

Musicians honored for contributions to music at fifth annual reunion

by Revista staff

This year's fifth annual musician's reunion was held at the Catholic Veterans Hall, July 24, 2022. The honorees were presented with awards for their years of service and entertainment in the music industry. This year's honorees include Joel Nava. Music was part of Joel Nava's life from the start. The Tejano singer, who is of Mexican American heritage, was born to hardworking parents in the Texas town of Victoria. He grew up in Port Lavaca, TX, where he was influenced by his grandfather's accordion playing. Before he'd hit his teen years, Nava was playing percussion, which he'd learned without formal instruction. He was part of a country group that played around Port Lavaca during his high school years. With a band called Bobby Lee and the Nightriders, he made up his mind that singing was for him. He pro-

ceeded to do so in both Spanish and English. Later in life, making records for Arista/Latin, he backed himself with a band called the Border. The outfit included accordion player Isaac Valverde; background singer and bass player Mike Barro, who formerly worked with Tejano vocalist Patsy Torres; drummer Larry Villanueva, who also worked with Ramiro "Ram" Herrera; background singer and guitarist TJ Gonzales, who had been part of Tejano band Culturas; and Francisco Cortinas, who played the saxophone and keyboards and contributed some vocals. Nava's self-titled first album launched the hit "Para Que?" in 1995. His second album, *Sov Otro*, is classic Tejano. The title translates as "I've changed." The 1996 release features an appearance by Jay Perez, another Tejano artist. Nava has released a trio of music videos for the songs "I Do," "Mama's Boy,"

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Freddy Reyes, Sr., Luis Ramirez, and Joel Nava are 5th annual musician's reunion honorees. Photo by Ralph Gonzales.



Jesus Garza, Manager, City of Victoria. Contributed photo.

City Council proposes lower property tax rate

The City Council voted to propose a lower property tax for next fiscal year at their Aug. 2 meeting.

The City is recommending a property tax rate of \$0.5582 per \$100 of valuation, a decrease of \$0.030 from last year's tax rate. Because of growth in the City's tax base, including new develop-

ment, the City will see an increase of \$1.37 million in total property tax revenue if the proposed rate is adopted.

"The increase in values of new and existing properties gives us an opportunity to lower the tax rate without compromising the services we provide," said City Manager

Jesús A. Garza. "The additional revenue will provide us an opportunity to continue investing in our greatest asset—our employees—and fixing our streets."

The new rate, if approved, will mark the third year in a row that the City has either decreased the

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City enters Stage III of drought contingency plan

Residents must take additional steps to conserve water as the city enters Stage III of its drought contingency plan.

Despite recent rainfall, Victoria and nearby communities are still experiencing below-average rainfall for this time of year. The

Guadalupe River is still below its normal level because of low rainfall to the north of Victoria.

The city is entering Stage III of

the plan to reduce demand on the City's water reserves.

Restrictions under Stage III are designed to reduce Victoria's total water usage by 10 percent compared to normal usage without placing an undue burden on residents' quality of life.



Contributed art.

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 Graphic Design: Trisha Dean

Revista de Victoria is published monthly. www.RevistadeVictoriaTx.com

What must residents do to conserve water?

Under Stage III restrictions, residents must continue to limit certain types of nonessential water usage to the hours of 6-10 a.m. and 8 p.m.-midnight to avoid water loss through evaporation. Activities that are limited to these times include using an automatic lawn sprinkler or hose-end sprinkler, filling pools and washing vehicles, although this restriction does not apply to commercial car washes and service stations.

Residents can water their lawns with hoses at any time of day if the hose has a positive shut-off nozzle.

Residents must also observe the following new restrictions:

- Sprinkler irrigation must be limited to designated watering days:
 - Addresses ending in an even number: Sundays and Thursdays
 - Addresses ending in an odd number: Saturdays and Wednes-

days

- Decorative fountains cannot be operated unless needed to keep fish alive, unless the fountain uses a recirculation system.

- Water may not be used to wash paved surfaces or buildings, control dust or flush gutters.

- Water may not be allowed to run or accumulate in any gutter or street.

- Water customers who are directed to repair leaks must do so within 15 days.

- Restaurants may not serve water unless it is requested.

- Fire hydrants can only be used for firefighting and other essential activities.

- Golf courses cannot be watered unless a different water source is used.

Exceptions to the above restrictions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. To request an exemption, contact Public Works at 361-485-3380.

When will the restrictions end?

The City will terminate Stage III restrictions and re-enter Stage II of the drought contingency plan when available water reserves rise above the Stage III triggering threshold and when Public Works determines that the City's water intake can meet demand without the restrictions.

For more information about the drought contingency plan, visit www.victoriatx.gov/drought-plan or contact Public Works at 361-485-3380.

The purpose of the City of Victoria Communications & Public Affairs is to provide Victoria residents and local media with timely and accurate information about City government through written communications, video, social media and other accessible channels.

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property tax rate or kept it the same.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, Garza presented the proposed budget to the council. The city is proposing a budget of \$183 million, including \$45.74 million for road repairs and other capital improvement projects.



