

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

SPORTS, B1



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Texas House Republicans, including Louderback, call for nationwide immigration pause following Austin mass shooting

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Seventy-one Republican members of the Texas House of Representatives are calling for a nationwide immigration pause following a Sunday shooting in Austin that is being labeled as a terrorist attack.

In a letter sent Monday to leaders of Congress, the Texas House members urged national lawmakers to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security, freeze all H-1B visa issuances, pause all im-

migration “until proper vetting protocols are established” and identify potential terrorists within the country.

“More Americans will be killed if Congress continues to treat border security and immigration enforcement as political footballs,” the letter reads. “Texas has demonstrated repeatedly that it will not stand idle while Washington fails. We will use every legal and legislative tool available to protect our citizens, with or without federal cooperation.”

Rep. Cole Hefner, R-Mount



State Rep. A.J. Louderback, R-District 30, was among its signers. (FILE PHOTO)

Pleasant, is chairman of the state House Committee on Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans’ Affairs and provided the letter Monday to the News-Journal.

State Rep. A.J. Louderback, R-District 30, was among its signers.

Three people were killed and 13 were injured Sunday during the shooting at an Austin bar.

The suspect in the shooting, 53-year-old Ndiaga Diagne, was killed by police, the Associated Press reported. Diagne wore clothing with an Iranian flag design and the words “Property of Allah”

written on it, and officials said the attack could have been motivated by recent U.S. strikes against Iran.

Originally from Senegal, Diagne came to the U.S. in 2000 on a tourist visa, the AP reported. He became a lawful permanent resident in 2006 after marrying a U.S. citizen, and he was naturalized in 2013.

The letter written by state lawmakers urges federal lawmakers to enact immigration safeguards swiftly in the wake of the attack.

“While Americans on both sides of the aisle disagree — sometimes

SEE IMMIGRATION, A3

RETAIL



Resident Johnny Walker fills up his SUV at a local gas station Tuesday afternoon. (LINDSEY PLOTKIN/VICTORIA ADVOCATE)

PUMP PRESSURE

Crossroads Gas Prices Climb as Global Tensions Add Pressure

MONIQUE BRAND,
LINDSEY PLOTKIN

Victoria and Crossroads drivers are beginning to feel a gradual rise at the pump as statewide prices trend upward and global tensions add new uncertainty to energy

markets.

According to new data from GasBuddy, compiled from a survey of

more than 13,000 stations across Texas, average gasoline prices statewide have increased 5.9 cents

per gallon over the past week.

SEE PRICES, A3

HOW TO SAVE AT THE PUMP

1. Fill Up Earlier in the Week

Prices often rise heading into the weekend as travel demand increases. Monitoring prices Monday through Wednesday can sometimes yield savings.

2. Use Gas Price Apps

Apps such as GasBuddy allow drivers to compare prices across Victoria and surrounding communities before heading to the pump.

3. Keep Tires Properly Inflated

Underinflated tires reduce fuel efficiency. Proper tire pressure can improve gas mileage by up to 3%.

4. Avoid Aggressive Driving

Rapid acceleration and hard braking

can lower fuel economy by 15% to 30% on highways.

5. Combine Trips

Reducing multiple short trips into one longer trip saves fuel and limits engine wear.

6. Consider Fuel Rewards Programs

Many local stations and grocery chains offer loyalty discounts that can reduce per-gallon costs.

7. Diesel Drivers: Plan Ahead

With diesel ranging from \$3.25 to \$3.49 locally, commercial drivers and farmers may benefit from filling up before projected national increases cross the \$3 gasoline threshold.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LIVESTOCK SHOW

Victoria Livestock Show concludes with annual auction

LINDSEY PLOTKIN

The 80th annual Victoria Livestock Show closed with the traditional auction, giving students a chance to showcase their livestock. Nearly 200 animals were listed on the sale sheet, a significantly lower number than previous years. Organizers say this was due to many exhibitors showing multiple species of animal.

Advertising Chair Robin Janecka said that overall, this year’s auction was a huge success, with every exhibitor taking home money. For the buyers, supporting the exhibitors is a way to give back to the students.

“The buyers who were there were very generous, and everybody participated,” Janecka said. “At this point, most of the animals are not available for meat, so there’s no resale involved. Essentially, the sale amount that the exhibitor gets is basically a donation from the buyer, because the buyer is not getting anything in return... The dollar amount

that’s changing hands on auction night is significantly less than it used to be, because the buyers don’t see that resale (money).”

Several of the steer exhibitors received between \$4,000-\$6,000 for their animals, if they had meat available.

In total, buyers spent over \$600,000, a total that Janecka expects to grow, as buyers can purchase “add-ons” starting at \$25 until the end of the week. Some years, Janecka said the total will reach over \$1 million with the add-ons.

“The grand champion steer is the most popular and the most exciting project of the night, and that was Derek Hempel (Guadalupe 4-H),” Janecka said. “We did have an exhibitor that pulled out your heart strings due to an illness, and her sister was up there holding her little sign for the auction. And that exhibitor brought in \$20,000 because, because she’s going through leukemia. 14 buyers pulled together to

SEE SHOW, A3

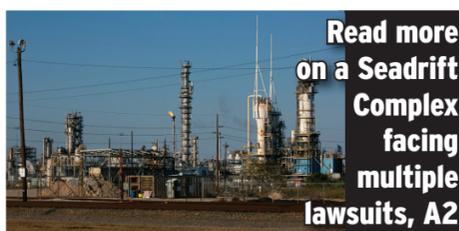


Derek Hempel walks his grand champion steer through the Victoria Livestock Show Arena Friday. He would go on to have the highest sale at Monday’s auction. (Lindsey Plotkin/Victoria Advocate)

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Five years in the ‘Communication Corner’ | **VIEWPOINTS A6**



Read more on a Seadrift Complex facing multiple lawsuits, **A2**

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