



COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO CTI  
*The* Gonzales Inquirer



INSIDE

- Come and Take It band bios
- Schedule of Events
- History of Come and Take It
- Festival site map



# PRIDE OF TEXAS



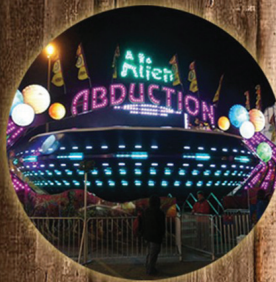
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# Welcome to COME AND TAKE IT

On behalf of this year's Come and Take It Committee, we would like to extend an invitation to the citizens of Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas history fans, and the surrounding communities to attend the premier annual celebration in Gonzales — Come and Take It.

As in years past, this event will begin on Friday afternoon with free live music, local eats, and carnival. Saturday will start with the celebration parade and continue throughout the day with many events including the battle reenactment at Pioneer Village, the Chicken Flying Contest, Washer Tournament, free live music and entertainment on the square, as well as tasty local food and drinks. The crowning of Miss Gonzales County happens at 5 p.m. on Saturday, along with the naming of the Miss Gonzales County Royal Court. And, as is tradition, the weekend will wrap up Sunday with more food and drink, classic car show, T-bone cook-off, and polka music from the Shiner Hobo Band. The Come and Take It Committee works year round to ensure the success of each Come and Take It Celebration, and we want to thank each member of the committee for their hard work and dedication to the event.

We thank our remarkable sponsors. The generous donations from our sponsors represent approximately half of the money required to put this event on every year. It is with these donations that allow us to bring quality entertainment to Gonzales each year without the need to charge admission to the music venue.

We would also like to thank the City of



Gonzales for its continued support. It wouldn't be possible to get the event off the ground if it wasn't for the help and hard work of the members of the parks, streets, electric and water/wastewater departments at the City.

And of course, we need to thank the non-profit organizations in our community that work very hard every year to provide local flavor in food and beverages for the event. As the leaders of these organizations know, it is getting harder and harder to find volunteers to support these organizations in their fundraising efforts, and it takes a lot of volunteers to run a three-day event such as this. If you have some time and would like to volunteer, even just a few hours, working with one of these organizations can make huge difference.

We look forward to seeing everyone over the Come and Take It Celebration weekend. Please come out and enjoy!

COME AND TAKE IT!

## The Gonzales Inquirer

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# The tiny cannon that SPARKED a REVOLUTION

**I**t's time again for "Come and Take It" in Gonzales County, when we celebrate the first shot fired in the Texas Revolution for independence from the Republic of Mexico. The date of the battle was Oct. 2, 1835. The fighting was sparked by the request of the Mexican government for the return of a cannon previously loaned to the citizens of Gonzales for protection from hostile Indians.

So how did Gonzales obtain the cannon in the first place? The Bexar Archives has a copy of the letter sent by Green DeWitt to the Mexican government in 1831 requesting the frontier firepower to protect the settlement from Indian incursions. The letter was written in Spanish, for which all official correspondence was required to be. Such were the times.

By 1835, the climate had changed in the relations between the Texians and the Mexican government. Sacrifices had been made by the settlers, and the colonization terms previously set by the government had been changed. Emotions were frayed, and tensions were high. The time was ripe for revolution.

The Texians could no longer be tethered in their quest for liberty and independence. They could no longer submit to the tyrannical acts of Antonio de Padua María Severino López de Santa Anna y Pérez de Lebrón, who you may have heard of by the shortened version: Santa Anna, the "Napoleon of the West."

The hearts of the citizens of the would explode in concert with the roar of the cannon: Freedom is ours! Freedom has come! Freedom is our destiny! Come and Take It! And that is part of our history, the history of Gonzales, the birthplace of Texas independence.



Gonzales, Lexington of Texas, fired Salute commemorating 100th anniversary Texas Independence March 2, 1936. Replica of Original Gonzales Cannon and Flag.



