Obituaries, B2
Crossroads, B3
Your Schools, B4



DOCUMENTARY

# Screening to discuss New York Times scandal

## UHV Professor, victim of serial plagiarist, to answer questions

*FROM A NEWS RELEASE*

More than 10 years ago, Macarena Hernandez – now the Victoria Advocate Endowed Professor of the Humanities at the University of Houston-Victoria – quickly went from being a journalist writing stories to being a whistle-blower uncovering one of the biggest scandals in journalism.


Hernandez

"A Fragile Trust" is a documentary that tells the story of how Jayson Blair, a journalist at The New York Times, became known as the most infamous serial

SEE **PLAGIARISM, B3**

MILITARY

# Army may never learn motive of Fort Hood rampage

FORT HOOD (AP) – Despite evidence that suggests Spc. Ivan Lopez had an argument before going on a shooting rampage, investigators said they may never determine what compelled the Fort Hood soldier to kill three soldiers and wound 16 others before taking his own life.

Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, Fort Hood's commander, said an "escalating

SEE **FORT HOOD, B3**

PEOPLE


Rene Balboa Sr. walks with Angela Johnson, 7, as he carries an 8-foot by 6-foot cross from Cuero to Victoria down U.S. Highway 87 on Saturday. Balboa was taking the journey after receiving a vision from God that he needed to start a street ministry and use his past as a gang member to help others. "The church is in the church; people are saved in the church," he said God told him. "What about those out here in the streets that have nobody to talk to?"


Balboa carries a 45-pound wooden cross on wheels down U.S. Highway 87 toward Victoria from Cuero on Saturday. After having a stroke and heart attack while in the DeWitt County Jail last month, Balboa has found God and is following a message from Him. "Living this life, right now, for 21 days. It's awesome," he said. "I've never felt like this before in my life."

# Former gang member bears his cross

## Victoria man: God's message told him to start street ministry

**Photos and story by Angeli Wright**
*AWRIGHT@VICAD.COM*

While in the DeWitt County Jail for a probation violation, Rene Balboa Sr. suffered a stroke and a minor heart attack less than one month ago.

On Saturday, the 37-year-old Victoria native returned to the streets Saturday but this time with a plan and a giant symbol of his newfound dedication to Christ.

As traffic buzzed on U.S.

SEE **CROSS, B3**

VA ONLINE

**To watch a former gang member journey from Cuero to Victoria for street ministry, visit VictoriaAdvocate.com.**

SPECIAL ISSUE

# Are you ready for some summer fun?

*ADVOCATE STAFF REPORT*

Summer is almost here, and it is time for parents to plan their children's summer activities.

The Advocate will publish its annual summer guide to camps, workshops, vacation bible school and programs May 21.



If you, your organization or business is planning a summer activity for children from toddlers to high school seniors, please send the information to summerfun@vicad.com. Please include the following information: name of the event, name of sponsoring organization or business, time, date, place, ages, description of the events, cost, registration information, contact information and website, if available, by **5 p.m. April 30.**

If you have questions, please call Becky Cooper, local editor, at 361-574-1285 or email bcooper@vicad.com.

**For results from Saturday's lottery drawings, see A2**

CONTEST

# A mother's special bond

Mothers share a special bond with their children. That bond is never lost.

With Mother's Day on May 11, the Advocate wants to share stories of your special bond with your mother. Tell us in 100 words or fewer what makes your mom special. We will select one essay to spotlight on Mother's Day. The special mother will receive a $50 gift card to Woodhouse Day Spa and two movie tickets. Submit your essays by **5 p.m. April 25** to newsroom@vicad.com, by mail to P.O. Box 1518 Victoria 77902, or hand deliver them to the newsroom at 311 E. Constitution St. in downtown Victoria. If you have a photo of your mother, please include it with the essay. Let us know whether you want it back. Please include the daytime phone number for you and your mother.

CONSTRUCTION

## ROAD CLOSURE

Beginning Monday, the city will reduce Juan Linn Street to one lane westbound between George and Rae streets to install utility lines. The project is expected to take one week, weather permitting.



VICTORIA ADVOCATE

VICTORIA ADVOCATE
Taste of Home Cooking School
presented by The Cooking Depot

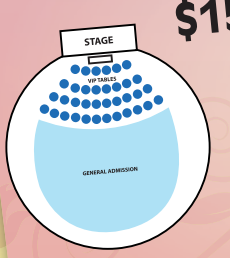
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