

## Adjustment to median construction on Navarro and Houston Highway

by Peter Morales

For the past, several months drivers in Victoria have experienced an adjustment period to both construction and completion of the medians that have been installed on Navarro Street and in the process of being installed on Houston Highway.

Navarro Street construction from the Loop to Airline Street has been completed, while work is still underway on Houston Highway median installation.

The days of turning into any business on either side of these two major thoroughfares have passed and drivers are now required to drive to the closest intersection of the location that you are trying to get to, make a u-turn, and proceed on to your desired destination, in some cases the equivalent of an additional three or four blocks one way.

Speaking with Danny Garcia,

county commissioner of Precinct 1, and member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) said, "The median project, paid for and constructed by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) originally consisted of construction of a median from the Loop 463 to Broadmoor Street on Navarro Street was created primarily for safety. Ensuing phase of the median plans both on Navarro Street and Houston Highway are all part of that same safety plan."

On most of Navarro Street and Houston Highway there are as many as six lanes of traffic. With that in mind, a driver taking a right or left turn needs to cross as many as three lanes of on coming traffic to execute their turn. As traffic flow increases, on Victoria roads, more problems have become apparent and the need to reduce both accidents, and the potential for accidents has increased.

See CONSTRUCTION, pg. 5



TxDOT Navarro street median project. Contributed photo.

## Vote on 14 amendments to City Charter on May 7



Amendments to city charter on May 7 ballot. Contributed photo.

Residents will be able to decide on rules for term limits, emergency elections and many other local government functions when the

recommend changes to the charter, which was last updated in 2012. The committee developed 14 pro-

posed amendments to bring to the voters.

posed amendments to bring to the voters. "Updating our city charter is an important process that allows us to ensure our local government structure continues to operate in a way that facilitates long-term sustainability," said City Manager Jesús A. Garza. "We encourage residents to get informed and vote so they can help shape our future charter."

Residents can learn more about the proposed amendments at [www.victoriatx.gov/charter](http://www.victoriatx.gov/charter). This page includes a list of amendments and a brief explanation of what each one would change. Residents can also compare the current charter to the proposed revisions.

**RECOMMENDED CHARTER AMENDMENTS BACKGROUND**  
See CHARTER, pg. 10

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# Spring is in full swing at the Victoria Farmers' Market

by Meridith Byrd

If you have not visited the Victoria Farmers' Market lately, there is no better time than now. Spring is the market's busiest season, when new varieties of produce arrive each week freshly picked by our farmers.

## Market open Wednesday and Saturday

As of October 2021, the market is now open 2 days a week. Every Wednesday and Saturday, year-round, rain or shine, the farmers' market is open from 9:00am to 1:00pm in the parking lot of the Pattie Dodson Public Health Center at 2805 North Navarro. Local farmers, ranchers, bakers, and other food producers set up tables full of locally homegrown and home-

made foods.

## Winter and spring vegetables available now

This is a glorious time of year, when the weather is still cool enough for winter vegetables like broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, spinach, eggplant, and celery. It is also warm enough for the first harvests of spring vegetables such as everyone's favorite: homegrown tomatoes. As the temperatures continue to rise, you can expect to see sweet corn, peppers, zucchini, yellow squash, calabaza or cushaw squash, and a wide variety of fresh herbs.

## Friendly fresh faces at the market

With new vendors joining every week, our market is growing

rapidly! Come out and say hello to some of our newest vendors: Elemental Farms in Sinton (vegetables, duck eggs, plants, homemade foods), Heritage Acres Farm in Yoakum (meats, eggs, cut flowers), Beatha Cattle Company in Goliad (Wagyu beef), Sweeten My Day Bakery in Victoria (keto, vegan, and gluten-free baked goods), J-G Poultry in Cuero (eggs, baked goods), Country Q's in Lane City (goat's milk soaps), Bri's Batch in Victoria (spicy salsas, jellies, pickles), and D2D Apiary in Sweet Home (local raw honey).

## New products for 2022

Our newest farm, Elemental Farms, is introducing so many new foods to our customers: Gai lan broccoli (a delicious Chinese variety with larger leaves and smaller



Food Bank Elemental Farms. Contributed photo.

florets), Biquinho chili peppers (a small, sweet, fruity pepper), black garlic (aged, fermented garlic with a rich, sweet flavor), duck eggs, and homemade duck egg pastas. Sweeten My Day Bakery is finding their niche by baking up delectable vegan, keto, and gluten-free breads, cookies, bagels, and muffins. If you like your foods hot, check out all the spicy goodness at Bri's Batch. Brianna grows hot chili peppers – scorpion, habanero, ghost – and makes them into jellies, mustards, pickles, and salsa. Whitney of Heritage Acres Farm grows an assortment of flowers (tulips, daffodils, zinnias, sunflowers) and sells lovely floral bouquets at the market.

## businesses

Every product sold at the farmers' market must be homegrown, homemade, or handmade by the vendors themselves. They take immense pride in offering customers high quality foods at fair prices. Come out and see for yourself every Wednesday and Saturday in the parking lot of the Pattie Dodson Center on Navarro.

*Meridith Byrd manages the Victoria Farmers' Market held every Wednesday and Saturday at the Pattie Dodson Public Health Center. The farmers' market is a program of the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent. Contact Meridith at 361-218-9246 or mbyrd@foodbankgc.org.*

## Support small farms and local

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# Beto O'Rourke holds town hall in Victoria



Beto O'Rourke, candidate for Texas governor. Contributed photo.

by Peter Moralez

On March 11, 2022, Beto O'Rourke, candidate for Governor of Texas, held a town hall meeting at the University of Houston-Victoria. Over 350 people attended the meeting.

For 90 minutes O'Rourke answered questions from the audience about a myriad of current issues including last year's power grid failure, education, gun control, mental healthcare, and legalizing marijuana.

"Governor Abbott not only dropped the ball with respect to the Texas power grid failure last winter by not insisting that it be

winterized properly, but also by rewarding campaign donors who were allowed to sell power back to the state of Texas at very high costs," he said.

In response to commercials the Abbott campaign ran before the primary election earlier this month touting the economic success of Texas business during his term, O'Rourke stated, "Listen, regardless of who the governor of Texas is, we will continue to be financially successful due to both Texas businesses and the citizens of Texas who take great pride in the work they do, as well as the value they place on that work."

Another issue that was brought

up repeatedly was public education in Texas.

"I really question if we listen to our instructors at all based on the decisions that have been made in Austin under Greg Abbott. Teacher retention is at an all time low. We need to listen to our educators,

pay them better, reward success and promote programs that allow for paid education and certification for teachers that promise to teach in traditionally underserved locations throughout the state," O'Rourke said.