# Come and Take It PARADE

Everyone loves a parade, and entries come from near and far to visit Gonzales with their floats, marching band, tractors, old cars and much more. This year's Come and Take It Celebration parade is on Saturday, Oct. 5 starting at 10:30 a.m. The parade will start at the intersection of College and St. Louis streets and end at the intersection of Badger and St. Paul streets.

Please look out for street closures when approaching the route.





This year's parade marshal is Ret. Lt. Col. Kenneth McGinty, a 1962 Gonzales High School graduate. McGinty served nearly 22 years in the military, receiving two Legions of Merits, two Bronze Stars with "V" device for valor and heroism, two Purple Hearts for wounds in action and a Vietnam Cross for valiance.



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Sun. 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

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# New queen to be CROWNED

The new Gonzales County Royal Court will be announced during the Come and Take It Celebration, with the crowning of the new queen taking place on Saturday, Oct. 6 at 5 p.m. Whoever is crowned Miss Gonzales County will have the responsibility of representing the city of Gonzales in various events such as attending parades.





# live music AT THE SQUARE

## FRIDAY

### **Damon Curtis & The Nomads, 8-9:30 p.m.**

Influenced by Keith Whitley and George Strait, Damon Curtis of Moulton, Texas used his love of music to pursue a career in the industry.

Damon began playing in local bars and eventually grew a following throughout Texas.

After wrapping up his debut EP "Changing Lanes," Damon Curtis & The Nomad released their first single "Here's to Goodbye" in 2018. Current members include Damon Curtis (lead vocals and acoustic), Taylor Treviño (lead guitar and backup vocals), Bobby Bowlin (fiddle, guitar and backup vocals) and Mark Evans (drums and backup vocals).



### **Brandi Behlen, 6-7:30 p.m.**

Gonzales County's own Brandi Behlen opens Come and Take It weekend as she takes the stage from 6-7:30 p.m. The young country singer/songwriter has performed all over Texas and beyond. Her voice is energetic, yet uplifting and relatable. Behlen's new record is set to release in late 2019.

### **Johnny Bush, 10-11 p.m.**

Country music singer/songwriter Johnny Bush makes his return to Gonzales as the "Country Caruso" closes out Friday night. The legendary country star is known best as the writer of Whiskey River, a top hit sung by Willie Nelson. Johnny Bush has some top charted songs of his own including You Gave Me a Mountain,

What a Way to Live  
and There  
Stands  
the Glass.





# SATURDAY

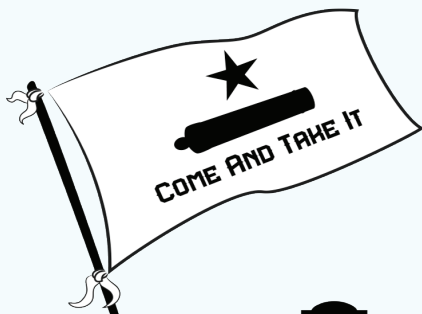
## Los Gavilanes

**2-3:30 p.m.**

Los Gavilanes open up Saturday's packed lineup with their mariachi. A Biergarten favorite, Los Gavilanes will perform from 2-3:30 p.m.

## Landry & Company 4-6 p.m.

A three-piece family band, Landry & Company, based out of Louisiana, blends a style of country, rock and blues with their original music. The oldest son Landry Wilkinson plays the guitar, youngest son Cardis Wilkinson is on the bass and keys and dad Steve Wilkinson is on the drums. Landry & Company covers music in the styles of ZZ Top, B.B. King, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Allman Brothers, Stoney Larue, Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Otis Redding, Jerry Reed, Marshall Tucker Band, Cross Canadian Ragweed, Hank Williams, John Mayer, the Eagles, Delbert McClinton, Funky Meters, and many others.



