

Zeller seeks third term as Victoria County judge

by Peter Moralez

On March 1, 2022, County Judge Ben Zeller will be on the Joint Primary Ballot for election as Victoria County's Judge for his third consecutive term. Zeller is running unopposed in both the primary and general elections.

Zeller is a Victoria native and in-fact says he is an eighth-generation Texan whose lineage can be traced back to the Stephan F. Austin Original Three Hundred. He is married and has three children.

"The number one priority in Victoria County is public safety through law and order," he said. "With that in mind, I work hand in hand with both the Victoria County Sheriff's Department and the Victoria County District Attorney's Office to ensure the public safety of all Victoria County residents."

Eighteen million dollars was awarded to Victoria County by virtue of the American Reserve Plan Act (ARPA). When questioned about use of those funds

Zeller indicated, "Even though funds were awarded to Victoria County by ARPA, the final rules of how the funds could be spent have just made it to us. Victoria County Commissioner's Court will establish a committee to utilize how best those funds should be spent."

One of the key projects earmarked for the ARPA funds will be to establish broadband to Victoria County.

"Broadband has many moving parts, and it will take a significant effort to establish it to every household and business in Victoria County," he said. "The necessity for broadband was made abundantly clear to us during the pandemic when school children, as well as many adults working from home, had issues with internet."

To that necessity Zeller stated that Victoria County has joined with other Texas counties to establish a co-op to tackle the broadband issue.

Local infrastructure is also a
See ZELLER, pg. 14



Victoria County Judge Ben Zeller. *Contributed photo.*



Danielle Williams, new economic development director. *Contributed photo.*

City of Victoria names new economic development director

Victoria Main Street Program director promoted to newly created role

City of Victoria Main Street Program Executive Director Danielle Williams will apply her passion for supporting small businesses to a wider area in her new role as economic development director for the City of Victoria.

The city created this role last

year as part of its overall efforts to be more intentional about enhancing livability through economic development.

"I'm excited to be able to play a larger role in the work that the city and local stakeholders are doing to create a favorable environment

for businesses," Williams said. "I want business owners to be able to come to me for help with becoming established, expanding or anything else they may need."

Williams will act as a liaison for the City's initiatives to recruit,
See DIRECTOR, pg. 13

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Restoration House continues to make a difference



Jeans for Teens. Contributed photo.

by Peter Morales

Fourteen years ago, Theresa Klacman opened her door to young women in Victoria that needed a shelter to escape to. “Women that

had been raped, abused, physically, sexually, mentally and spiritually,” she described. In 2009 she founded Restoration House Ministries, along with a resale shop. Both have grown exponen-

tially since that time giving young women a hand up, not a handout, and offering them structure in their lives through a spiritually based program.

“I’ve walked in the same paths that many of the females that we help have walked. I am a victim of sexual abuse from age four through nine,” Klacman said. Klacman is the founder and president of Restoration House Ministries, “As a result of this trauma I endured I suffered through almost thirty years of depression related directly to my abuse, along with alcoholism, and basically doing whatever was necessary to help me forget.”

The target group of women assisted by Restoration House Ministries (RHM) is ages eighteen through thirty-five. Once accepted into the program they live on site and daily begin to regain structure and sociability through spiritual-



Gleanings Resale Shop at 1204 North Moody St. Contributed photo.

ity.

“The reason I created RHM is because I was called to do so by Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior,” she said. “I have placed my life in His hands, and this has allowed me to forgive the individual who sexually abused me and lifted me from a life of despair and hopelessness to a life filled with sharing and concern for others.”

While RHM maintains its non-profit status it does not accept any government funding, so they do not have to answer to anyone, by design.

“We have been able to tap into a program that is Christian, non-denominationally based. Our residents go to Faith Family Church on Wednesdays and Sundays,” Klacman said.

The other component of RHM is the Restoration House Ministries Gleanings Resale Shop (Gleanings) located at 1204 North Moody Street. It has been open since 2009. The manager is Justin Cavazos, and he has been manager since 2019.

“We accept donations of men’s, women’s, and kid’s clothing five

days a week. We also accept any household goods, furniture, electronics, collectables and appliances, to name a few,” Cavazos said. “Our hours of operation are Mondays through Thursdays, 8:30 to 5:30; Fridays 8:30 to 4:30 and closed Saturdays and Sundays.”

In addition to being a resale shop they also give-a-way clothing and home furnishings to people in dire need, or that are homeless. Individuals are sometimes referred by local assistance agencies, however one can just walk into the store and apply for assistance.

Gleanings also has a ministry for the homeless to come and shower and freshen up. “It’s called Showers of Grace,” Cavazos said. “People can walk in on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between eleven in the morning until 2 in the afternoon. “We always need new towels, men’s and women’s underwear, unused and wrapped and travel-size toiletries, but no bar soap.”

If you have questions for RHM please direct them to 361.576.4746, and questions for Gleanings to 361.485.0123.

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UHV Health & Wellness Center design will feature walk-in clinic



An artist's rendering shows the exterior of UHV's new Health & Wellness Center that will be at the corner of Ben Wilson and Red River streets across from Dairy Queen. The rendering was provided by SmithGroup. *Contributed photo.*

The design phase of the University of Houston-Victoria's new Health & Wellness Center is nearing completion, and in addition to educational and fitness facilities, the building will feature a walk-in clinic that will serve UHV students and the community.

The Health & Wellness Center will be 35,000 square feet including the walk-in clinic. The center was designed by SmithGroup and will be built on the vacant lot on the southeast corner of Red River and Ben Wilson streets, near the new UHV University Commons student center and library and across Ben Wilson from Dairy Queen. It will have facilities for

exercising and fitness activities as well as educational spaces for kinesiology and other health-related programs. The design is expected to be completed by May, and UHV plans to begin construction in fall 2022 and finish by spring 2024.

"The Health & Wellness Center is going to be an incredible addition to our campus and a wonderful place for our students to find balance and stress release," said Jay Lambert, UHV vice president for student affairs. "The addition of the adjoining walk-in clinic will be a bonus that will be just as important when our students need to see a doctor. This will be a great partnership."