The proposed capital improvement budget for fiscal year 2023 includes utility reconstruction in part of the Tanglewood subdivision. *Contributed photo.*

Projects in the proposed budget include:

- Expansion of DeLeon Plaza
- Phase Two of the citywide LED lighting project
- A sports facility master plan
- Design for the new public safety headquarters
- Street and utility repairs for Dairy Road, Tanglewood, Nursery Drive, Castle Hills West, Queen City and other troubled streets

Residents can review the proposed budget at www.victoriatx.gov/budget.

The budget and tax rate will be voted on at future meetings before they can go into effect:

- Aug. 30: Public hearing and vote on the budget and tax rate
- Sept. 6: Public hearing and final vote on the budget and tax rate
- Oct. 1: New budget and tax rate go into effect

City Council meetings are hosted at 5 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 105 W. Juan Linn St. Meetings are broadcast live on channels 15 and 115 and online at www.victoriatx.gov/tv15.

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Victoria's bicentennial plans are starting now

by Joel Novosad, Director, Convention & Visitors Bureau, City of Victoria

Victoria's 200th birthday is right around the corner, and as part of our plans to celebrate Victoria, we are preparing to honor the man and woman who started it all.

Last month, the City Council approved a contract with Laredo-based artist Armando Hinojosa to construct a statue of Victoria

founder Martín DeLeon and his wife, Patricia de la Garza, to stand at DeLeon Plaza near the Six Flags Monument.

Mayor Jeff Bauknight and other elected officials have made it clear that this project is long overdue. Victoria does not have any statues or murals honoring our founder. The fact that DeLeon was the only Mexican to found a colony in Texas adds another layer of signifi-

cance to the project as a homage to our Mexican and Tejano heritage.

The inclusion of Patricia de la Garza in the statue is an acknowledgement of her role as a co-founder of the colony. De la Garza helped to found the first school and church in the colony, and she contributed \$10,000 of her own inheritance (about \$250,000 today) toward the colony's success.

The statue is expected to be fin-



Joel Novosad, Director CVB, City of Victoria. *Contributed photo.*

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ished in early 2024 ahead of our exact anniversary on April 13. It might seem like we are giving ourselves a lot of time to prepare, but it is important to get the ball rolling now to make sure the bicentennial is truly spectacular. My department has been meeting with employees from multiple City departments and external agencies for months to discuss our plans.

To encourage residents to explore our city's history, we are working with VPI to organize guided tours of historical sites. We are also looking into creating a self-guided "digital passport" tour to encourage residents to visit these sites. We have also been discussing projects that will be complete in time for the bicentennial—like the DeLeon Plaza expansion, for example—that could be highlighted as part of the celebration.

With all this planning taking place, it should come as no surprise that we need to suspend Bootfest. Remember that even planning a one-day celebration like Bootfest is an intense process that takes up most of the year and has a lot of moving parts. Planning for the bicentennial—which

will include multiple events and ongoing activities throughout the year—will be an astronomically greater undertaking.

A bicentennial is a natural time for some reflection on who we are and where we are headed. Later this year, the city will kick off a branding study that will involve working with a consulting agency to develop a comprehensive tourism strategy that emphasizes what makes Victoria unique.

The CVB plans to use the bicentennial celebration as the launch pad for a new era of tourism efforts in Victoria, including a revised strategy for our flagship events. Future events could look vastly different, but you can be sure that they will reflect who we are as a community.

To stay connected with our bicentennial plans and other events taking place in Victoria, remember to follow Explore Victoria Texas on Facebook or visit us online at www.explorevictoriatexas.com.

Joel Novosad is the director of the City of Victoria Convention & Visitors Bureau.

TDECU breaks ground on new member center in Victoria



TDECU breaks ground. *Contributed photo.*

TDECU broke ground on a new location to better serve its Members in Victoria on Friday, July 29, 2022. The Victoria-North Navarro Member Center, located at 9009 N. Navarro Street, is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2023. The full-service center will feature multiple drive-thru lanes, a drive-up ATM, and a newly redesigned lobby and interior.

TDECU President and CEO Isaac Johnson was joined by Board Chair Richard Smith, Board Director Frank Coe, Board Secretary George Hornback Jr., Chief Banking Officer Jose Delgado, Chief Information Officer Murshid Khan, and other local TDECU leaders. Members of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce also participated in the historic event along with the Victoria West Legacy Dance Team.

“We are so impressed with the

amount of growth in north Victoria. We heard from our members who have been asking for a new location, and we’re happy to make it happen,” said Johnson. “This new location will allow us to better assist our members as they make their way along their financial journeys.”

For TDECU Board Chairman Richard Smith, the expansion in north Victoria is personal. “I grew up right up the road in Hallettsville. I used to fish in the nearby rivers, my family owns a laundry business, and my uncle was treated for cancer here. This area has a special place in my heart.”

The new location will replace



TDECU board secretary George Hornback, Jr., chair Richard Smith, and president and ceo Isaac Johnson. *Contributed photo.*

the current branch located inside Victoria Mall, currently managed by Branch Manager Chelsey



TDECU rendering. *Contributed photo.*

Reeder. “I’ve been with TDECU for 11 years and I’ve seen how this community has grown. Our members are our priority, and we look forward to serving them with improved technology and a better banking experience.”