He was speaking about offering

free college education to not only teachers, but to doctors and nurses in exchange for working in rural communities that desperately need workers in these fields.

The issue of gun control, as well as comments made by him See BETO, pg. 14

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Drawing will be April 30th at the Emmy Saenz Foundation First Annual Gala Fundraiser Event. Gala will be at the Victoria Community Center Dome from 6pm-11pm. Follow us on Facebook for more information.

**Thank you so much for your support for a very worthy cause.**



# Noticias del Mundo

**Polonia (CNN)** — El presidente de EE.UU., Joe Biden, declaró enérgicamente el sábado que el presidente de Rusia, Vladimir Putin, ya no debería permanecer en el poder, un desafío que se produjo al final de una gira por Europa destinada a reforzar la unidad occidental.

“Por el amor de Dios, este hombre no puede permanecer en el poder”, anunció Biden al final de un discurso pronunciado frente al Castillo Real de Varsovia.

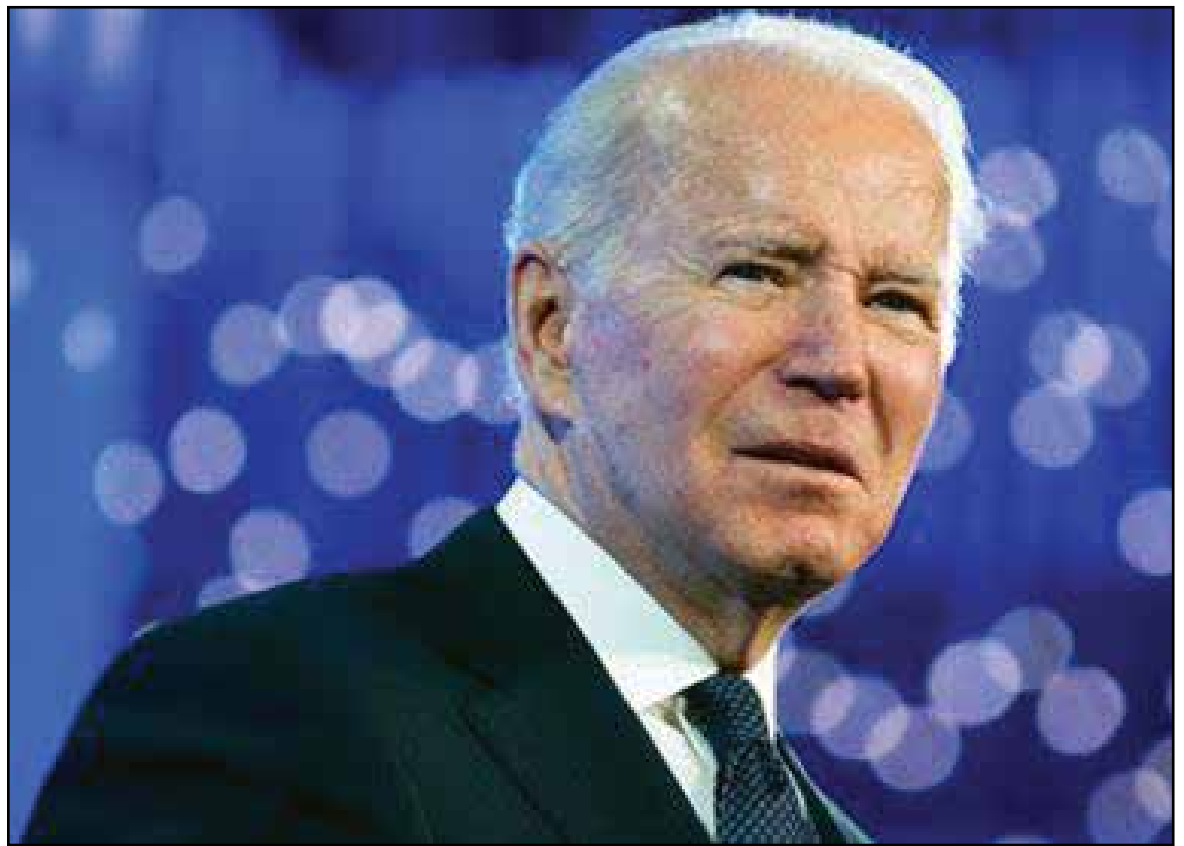
Más tarde, la Casa Blanca dijo que el presidente Biden no se refirió a un cambio de régimen. “El punto del presidente fue que no se puede permitir que Putin ejerza poder sobre sus vecinos o la

región. No estaba discutiendo el poder de Putin en Rusia o el cambio de régimen”, dijo un funcionario de la Casa Blanca.

La línea no estaba en los comentarios preparados de Biden, dijo otro funcionario de la Casa Blanca.

Pero su comentario ya estaba resonando cuando Biden partió de Polonia para regresar a Washington después de su viaje de último minuto para asistir a cumbres en Bruselas y tranquilizar a los aliados a lo largo del borde oriental de la OTAN.

Fue lo más lejos que Biden ha ido al pedir un cambio de régimen en Rusia y refleja un cambio significativo en el enfoque estadoun-



Presidente Joe Biden. *Contributed photo.*

## A TODAS LAS PERSONAS Y PARTES INTERESADAS:

South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc., ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (TCEQ) para la renovación de Permiso Núm. 48070 el cual autorizaría la continuación del funcionamiento de la planta de energía de Sam Rayburn ubicada por la 2849 Farm-to-Market Road 447, en Victoria, en el Condado de Victoria, Texas 77905. En la sección de avisos públicos de este periódico se encuentra información adicional sobre esta solicitud.

idense hacia Moscú. Funcionarios estadounidenses habían dicho anteriormente que sacar a Putin del poder no era su objetivo.

El portavoz del Kremlin, Dmitry Peskov, respondió a Biden y dijo: “Esto no lo debe decidir el Sr. Biden. Solo debe ser una elección del pueblo de la Federación Rusa”.

La invasión rusa de Ucrania no surgió de la nada.

El presidente de Rusia, Vladimir Putin, aumentó las tensiones con Occidente durante la mayor parte de la última década: anexó Crimea, se entrometió en las elecciones estadounidenses, envenenó a un exespía en suelo británico y más. Casi en cada paso del camino, el expresidente Donald Trump repitió los puntos de conversación del Kremlin, excusó la agresión

rusa y, a veces, incluso la abrazó por completo.

Es fácil olvidar que hace unos años, el presidente de Ucrania, Volodymyr Zelensky, no era conocido por su férreo liderazgo en tiempos de guerra, sino por haber sido arrastrado por Trump al escándalo político estadounidense que condujo al primer juicio político contra Trump.