The clinic will be run by DeTar Healthcare System under a long-term lease and will provide affordable care for basic medical conditions. Services will be delivered by staff members experienced in diagnosing and treating minor illnesses and emergencies, such as the common cold, flu, allergy symptoms, sprains, and strains in a manner that is fast, effective, and compassionate, said Bernard Leger, CEO of DeTar Healthcare System.

"UHV has a reputation for providing quality education opportunities in the Crossroads region, which aligns closely with DeTar Healthcare System's commitment to providing Victoria and the surrounding communities with quality health care services," Leger said. "We are excited to be included in this expansion. Establishing

a DeTar on Demand walk-in clinic at this new location will increase access to medical care for their students, faculty and our community."

In addition to the clinic, the building will have a variety of facilities for UHV students, faculty, staff, and alumni as well as Victoria College students. The first floor will feature facilities including locker rooms, a lobby, two group fitness spaces that also will be used as classrooms, two basketball courts that also can be used for other sports, and a strength training and free weights area. The second floor will include a cardio fitness area, a one-eighth-mile indoor track and a group fitness area. There also will be a large outdoor fitness and recreation area.

The building was funded through a student fee that UHV

students voted to approve in December 2018. UHV also received a \$2 million grant from the M.G. & Lillie A. Johnson Foundation – the biggest gift in the university's history – to help build out the areas that will be used for health education.

"We are excited to see this project come together and move forward," said Jesse Pisors, UHV vice president for advancement and external relations. "This partnership with DeTar includes major funding that will help us complete the project. This clinic will be a wonderful tool to serve not just UHV's students, but the community as well. We are grateful to all the contributions and support we have received in working to bring this project to life for our students."

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Noticias del Mundo

ESTADOS UNIDOS — 5G: cómo afecta esta tecnología a los aviones comerciales y por qué las aerolíneas en los Estados Unidos hablan de un peligro. “Recuerda apagar tu teléfono antes del despegue.”

Si alguna vez has tenido que volar en avión, sabrás que esa es una de las principales reglas de seguridad de las aerolíneas a la hora de

subirte en una de sus aeronaves.

Y es que, a pesar de que la tecnología avanza a pasos agigantados y de que todos los días salen artefactos nuevos para facilitarnos la vida, todos los aparatos que usamos están limitados por los principios físicos básicos que rigen el universo.

Por ejemplo, las ondas que emite y recibe tu teléfono celular

son ondas radiales y se mueven en el mismo espectro electromagnético que usan las radios y las antenas de los aviones. Lo único que cambia es la frecuencia en la que se transmiten.

Es ese principio básico de la física el que te explica por qué es mejor no usar tu teléfono en un avión: impidiendo el uso de teléfonos móviles en el aire, las autori-

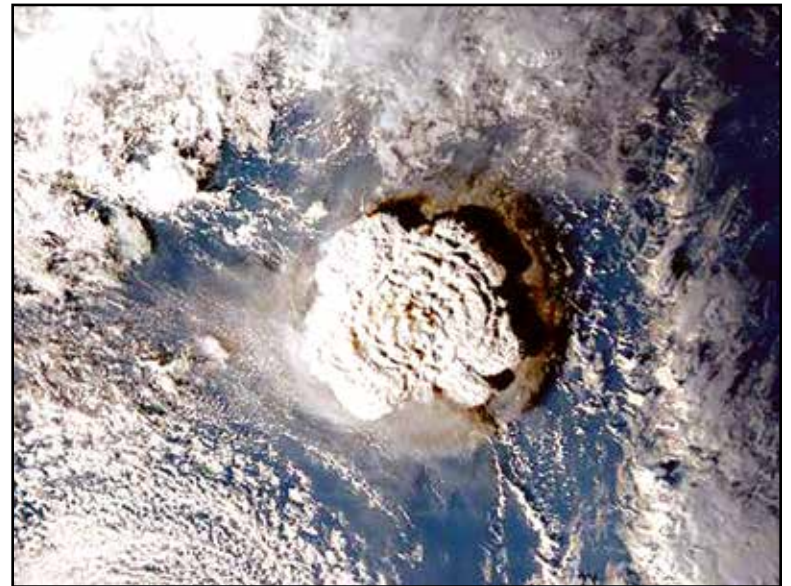
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La erupción de volcán Hunga Tonga. *Contributed photo.*

dades aeronáuticas buscan reducir al mínimo las probabilidades de que las ondas que llegan a tu teléfono interfieran con las que llegan a los equipos de navegación de la aeronave.

Y aunque esta es una explicación muy básica de un proceso bastante complejo, también ayuda a explicar por qué las aerolíneas en Estados Unidos han pedido a los proveedores de telefonía ce-

lular del país que demoren el despliegue de la tecnología de quinta generación (5G) cerca de ciertos aeropuertos.

TONGA — La erupción del volcán cerca de Tonga el pasado 15 de enero puso en alerta a todo el planeta.

El volcán Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai, en el Pacífico Sur, causó una explosión que se escuchó hasta en Estados Unidos, y provocó olas de más de un metro que embistieron las costas de Tonga.

En su primer comunicado sobre los daños, el gobierno describió este martes la situación como un “desastre sin precedentes” e informó de tres muertes confirmadas, la de dos locales (una mujer de 65 años y un hombre de 49) y una ciudadana británica. Se trata de Angela Glover, de 50 años, quien según contó su familia intentaba salvar a sus perros cuando el agua se la llevó.

El gobierno de Tonga dice que el tsunami fue un “desastre sin precedentes.”

Las comunicaciones en la zona están paralizadas, después de que la erupción y el tsunami cortaran un cable submarino, lo que dificulta establecer la escala de la destrucción.

Pero las consecuencias no solo se sintieron en el archipiélago. A 10 km del volcán, en Perú, se reportó la muerte de dos mujeres debido a un oleaje anormalmente alto.

Do you have plumbing or home damage caused by the winter storms in February?