Jeff Lyon, the President and CEO of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce says he also has a personal connection to TDECU. “Victoria has had a long relationship with TDECU as a member of our chamber, and I’ve had an even longer relationship thanks to my mortgage,” he joked. “I just want

to say thank you for the investment in our community.”

About TDECU | Founded in 1955, TDECU is a not-for-profit financial cooperative with more than 370,000 Members and over \$4.7 billion in assets. TDECU currently has 39 service locations, including 35 Member Centers, and offers a complete selection of convenient, innovative, and competitive products and services, including a full

suite of deposit products as well as mortgage, auto and personal loan products, online and mobile banking. TDECU also offers, through its subsidiaries, retirement planning and wealth management, personal and business insurance products. Members can also access a worldwide network of over 55,000 surcharge-free ATMs. For more information visit TDECU.org or call (800) 839-1154.

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Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The VICTORIA COUNTY WCID #1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2022 on August 29, 2022 at 8:00 AM at 93 Illinois Bloomington, TX 77951. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

For the proposal:	William McCaskill William Harvell	Jonathan Sarkis Robert Cardenas
Against the proposal:	None	
Present and not voting:	None	
Absent:	Robert Montolvo	

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$0.6102/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.5119/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.6102/\$100	\$0.5119/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.0983
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-16.11%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$78,452	\$96,787
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$78,452	\$96,787
Tax on average residence homestead	\$478.71	\$495.45
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$16.74 3.50%

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the Victoria County Water Control and Improvement District #1 of VICTORIA COUNTY WCID #1 proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of .

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.



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Are the campuses safe?

by Dr. Quintin Shepherd, Superintendent, VISD

The one question I have been asked more than any other at the

start of this school year is, “are the campuses safe?” Imagine walking into the Victoria Fine Arts Center and finding the room stacked from floor to ceiling and wall to

wall with documents. That image accurately describes what I see in my mind when asked this very simple question because the honest answer is, “it depends.” Please

continue reading.

I could write one article per week for the remainder of this school year and still not cover the changes and improvements



Dr. Quintin Shepherd, Superintendent, VISD. Contributed photo.

we have made in just the last six months at Victoria ISD. To name just a few, we have created campus response guides for every campus in the district, so staff have ready access to safety measures by incident. We have implemented a Standard Response Protocol (SRP). We are implementing the Standard Reunification Method (SRM) to reunite families in case of emergency. We conducted a Parent/Child Reunification Tabletop with our emergency response partners, which included: Citizens Medical Center, Victoria Fire Department, Victoria Police Department, Victoria County Sheriff's Office, and Various VISD administrative departments. We have applied delayed-entry film to many campus entrances and will continue to do so throughout the year. We established Safe and Supportive Schools Programs at all VISD campuses. We are upgrading security camera monitoring systems. We now have video intercoms at the main entrances. We updated doors and locks as we were able and continue to do so. We have installed a VoIP phone system with enhanced security features. We have hardened front office vestibules on several campuses with more work planned in this area. Our Board Safety and Security Committee has met twice over the summer. We dedicated a portion of our administrative renewal to having Victoria Police and Sheriffs, Fire and Health department answer questions for administration. Our schools were safe before we left at the end of last year and they are even more secure now.

With all the above in mind, please also know I could write an article per week for the remainder

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September is a busy month for the Food Bank



Food Bank's new location at 801 South Laurent. Contributed photo.

by Meridith Byrd, Director of Community Engagement

September is always a big month for the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent because it is Hunger Action Month, when food banks throughout America join with one voice to advocate for hunger relief. Our goal for Hunger Action Month is to highlight the ways we support clients in 11 south Texas counties through our mission of “helping heal the hurt of hunger”.

Grand opening of our new home

This year, in addition to being Hunger Action Month, September also marks the grand opening of our new location. Purchased in 2019 and having undergone a \$5 million remodel and expansion, the 38,000 square foot building at 801 South Laurent will improve our ability to feed people in need throughout the eleven counties we serve.

On Friday, September 16 the celebration begins with a ribbon cutting by the Victoria Chamber of Commerce at 9:00 am, followed by guest speakers, tours, and volunteer opportunities. We invite the public to celebrate with us on Saturday, September 17 as the festivities continue from 8:00 am to noon with tours of the new facility, food, live music, bounce houses, and more. While you are here, you can make a difference by volunteering to put together boxes and/or bags of food that will be distributed to our clients in need.

Participate in Hunger Action Month

In the United States, over forty-six million people seek help from food banks each year. Across our 11-county service area more than 42,000 people receive assistance from the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent. We partner with food pantries, schools, senior housing

complexes, and soup kitchens in Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Refugio, Wharton, and Victoria counties. We also host drive-through food distributions in most counties we serve.