Los expertos dicen que las acciones de Trump debilitaron a Ucrania, dividieron a la OTAN, envalecieron a Putin y nos ayudaron a llegar a donde estamos hoy. E incluso cuando Trump ya no está en el cargo, su impacto sigue vivo en forma de comentarios favorables a Putin en los medios conservadores y de algunos legisladores republicanos.

“Una de las razones clave por las que Putin probablemente se sintió cómodo al lanzar la invasión de Ucrania fue la medida en que Occidente se ha debilitado y desestabilizado, y la democracia socavada y las divisiones políticas sembradas, en los cinco años desde que atacó nuestras elecciones en 2016”, dijo Garrett Graff, historiador y periodista con experiencia en temas de seguridad nacional y Guerra Fría.

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**CONSTRUCTION**, from pg. 1

According to a news release from TxDOT dated March 14, 2022, 2021 was the second deadliest year on Texas roads since they began charting statistics in 1940. In 2021, 4,480 people lost their lives on Texas roads, second to 1980 when 4,701 perished.

Of those lost on Texas roads in 2021, 1,522 drivers were lost to excessive speed and 1,219 died because they were not wearing a seatbelt. In addition to funding traffic safety campaigns and grant funds to law enforcement, TxDOT is working with researchers to deploy and study new roadway design features that are proven to save lives.

Maggie Bergeron, MPO administrator, indicated, while safety is the major concern for the median construction in Victoria by TxDOT, the management of traffic flow is also a concern.

“When it comes to median installation, safety is the priority. However, on major thoroughfare medians help to provide access management by controlling the traffic flow on those major thoroughfares and by reducing the amounts of conflict points on that roadway,” she said. “Of course, adjustment periods, as with all changes in traffic patterns, takes a little while to get used to. So, there will be some growing pains.”

Conflict points are defined as locations in or on the approaches to an intersection where vehicles paths merge, diverge, or cross.

Bergeron also said, “Actually, our long-range plan calls for an extension of the Houston Highway median project to extend from Loop 463 all the way to the Victoria Airport. The cost of the Houston Highway median installation project to date is \$5,536,401, paid for by the state of Texas”

Regarding how the medians affect businesses along both the Navarro Street and Houston Highway corridors Bergeron stated, “Long term studies by the Texas Transportation Institute find that elevated median construction not only serves to improve the flow of traffic on major thoroughfares but also proves to improve and increase business usage along though sites, once consumers adjust to the changes.”

Speaking with Susan Martinez, owner of Ventura’s Tamales lo-

cated within the area affected by the Navarro Street median project, “We were disturbed by the announcement of the Navarro Street median project extension through Airline Street. We attended public meetings and spoke against the construction and how it would affect our business by creating a

problem from our customers being able to access our restaurant.”

In the long run, Martinez indicated, “To be quite honest our fears of business reduction proved to be unwarranted. Quite honestly, it has not affected business in the least. I attribute that to two factors. First, the loyalty of our customer

base, of which we are very thankful, and the fact that the change was initiated during the pandemic and simply became part of all the other adjustments that our customers were being forced to deal with. So, I guess if there was a silver lining to the pandemic maybe this was it.”

Only time will tell how Victoria drivers acclimate themselves to the changes on Navarro Street and Houston Highway, but hopefully traffic flow will improve, businesses will flourish, and most importantly, there will be fewer accidents that occur on these two major thoroughfares.



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# Foster care families desperately needed in the Victoria area

by Peter Morales

There is a desperate need for families to provide foster care for children that have been abused and removed from their family in the six-county region that encompasses Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, and Victoria counties.

Speaking with Lauren Sides, chief public relations officer with SJRC Texas, formerly known as St. Jude's Ranch for Children,

and who is the lead provider for community care for foster children, "There are currently over 1,100 children in state care in the 27-county region that we serve. Of that 215 of them are in the East subdivision are that serves Victoria County, and specifically, 115 in Victoria County alone."

Children are removed from their homes by the state of Texas for abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Once removed, according to Sides, the state notifies SJRC Texas of

the removal and they have four hours to place them in a foster care home.

"Obviously, our goal is to eventually return all children to their homes, but in the interim, we do everything within our power to place the children in a home that is in the community they reside in to lessen the impact of removal. We want them to be able to go to school where they have been going to school and to be close to their family," said Sides.



Foster youth playing outside. Contributed photo.

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Since the implementation of new laws by the state of Texas SJRC Texas has more than a 70 percent success rate of placing foster children in the area that they are from.

Of the approximately 1,100 children under their care, 68 percent are Hispanic, 23 percent Anglo, 4 percent African American and 4 percent other.

Teenagers make up the greatest percentage of children that need to be placed in foster care.

"Families that are willing to open both their hearts and homes to teenagers are really needed. We provide families with the tools and resources needed to provide foster care to build a strong foundation for these foster children," said Sides.

In addition to foster care families, SJRC Texas are also appealing to communities to volunteer, donate, and get social.

"We have a division called Belong that we utilize to build a better tomorrow for children and families," she said. "We are re-

sponsible for finding foster homes for children in state care and as the stages of service to those children progresses, providing them with a full continuum of services. The only way we can do this is to get the community involved by lending a hand, financial assistance and getting the word out through social media."

SJRC Texas has a faith-based initiative where they appeal to local churches to assist children, as well as the families that care for them with support. Citing biblical scripture, "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him" Psalm 127:3. They suggest recruiting families in your faith community to foster or adopt, initiate a call to action to provide support for foster care families, provide a collection to assist in donations for foster care families, and start a mentorship program to be a positive influence for foster children and break down social barriers.

To contact SJRC Texas call 210.876.6958. Their website is [sjrcbelong.org](http://sjrcbelong.org).

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# Asuntos escolares: Una escuela para Victoria



Asuntos Escolares: Una escuela para Victoria en F.W. Gross. *Contributed photo.*

por Laura Prendergast

Abrir un nuevo campus para la primera infancia en Victoria durante la pandemia fue una decisión audaz tanto del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Victoria como del Instituto de Aprendizaje Infantil del Centro de Ciencias de la Salud de la Universidad de Texas en Houston. Después de trabajar diligentemente para poner en marcha nuestro nuevo campus de la primera infancia en solo seis cortos meses, el Centro de Educación

Temprana del Instituto de Aprendizaje Infantil en F.W. Gross abrió sus puertas y dio la bienvenida a los niños (grados PreK-3 a 1er grado) y sus familias, ansiosos por ver qué podíamos ofrecerles.