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Former Jackson County sheriff runs for U.S. Congress



Former Jackson County sheriff AJ Louderback candidate for U.S. Congress. *Contributed photo.*

Retired Sheriff AJ Louderback wants to continue to serve District 27 as our next US Congressman. He is a fifth-generation Texan and forty plus year law enforcement veteran, having been elected to serve his fifth term as Jackson County Sheriff in 2020. Apart from his service in the Air Force, he led the charge of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's 287 (g) program in the Gulf Bend region.

Louderback has represented the National Sheriff's Association on the Border/Immigration Committee, the National Institute of Justice's Committee, the Governmental Affairs Committee, and numerous other committees repre-

senting Sheriffs. He also serves as the current President of the Texas Sheriff's Regional Alliance and as chair of the Public Safety Committee & the Homeland Security Committee through the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission.

He is a fierce proponent of a strong national border and has been awarded the prestigious Service to the Homeland Award by the Department of Homeland Security. He is also an avid 2nd Amendment Rights advocate and has testified before US Congress, Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives defending our God-given rights. He is also a regular commentator on Fox News, Newsmax,

and various radio shows across the Nation.

Louderback is the former Legislative Chairman for the Sheriffs' Association of Texas (SAT), is a past president of the SAT and has been a member of the Council of Americas' Fight Crime: Invest in Kids since 2008.

PLATFORM ISSUES.

Border Security

We need leadership that is willing to stand with law enforcement and fight to protect the rule of law in this country. When elected, I will fight to secure our border and work to save the communities overrun by crime because of lax border security policies.

Veterans and Law Enforcement

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See CONGRESS, pg. 13

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Glaucoma: An Eye Disease with No Symptoms

According to the Glaucoma Research Foundation, more than three million people in the United States have glaucoma, but it is estimated that only half of these

people know they have it.*

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month

When it comes to your eye

health, sometimes you do not know what you do not know! If you are not having regular eye exams (generally an eye exam every two years for healthy adults over

age 50), you may not realize that something detrimental is happening inside your eyes.

Glaucoma is considered a silent eye disease because there are no symptoms in the early stages. By the time you notice changes in your eyesight, you might have irreversible vision loss.



Glaucoma is a silent eye disease. *Contributed photo.*

What is Glaucoma?

Your eyes continually produce a watery substance called aqueous fluid. In a healthy eye, this fluid drains out of the eye at the same rate that new fluid is produced. This maintains a perfect balance of pressure that creates the shape of your eyes.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that develops when something impairs the drainage system of your eye, causing an increase in pressure because fluid is being produced more rapidly than it is draining. The increase in eye pressure can damage your optic nerve which carries electrical signals from the eye to the brain to produce visual information. Eventually, optic nerve damage will cause vision loss. In fact, there are an estimated 4.5 million people worldwide who are blind due to glaucoma. Anyone can get glaucoma!

Peter Lam are comprehensive ophthalmologists at Victoria Eye Center who are trained to diagnose glaucoma in the early stages, when there are no outward symptoms. Although there is no cure for glaucoma, there are treatments that can slow the disease progression and prevent vision loss (if it is identified early enough).

Take Action Right Now

Regular eye exams are critical for detecting glaucoma as early as possible. Do not wait another day to schedule an eye exam with Dr. Bustos or Dr. Lam. Contact Victoria Eye Center at www.VictoriaEyeCenter.com or call (361) 578-0234.

*<https://www.glaucoma.org/news/glaucoma-awareness-month.php>

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Películas que no queremos perdernos en el 2022

Los grandes directores y estrellas de cine nos preparan fantásticas películas para el nuevo año, y tenemos la información exclusiva.

Dicen que la paciencia es una virtud. Sin embargo, cuando se trata de las películas, no podemos evitar adelantarnos a los acontecimientos y anticipar lo que nos prepara Hollywood para el próximo año. Es cierto que el 2021 fue un año extraño para el público. La pandemia de COVID mantuvo cerrados los cines y aprendimos a aceptar la transmisión de contenido. Pero la taquilla por fin volvió a la vida este otoño —incluso si las ventas de entradas no han vuelto a su pico previo al coronavirus— y

ahora anticipamos los títulos que van a absorber nuestra atención en el año que se nos aproxima. Así que, sin más preámbulo, aquí están las 20 películas que no queremos perdernos en el 2022.

Scream

El nuevo año comienza con un poco de nostalgia sangrienta de los años 90; Neve Campbell, Courtney Cox, David Arquette y Ghostface con su perenne cuchillo regresan a la quinta película de esta franquicia del cine de terror que ha tenido más éxitos que fracasos. Apostamos que la perturbada y perseguida Sidney Prescott, interpretada por Campbell, sobrevivirá hasta los créditos finales... una vez más, para garantizar que haya una

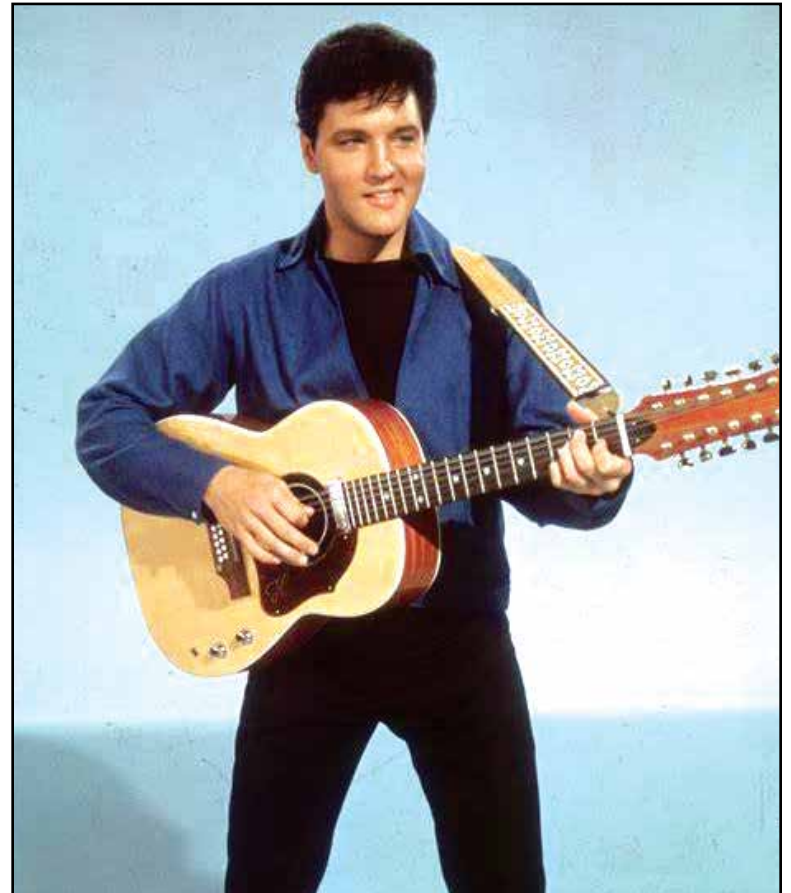
Scream 6.