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# SATURDAY



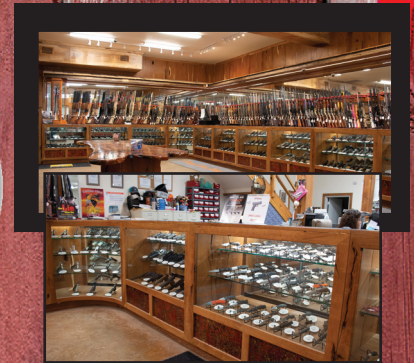
## **Los Chamacos 6-7:30 p.m.**

Founded in 1982, Los Chamacos are a hit with festival and dancehall fans, using their dance moves to entertain their live show guests. Their hit singles include "Yolanda," "Como Te Llamas Paloma," "Ex-Novia," "Pajaro Negro," "Un Puno de Tierra," "Un Complejo," "Llevate Tu Corazon," "Amor de Todos," "Amandote," "Los Dos Juramos," and "Amor Libre." Current members include Roel Joslin, Edward "Chato" Ordonez, Ruben Mendoza and Gilbert Fierros Jr.

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## SATURDAY

### Janie Fricke 8-9:30 p.m.

Janie Fricke sang most of her life beginning her career singing "in a little church up the road," in Indiana. From county fairs to corporate trade shows, live concerts, in recording studios, or before millions on television, Fricke's individual sound and performance personality

has captivated audiences around the world. Frincke's top hits include Don't Worry 'Bout Me Baby, He's a Heartache and You're Heart's Not In It.



### Lee Roy Parnell 10-11 p.m.

Texas' own Lee Roy Parnell headlines Come and Take It as he takes the stage from 10-11 p.m. Parnell combines the influences of blue-eyed soul, delta blues, road house rock, southern boogie, Texas swing, and gospel. The singer/songwriter has hits dating back to 1990, with his most recent album Midnight Believer out since 2017.





# SUNDAY



## **Shiner Hobo Band 1-5 p.m.**

Sunday concludes the festival with traditional favorites the Shiner Hobo Band. They will play from 1-5 p.m. The Shiner Hobo Band gained fame in 1936 under the direction of Emmett Busch, with a toilet plunger as his baton. The Hobos marched and played in Shiner and surrounding towns, displaying a Hobo banner. They entertained crowds everywhere they went. Mr. Spoetzl would accompany the band during local parades and went from saloons to bars treating everyone to Shiner Beer. The band played continuously until the untimely death of the beloved director, Joe Panus, on June 30, 1996. The band continues to entertain without a director. Various members serve as Master of jokes, and pick the next tune to be played. One of the classic features of the Hobo's is playing each polka and waltz from memory, with some tunes played from beginning to end as it was originally written. A new bus was purchased in 1999. The Shiner Hobo Band is a non-profit organization operating with elected officers and is sponsored by the Spoetzl Brewery in Shiner, Texas.

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# Chickens take FLIGHT

The Chicken Flying Contest is an annual staple for the Come and Take It Celebration. For years, children and brave adults have been trying their hand at seeing how far they can make a chicken “fly,” and more often than not, the failures are what make the competition so enjoyable! If you want to experience this for yourself, head on over to the fly course behind the main stage at 2 p.m. Saturday.