Los padres son los primeros y más importantes maestros de un niño, y los niños prosperan cuando las escuelas y las familias trabajan juntas. Nuestro enfoque desde el comienzo del año escolar fue hacer grandes esfuerzos para involucrar y apoyar a nuestras familias, especialmente porque esta es

la primera vez que muchos niños asisten a la escuela. Nos gusta especialmente escuchar cómo los padres experimentan nuestra comunidad escolar, como Ashley Busby, “¡muy solidaria! Este es el primer año de mi hijo en la escuela, y lo disfruta mucho.”

Dado que los niños aprenden y crecen tan rápido cuando son pequeños, a veces es fácil olvidar que el aprendizaje está sucediendo en cualquier lugar y en todas partes, y en cualquier momento! Esto brinda oportunidades maravillosas para que tanto los maestros como las familias aprovechen al máximo cada día cuando los niños están en la escuela, en casa y en la comunidad.

En nuestro campus, comenzamos el año escolar con noches semanales de alfabetización familiar, ya que desarrollar esas habilidades que conducen al éxito de la lectura es muy importante durante los

primeros años de un niño. Luego, durante todo el año, organizamos talleres semanales para nuestras familias, donde nos conectamos y proporcionamos recursos para ayudar a apoyar el aprendizaje en el hogar a través de una variedad

de temas y tiempo de familia de crianza.

Trabajamos en estrecha colaboración con nuestras familias para ver todas las maravillosas oportunidades que tienen para desarrollarse. See ESCOLARES, pg. 11

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- son un padre o madre adolescente
- tienen vivienda in estable

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**Para aplicar, necesita lo siguiente:**

- Identificación con foto
- prueba de los registros de las vacunas del niño (a)
- comprobante de domicilio
- comprobante de edad del niño(a)
- comprobante de ingresos del año pasado o los últimos 12 meses

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Este fin de semana la guerra nos enseña su cara más cruda con dos ficciones post-apocalípticas de considerable realismo: ‘Cangrejo Negro’ y ‘DMZ’. Pero si con las guerras cotidianas tienes suficien-

tes también traemos unas buenas dosis de escapismo: cine, videojuegos de fantasía y muchos más para pasar un fin de semana de ocio de calidad.

‘Los tipos malos’

La nueva película de animación de Dreamworks está despertando encendidos elogios, y la verdad es que su punto de partida (basados en una popular serie de libros infantiles, que recibe el alucinante

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DMZ Rosario Dawson. Contributed photo.

título de ‘Los animalotes’) es muy jocoso: cinco famosos delincuentes-animales tratan de portarse bien, aunque vaya contra su naturaleza.

Ya en cines  
‘Cangrejo Negro’

Una variante intensa y helada de las películas sobre el fin del mundo, en la que Noomi Rapace da vida a una soldado que tiene que cumplir una misión suicida. Aprovechando que el mar alrededor de la zona de Suecia en la que se encuentran se ha helado, tiene que transportar un paquete de contenido secreto que puede significar el fin de la guerra. Traiciones, tiroteos y la promesa de reencontrarse con su hija en una película que destaca por sus impresionantes pa-

rajes nocturnos y lo contundente de su acción y su mensaje.

Disponible en Netflix  
‘DMZ’

Más post-apocalipsis de raíz bélica con esta miniserie que en cuatro episodios adapta el prestigioso cómic de Vertigo de Brian Wood y Riccardo Buchielli. Estamos en los meses posteriores a una segunda guerra civil en Estados Unidos, que ha resquebrajado el país en dos mitades. La acción se desarrolla en Manhattan, ahora zona desmilitarizada, en la que una médico (Rosario Dawson, llenando la pantalla como es habitual) busca a su hijo, del que se separó cuando estalló el conflicto.

Disponible en HBO Max

See CHARLANDO, pg. 9

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Contributed photos and art.

**CHARLANDO**, from pg. 8  
 ‘Stranger of Paradise: Final Fantasy Origin’

Su propósito de mezclar la franquicia ‘Final Fantasy’ y las mecánicas de ‘Nier’ y los ‘Souls’ ha llamado la atención, pero la prensa no se pone de acuerdo: ¿extravagancia para paladares poco exquisitos o uno de los juegos de acción del año? Partiendo de elementos argumentales del primer ‘Final Fantasy’ y cogiendo elementos de su mecánica, como los trabajos, Team Ninja propone una desvergonzada historia de acción incesante, duro y machacón como él solo. Para opinar tendrás que probar.

Disponible para PC, PS4, Xbox One, PS5 y Xbox Series X/S ‘Grand Theft Auto V’ y ‘GTA Online’

A estas alturas, los ‘GTA’ de Rockstar necesitan pocas presentaciones. Esta semana han aterrizado en las versiones para Playstation 5 y Xbox Series X y S, con lo que ya estamos todos, si sumamos PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One y PC. Pocas novedades (los más críticos dicen que realmente pocas) para un juego y su versión online que siguen entendiéndose como una de las cimas del medio. En realidad, la base del remaster es el que ya se hizo para la anterior generación de consolas, que sí fue un salto téc-

nico notable, pero a quién le amarga un dulce y a quién le importa volver a Los Santos.

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Pol. Adv. Paid for by Theresa Klacman for VISD Board of Trustees Campaign

Theresa Klacman is running for VISD Trustee District 1. She's seeking this position because she believes that as a community we are at a pivotal point for finding solutions to our ever increasing problems at VISD. It's time to rebuild the relationship divide between Victoria County and it's school board. It's time to fix our school buildings and execute a plan that truly leaves no student behind. It's time to restore discipline in the classroom so our students can learn in a functional and safe work space.

Theresa founded Restoration House Ministries in 2009 to show young women in crisis about a God who loves them and how to live a life with purpose. Shortly after, she opened the resale shop Restoration House Ministries Gleanings that now meets the practical needs of hundreds of families and helps the homeless adults and children in her community.

In March 2014, she initiated a partnership between Restoration House Ministries and Faith Family Church to open the first Christian Faith-Based Homeless shelter in Victoria for women and women with children.

In July of the same year, she took a position with STCH Ministries as a site coordinator to start a program in Gollad for women and their children fulfilling a similar mission. Building on her previous experiences helping women, she created a holistic program with four phases. As they move through each phase, women are able to restore their relationship with God, address obstacles and develop skills to move them from brokenness to independent mothers with the ability to nurture and care for their own children. In July, 2019 Theresa was recognized and promoted to Director of Family Ministries. Her vision is to see the success of the RHM and STCH programs expanded to other locations and cities.

She brings that same tenacity and dedication to her run for VISD Trustee. Theresa addresses the problems she sees with a common sense approach and business acumen that will enable her to help VISD move forward, find solutions, repair the broken relationship between Victoria County and the board of trustees, and do so on time and on budget for you the people. She asks humbly for your support and prayers as she seeks to be your next VISD Trustee for District 1.

