

## **UHV honors Advocate business reporter**

April 17, 2005

Thomas Doyle, business reporter for the Victoria Advocate, was awarded a plaque last week as the University of Houston-Victoria Small Business Development Center's Small Business Journalist of the Year.

Carole Parks, director of the center, said in a press release that Doyle was chosen because of his factual, in-depth coverage of issues affecting the Victoria business sector.

"The main reason we nominated Thomas is because he is so very accurate and he had worked very hard to get a good understanding of our area economy," Parks commented after Doyle was presented with the award at a luncheon on Wednesday. "He seems to care about small business. We liked the fact that he is very ethical and very fair and accurate. He works really hard to get all sides of the story."

The UHV Small Business Development Center serves the 11 counties of Victoria, Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Karnes, Lavaca and Refugio counties. It is part of a nationwide business management assistance program that offers individual confidential counseling, business training and referrals.

Each year since 1963, one week has been designated nationally as Small Business Week, Parks said, the week being this year from May 2-6. As part of the annual event, district, regional, state and national awards are given to recognize individuals representing business owners, financial services providers, exporters, young entrepreneurs, small business journalists or women, family, or veteran-owned businesses.

The nomination for Doyle was in conjunction with the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, with the executive director of the chamber, Phyllis Hunt, contributing a letter of nomination, Parks said.

This was the first time the local SBDC had nominated a person in the media, Parks said.

"We decided his contribution to small business was outstanding," Parks said.

The Small Business Administration, based in San Antonio, did not choose Doyle for the state award, Parks said, but "he gets our vote."