

# VICTORIA ADVOCATE

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## AMATEUR MMA



Amateur MMA matches, like the ones organized by Tap or Scrap LLC, give rookies a chance to fight in a ring, and locals the opportunity to witness top athleticism and sportsmanship. Pictured are Alex Torres and Jeff Isacksen. (Photo by Katie Steinhauer)

# FIGHT NIGHT

## Amateur MMA takes over Victoria Community Center

Katie Steinhauer

The air inside the Victoria Community Center crackled with a blend of anticipation and nervous energy. It's a Friday night, but this isn't a high school football game or a civic meeting. On this night, under the bright lights and booming sound of a temporary arena, was the latest installment of Tap or Scrap 12, a local fight promotion that is giving amateur athletes a place to test their mettle. "This was just supposed to be a hobby," Peter Morales, owner and founder of Tap or Scrap LLC, said Friday night. "A hobby now turned into a full blown business, and I couldn't have done it without my wife, Kristie." Tap or Scrap LLC, the company behind the event, has made a name for itself by fostering a legitimate, safe and exciting environment for local mixed martial artists. "It is months of planning, matching fights, finding a venue, getting fights organized," Kristie Garcia, Vice President of Business

Operations for Tap or Scrap LLC, said. "My favorite part is watching the fights and building those connections with these fighters and coaches. This is amateur MMA, and when they [the fighters] go pro, that's an amazing high." The fights themselves are a showcase of the sport's diversity. From the blistering speed of the flyweights to the thunderous power of the heavyweights, each bout tells a unique story. In one corner, a fighter with a background in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu looks for a take-down while his opponent, a former boxer, circles and throws crisp jabs. The crowd roars with every punch, with family and friends screaming support from the front row. "We want everyone to have a good time, but we also want everybody to be safe," Garcia said. "We always have security, but that's just the norm for any venue of this size. We have well over 1,500 people here, but we've established a good group of folks that work with us, and that's critical."

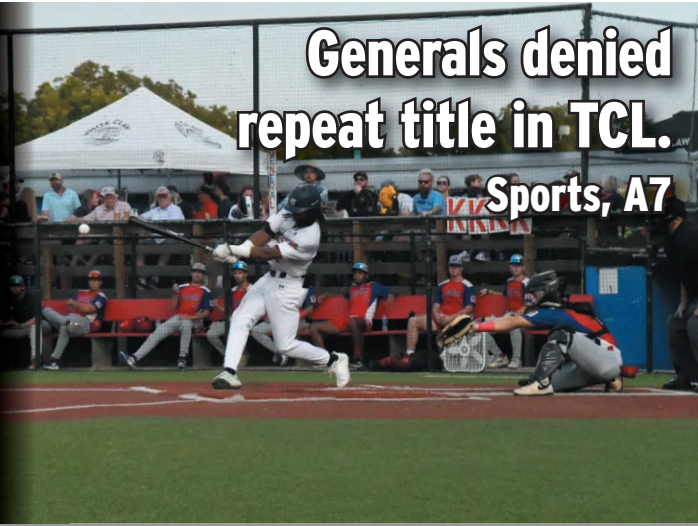
SEE MMA, A2



Just like any sport, the heart of MMA is the sportsmanship and mutual respect between opponents. Pictured are Isaiah Gonzales and Greg Johnson after their featherweight championship match. (Photo by Katie Steinhauer)

## Generals denied repeat title in TCL.

Sports, A7



## VICTORIA COLLEGE

# VC alumna finds calling as advisor

LILA STANLEY  
VC MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Bailey Koebrick credits Victoria College with setting the course for her academic and professional journey—one that led her back to the place that first shaped her future. Koebrick earned an Associate of Science from Victoria College in 2015 after first enrolling as a dual credit student during her senior year of high school. She went on to complete a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Master of Education in Adult and Higher Education from the University of Houston-Victoria. Koebrick returned to VC in 2017 as a Career & College Coach/High School Academic Advisor. She also served as Transfer Coordinator before moving to her current position as an Academic Advisor & Veterans Services Specialist.

"I one hundred percent credit Victoria College with setting me on my pathway, and I'm not surprised I ended up working here years later," said Koebrick. "Since 2011, I've been associated with VC in some way, and I've only ever had positive experiences."

Staying local helped Koebrick and her family minimize student loan debt—something she values deeply.

"My parents were big advocates that quality education did not need to be expensive, and staying local allowed us to pay out of pocket for school instead of taking on debt," said Koebrick. "Fortunately, as a VC employee, I was able to take advantage of our tuition exchange program with UHV when pursuing my master's degree, which helped to lessen the costs."

Koebrick believes her experience as a student at Victoria College continues to shape her approach as an advisor.

"Our institution is known for being academically challenging, and I got every cent of the education my family paid for," said Koebrick. "Some of the advisors I had as a student are now my coworkers and friends. I love what I do."

VC wants to hear from former and current Pirates. Visit [VictoriaCollege.edu/ShareYourStory](http://VictoriaCollege.edu/ShareYourStory) to submit a success story in honor of VC's 100th anniversary.



Bailey Koebrick (VC Marketing and Communications)

## VICTORIA BALLET

# Victoria Ballet Theatre announces expansive 2025-2026 season

VICTORIA BALLET THEATRE

The Victoria Ballet Theatre (VBT) has unveiled its 2025-2026 season, featuring four compelling productions that blend timeless classics, innovative premieres, and a landmark collaboration with Bruce Wood Dance, a professional dance company based in Dallas. Audiences can look forward to breathtaking perfor-

mances, world class guest artists, and enriching community engagement that elevate the cultural fabric of the Crossroads region. "This season represents a milestone in our artistic growth," Brenda Tally, Executive Artistic Director of Victoria Ballet Theatre, said. "With bold new commissions, exciting alumni collaborations, and the extraordinary residency with

Bruce Wood Dance, we are offering something truly special for our community. We can't wait to share these transformative moments with our audiences." **Season Highlights**  
**Fall for Dance**  
**Date:** September 27, 2025  
**Times:** 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Leo J. Welder Center for Performing Arts  
**Tickets:** \$30 Premium / \$25

Preferred / \$20 Select  
Fall for Dance is made possible by a grant from HEB Helping Here. This season's vibrant opener presents a stunning mixed repertoire of classical and contemporary works. Guest choreographers include Nao Kusuzaki, Domingo Estrada Jr., and VBT alumna Emily Lofton. Resident choreographers Brenda Tally and Angelica Vela will present original works, in-

cluding the world premiere of Wildflowers by Tally—commissioned by Susanah and Don Porr—with an original score by Jared Oaks, music director of Ballet West. Wildflowers will feature live musical accompaniment, including the composer himself, New York-based violinist Claire Smith Birmingham, a Victoria native, and two additional musicians.

Special Residency Announcement: From August 4-8, Domingo Estrada Jr., a Victoria native with a distinguished professional career—including over a decade with the acclaimed Mark Morris Dance Group (2009-2023)—will be in residence to choreograph a new work for Fall for Dance.

SEE BALLET, A2

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A t-storm or two; breezy in the p.m.



97

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Partly cloudy



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### Murphy USA

3407 N. Delmar Dr. & Delmar Dr.

(As of 3 p.m. Sunday  
Prices are subject to change.)

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### UNLEADED

\$2.48

### DIESEL

\$2.94

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