Theresa and her husband Craig have two beautiful daughters and five grandchildren. She is grateful for the restoration of her family and believes that no broken family is beyond God's reach.

**"Let's Get Back to the Basics"**

**The 3 R's of My Campaign**

- Rebuild the Trust between the Community & VISD School Board
- Repair our School Buildings
- Restore Discipline in the Classroom

**CHARTER**, from pg. 1

During the April 20, 2021 City Council meeting, council members appointed citizens to an ad hoc committee to review the city charter and make recommendations to Council for consideration.

Charter Review Committee: Michael Atkinson, chair; J.P. Hull; Duane Crocker, city councilmember, Tony Lee Knebel; Jeb Lacey; and D'Cater Joseph.

The Charter Review Committee held several meetings between July and December and produced a series of recommendations for Council consideration.

The recommendations are not amendments to the Charter as neither the committee nor City Council can amend the charter on their own. The City Charter had originally been adopted at an election by the citizens of Victoria, and the charter can only be amended at an

election by the citizens of Victoria. The committee recommends that Council consider proposing these amendments to the voters at a charter amendment election to be held on May 7, 2022.

The committee recommendations can be seen most clearly in the redline of the City's current charter. State law requires that each topic be considered by the voters individually. Therefore, the committee's recommendation

takes the form of fourteen separate propositions as outlined below.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The proposition language is what the voters will see on the ballot on May 7, 2022, when they vote. Each "proposition" is a summary of the amendments and does not include the line-by-line amendments that would result from the approval of the proposition.

**Proposition A:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria by deleting and amending those provisions which are redundant of state law, duplicative of other sections of the Charter or otherwise unnecessary for placement in the Charter, and to provide clarity.

**Proposition B:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria by deletion and revision to require and ensure compliance with state law.

**Proposition C:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria to provide that all current and future elected officials are ineligible to serve in the same office for a period of one year after serving four (4) consecutive elected terms in that office.

**Proposition D:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria to provide that the City Council may, upon a vacancy occurring on Council with less than 180 days remaining on the term, leave a position vacant, appoint a new Council Member to fill such vacancy for the remaining 180 days, or call a special election to fill the vacancy.

**Proposition E:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria authorizing leases or concessions of parkland be conducted consistent with the requirements of state law.

**Proposition F:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria to provide that if the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem are absent, sick, or unable to perform the duties of office, the most senior member of City Council shall perform the duties of Mayor.

**Proposition G:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria to

provide that a Mayor Pro-Tem shall be elected by the City Council at the first regular City Council meeting following each regular City election.

**Proposition H:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria to provide that all adopted ordinances and the City's code shall published on the City's website and electronically respectively.

**Proposition I:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria to provide that all assistant city attorneys are to be appointed and removed by the City Attorney.

**Proposition J:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria to clarify the powers and duties of the City Attorney.

**Proposition K:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria to require the City Council to adopt an ordinance which provides appropriate signatory authority for checks, vouchers, or warrants for the withdrawal of money from a City Depository.

**Proposition L:** Amending Article VIII Initiative, Referendum and Recall of the Charter of the City of Victoria changing the term "qualified voter" to "registered voter".

**Proposition M:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria to require city officials to comply with state law regarding conflicts of interest.

**Proposition N:** Amending the Charter of the City of Victoria to provide for a process for reconstituting the City Council when a quorum of City Council has been lost due to multiple deaths or injuries.

The charter amendments will appear on the ballot during the May 7 City Council election. More information about this election can be found at [www.victoriatx.gov/city-secretary](http://www.victoriatx.gov/city-secretary).

For information about early voting, voting locations and registering to vote, contact the Victoria County Elections Administrator's Office at 361-576-0124 or [elections@vctx.org](mailto:elections@vctx.org) or visit [www.vctx.org/page/elections.upcoming](http://www.vctx.org/page/elections.upcoming).



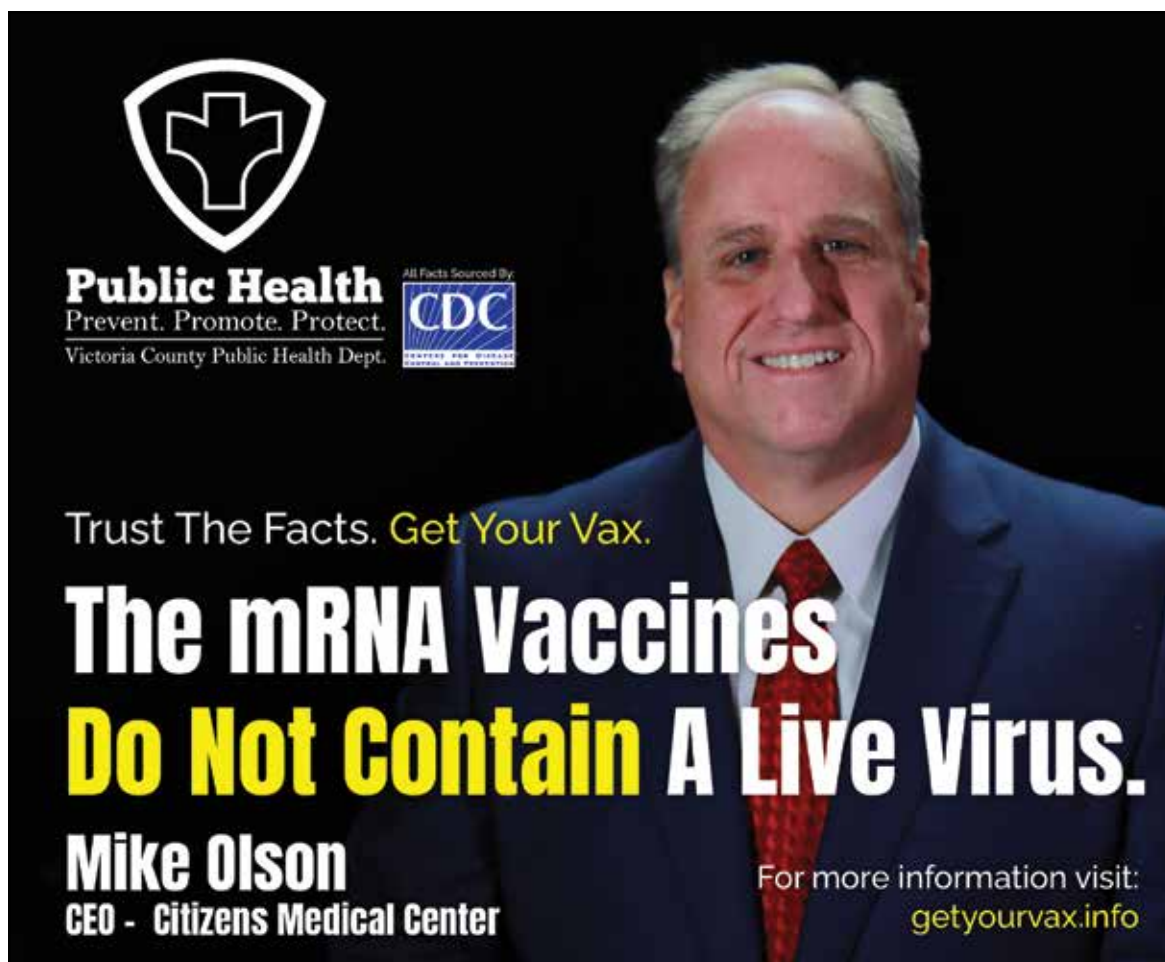
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**ESCOLARES**, from pg. 7  
 lar las habilidades de sus hijos durante el tiempo en familia, ¡pero el aspecto más importante es el factor de diversión! Puede explorar la colección de actividades divertidas que utilizamos en nuestros talleres (¡y muchas más!) en <https://cli-engagefamily.org>, de fácil acceso en línea y todas disponibles de forma gratuita. Estas actividades fueron desarrolladas por el Children's Learning Institute para ser un recurso para las familias de niños desde el nacimiento hasta los 8 años, para que las familias puedan encontrar juegos divertidos y actividades para jugar durante el tiempo familiar que utilizan artículos comunes para el hogar. La mejor parte es el beneficio adicional de desarrollar las habilidades de los niños que continúan apoyando su éxito en la escuela y la vida.