Death on the Nile

Kenneth Branagh (y su fantástico bigote) regresa como Hercule Poirot, el famoso detective belga de Agatha Christie, después de haber protagonizado en el 2017 Murder on the Orient Express. ¿Quién no disfrutaría los exóticos deleites visuales de las grandes pirámides mientras trata de llevar la cuenta del constante desfile de cadáveres en esta nueva aventura del excéntrico detective? Gal Gadot y Annette Bening coprotagonizan.

The Batman

A estas alturas es más fácil llevar la cuenta de los actores de Hol-



Elvis. Contributed photo.

lywood que no han interpretado a Batman en la pantalla. Ben Affleck ya no es el paladín encapotado y Robert Pattinson asume la capa y el capuchón para Matt Reeves, el director de Planet of the Apes. Admítelo, ya sabes si vas a comprar o no un boleto para esta película. Pero si estás indeciso, Colin Farrell interpreta al Pingüino y Paul Dano aparece como el Riddler.

Romancing the Stone no es tan decepcionante como podría serlo. Después de todo, es justo el tipo de película que Hollywood ya no produce con frecuencia. Tampoco está de más que la protagonizan Sandra Bullock y Channing Tatum. Poco se sabe sobre The Lost City aparte de eso, pero para ser sinceros, es más que suficiente para despertar nuestro interés.

The Lost City

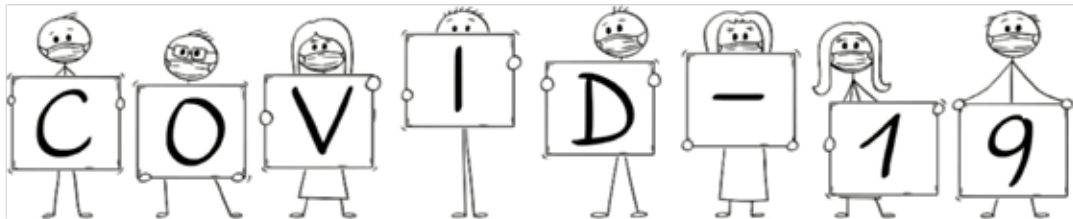
El hecho de que esta aventura de la selva suene un poco como

Top Gun: Maverick

La primera de dos ostentosas (y See CHARLANDO, pg. 9

Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission

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Tom Cruise in Top Gun. Contributed photo.

CHARLANDO, from pg. 8 muy anticipadas) franquicias de Tom Cruise que se estrenan en el 2022, Top Gun: Maverick marca el regreso del álter ego de la estrella obsesionada con la velocidad, el temerario piloto que ahora instruye a una nueva generación de intrépidos pilotos de combate con predilección por desafiar la autoridad, entre ellos Miles Teller. Es probable que esta sea la película que inicie la temporada de los grandes

estrenos de verano del 2022.

Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (Part One)

Incluso si las películas de superhéroes no son lo tuyo —hay muchas que se estrenarán en el 2022 que puedes saltarte sin el menor titubeo—, es difícil imaginar a alguien que no aprecie la obra de arte animada del 2018 Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse. Estoy muy entusiasmado con esta secuela, so-

bre cuyo contenido poco se sabe. El único posible problema es que la primera fue tan impresionante

que será difícil estar a su altura.

Mission: Impossible 7

Olvídate de James Bond. A mi gusto, esta es la franquicia de espionaje más floreciente y espectacular del cine actual. Solo cuatro meses después de irrumpir en los multicines con Top Gun: Maverick, Tom Cruise regresará como Ethan Hunt, y suponemos que hará de nuevo él mismo todas sus escenas peligrosas... y arriesgará mientras tanto su vida con el propósito de entretenernos.

Elvis

Esta película biográfica está recibiendo mucha atención. ¿Y cómo no, si Tom Hanks interpreta al coronel Tom Parker, el obsesivo y controlador representante de Elvis, y el audaz director Baz Luhrmann está tras la cámara? El relativamente desconocido Austin

Butler derrotó a todos los jóvenes actores del país para interpretar al famoso cantante y sus distintivos pasos de baile. Esta promete ser una de esas películas de verano que los votantes de los premios Óscar recuerdan seis meses más tarde.

Jurassic World: Dominion

No todas las películas de la franquicia Jurassic producen la misma satisfacción de ver dinosaurios sembrando el pánico que la Jurassic Park original de Steven Spielberg. Pero cada una de ellas es sin duda un... evento. Esta vez, los fósiles reanimados se han escapado de la isla, así que no hay lugar que esté a salvo del caos. Chris Pratt y Bryce Dallas Howard regresan. Pero aún más interesante, también lo hacen los actores originales Jeff Goldblum, Laura Dern y Sam Neill.

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- photo ID
- proof of the child's immunization records
- proof of residency
- proof of age
- proof of insurance (if available)
- proof of income for the past year or past 12 months

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To learn more, call Linda Cano Arriaga at (210)288-3634
Lc7484@bcfs.net or visit DiscoverBCFS.net/HeadStart

New voting laws in effect for 2022 primary elections

by Peter Morales

There is a new voting law that went into effect as of January 1, 2022. The new law, referred to as SB1 concerns voting by mail. It states, "Public officials cannot distribute unsolicited Application

Ballot by mail."