You too can be a part of Hunger Action Month. We have volunteer opportunities for adults, seniors, children (accompanied by an adult), and groups (scouts, church or school groups, coworkers, etc.). Our volunteer activities include sorting large bins of mixed donations, filling bags of dried beans, rice, pasta, or coffee, and assembling bags of food for schoolchildren or seniors. Contact us at gcvolunteer@foodbankgc.org to get more information or to schedule a volunteer opportunity for your group.

Monetary donations are invaluable to our mission, as each dollar donated to the Food Bank helps

provide eight meals for those in need. Simply put, \$1 = 8 meals. It might sound impossible, but the Food Bank is able to acquire food for much less than grocery store prices. You can donate on our website www.tfbgc.org or bring your donation to the food bank anytime during our business hours.

We hope you will join us for our community grand opening on Saturday, September 17 from 8:00 to noon. Visit our new location at 801

South Laurent, enjoy live music and refreshments, take a tour, and learn about all the work the Food Bank does to fight hunger in our community and beyond.

Meridith Byrd is the Director of Community Engagement for the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent. Contact her at mbyrd@foodbankgc.org and follow the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent on Facebook and Instagram.

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Nine downtown crosswalks to be painted next week



A design for crosswalk art on Constitution Street in downtown Victoria. *Contributed photo.*

Flowers, theater masks, a Texas flag and other colorful art will be popping up overnight and underfoot in Victoria's downtown starting this weekend.

The Victoria Main Street Program partnered with the Victoria Fine Arts Association and local artist Josh Vega of Free Art Victoria for the crosswalk art program.

Nine crosswalks will be painted 9 p.m. - 6 a.m., August 20 - 28, with one or two streets to be blocked each night (the order and timing have not been determined):

- Goodwin Avenue at Main Street (east side)
- Forrest Street at Bridge Street (west side)
- Forrest Street at Main Street (east side)
- Constitution Street at Bridge Street (both sides)
- Constitution Street at Main Street (both sides)
- Santa Rosa Street at Main Street (both sides)

Decorative crosswalks were identified in the City's downtown master plan as one of ten low-cost



A design for crosswalk art on Forrest Street in downtown Victoria. *Contributed photo.*

"easy wins" that could help to spur downtown development.

The project is expected to reflect well on downtown as the Victoria Main Street Program pursues a cultural district designation through the Texas Commission on the Arts. This designation would give the Victoria Main Street Program access to more grant opportunities.

How it's funded

The materials are funded by private donations from the Victoria Rotary Club, Capital Title of Texas, Peaches and Tortilla Mercantile, Novel Women Book Club, Msigned, the Victoria Fine Arts Association, the Quilt Guild of

Greater Victoria, and the Keating family.

Vega will paint the crosswalks at no cost to the city.

Stay connected

To learn more about Victoria Main Street Program events and initiatives, visit www.victoriatx.gov/mainstreet.

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A design for crosswalk art on Constitution Street in downtown Victoria. *Contributed photo.*



Nine crosswalks will be painted downtown during nightly street closures. *Contributed photo.*

Victoria ISD receives TEA Accountability Ratings



VISD Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Accountability Tammy Sestak. Contributed photo.

“Today, we recognize and celebrate the growth evident in our 2022 scores,” said Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Accountability Tammy Sestak. “The increases in academic growth and overall performance are a direct result of the dedicated work of our VISD staff members, who have gone above and beyond to support our students.”

VISD scores show strong evidence of the tremendous work performed by VISD students and staff to address unfinished learning created by the loss of instructional time related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Friday, August 12, 2022 the Texas Education Agency (TEA) released the 2022 accountability ratings to public school districts across the state of Texas.

Throughout the 2021-22 school year, staff and students focused on essential learning standards, accelerated instruction, and student progress. Due to these efforts, 81% of VISD campuses showed improvement over their 2019 pre-pandemic ratings.

52% of campuses increased the overall score by at least one letter grade, and 19% of campuses increased their score by two letter grades. The District earned an overall score of 78, showing that VISD teachers and staff effectively closed the learning gap due to COVID-19.

The 2022 accountability ratings are the first accountability ratings public school districts have received since 2019. The accountability ratings are based on a combination of indicators, including performance on state standardized tests, graduation rates, and college, career, and military readiness outcomes.

O'Connor ACE Elementary School saw a 21-point increase, Shields Elementary with a 19-point increase, Torres Elementary with a 15-point increase, and DeLeon Elementary with a 13-point increase.

Mission Valley, Vickers, and Schorlemmer Elementary earned an A, the highest rating possible, with scores of 95, 94, and 90, respectively.

VISD strives for continuous

improvement, data shows that unfinished learning due to the impact of COVID-19 was minimized.