Más allá del aprendizaje en la escuela y en el hogar, vemos nuestra escuela como un recurso para nuestra comunidad y damos la bienvenida a nuestras familias para que participen. “Aprecio lo posi-

vos que son todos. La comunidad escolar es agradable y optimista”, dijo Celeste Galla al visitar nuestro campus. Cada semana, una familia es celebrada como la “Abeja Familiar de la Semana” para compartir las tradiciones y la cultura de su familia. También nos enfocamos en las necesidades socioemocionales y estamos entusiasmados de abrir una despensa en el lugar que ayudará a las familias que necesitan ropa, zapatos, productos de higiene y más.

Estamos entusiasmados de continuar apoyando a nuestras familias y niños a medida que avanza el año escolar. La primera infancia es un momento emocionante para los padres y las familias, ya que ven a sus hijos aprender y crecer todos los días. Como maestros que se dedican a educar a los estudiantes más jóvenes de nuestra comunidad, apreciamos estas sólidas asociaciones con las familias para garantizar que los niños tengan el mejor comienzo en la vida.

¡Nuestro campus se está registrando ahora para el otoño de 2022! Lo invitamos a obtener más infor-

mación sobre nuestra escuela o inscribir a su hijo para el próximo año escolar, visitar <https://cli-fw-gross.org> o llamarnos al 361-788-2847. Síguenos en Facebook para conocer las actualizaciones más recientes: @CLIEarlyEducation-CenteratFWGross.

Laura Prendergast es la directora interina del Centro de Educación Temprana del Instituto de Aprendizaje Infantil en F.W. Gross.

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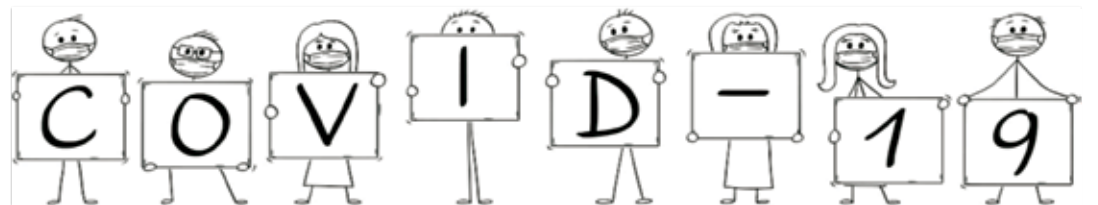
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# UHV to host on-campus International Festival

After two years, the University of Houston-Victoria will once again host the International Festival and showcase the diversity of cultures and countries represented on UHV's campus, including a flag parade, cuisine from different countries, a fashion show and traditional dances.

The International Festival will be at 5:30 p.m. April 8 in Pyramid Row, located behind UHV University Center, 3007 N. Ben Wilson St. The festival is free and open to all UHV students, faculty, staff and the community.

The fifth-annual festival is hosted by UHV International Programs staff and the UHV International Student Organization. The event was held virtually last year

and was canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic. Previously, the event was held in Jaguar Hall. However, since the last in-person International Festival had more than 500 attendees, the event will now take place outdoors to accommodate more space for attendees and parking. There also will be a Facebook Live stream for those who are unable to attend.

"The goal for hosting the festival for free for our UHV faculty, staff, students and community is to showcase cultural diversity, bring global awareness and bring global competence to our students," said Ludmi Herath, UHV International Programs director. "We have citizens from all around the world living in Victoria, and this event

brings everyone together to celebrate cultures and have a day to travel around the world without leaving Victoria."

The event will open with a flag processional featuring the flags of the more than 40 nations represented by UHV international students. There will be multiple tables and booths with displays and information about the countries with UHV international students available to talk about their home countries and cultures. There also will be more than 20 traditional food dishes of various countries for attendees to try.

Cassandra Ward, a graduate student from South Africa studying forensic psychology, is looking forward to her first in-person



UHV to host international festival. *Contributed photo.*

International Festival. Ward is the president of the UHV International Student Organization, and although she enjoyed the virtual event last year, she missed the opportunity to have a large, face-to-face event where students can celebrate and share their home countries. The student organization and International Programs have discussed the festival since the fall semester, Ward said.

She is excited for the UHV and Victoria community to attend the festival and is looking forward to all the food dishes students will be preparing for the event. Ward plans to make a dessert dish of South African milk tart.

"I think it's great that we get to share our culture with the community, and we encourage the Victoria-area community to come

out and bring their families to the event," Ward said. "This is a way to travel around the world without having to leave this area. It's such a unique event, and all the UHV international students are happy to share what they love about their countries and cultures with everyone."

Attendees can look forward to student performances, including a fashion show, belly dancing, and traditional dances from countries including Brazil and Sri Lanka. There will be a children's booth with art activities and demonstrations of the different types of henna, including henna tattoos for attendees and henna wood carving. Kona Shaved Ice also will be on site.

The International Festival also will help UHV students meet and get to know each other, said Lorraine Yap, a graduate computer science student from Malaysia. For the past couple of years, students have not had many opportunities to interact with each other in person. The International Festival also will bring the Victoria community to get to know the diverse UHV student population. Yap is the treasurer of the UHV International Student Organization.