According to Margetta Hill, Elections Administrator for Victoria County, "Normally we would mail Application at the beginning of the year. Applications will not be mailed unless specifically requested. You may request a bal-

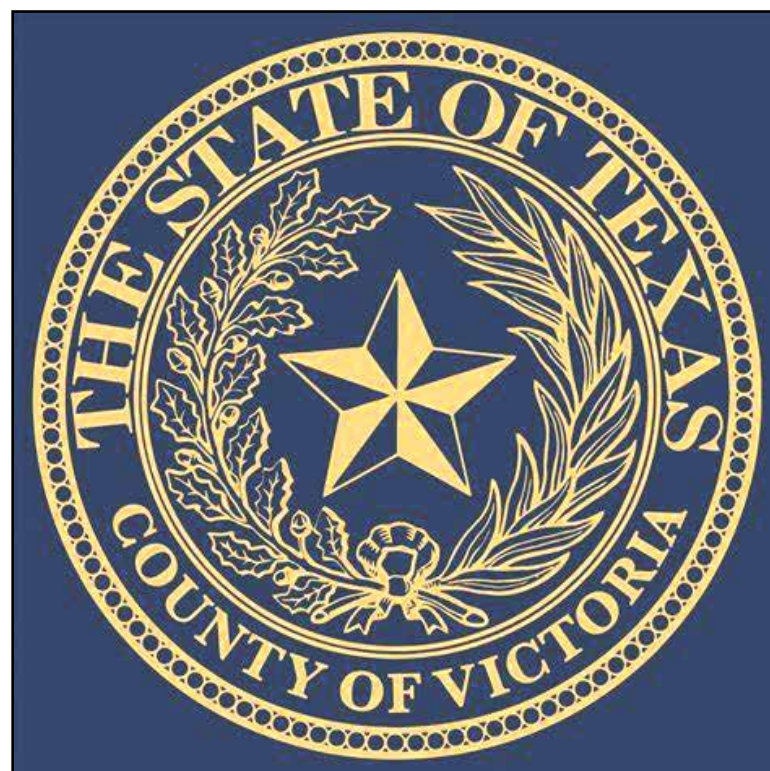
lot by calling the election office at 361.576.0124, or by going to the website at www.vctxelections.org and printing a ballot to mail to the election's office at 2805 North Navarro, Suite 500, Victoria, Texas 77901-3947. The applications are in a new format, which include identification for the voters. Proper identification is using a Texas driver's License number or the last four digits of your social security number. Including you're a good phone number would be advised in the event our office needs to contact you."

Written applications must be received by February 18, 2022, to be eligible to vote in the primary election. To vote by mail you must meet the following criteria.

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Victoria prepares for new laws in election primaries. *Contributed art.*

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Sixty-five years or older by Election Day; have a disability that prevents you from entering a polling location; confined in jail but not convicted of a felony offense; or absent from the county during either early voting or on election day.

New Voter Registration Cards will be issued this year to all registered voters. "While redistricting is still underway, all cards will be mailed out by January 22, 2022. Anyone who wants to vote or up-

date their voting status must be registered by January 31, 2022, to be able to vote in the March 1, 2022, primary election," she said.

All ballots sent by mail must be returned and received by the election office no later than Election Day, March 1, 2022. Sample ballots will be available at the election's website mentioned previously.

Direct any questions to the election office at 361.576.0124.

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Why I write?



Dr. Quintin Shepherd. *Contributed photo.*

by Dr. Quintin Shepherd, VISD Superintendent

I have been asked why I write a weekly article every week. I did a quick search and since I started at Victoria ISD, I have written 161 articles, and many have been published. To be perfectly clear, I do not have time to write. There are countless other things demanding my attention. I learned a long time ago that the phrase I do not have time is just another way of saying I do not care. We are available for the things we care about; it is just that simple. So, I am available to write. Why is it so important to me to carve out time to write to you every week? The obvious answer is I want to keep you informed about what is happening and what is on my mind. Radical transparency is my personal commitment to you and this format offers just one way we try to make a connection between the schools and our community members. But if I am honest, writing to share information is not the primary reason I write. I write because words are like magic, and I love them. They cast amazing spells, have tremendous power, and do things that are otherwise impossible.

I was bullied in middle school and early high school like every other person who attended public schools anywhere in the country. Our interpretation is always that bullying was worse for us than any of the other students, but that is not true. It just felt like it was the worst. The bullying wasn't so much physical but was a constant barrage of comments and notes

(this was before social media, which has made things immeasurably more complicated for kids today). The words could cut to the heart, make a person feel ashamed, or embarrassed, or worth-less. These words cast a spell of sorts. My mood would change, my beliefs about myself would change, my outlook would change, etc. It isn't that they controlled my actions, but they could control my thoughts. These people had a magical power over me as they did for you. They controlled my inner dialogue, and that's magic. My childhood wasn't bad, however, because I was surrounded by loving adults who also knew how to say positive words of affirmation. These words cast a different spell. These words of hope made me believe anything is possible, the future is bright, and compassionate kindness does exist. Thankfully, the positive magic overcame the darker magic. As I grew older, I learned some choose to use their magical powers for good and some choose evil.

As I have shared many times previously, I also grew up on a working farm during the farm crisis. Although I dearly loved it, anyone who has lived on a farm with livestock in the Midwest knows about cold and early starts to the day and backbreaking work throughout the year. Books and magazines were one of my lifelines. I read everything I could get my hands on. National Geographic took me to faraway lands, Time helped me broaden my perspective, Newsweek was a connection to a national conversation. Books were everything to me. I vividly remember lying in my bed as a small child and my mother would sit on the top step of the second floor of the farmhouse and read aloud to all my brothers and I in different rooms spread out on the second floor. When I learned to read for myself, I would read every night imagining fantastic places and colorful stories. I can still picture the bed lamp that hung above my bed and would stay on all hours of the night.

