

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

VOL. 180, NO. 214 8 PAGES, ©2026, VICTORIA ADVOCATE | CMG TEXAS

From here. For here. Since 1846.

\$3.00

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Texas social studies overhaul nears end

JADEN EDISON
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

A rewrite of what Texas high schoolers learn in history, government and geography is expected to receive final approval this week.

The Texas State Board of Education will decide, for example, whether public school students must learn how “biblical imagery and founding principles of equality and justice from the Declaration of Independence” connect to Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech.

The board members will debate a recommendation that students learn about early Islam through the

lens of “the Prophet Mohammed’s brutal military campaigns against Jewish and Christian tribes, the normalization of slavery, and the taking of female captives as harem slaves.”

Another proposal would ensure students graduate with the ability to describe arguments against “the modern welfare state that emerged from continued expansion of Great Society programs.” The Great Society refers to President Lyndon B. Johnson’s 1960s policy agenda that sought to abolish poverty and inequality.

Final revisions to the high school courses come after the board’s Republican majority approved

changes to Texas’ K-8 social studies materials in June alongside a mandatory reading list that includes Bible stories.

The group postponed four upper level courses after members expressed concerns about rushing the process and potentially causing unintended errors. Monday was the first opportunity for the board to make progress on the remaining classes, with final votes expected Friday.

The contentious process to rewrite social studies has stretched several years. The board delayed changes to the courses in 2022 after pressure from conservative lawmakers who complained about

how students would learn about topics such as race and gender.

Those leaders and activists now champion the current proposals, which they view as the final battle in a push to rid Texas schools of instruction they say paints America in a negative light and trains students to hate the country.

Throughout the board’s deliberations, some Republicans have also attacked Islam, which they see as incompatible with their vision of Christianity.

Democrats, educators and students, meanwhile, criticize the minimization of racial, ethnic and cul-



Texas State Board of Education Chair Aaron Kinsey’s gavel lays on his table during a board meeting where votes are expected on various proposals, among them a new social studies curriculum and required reading lists to include Christian stories across the state’s public K-12 schools, in Austin, on June 26, 2026. (REUTERS/Joel Angel Juarez)

tural diversity reflected in U.S. and world history courses, as well as the materials’ hefty emphasis on Christianity. Hundreds of people have testified

at meetings that often extended overnight, well into the early morning.

Many teachers have said

SEE EDUCATION, A3

BUSINESS



Haven Clinic Executive Director Heather Beard cuts the Victoria Chamber of Commerce ribbon surrounded by Haven Clinic staff and board members on Monday. (Lindsey Plotkin/Victoria Advocate)

EXPANDING CARE

Haven Clinic opens second Crossroads location in Victoria

LINDSEY PLOTKIN

The Haven Clinic and Resource Center cele-

brated the opening of its Victoria location Monday, marking its second clinic in the Crossroads eight

years after opening its first location in Port Lavaca. The clinic provides early pregnancy care and

resources to expectant families anonymously and at no cost.

Haven Clinic Executive Director Heather Beard said the organization saw a need for a Victoria location after noticing how many patients were traveling from Victoria to Port Lavaca for services.

“We noticed that about 25% of all of our clients were driving all the way from Victoria to come to get our free services, and 60 miles round trip is not free,” Beard said. “We knew that there was a need here in Victoria for our services, and we started praying and we started fundraising, and it took us almost five years of just waiting for the right doors to open and God to provide the money, and here we are.”

SEE CLINIC, A3



The Haven Clinic offers free pregnancy services to expecting families, including a free boutique and parenting classes. (Lindsey Plotkin/Victoria Advocate)

TRAVEL

Victoria County approves \$510K airport tower grant

JAKOB GURLEY

The Victoria County Commissioners Court approved a \$510,069 Federal Aviation Administration grant Monday to help fund the rehabilitation of the air traffic control tower at Victoria Regional Airport.

Lenny Llerena, airport/FBO executive director, told commissioners the award is the second FAA grant the county has received for the tower rehabilitation project.

The grant covers 95% of \$536,915 in project costs, with the county responsible for the remaining \$26,846, Llerena said.

The funding completes the financing needed for the tower rehabilitation, part of an overall project estimated to cost about \$2.2 million.

“This represents 95% of the whole amount,” Llerena told commissioners. “The 5% that is the county share will be \$26,846. And this makes the project whole.”

Commissioners unanimously approved the grant.

The court also authorized negotiations for the purchase of a new airport sweeper after receiving three bids for the equipment.

Industrial Disposal Supply Co., which submitted a bid of \$369,030.31 for a Temco sweeper, was identified as the winning bidder.

Llerena said the bid documentation had been submitted to the FAA, which is assisting the county with funding for the equipment. The purchase is also expected to be funded through a 95% FAA grant, with the county responsible for the remaining 5%.

Commissioners authorized county officials to begin contract negotiations with the winning bidder, contingent on receipt of the FAA funding.

The projects are part of ongoing efforts to improve facilities and equipment at Victoria Regional Airport.

Jakob Gurley is a multimedia journalist with the Victoria Advocate. He can be reached at jakob.gurley@vicad.com.



The Victoria Regional Airport air traffic control tower is undergoing a roughly \$2.2 million rehabilitation project, with a \$510,069 Federal Aviation Administration grant approved Monday covering 95% of the latest phase. (Lindsey Plotkin/Victoria Advocate)

INSIDE

Privilege of political connections

VIEWPOINTS, A4



Discover Victoria's newest Pilates studio. Read more on A2.

GAS PRICES

SPEEDY STOP

2009 Houston Highway, Victoria

(As of 11:15 a.m. Monday. Prices subject to change.)

REGULAR:

\$3.41

DIESEL:

\$4.88

INSIDE

- A1 MAIN
- A2 CROSSROADS
- A3 WEATHER
- A4 VIEWPOINTS
- A5 SPORTS
- A6 COMICS
- A7 DIVERSIONS
- A8 CLASSIFIEDS

Subscribe **361-574-1200**
Report News **361-580-NEWS**