Throughout the 2022-23 school year, VISD will continue to offer rigorous coursework, ongoing in-

terventions, and various opportunities for students to Find Their &

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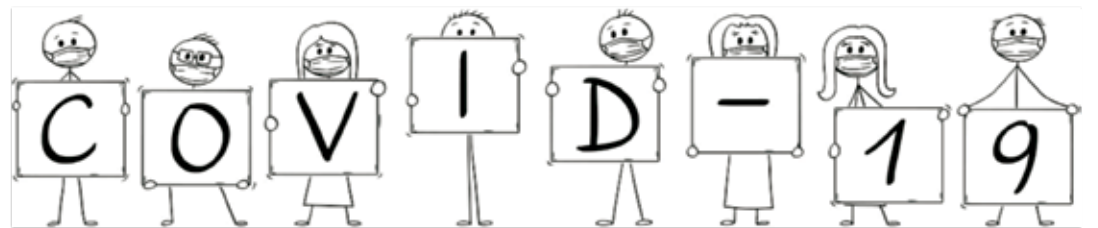
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A proud mother moment

by Barbara Breazeale

Earlier this week I went to Commissioner's Court in Victoria. Presiding over this court is Judge Ben Zeller and the four Commissioners --Clint Ives, Gary Burns, Kevin Janak and Danny Garcia. The big topic was the Victoria Library and

the issue of obscene books in the Children's Section.

Gay Patek organized a wonderful campaign to bring this issue to light. She has presented to the Library Board the facts. She had many people read questionable books and provide a book report but to no avail. The Library Board

insists that they will not change anything.

What surprised me was the misinformation that is floating around even though Gay has done an excellent job of providing accurate information.

Example, at the Commissioner's Court she gave large packets

to each Commissioner and Judge Zeller. Speakers came to the podium and asked our leaders to read along as they spoke the words from the books in question. Being in the audience, it was uncomfortable even listening to what was being said. Several speakers became very emotional as they realized first-hand what children were exposed to.

So, listen up Liberals, and understand.

1. The books are in the library according to age. 4-8 years of age, 8-12 years of age, etc.

2. The children go to their area in the library and can access any of the books that are there.

3. Many parents drop off their children or go to other parts of the library while their child reads what they want to read.

4. The 60 plus books that were submitted for review are in these areas.

5. Never did anyone ask for the books to be banned, burned, thrown out, etc.

(No witches were asked to be burned in the process)

6. The request was to merely place these books in a place so that adults could look at these books and decide if they were right for their children to check out.

7. The books are regarding transgender, homosexuality, and heterosexuality. They have nudity,



Barbara Breazeale. Contributed photo.

explicit pictures and many, many obscene words, and references.

With that said, what is wrong about this scenario?

Well, now for the God moment and the reason I am motivated to write this column.

Judge Zeller told all of us that the County does not give money to the library for books but the building they are housed in is a county building. He said the City of Victoria is the one who supplies money for books.

Commissioner Clint Ives (God love him) spoke up (and I will paraphrase) and said that he thought this was disgusting literature and that we should evict the library! I almost stood up and did the happy dance.

Commissioner Gary Burns immediately spoke up and supported Clint and said he thought they should move immediately on the openings for the Victoria Library Board. Then Commissioner Janak chimed in with his support. Judge Zeller also agreed. Danny said that he was conservative Democrat and a moral man and supported all that was said.

Commissioner Danny Garcia is a teddy bear and a great guy. I always chide him that he needs to come over from the dark side and become a Republican, but I regress.

This was a "proud mother moment" for sure! How proud we all should be that our leaders in the County have put a "line in the sand" and support protecting our children.

The next day all the liberal crazies popped out of the ground. Of course, they never ever would be accused of knowing the facts

See MOMENT, pg. 13

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REUNION

from pg. 1

and “Para Que?” He has appeared on television’s Music City Tonight and Austin City Limits, among other programs. His singles include “Ya Me Ando Preparando”

The next honoree was Freddy Reyes, Sr. Early music influences began in 1950 derived from my mom & Dad’s love of music and listening to the wonderful sounds of AM radio music. To this day, I still remember hearing my dad always saying, “this boy is going to be a drummer” because I was always tapping to the music playing in our house or making drum sounds with a knife and fork at the dinner table. It was in 1952 that I finally pursued acquiring a new drum set that I taught myself to play. I learned by playing at the youthful age of 12 years old. My first real music performance, I will never forget, was at the local Salon Villarreal in Tivoli, Texas, where I remember being paid a whopping one dollar and fifty cents. In 1954, I decided to begin taking music lessons in the fourth grade and wanted to learn how to play saxophone because my dad said you cannot carry a tune playing the drums. Switching instruments was met with some resistance by the local music director who insisted that I should try and learn to play

the trumpet. I then began learning to read music and play this newly acquired instrument, which led me to my newly found passion for the trumpet. It was then that I followed up by developing a special interest in writing musical arrangements and charts for orchestras and small combo bands. In 1959, as a young teen of sixteen, my dad gave permission to allow me a band try-out, as a hopeful trumpet player, and an addition to the infamous Dario Perez Band. I got home that evening and was so excited to tell my dad the great news that I got the job playing trumpet. Following those years, I was excited to be invited to become a member of the prestigious orchestra led by the legendary vocalist and leader of the Roberto Sustaita Orchestra. I then shared the stage with the saxophonist leading the Rozy Saenz and his Combo band. In my hay days, I recollected what was a total privilege and career highlight, performing with the Hispanic music legends, Little Joe y La Familia, Johnny Hernandez, Sunny & The Sunliners, Los Unicos led by Mel Villarreal, sweet vocalist Laura Canales and the debonair vocalist Ruben Ramos. It was a career highpoint to perform with my life-time favorites and their well-regarded bands. One of my most prestigious honors was to perform