When I became a father, I sat on the top step of the second floor and read to my girls the same way my mom did for me. I knew how powerful words and stories were

during my formative years and I wanted to leave this same indelible impression on my own children. Not long ago, my girls were recounting this experience from 20 years ago and they both fondly remembered how I would make up voices for the eleven characters in the story and this was one of their favorite parts of the experience. I remember reading from the bible, poems, children's non-fiction, and loads of fiction. I wanted them to have vivid imaginations because it is a big part of adult success.

You could picture some of the images in the previous three paragraphs as I was sharing it. You pictured it in your mind and with vivid detail. Maybe you pictured yourself or perhaps you imagined what it must have been like for me. The previous three paragraphs are both true and real. Fiction stories, however, are untrue but that does not make it any less real in our mind. Let me say that a second time because this is immensely powerful magic. You can write, or by extension, say something that is not true but becomes real for others. Some magical conjurers use this to inspire hope. They

talk about a better future, one that only exists in our minds. It is not true, but it becomes real for us. We can all think of great leaders and even some of our friends who are wizards as they cast this magic. Something that is unrealistic or unbelievable today can turn out to be inevitable tomorrow under their spell. As an example, four years ago very few people, if anyone, would have believed VISD could build out an entire K-12 STEM learning pathway, but now that it has done it seems inevitable. I have seen this happen many times in my life. Other sorcerers choose to use this magic power to destroy

or harm. They speak or write untrue and negative things with the expectation that others will believe it as real to wreak havoc. Stephen King used the phrase "low men" in several works and strikes me as appropriate here.

So... I committed to studying and learning the power of words. My love of literature and my love for kids (and teachers, and staff, and community) was my opportunity to cast positive incantations for people I care about. The unwavering goal is always to bring light. The world needs more of that. So I write.

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Victoria College honors forty-one nursing graduates at ceremony

Victoria College's Associate Degree Nursing Program honored 41 Fall 2021 graduates during a Pinning Ceremony on Dec. 16 at

Victoria College's Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts. The graduates received their pins during the ceremony, while

family and friends were in attendance and able to watch the ceremony remotely.

"We are very proud of these graduates for their commitment to complete the program despite facing unprecedented challenges," said Darla Strother, VC dean of allied health.

Mariya Pullin of Refugio was named the class valedictorian, and Haley Charbula of Inez was announced the class salutatorian.

Victoria College's two-year Associate of Applied Science degree in nursing is fully approved



Mariya Pullin, second from left, were named valedictorian of Victoria College's Associate Degree Nursing Program Fall 2021 graduating class. Pictured with Pullin are, from left, Victoria College President Jennifer Kent, salutatorian Haley Charbula, and VC Dean of Allied Health Darla Strother. *Contributed photo.*

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by the Texas Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

Successful completion of the ADN Program enables graduates to apply for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. Satisfactory achievement on the exam qualifies graduates for licensure as a registered nurse.

For more information on Victoria College's ADN Program, call (361) 572-6435 or email Makayla.Olson@VictoriaCollege.edu.

Following are the other Fall 2021 graduates of Victoria College's ADN Program listed by

their cities of residence:

- Bay City**
- Adriana Cruz
- Beeville**
- Nigel Benson
- Cuero**
- Lena Evans, Taylor Magee, Audrey Moreno, Chelsea Riddle
- Eagle Lake**
- Annicia Williams
- Edna**
- LeAnna McDonald
- El Campo**
- Stephanie King
- Hallettsville**
- Ashley Albrecht, Mallorie Layton
- Karnes City**
- Hailey Cooper
- Louise**
- Cheyenne Munson
- Placedo**
- Patrick Rojas
- Port Lavaca**
- Jayda Barton, Ricardio Osornia, Jennifer Ruiz
- Refugio**
- Mariya Pullin
- Richmond**
- Morgan Matthias
- Vanderbilt**
- Jazmine Sanchez
- Victoria**
- Morgan Alebis, Marissa Chapa, Marisol Chavez, Haley Fos
- Wharton**
- Damacia Williams
- Yoakum**
- Brooklyn McNeese
- Yorktown**
- Megan Elliot

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DIRECTOR, from pg. 1

grow and support businesses in Victoria. She will work with local stakeholders such as the Victoria Sales Tax Development Corporation; the Victoria Economic Development Corporation; The Retail Coach, the retail recruitment firm hired by the City; the Victoria Chamber of Commerce; and others.

Williams will also play a role in the implementation of current and upcoming economic development

projects, including the downtown tax increment reinvestment zone, the City's partnership with Innovation Collective and the upcoming economic development strategic plan that is being developed in collaboration with the VSTDC and the VEDC.

Williams was hired in January 2020 as the City of Victoria's first Victoria Main Street Program director after previously serving as the assistant director of Parks & Recreation. She spent the next

two years working closely with downtown business owners to help them achieve their goals. She also spearheaded the development of the community's first downtown master plan.

The Victoria Main Street Program has yielded the following benefits downtown in the past year:

- Seven new businesses and/or expansions
- Net gain of twenty-nine jobs
- Eight façade grants totaling

\$356,938.49 in public/private investment

• Public/private investment totaling \$2.4 million

Williams' new role and her previous roles with the Victoria Main Street Program and Parks & Recreation have something in common: They each play a part in making Victoria an attractive place to live.

"When business owners are deciding whether to move into a city, they look at all the facets of a com-

munity to make sure their employees will want to live there," Williams said. "I'm excited to show businesses what Victoria has to offer."

Williams will officially begin her new role later this month. She will continue to support the Victoria Main Street Program as the City searches for a new manager.

To learn more about resources for businesses in Victoria, contact Williams at 361-485-3060 or dwilliams@victoriatx.gov.

CONGRESS, from pg. 5

care and treatment they deserve and protecting our Law Enforcement from Biden's radical anti-police policies.

2nd Amendment Rights

I will always fight to secure our constitutionally guaranteed right to bear arms.

Human Trafficking

During my time working with groups and organizations that deal with human trafficking victims and their families, I have witnessed first-hand the horrors that result from this awful practice. We need leadership in Washington that will fight for the families and victims of human trafficking.