Yap is looking forward to experiencing the various food dishes and seeing the cultural attire featured in the fashion show. She also will perform a dance with the student organization as well.

"We're excited to have this event and encourage people to come by and talk to us and get to know us more," Yap said.

To learn more about the festival, go to [www.uhv.edu/international-festival](http://www.uhv.edu/international-festival).

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# The final push



Dr. Quintin Shepherd, VISD Superintendent. Contributed photo.

by Dr. Quintin Shepherd, VISD Superintendent

We are back from Spring Break and that means we are in the final push to the end of the year. This is always a fun time in education as students begin to look forward to the summer break, teachers look forward to the same, seniors look forward to graduation, and parents look forward to having their kids home for the summer (most of the time!). It feels as though we collectively lift our eyes to the future as summer nears closer. We have several celebrations planned to recognize the many people who make our schools great, and I want to make sure you are aware.

For our community of volunteers, we host a “Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Drive-Through.” It is a wonderful and unique way for us to say thank you to the 282 people who give their time, effort, and energy to our schools, our teachers, and our kids. You read that

correctly, 282 people volunteer on a regular basis and have dedicated 715.47 volunteer hours since August 1 at the time of this writing. We are grateful to them and appreciate the opportunity to thank them in this way.

For our employees, we honor them in a few ways. The “Employee Service Awards” is an evening to celebrate their tenure with the district and our appreciation for their commitment. We also host a “Teacher of the Year” banquet. One teacher is nominated from each campus, and we select an elementary teacher of the year and secondary teacher of the year to represent the Victoria ISD. We love our talent and cannot express our thanks to them enough.

Most importantly, we celebrate our students and by extension, their families. Each of our campuses hosts end-of-year celebrations for our students. The Victoria ISD Trustees celebrate academic success with the “Board Excellence Awards.” This event is always a highlight for many parents and loved ones. At the secondary level, we have the AVID awards and ceremony for the students who participate in that program. Both West High School and East High School also have awards nights for the students. Also, don’t forget our “Scholarship Awards” night. This is another way to celebrate our student success. Every year the number (and amount) of scholarships earned by our students boggles my mind. Family, of course, are invited to these celebrations because we know the success of our students is a team effort between them, their teachers, and their fam-

ilies. Our best work is always done in partnership.

All of this culminates with the biggest celebration of all, high school graduation! We are excited

to celebrate our graduating seniors, celebrate all the teachers (for instance, we should never forget the impact a Kindergarten teacher has had on a graduating senior)

they have had along the way, and celebrate with their families and caregivers as these students launch forward into whatever comes next for them!

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## COMISIÓN DE CALIDAD AMBIENTAL DE TEXAS



## AVISO DE RECIBO DE SOLICITUD E INTENCIÓN DE OBTENER PERMISO DE AIRE (NORI) RENOVACIÓN

PERMISO NÚM: 48070

**SOLICITUD** South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc., ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental de Texas (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, o TCEQ, por sus siglas en inglés) para el Permiso Numero 48070 el cual autorizaría la continuación del funcionamiento de la planta de energía de Sam Rayburn ubicada en 2849 Farm-to Market Road 447, en Victoria, en el Condado de Victoria, Texas 77905. 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. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=28.895&lng=-97.134722&zoom=13&type=r>. La instalación emitirá los siguientes contaminantes: monóxido de carbono, óxidos de nitrógeno, compuestos orgánicos, y materia en partículas incluyendo materia en partículas con diámetros de 10 micrones o menos y de 2.5 micrones o menos y dióxido de azufre.

Esta solicitud se le presentó a la TCEQ el 2 de marzo del año 2022. La solicitud estará disponible para ser revisada y copiada en la Oficina Central de la TCEQ, la oficina regional de la TCEQ en Corpus Christi y en la biblioteca de Victoria, 302 North Main Street, en la ciudad de Victoria, en el Condado de Victoria, Texas empezando el primer día de la publicación de este aviso. El expediente de cumplimiento de la planta, si existe alguno, está disponible para su revisión en la oficina regional de la TCEQ en Corpus Christi.

El director ejecutivo de la TCEQ ha determinado que la solicitud está administrativamente completa y llevará a cabo un examen técnico de la solicitud. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. **El TCEQ puede actuar sobre esta solicitud sin buscar más comentarios públicos o brindar la oportunidad de una audiencia de caso impugnado si se cumplen ciertos criterios.**

**COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS** Usted puede presentar comentarios públicos, o una petición para una audiencia de caso impugnado a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial (Office of the Chief Clerk) en la dirección a continuación. La TCEQ tomará en cuenta todos los comentarios públicos para desarrollar la decisión final acerca de la solicitud y el director ejecutivo de la TCEQ preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos. Cuestiones como los valores de la propiedad, el ruido, la seguridad del tráfico y la zonificación están fuera de la jurisdicción del TCEQ para abordar en el proceso de permiso.

**OPORTUNIDAD PARA UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO** Usted puede pedir una audiencia de caso impugnado si usted es una persona que puede verse afectada por las emisiones de contaminantes atmosféricos de la instalación. Si se pide una audiencia de caso impugnado, debe presentar lo siguiente: (1) su nombre (o para un grupo o asociación, un representante oficial), dirección de correo, y número de teléfono de día; (2) el nombre del solicitante y número de permiso; (3) la declaración “[yo/nosotros] solicitamos una audiencia de caso impugnado”; (4) una descripción específica de cómo se vería adversamente afectado por la solicitud y emisiones atmosféricas de la planta de manera que no es común para el público en general; (5) la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad con relación a la planta; (6) una descripción de cómo usa la propiedad la cual puede ser impactada por la planta; y (7) una lista de todas las cuestiones de hecho en disputa que usted presente durante el período de comentarios. Si la petición la hace un grupo o asociación, el miembro o miembros que tienen derecho a pedir una audiencia deben ser identificados por su nombre y dirección física. Los intereses que el grupo o la asociación busca proteger también se deben identificar. También puede presentar sus modificaciones propuestas a la solicitud/al permiso que satisfarían sus inquietudes.

La fecha límite para presentar una solicitud para una audiencia de caso impugnado es de 15 días después de que se publique el aviso del periódico. Si una solicitud se presenta oportunamente, la fecha límite para solicitar una audiencia de caso impugnado se extenderá a 30 días después de la presentación de la respuesta a los comentarios.