in 1962 at the San Antonio, Texas municipal auditorium with the widely renowned and larger than life, vocalist Jose Alfredo Jimenez. In 1960, I was fortunate to form The Mariachi Tejano in Beeville. Following my retirement, and still today, I continue my passion of performing and entertaining for the good folks throughout Texas that enjoy our traditional and Mariachi influenced music. In my later years, my Mariachi group has been performing for several years at special events, holidays, and venues for regional events. Today I give honors and praise to the great and influential professional career musicians that have come and gone before me. I give it all to God, my family and the inspirational music that has shaped my grateful life.

Also recognized was Luis Ramirez. Born in Beeville to a migrant family of 12 children and raised in Victoria. At the age of 13, and working in the cotton fields, his singing talents were discovered

by Father Vincent, a priest from Our Lady of Sorrows, and was asked to participate in the local talent contest. He was then invited to sing with the Tejano Group Dario Perez orchestra. He then joined a local group Johnny and the Delhearts and performed with Sunny Ozuna. In the 1970s he started a 12-piece group the Latin Express. He wrote and recorded four songs that two of them became number one and eight on the Tejano charts. He won Battle of the Bands three years in a row in the Houston area, first Tejano group to perform at the Astro Dome, and performed at the Linclon Juarez awards in honor of Vicki Carr at Jones Hall. Luis started a family, had a daughter, and became a partner with his wife in several business that they owned and operated. In the 1990s, with his daughter in college, and remembered the saying “Once a musician always a musician” feeling came back with the new sound of country music and karaoke signing. He and his wife headed

to Missouri and Tennessee. After year and a half, they decided to return to Texas stopping to visit his in-laws in Louisiana. They stayed to help their ailing mother-in-law and restarted his father-in-law’s construction business. God had a plan for Luis and helping his family was where he needed to be. His sister-in-law saw a notice in the newspaper about a contest called Fast Track to Fame. He decided to enter the contest and the rest is history. Luis became the 1996 National winner and two of his songs charted number 2 in the Independent and European charts, another hit number 6 in Belgium in the early 2000s. He returned to casino tours, highlighted by a performance at the La Terraza Room at Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas. In Houston, he made a special appearance and performed the National Anthem for the Copa De Teja’s at Reliant Stadium on July 29th and August 1st of 2004. He currently performs in local restaurants in the Clear Lake area.



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GRUPO PECADO



Slap Jesse



EL GRUPO SENSACION



Randy Meyer reassigned as deputy superintendent for Victoria ISD

At the Tuesday, August 9, Special Called Board Meeting, it was announced that Chief Financial Officer Randy Meyer will be reassigned to the role of Deputy Superintendent.

Meyer's responsibility will include overseeing the budget and finances of VISD in addition to Talent, Acquisition, Support, and Retention (TASR, formally Human Resources), administration, construction projects, and athletics.

Meyer joined Victoria ISD in May 2021. Under Meyer's leadership, the district has seen several advances in initiatives voiced by the community. He initiated a plan to document the replacement schedules of costly items throughout the district. By looking at when items will exhaust their useful lifespans, the district can better make budgeting predictions and anticipate upcoming expensive expenditures.

"I love VISD and am honored to serve in this new role as Deputy Superintendent," said Meyer. "I plan to be very involved in the strategic budgeting process that we initiated and look forward to seeing VISD continue to thrive with the academic achievements of our students."

Meyer, a former campus principal, has been able to work with campus administrations to strategically budget to meet the needs



Randy Meyer, appointed deputy superintendent, VISD. *Contributed photo.*

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 - 50 horas por semana para un hogar biparental
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- ▶ Su hijo es menor de 13 años de edad (o un niño con necesidades especiales menores de 19 años)
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- ▶ Su hogar cumple con las pautas de ingresos para el tamaño de su familia (consulte a continuación las Pautas de Elegibilidad de Ingresos)

Tamaño de la Familia	Ingreso Mensual Medio	Ingreso Anual Máximo
2	\$4,113	\$49,356
3	\$5,081	\$60,969
4	\$6,049	\$72,582
5	\$7,016	\$84,196
6	\$7,984	\$95,809
7	\$8,166	\$97,986
8	\$8,347	\$100,164
9	\$8,528	\$102,341
10	\$8,710	\$104,519

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with the greatest priorities. Since joining VISD, Meyer has provided regular training to campus and department budget managers to make strategic budgeting a priority.

As a former Deputy Superintendent for Business/Finance and Human Resources of Wharton ISD, Meyer brought the experience in making staffing allocations to VISD. Through staffing allocations, when a staff vacancy becomes available, the district does not automatically refill the vacancy unless there is sufficient evidence to warrant the continued funding of the position. By using this strategic approach, the district was able to fund another pay increase for all employees for 2022-2023 without an increase to the overall budget.

