mashed potatoes. Stir in buttermilk, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Fold in fontina cheese, half of the Parmesan, and the blue cheese. Evenly spread in baking dish. 3. In small bowl combine remaining Parmesan, panko, Italian seasoning and oil; toss with a fork to combine. Evenly sprinkle over potato mixture dish. Bake for 20 minutes or until bubbly and top is golden. Sprinkle with snipped fresh parsley. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

## FIVE-TOMATO SALAD

2 tablespoons olive oil or salad oil  
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar  
1 tablespoon thinly sliced green onion or snipped fresh chives  
2 teaspoons snipped fresh basil or ½ teaspoon dried basil crushed  
1-teaspoon sugar  
½ teaspoon Dijon-style mustard  
¼ teaspoon salt Spinach leaves  
3 Roma tomatoes sliced  
2 medium red tomatoes sliced  
1 medium yellow tomato sliced  
½ cup red cherry tomatoes, halved  
½ cup yellow cherry tomatoes, halved  
½ cup crumbled feta, Gorgonzola, or blue cheese (2 ounces)  
Freshly ground black pepper

1. For dressing, combine the olive or salad oil, vinegar, green onion or chives, basil, sugar, mustard, and salt in a screw-top jar. Cover and shake well. Chill, if desired.  
2. To serve, line a serving platter

with spinach leaves. Arrange tomatoes on platter. Shake dressing well; drizzle over tomatoes. Sprinkle crumbled cheese on top of tomatoes. Sprinkle with pepper. Makes 6 servings

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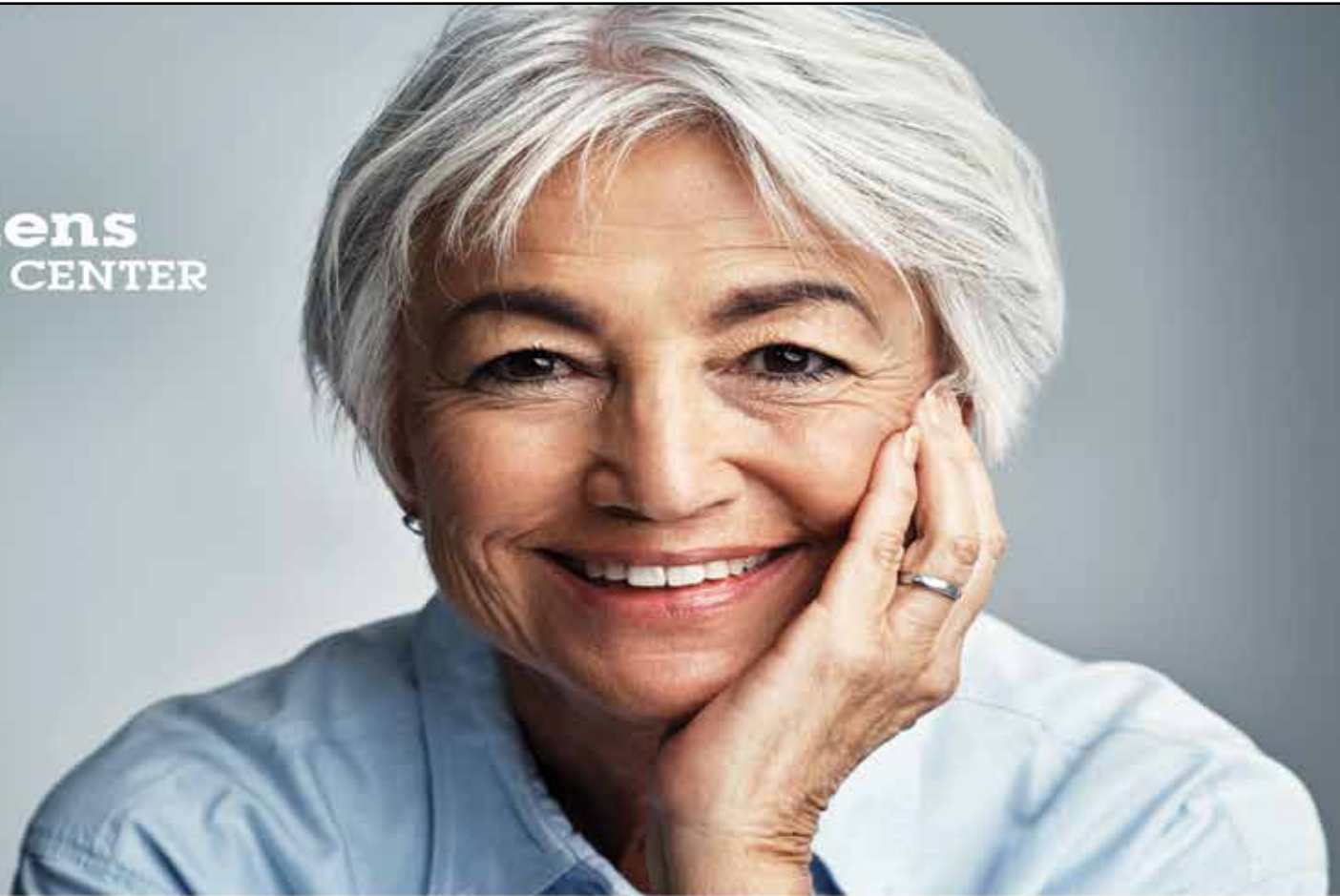
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