Pro-Life Values

As a lifelong Conservative, I pledge to stand up and fight for the rights of our unborn. We need

leaders in Washington who bring our community's values to Congress, not stand by as the most innocent have their rights ripped away.

Costly Mandates & Bloated Budgets

I am a fiscal conservative through and through. I know the importance of ensuring our taxpayer dollars are well-spent. With Congress recently passing the largest budget in history, I will stand up and make sure our hard-earned tax dollars are not squandered by this administration.

Ports and Transportation

It is no secret; America has become dependent on other countries for goods and services we can produce here. And, as we work to transition from an energy dependent nation to one of energy dominance, we need leadership in Washington that will protect and

expand our ports to solidify America as an independent country and bring good-paying jobs to Texas' 27th Congressional District.

To have safe, reliable energy in this country, it is vital we have representation that will protect our oil and gas industry.

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COMISIÓN DE CALIDAD AMBIENTAL DE TEXAS

Aviso de un Permiso Federal para Operación Preliminar

Permiso Número: O4286

Solicitud y Permiso Preliminar. Formosa Plastics Corporation 9 Peach Tree Hill Rd., Livingston, NJ 07039-5702, ha presentado una solicitud ante la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ) para una emisión inicial del Permiso Federal de Operación (en adelante denominado el Permiso) Núm.O4286, Solicitud Núm. 31295, para autorizar la operación de LDPE Planta, una planta de fabricación petroquímica. El área a la cual se refiere la solicitud está ubicada en 201 Formosa Dr., en la ciudad de Point Comfort, en el Condado de Jackson, Texas 77978. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o de la instalación es proporcionado como una cortesía y no es parte de la solicitud o del aviso. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud. Usted puede encontrar un mapa electrónico de la instalación en: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=28.688888&lng=-96.547222&zoom=13&type=r>. Esta solicitud fue recibida por la TCEQ el 19 de octubre del año 2020.

El propósito de un Permiso Federal de Operación es mejorar el acatamiento general con las normas que gobiernan el control de la contaminación atmosférica, claramente definiendo todos los requisitos aplicables, como están definidos en el Título 30 del Código Administrativo de Texas § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10). El permiso preliminar, si es aprobado, codificará las condiciones bajo las cuales el área debe operar. El permiso no autorizará construcción nueva. El director ejecutivo ha concluido la revisión técnica de la solicitud y ha hecho una decisión preliminar para preparar el permiso preliminar para la revisión y comentario público. El director ejecutivo de la TCEQ recomienda la expedición de este permiso preliminar. La solicitud de permiso, la declaración de base, y el permiso preliminar estarán disponibles para ser revisados y copiados en la Oficina Central de la TCEQ, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building (Edificio) E, First Floor (Primer Piso), Austin, Texas 78753; y en la Oficina Regional de la TCEQ de Corpus Christi, 500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Suite 500, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-0318; y la biblioteca del Condado de Calhoun, por la calle 200 West Mahan Street, en la ciudad de Port Lavaca, en el Condado de Calhoun, Texas, y la biblioteca memorial del Condado de Jackson, por la calle 411 North Wells, en la ciudad de Edna, en el Condado de Jackson, Texas empezando el primer día de la publicación de este aviso. El permiso preliminar y la declaración de la base están disponibles en el sitio Web de TCEQ:

www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/tynotice

En la oficina central y la oficina regional de TCEQ, también puede revisar y copiar documentos pertinentes para el permiso preliminar, así como los permisos para la Evaluación de Nuevas Fuentes que han sido incorporados por referencia. Cualquier persona que tengan dificultades obteniendo estos materiales debido a restricciones para viajar pueden comunicarse con la sala de archivos de la Oficina Central al teléfono (512) 239 2900.

Comentarios/Notificación Pública y Audiencia. Cualquier persona puede entregar comentarios públicos sobre el permiso preliminar. Comentarios relacionados a la exactitud, lo completo, y lo apropiado de las condiciones del permiso pueden resultar en cambios al permiso preliminar.

Una persona que podría ser afectada por la emisión de contaminantes atmosféricos del área del sitio del permiso puede solicitar una audiencia de aviso y comentarios. El propósito de la audiencia de notificación y comentarios es para proporcionar la oportunidad para entregar comentarios sobre el permiso preliminar. El permiso puede ser cambiado en base a si los comentarios relacionados con el permiso permiten el cumplimiento con el Título 30 del Código Administrativo de Texas, Capítulo 122 (ejemplos pueden incluir que el permiso no tiene todos los requisitos aplicables que correspondan o que no se cumplieron los procedimientos de aviso público). La TCEQ puede otorgar una audiencia de aviso y comentarios con respecto a esta solicitud si una petición por escrito es presentada dentro de los 30 días después de la publicación del anuncio en el diario. La solicitud de audiencia debe incluir la base de la solicitud, incluyendo una descripción de como la persona puede ser afectada por la emisión de contaminantes atmosféricos del área de la solicitud. La solicitud también debería especificar las condiciones del permiso borrador que son inapropiados o especificar como la decisión preliminar para expedir o denegar el permiso es inapropiado. Todos los asuntos razonablemente verificables deben ser planteados y todos los argumentos razonablemente disponibles deben ser entregados a no más tardar al final del período de comentarios públicos. Si se concede una audiencia de aviso y comentario, todos los individuos que presentaron comentarios por escrito o una solicitud de audiencia recibirán confirmación por escrito de la audiencia. Esta confirmación indicará la fecha, hora, y lugar de la audiencia.

Comentarios públicos por escrito y/o peticiones para una audiencia de aviso y comentarios deberían ser presentados a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental (TCEQ), Oficina del Secretario Oficial (Office of Chief Clerk), MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, o por internet al www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, dentro de 30 días después de la fecha de publicación en el periódico de este aviso. Si se comunica electrónicamente con la TCEQ, favor de notar que su correo electrónico, tal como su dirección de correo doméstico, formarán parte del archivo público de la agencia.