While Superintendent of Sweet Home ISD from 2007-2015, Meyer learned firsthand about the multiple workings of a school district.

As CFO of VISD, Meyer has been a valuable resource to multiple departments regarding carrying out instruction and operations in an efficient manner.

Meyer will also serve as the leader of the Bond Oversight Committee. The Committee is an independent, community-based advisory committee established to provide radical transparency in the use of proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by VISD.

In November 2021, Victoria voters approved Proposition C - New Mission Valley Elementary School, a \$25.845MM capital construction bond, enabling the district to transform the campus and provide a more innovative learning space for students.

At the August 9 Special Board Meeting, Meyer presented a balanced budget for the second year and the lowest proposed tax rate for VISD in 30 years.

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SAFE, from pg. 6

of this school year and still not cover the places where we would like to improve safety measures. You can think of this in the same way you think about the physical safety of your home. You reinforce the areas of greatest risk and concern, but most of us find it impossible to make a home 100% impenetrable. For obvious safety reasons, I will list none of these here.

So, what is the answer to the question about “are our schools safe?” To really answer that question, I must share the single most important detail when it comes to safe and unsafe campuses. Safe campuses are the ones where every single person takes personal responsibility to know that the kids in that building are safe. It is the responsibility of the principal, instructional staff, and support staff. It is also the responsibility of the students in the building to ensure we follow procedures and

protocols. It is also the responsibility of parents, guardians, and caretakers who visit our buildings. The saying, “see something, say something” applies here. If you see a safety concern, please do not keep it a secret. We are all on the same page and working together to keep our children safe and we do a darn good job, but we are even better with your help. Finally, it is also the responsibility of the community that surrounds the school campus. We all know our own neighborhoods and the difference between normal and not normal. If something is not normal in the neighborhood surrounding a school, say something to the local law enforcement and our procedures will allow them to notify the school if there is a perceived threat.

Frankly, our single biggest threat is if even one person assumes that school safety is someone else’s responsibility. Are our schools safe? The answer is in your hands.

MOMENT, from pg. 10

of the issue. They never listen to what is said or bother to read the books, but the remnants of the sixty’s come out in full force calling people hicks, religious zealots with hate in their hearts, and that we are trampling on the First Amendment.

In a world that thinks it is good to expose kids to scantily clad drag queens, use drugs to alter children’s biology, allow daily assaults of perversion on tv, in video games or FB, and label their two year old pansexual because he plays with dolls and action figures, the city of Victoria issued a dose of common sense based on factual

evidence.

I do not care if you are right or left, green or purple, homosexual, or straight, the issue is not of freedom but of protection of the innocence of our children.

Do you believe that your 12-year-old needs to read about two guys having sex and all the talk that goes with it?

Do you believe that your 6-year-old should see graphic photographs of men with men or heterosexual sex acts?

You may never agree with me politically, but we all should be able to agree that our children need to be innocent for as long as possible.

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Developer announces new apartment complex for seniors

FishPond Development LLC has announced its intention to build FishPond at Victoria, a 75-unit apartment complex for seniors near Airline Road and Navarro Street.

Earlier this year, the City Council passed a resolution expressing its support for FishPond's application for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs' (TDHCA) competitive Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program.

"Affordable housing developments like this one help to ensure that all our residents have a dignified place to live," said Mayor Jeff Bauknight. "We are committed to helping developers leverage state

and federal resources so that we can encourage affordable housing development in a fiscally responsible manner."

On July 28, FishPond at Victoria was approved by the TDHCA to receive an allocation through the tax credit program, so the developer plans to move forward with the project.

"We appreciate all the guidance and assistance the city officials provided during the application process and look forward to working closely with the city to create an affordable community for seniors in and around Victoria," said David Fournier, principal of FishPond Development.

Advocating for Victoria developments

In 2020, City Manager Jesús A. Garza and Assistant City Manager Mike Etienne met with Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs leadership to advocate for changes to the competitive tax credit program to make it easier for developments in Victoria to receive funding.

Previously, the program's scoring system gave high points to cities with more than 100,000 residents. Also, developments were required to be within two miles of a shopping complex.

"The application criteria were built on an assumption that affordable housing shortages are more of a problem in larger and more densely populated cities, so those were the cities that were getting all the projects," Garza said. "We know that the housing crisis is affecting Victoria, too, so we worked with state officials to make sure developers that want to build here would have a fair chance of

getting funded."

In 2021, the TDHCA updated the application process to lessen the weight of population size in the scoring system and increase the maximum distance from a shopping complex to four miles.

About the apartments

FishPond at Victoria will include seventy-five units for residents aged fifty-five and older who earn less than 60% of Victoria's area median income, which varies depending on household size. Area median income is updated yearly by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Income includes Social Security and other benefits.

Units will be priced according to residents' income.

How it is funded

The complex is 70% funded through the TDHCA tax credit program, with the remaining 30% coming from private sources. No local funding is currently included as a source, and the Victoria Housing Finance Corporation did not issue any bonds to finance the project.