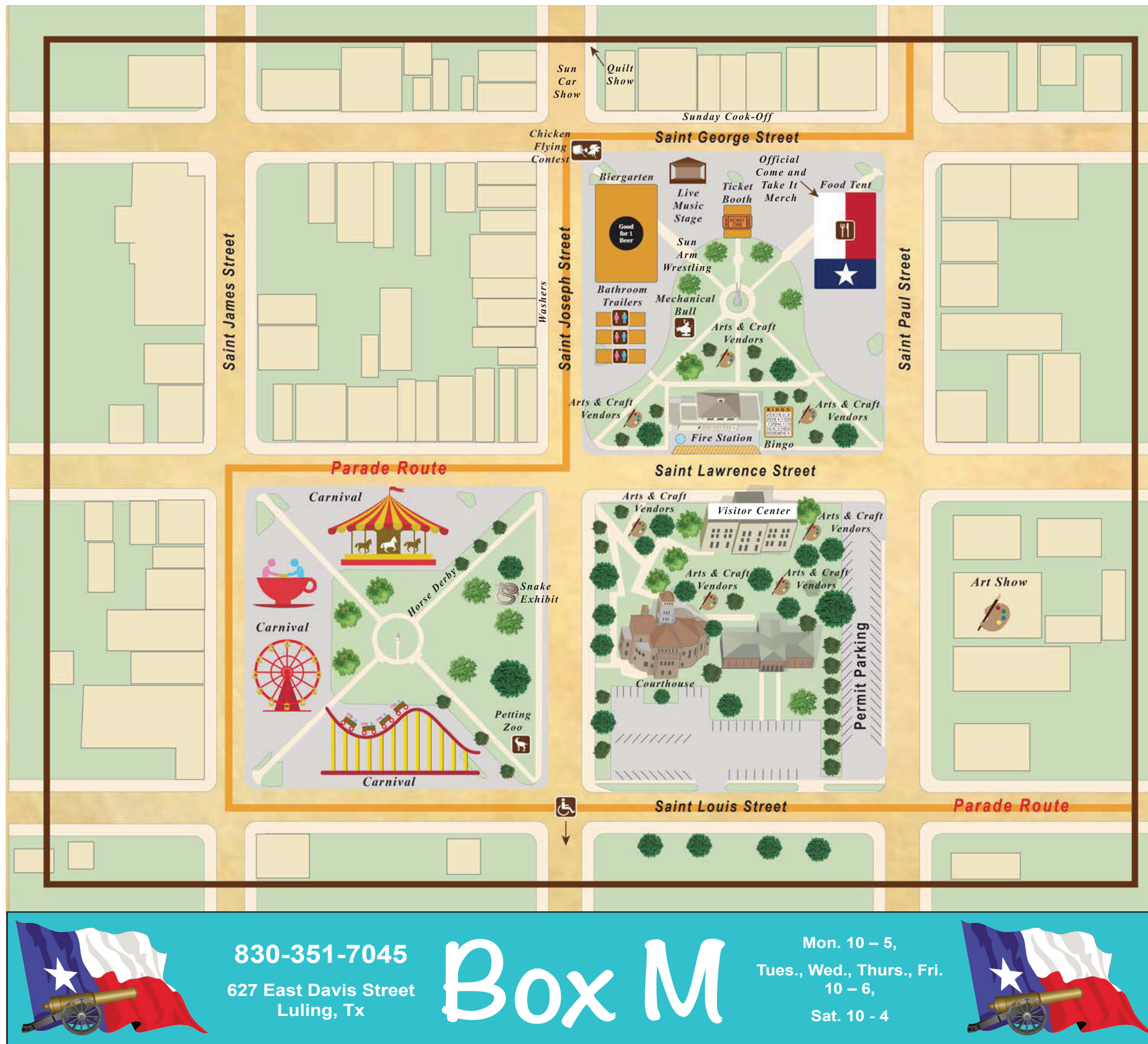


## FRIDAY OCT. 4

**8 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center Open  
**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Memorial Museum Open  
**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Pioneer Village (Admission \$6, kids under 12 \$3) US 183 N  
**5 p.m. - 7 p.m.** Art Show 426 St Paul FUMC  
**5 p.m. - 6 p.m.** Petting Zoo sponsored by Carriages, Camels & Critters LLC  
**6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Live music, Brandi Behlen  
**6 p.m. - 12 a.m. (midnight)** Ticket Booth Open  
**6 p.m. - 12 a.m. (midnight)** Biergarten & Food Booths Open  
**6 p.m. - 10 p.m.** Mechanical Bull  
**6 p.m. - 10 p.m.** Lions Club Bingo  
**8 p.m.** Lions Club Blackout Bingo  
**8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.** Live music, Damon Curtis & The Nomads  
**10 p.m. - 11 p.m.** Live music, Johnny Bush