Un aviso de la acción final propuesta que incluye una respuesta a los comentarios y denotando cualquier cambio al permiso preliminar, será enviado a todas las personas que hayan presentado comentarios públicos, una solicitud de audiencia, o que hayan solicitado ser incluidos en la lista de correo. Este envío de correo también proveerá instrucciones para hacer peticiones públicas a la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés), para solicitar que la EPA se oponga a la expedición del permiso preliminar. Después de recibir una solicitud, la EPA solamente podrá objetar a la expedición de un permiso que no cumple con los requisitos aplicables o los requisitos del 30 TAC Capítulo 122.

Lista Para Envío De Correo. Aparte de entregar comentarios públicos, usted puede solicitar ser incluido en una lista para envío de correo con respecto a esta solicitud al enviar su petición a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial (Office of Chief Clerk) a la dirección antes mencionada. Los que se encuentran en la lista para envío de correo recibirán copias de avisos públicos futuros (si hay) para esta solicitud enviados por correo por el Secretario Oficial.

Información. Para más información con respecto a esta solicitud de permiso o el proceso de permisos, favor de contactar a la Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas), Programa de Educación del Público (Public Education Program), MC-108, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 o llamar sin cargo al 1-800-687-4040. Se desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Se puede obtener más información sobre Formosa Plastics Corporation, Texas, llamando a la señora Tammy Lasater al teléfono (302) 383-1598.

Fecha de Emisión: 16 de diciembre del año 2021

ZELLER, from pg. 1

key element in the 2022 budget he said. "Victoria County Commissioner's Court (VCCC), as well as county engineers, are looking at both short term and long-term solutions to our infrastructure needs, with special emphasis on not only county roads and bridges, but on the ever-increasing number of buildings the county owns."

With respect to the Victoria Municipal Airport Zeller indicated, "For the past sixty-years the airport has been overseen by a governance board. In 2022 we will take a closer look at this and determine if this is the best and most effective arrangement for the airport. We have hired a consultant to delve into that issue and advise VCCC as to what is the best solution for airport governance."

Victoria County must replace its election voting machines by 2025. "Compliance with this new law will cost Victoria County at least one million dollars," Zeller said. "With that in mind it's imperative that we purchase voting machines that have the best technology available to ensure the sanctity of our elections and follow new laws. We are looking into how to do exactly that right now so we can spend funds wisely."

In closing he said, "I always say let us put first thing first and for me that's the public safety of Victoria County. We are implementing a step pay tool at the Victoria County Sheriff's office to retain and recruit the best employees we can, as well as creating new positions in the Sheriff, District Attorney and Office Management departments."



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La Cocina de Tia Yole



Stuffed saucy meatballs and sauce. *Contributed photo.*

IRISH BACON AND CABBAGE SOUP

1 (15 ounce) can diced tomatoes with juice
2 large potatoes, peeled and cubed
1-cup chicken stock, or as needed
Salt and black pepper to taste
½ pound Irish bacon, diced
2 cups thinly sliced dark green Savoy cabbage leaves

1. Place bacon in a large, deep stockpot or saucepan. Cook over medium high heat until evenly brown. Drain off any excess fat.
2. Stir in potatoes, tomatoes, and enough chicken stock to cover. Season with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes, or until potatoes are tender. 3. Stir in cabbage and allow the soup to simmer for a few minutes longer before serving.

STUFFED SAUCY MEATBALLS AND PASTA

1-1/2 pounds ground beef
2 eggs, slightly beaten
1/2 cup seasoned breadcrumbs
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh oregano
1-teaspoon salt
1/2-teaspoon pepper
12 small balls fresh mozzarella cheese (about 1/3 ounce each)
1 (16-ounce box) spaghetti rigati or linguine
1 (25-ounce or 26-ounce) jar spicy red pepper pasta sauce or other pasta sauce
Fresh oregano sprigs, optional

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Combine ground beef, eggs, breadcrumbs, garlic, 1 tablespoon chopped oregano, salt and pepper in a large bowl, mixing lightly but thoroughly. Divide mixture into 12 equal portions. Lightly shape into patties.
3. Place 1 mozzarella ball in center

of each patty. Shape beef around cheese until completely enclosed inside and forming meatballs. Place meatballs on aluminum-foil-lined 15x10-inch baking pan. Bake 15 to 20 minutes to medium doneness (160°), until not pink in center and juices show any pink color.
4. Meanwhile, prepare spaghetti rigatoni or linguine according to manufacturer's directions and heat pasta sauce in large saucepan until hot, stirring occasionally. Add meatballs and cook until heated through (about 5 minutes).
5. Spoon meatballs and sauce onto hot pasta. Sprinkle with remaining 1 tablespoon chopped oregano. Garnish with oregano sprigs, if desired.

OVEN FRIED PARMESAN ZUCCHINI

Zucchini
½ cup Bread crumbs (I use whole

wheat)
½ cup Parmesan
2 teaspoon Oregano
1-teaspoon salt to taste
½ teaspoon pepper to taste
1 or 2 eggs

1. Cut your veggies up, into spears or circles, whatever you prefer.
2. Lightly beat an egg and put in a shallow bowl. Mix together your breadcrumbs, Parmesan, oregano, salt and pepper and place in a shallow bowl.
3. Dip your zucchini into the egg.
4. Roll your zucchini in the breadcrumb mixture.
5. Place onto a greased cooking sheet. Bake at 450° for 20 minutes.

NEW YEAR'S CHAMPAGNE CAKE

1 (2-layer-size) white cake mix
Champagne or sparkling wine
Few drops red food coloring
2 (16 ounce) cans vanilla frosting

Fresh strawberries

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and lightly flour two 8x1½ -inch round cake pans; set aside.
2. Prepare cake mix according to package directions, except replace water with Champagne. Spread batter into prepared pans. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire racks for 10 minutes. Remove cake layers from pans. Cool thoroughly on wire racks.
3. Stir a few drops of food coloring into frosting to make a light pink color. Place one cake layer, bottom side up, on a serving platter. Spread with about ½ can of frosting. Top with second cake layer, top side up. Spread top and sides of cake with remaining frosting. Garnish with strawberries. Makes 10 servings.

VICTORIA COUNTY TAX SALE

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Sale of the Victoria County tax deed property online at
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