"The new complex is expected to generate about \$155,000 in annual property taxes for the City and other taxing entities, along with 125 temporary construction and tradesman jobs," Etienne said. "We're excited for this new development that will enhance livability



A three-story complex for seniors. Illustration by FishPond Development LLC.

for our seniors and benefit our city economically."

As part of the City Council's resolution of support, which was included in FishPond's application for the tax credit program, the city agreed to waive \$500 in building permit fees for the project.

What is next

The City and FishPond will host a community meeting in the fall to discuss the project with residents.

Construction is scheduled in early 2023. Leasing is expected to begin in fall 2024. This timeline is subject to change amid ongoing inflation and supply chain issues.

For more information about the complex, contact Lisa Vecchietti with FishPond Development at lvecchietti@fishpondliving.com.

The purpose of the City of Victoria Communications & Public Affairs is to provide Victoria residents and local media with timely and accurate information about City government through written communications, video, social media and other accessible channels.

Household size	1	2	3	4
60% AMI (2022)	\$30,360	\$34,680	\$39,000	\$43,320

Unit size	1 bedroom (663 square feet)	2 bedrooms (922 square feet)
Number of units	57	18
Estimated monthly rent	\$350-750	\$400-890

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La Cocina de Tia Yole



Barbecued salmon with fresh nectarine salsa. *Contributed photo.*

BARBECUED SALMON WITH FRESH NECTARINE SALSA

4 (4-to 5-oz.) fresh skinless salmon fillets, about 1-inch thick
3 tablespoons bottled barbecue sauce
2 nectarines, pitted and chopped
¾ cup fresh blueberries
¼ cup coarsely chopped toasted pecans
Lemon wedges

1. Rinse fish; pat dry with paper towels. Lightly sprinkle salmon with salt and pepper. Place 2 tablespoons of the barbecue sauce in small bowl; brush sauce on both sides of the salmon.
2. For charcoal grill, cook salmon on greased grill rack directly over medium coals for 8 to 12 minutes or until salmon flakes when tested

with a fork, turning once halfway through grilling. (For gas grill, preheat grill. Reduce heat to medium. Place salmon on greased grill rack over medium heat. Cover and grill as above.)

3. For Nectarine Salsa: In medium bowl combine nectarines, blueberries, pecans, and the remaining 1 tablespoon barbecue sauce. Season with salt. Serve salmon with salsa and lemon wedges. Serves 4.

SUMMER PORK CHOPS WITH CORN-MANGO SALSA

1/3 cup olive oil
2 tablespoons blackened steak seasoning
2 teaspoons garlic powder
1 large onion, thinly sliced
6 boneless pork loin chops, cut 1-inch thick
Corn-Mango Salsa
Steamed green and yellow beans (optional)

1. For marinade, in a resalable plastic bag, combine oil, steak seasoning, and garlic powder; mix well. Add onion; mix well. Add chops; seal bag and turn to coat

chops. Marinate in the refrigerator for 12 hours or overnight.

2. Drain chops; discard marinade. For a charcoal grill, grill chops on the rack of an uncovered grill directly over medium heat for 14 to 18 minutes or until done (160°F), turning once halfway through grilling. (For a gas grill, preheat grill. Reduce heat to medium. Place chops on grill rack over heat. Cover; grill as above.) Serve chops with Corn-Mango Salsa and, if desired, green and yellow beans. Makes 6 servings.

3. Corn-Mango Salsa: Husk 2 ears fresh sweet corn and brush with olive oil, coating all sides. Grill corn on the rack of an uncovered grill directly over medium heat until kernels are tender and just begin to brown, turning often. Remove from grill; cool. Cut kernels from ears. In a bowl, combine corn

kernels; 1 medium mango, seeded, peeled, and finely chopped; ½ cup finely chopped red sweet pepper; ¼ cup chopped sweet onion; ¼ cup fresh lemon juice; 2 tablespoons cooking oil; 2 tablespoons snipped fresh mint; 1 tablespoon snipped fresh cilantro; and ¼ teaspoon salt. Toss gently to mix.

SUMMER BREEZE RIBS

¼ cup packed brown sugar
2 teaspoons seasoned salt
2 teaspoons chili powder
4 pounds pork loin back ribs or pork spareribs
¼ cup yellow mustard
4 cups hickory or fruitwood chips
¼ cup bottled barbecue sauce
Bottled barbecue sauce

1. In a small bowl combine brown sugar, seasoned salt, and chili powder. Brush ribs with mustard.

Sprinkle brown sugar mixture onto ribs. Cover and refrigerate for 6 to 24 hours.

2. At least 1 hour before grilling, soak wood chips in enough water to cover. Drain.

3. In a grill with a cover arrange preheated coals around a drip pan. Test for medium heat above the pan. Sprinkle some of the drained wood chips over the coals. Pour 1 inch of water into the drip pan. Place ribs, meaty side up, on grill rack over drip pan but not over coals, or use a rib rack placed over the drip pan. Cover and grill for 1¼ to 1½ hours or until ribs are tender, adding more coals and wood chips as necessary.

4. Brush with the ¼ cup barbecue sauce. Grill ribs for 5 minutes more. Serve with additional bottled barbecue sauce. Makes 6 servings.

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