## SATURDAY OCT. 5

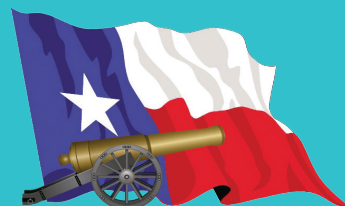
**7 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.** 5K Run/Walk Independence Park-Registration  
**8 a.m.** 5k Run/Walk Independence Park-Start  
**9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center Open  
**9 a.m. - 1 a.m.** Ticket Booth Open  
**9 a.m. - 1 a.m.** Biergarten & Food Booths Open  
**10 a.m.** Canoe Race Lake Wood to 183 S. River Bridge  
**7:30 a.m.** Parade Check-In & Pick Up Numbers  
**10:30 a.m.** Parade  
**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Pioneer Village (Admission \$6, Kids under 12 \$3) US 183 N  
**1 p.m. - 6 p.m.** Art Show 426 St. Paul UMC  
**1 p.m. - 6 p.m.** J.B Wells House Tour (Admission \$5) 833 Mitchell  
**1 p.m. - 6 p.m.** Texas Hero's Square Picture with longhorns  
**1 p.m. - 6 p.m.** Petting Zoo with Mr. Humphries, sponsored by Carriages, Camels & Critters LLC



**1 p.m. - 12 a.m. (midnight)** Mechanical Bull  
**2 p.m.** Chicken Flying Contest  
**2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Live music, Los Gavilanes  
**TBD** Nest Fresh Egg Toss  
**3 p.m.** Battle Re-Enactment Pioneer Village US 183N  
**4 p.m. - 6 p.m.** Live music, Landry & Co.  
**5 p.m.** Crowning of Miss Gonzales County  
**6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Live music, Los Chamacos  
**6 p.m. - 7 p.m.** Come and Take It Square Dancers  
**6:15 p.m. - 10 p.m.** Lions Club Bingo  
**8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.** Live music, Janie Fricke  
**8:30 p.m.** Lions Black Out Bingo  
**10 p.m. - 11 p.m.** Live music, Lee Roy Parnell  
**1 a.m.** Ticket Booth closes

## SUNDAY OCT. 6

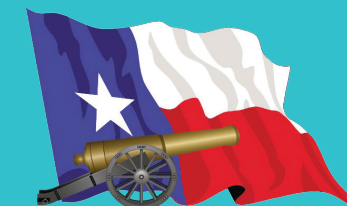
**8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.** Lions Club T-Bone, Chili & Beans Cook-Off Registration/ Set Up  
**9 a.m. - 11 a.m.** Set Up Car Show  
**11 a.m.** Ticket Booth Opens  
**11 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Biergarten & Food Booths Open  
**12 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Petting Zoo with Mr. Humphries, sponsored by Carriages, Camels & Critters LLC  
**12 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Mechanical Bull  
**12:30 p.m.** DRT Memorial Service Museum 414 Smith St.  
**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Live music, Shiner Hobo Band  
**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Memorial Museum Open  
**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Pioneer Village (Admission \$6, Kids under 12 \$3) US 183 N  
**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Art Club 426 St. Paul UMC (Food, Silent Auction)  
**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Lions Club Bingo  
**3 p.m.** Car Show Awards  
**4 p.m.** T-Bone, Chili, Bean Cookoff Awards  
**5 p.m.** Ticket booth closes



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# DRT sponsoring memorial service

In Gonzales at the turn of the century, there was much interest in preserving the legacy of the forefathers who had fought for Texas independence. In 1903 Mrs. J. B. Wells Sr. and her daughter Effie Wells Bright were among the 44 charter members that formed the Gonzales Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Each year since the first Come and Take It celebration in 1961, the Gonzales Chapter has held a memorial service in honor of "Gonzales Day" one of the Official Honor Days of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. The Gonzales Chapter invites everyone to attend this year's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Service to be held at the Gonzales Memorial Museum, 414 Smith Street at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6. Mrs. J. B. "Josephine Henry" Wells' accomplishments will be honored in this year's Gonzales Honor Day Service.