Si se presenta oportunamente alguna solicitud de audiencia de caso impugnado, el director ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y cualquier solicitud de audiencia de caso impugnado a los Comisionados para su consideración en una reunión programada de la Comisión. A menos que la solicitud se remita directamente a una audiencia de caso impugnado, el director ejecutivo enviará por correo la respuesta a los comentarios junto con la notificación de la reunión de la Comisión a todos los que presentaron comentarios o están en la lista de correo para esta solicitud. La Comisión sólo podrá conceder una solicitud de audiencia de un asunto impugnado sobre cuestiones que el solicitante haya presentado en sus observaciones oportunas que no hayan sido retiradas posteriormente. Si se concede una audiencia, el objeto de una audiencia se limitará a cuestiones de hecho o de hecho y de derecho mixtos relativas a las preocupaciones pertinentes y materiales sobre la calidad del aire presentadas durante el período de comentarios. Cuestiones como los valores de propiedad, el ruido, la seguridad del tráfico y la zonificación están fuera de la jurisdicción de la Comisión para abordar en este procedimiento.

**LISTA DE CORREO** Además de presentar comentarios públicos, usted puede pedir ser incluido en la lista de correo para esta solicitud enviando una petición por escrito a la Oficina del Secretario Oficial de la TCEQ a la dirección a continuación. Aquellos en la lista de correo recibirán copias de futuros avisos públicos (si los hay) enviados por correo por la Oficina del Secretario Principal para esta solicitud.

**CONTACTOS E INFORMACIÓN DE LA AGENCIA** Comentarios públicos y peticiones se deben entregar electrónicamente al [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/), o por escrito a la Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk (Oficina del Secretario Oficial), MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Por favor, tenga en cuenta que cualquier información de contacto que usted presente, incluyendo su nombre, número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico y dirección física pasarán a formar parte del registro público de la Agencia. Para más información acerca de esta solicitud para permiso o el proceso para permisos, por favor llame, sin cobro, a la Programa de Educación Pública (Public Education Program) al 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Se puede obtener información adicional también de South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 119, Nursery, Texas 77976-0119, o al llamar a Señora Jessica Schwab, analista, al (361) 485-6149.

Fecha de Expedición: el día 7 de marzo del año 2022

BETO, from pg. 3

in the past came up, as well as a law recently passed by Abbott that allows anyone to carry an unlicensed loaded weapon on Texas streets as ludicrous.

When asked to define exactly what he meant O'Rourke stated, "I was raised around guns all my life, in fact I was taught responsible gun control by my grandfather at the age of four. I am not talking about responsible gun control in the state of Texas, I am talking about laws concerning assault weapons, the over seven hundred police officers that were shot last year in Texas, and the rampant gun violence that permeates our city streets. We need to do something about this deadly issue, and I promise that I will."

Another issue that was presented to O'Rourke was the need for mental healthcare. "Unfortunately, our best mental healthcare system is Texas county jails, the greatest being the Harris County Jail in Houston right up the road. We need to do better with mental healthcare when family members of schizophrenic and bipolar relatives find comfort when some of their loved ones are incarcerated because they know that they have a roof over their heads."

Questioned about legalizing marijuana and his position on this issue he said, "I firmly support the legalization of both medical and recreational marijuana in the state of Texas. Not only are countless people arrested annually in the state of Texas for marijuana usage, but those arrested are black and brown."

O'Rourke also stated that it is a sad state of affairs when veterans can be legally prescribed opiates, an extremely dangerous drug, but they cannot be prescribed marijuana, a drug with very few, if any, side effects.

O'Rourke concluded by saying the way he will win the race for governor is by depending on a team of volunteers, "already in excess of 54,000," to knock on doors, make calls, engage friends and neighbors, and get on social media to get the word out. In 2018 the group that voted in the greatest increase of numbers was youth who voted at the rate of 505 percent increase. That is the kind of turnout that I need to win this race."

# La Cocina de Tia Yole



Lamb and vegetable stew. *Contributed photo.*

## LAMB AND VEGETABLE STEW

1 pound lean boneless lamb, cut into ¾ -inch cubes  
 1 tablespoon cooking oil  
 1 (14-ounce) can beef broth  
 1 cup dry red wine or beef broth  
 1 tablespoon snipped fresh thyme or 1 teaspoon dried thyme, crushed  
 2 cloves garlic, minced  
 1 bay leaf  
 2 cups cubed, peeled butternut squash  
 1 cup ½ -inch slices peeled parsnip  
 1 cup chopped, peeled sweet potato

1 cup sliced celery (2 stalks)  
 1 medium onion, cut into thin wedges  
 ½ cup plain low-fat yogurt or dairy sour cream  
 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1. In a large saucepan brown meat, half at a time, in hot oil; drain fat. Return all meat to pan. Stir in broth, wine, dried thyme (if using), garlic, and bay leaf. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, for 20 minutes.  
 2. Stir in squash, parsnip, sweet potato, celery, and onion. Return

to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, about 30 minutes more or until meat and vegetables are tender. Discard bay leaf.  
 3. In a small bowl combine yogurt, fresh thyme (if using), and flour. Stir in ½ cup of the hot liquid into the yogurt mixture. Add yogurt mixture to saucepan. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly.

Cook and stir for 1 minute more. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Makes 5 servings (about 8 cups)  
 In a large saucepan brown meat, half at a time, in hot oil; drain fat. Return all meat to pan. Stir in broth, wine, dried thyme (if using), garlic, and bay leaf. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, for 20 minutes. Stir in squash, parsnip, sweet potato, celery, and onion. Return to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, about 30 minutes more or until meat and vegetables are tender. Discard bay leaf. In a small bowl combine yogurt, fresh thyme (if using), and flour. Stir 1/2 cup of the hot liquid into the yogurt mixture. Add yogurt mixture to saucepan. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir for 1 minute more. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Makes 5 servings (about 8 cups)

## IRISH CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM

4 beaten egg yolks  
 ¾ cup sugar  
 ¾ cup milk  
 ¾ cup half-and-half or light cream

3 ounces semisweet chocolate, coarsely chopped  
 2 tablespoons instant coffee crystals  
 ¼ cup Irish whiskey or bourbon whiskey  
 2 cups whipping cream

1. In a heavy medium saucepan combine the egg yolks, sugar, milk, half-and-half or light cream, chocolate, and coffee crystals. Cook and stir over medium heat until the mixture is slightly thickened and bubbly; remove from heat. Beat mixture with a rotary beater until smooth. Transfer to a medium bowl. Cool thoroughly by placing bowl in a sink or large bowl of ice water; stir occasionally. Stir in whiskey.  
 2. In a large mixing bowl beat whipping cream with an electric mixer on medium speed until soft peaks form (tips curl). Fold in cooled chocolate mixture. Pour into an 8x8x2-inch baking pan. Cover and freeze at least 8 hour or overnight until firm. Let stand at room temperature for 10 to 15 minutes before serving.

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