Mrs. Wells celebrated the many contributions of her maternal Grandfather, James Hodges, who was an independent settler purchasing the 17,000-acre Jose Maria Salinas grant adjacent to Green DeWitt's Colony. He then moved his family of seven children to this area in the late 1820's by wagon train bringing livestock, furnishings, plants and seeds to start their new life. She was proud of his settling in this area, his participation in the fight for independence, his part in establishing the Republic, and in the growth of the State of Texas. She accu-

mulated family treasures such as a dresser brought by ox cart when the family moved to their new land. When asked by her grandfather what she wanted for a wedding gift, her request was a simple pottery sugar bowl that was buried by her family during The Runaway Scrape.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells both worked very hard for the fortune they created, but their treasures were the family keepsakes collected over the years. The stories of these accomplishments were told every Sunday during lunch with the sugar bowl proudly displayed in its place of honor on the table. Following a living estate, her beloved home, furnishings and collections were gifted to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and to the Gonzales Chapter as custodians. In order to continue to share Mrs. Wells stories, the T. N. Matthews-J. B. Wells House is opened to the public by special appointments, on the first Saturday of each month, and for Historic Homes Association tours. Some 195 years of history can be seen and the family stories about these collections are told with each tour, keeping alive the history Mrs. Wells loved so dearly.

Plan to join with the community at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6 at the Memorial Museum to celebrate the true meaning of Come & Take It, to



hear about the many accomplishments through the years that have honored those who fought for the freedom we celebrate today. All members of the Hodges, Henry, and Wells descendants will be asked to join in laying a wreath at the Immortal 32 Monument. For more information, follow Gonzales Chapter Daughters of the Republic of Texas Facebook or contact the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce at 830-672-6532.



# Relive the first shot of Texas **INDEPENDENCE**

The old Come and Take It spirit lives at Pioneer Village on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 3 p.m. Authentic battle re-enactors gather at the unique collection of period homes to hatch a plan to deny Mexican forces from taking their precious cannon. As shouts of "come and take it" ring out, Mexican soldiers meet Texian rebels in an open field to trade fire over the occasion. The costuming is not to be missed on this one.







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# 24th Annual Come & Take It CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The CTI Car Show will take place Sunday, Oct. 6, with set up from 9-11 a.m. and awards at 3 p.m. Trophies are awarded to first and second place as well as a Best of Show award.







# Tournament honors fallen servicemen

The class of 1964, in memory of the Gonzales County servicemen who were killed in Vietnam, has created a scholarship fund to graduating students and faculty members in pursuit of advanced education in the educational system. This fund was started some three years ago and has provided several opportunities for those who wish to continue their education. Thus far there have been three awardees who have taken advantage of the scholarship opportunities.

The scholarship fund was originally named after Thomas D. Chennault, as there were seven Gonzales County servicemen killed during the Vietnam conflict, his name was chosen to represent all seven County servicemen killed in action. The scholarship fund was initially funded by several classes from Gonzales High School. It was decided in meetings this summer that the scholarship fund should be opened up to all the school districts of Gonzales County. With this in mind there needed to be some avenues to increase the funds of the scholarship opportunity by holding numerous events that could add to the benefit funds and ensure continuation of the scholarship opportunities. The class members have decided that one of the first opportunities to grow the benefit fund would be to hold a Memorial Golf Tournament during the Come and Take it Celebration on the Oct. 5 and will be held at the Gonzales In-

dependence Golf Course. It will be called the Inaugural Come and Take It First Memorial Tournament, in remembrance of the county's "fallen but not forgotten" soldiers of the Vietnam era war. Our hope is that this Inaugural Come and Take It Memorial Tournament would provide a basis for enhancing scholarship opportunities all across the Gonzales County area and provide continued funds growth and sustainment in memory of our fallen heroes.

The tournament will be a one day event and be limited to the first 54 two-man teams signing up. It will be played at the Gonzales Independence Golf Course and the proceeds will go to the benefit fund which is officially termed "The Community Foundation of the Gonzales Area, (CFGGA)."

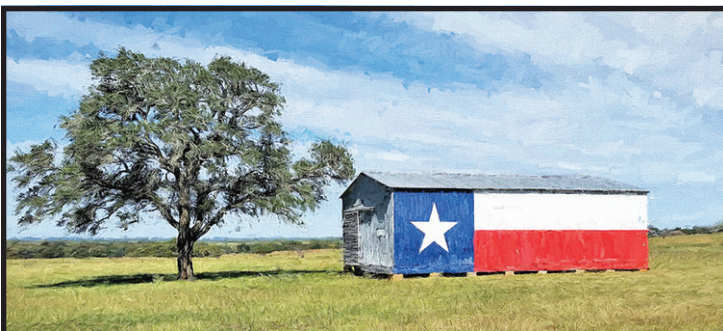
This 501-C3 organization is intended to provide sponsors and contributors with tax deductions when supporting the Gonzales County, student and faculty educational scholarship opportunities.

There will be flyers out in the county area requesting sponsors and donors to support this worthwhile endeavor.

The Gonzales County, fallen but not forgotten are:

Captain Thomas D. Chennault, Corporal Louis Schautteet, Specialist 4 David Tomas, Sergeant Robert Asher, Lance Corporal C. Bolden, Corporal James Tuch and Corporal B. Baker.





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Rosalinda Gonzales, Director

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

~ Luke 2:11



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**MON – FRI. 11 A.M. – 12 A.M., SAT. 11 A.M. – 1 A.M.**  
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# Family friendly FUN FOR ALL

Whether it's the petting zoo, Texas Snakes & More Display, mechanical bull, washer pitching tournament or even the various art activities such as face painting, there is plenty of fun to be had during the Come and Take It Celebration this year.





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Welcome to  
Come & Take It



**County Road 348, Gonzales, Texas**



# Noon Lions Club COOK-OFF

The Gonzales Noon Lions Club will be hosting the cook-off on Sunday, Oct. 6 in downtown Gonzales, Confederate Square. The T-Bone, chili, and beans cook-off set up and registration will take place from 8-9:30 a.m. Awards will be given at 4 p.m.





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Gonzales, Texas 78629

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5 a.m. - 10 p.m. Thurs. - Sat



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[www.carawayfordgonzales.com](http://www.carawayfordgonzales.com)

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# Check out the **Pride of Texas** **CARNIVAL**

Looking for a carnival to go to? Look no further than the Pride of Texas Shows carnival located on Texas Heroes Square during the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture's annual Come and Take It Celebration.

The carnival is put on each year by Pride of Texas Shows and is wildly popular. Over the years the rides have proven to be safe, the grounds have been kept clean and everyone has had a great time playing a wide variety of games and riding thrilling rides.

Pride of Texas Shows is a family owned and operated business, originally founded by Ed and Betty Burlingame in the

1960s. In 2006, the company was purchased from the Burlingames by Doug and Christy Barton. It is now led by father-and-son team of Doug and Christopher Barton. Both Doug and Christopher were born and raised in the business. Doug has more than 40 years of experience in the outdoor amusement industry. His expertise covers the entire industry from master electrician (which is what he is best known for) to running a large corporation.

Pride of Texas Shows specializes in providing rides, games, and food concessions to fairs, festivals, and events throughout the states of Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma.







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