A PRODUCT OF



Class of 2018

GONZALES









Table of Contents



Gonzales Valedictorian and Salutatorian	. 4	ŀ
Gonzales graduates	. 5)



Nixon-Smiley Valedictorian and Salutatorian	14
Nixon-Smiley graduates	15



Shiner St. Paul Valedictorian and Salutatorian	20
Shiner St. Paul graduates	21



Waelder Valedictorian and Salutatorian	22
Waelder graduates	23

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Inquirer,
622 St. Paul, Gonzales, Texas 78629
is a periodical postage paid
at Gonzales, Texas and
additional mailing offices.
Postmaster: For change of address, notify
The Gonzales Inquirer,
P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, Texas 78629-0616

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Terry Fitzwater

MANAGING EDITOR

José Torres

STAFF REPORTER

Erik McCowan

ADVERTISING SALES

Shelly Stamport

BOOKKEEPER

Sanya Harkey sanya.harkey@gonzalesinquirer.co

TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION

Krystal Cantu Jaime Eureste

GENERAL MANAGER

Brandi Chionsini

You can reach us at:

830-672-2861 Fax 830-672-7029

publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com

www.gonzalesinquirer.com



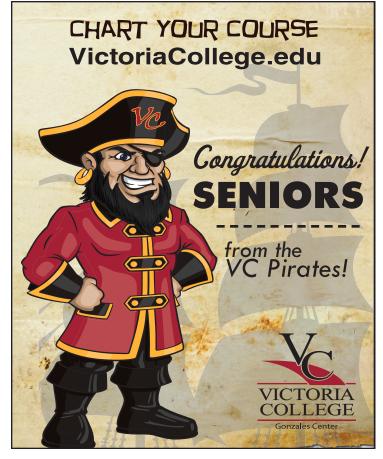
Come see us Today!

Loans up to $^{\$}1,380^{00}$

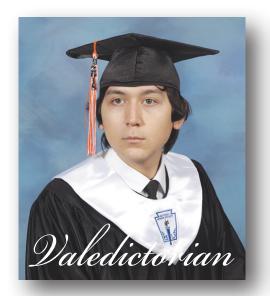
HOLIDAY FINANCE

Serving Texas For Over 45 Nears

830-672-6556 • 1-888-562-6588 506 St. Paul, Gonzales



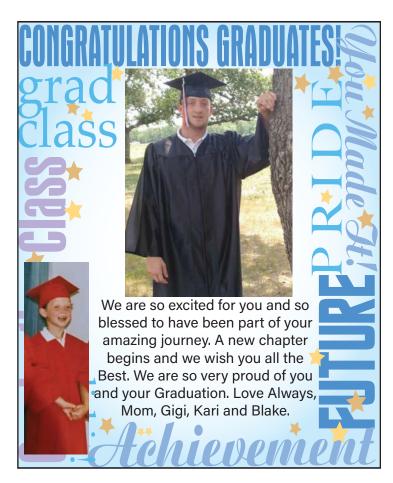


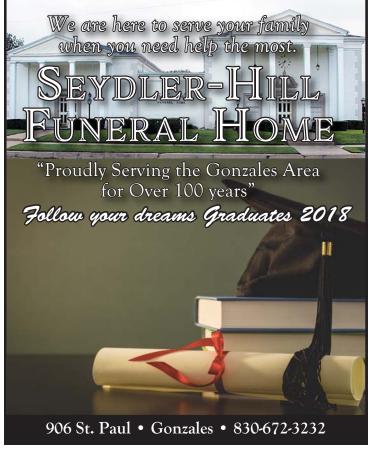


Eric Pecina



Abigail Morgan













Daniel Almaguer



Roman Almaguer



Jonathan Alvarez



Corey Anzaldua



Sabrina Arizpe



Ancel Atkinson



Jason Baker



Bradley Bakken



Braden Barta



Gerardo Bernal



Clayton Boatright



Kristina Bowers



Joshua Branch



Kandace Caldwell



Sarah Camacho



Gage Camarillo



Gracelyn Camarillo



Noah Camarillo



Colby Cantu



Paige Cantu



Romy Cantu



Rheana Cardenas



Brandon Carrizales



Kalub Carrizales



Alma Castaneda Cardoza



Joan Castillo



Alaisa Chavez



Kelly Christian



Madison Condel









Alyson Cruz



Calvin Davis



Travis Decker



Joey Deleon



Nayeli Deleon



Julian Deluna



Cullen Eppright



Jose Escoto



Steven Flowers



Isaiah Franklin



Bernardino Gallardo



Jessica Gallegos



Leslie Gallegos



Saul Gamez



Andres Gamez Reyes



Alliya Garcia Vega



Ashlyn Garner



Haley Garza



Keaton Glass



Alexandra Gomez



Taryn Gonzales



Toby Gonzales



Tyler Gonzales



Adela Gonzalez



Alexis Gonzalez



Julian Gonzalez



Jonathan Gudino



Maria Guevara



Yoselin Gutierrez





Janisha Hastings



Jacob Havel



Hailey Hernandez



Jose Hernandez



Levi Hernandez



Sofia Hernandez



Sylvia Hernandez



Amaya Hunt



Adrian James



Jaylen Johnson



Robert Johnson



Jaun Jordan



Taylor King



Tyler King



Cameron Kluting



Keaton Kuntschik



Brandon Leal



Juan Licea



James Lofland



Cesar Lopez



Gladis Lopez



Haley Lopez



Kimberly Lucio



Lindsey Malatek



Celia Manzanares



Donovan Marmolejo



Isabel Martinez



Jesus Martinez



Lizbeth Martinez



Ryan Martinez





Kayla Mason



Joshua Massey



Anthony Mata



Mariah McBride



Trevion McNeil



Maricruz Medina



Matilde Medina



Alpha Medrano



Jamie Mendoza



Karla Mireles



Abigail Morgan



Abby Morrow



Omar Munguia



Justice Musick



Josue Navejar



Ty Oliver



Erbin Orduna



Eric Pecina



Veronica Pecina



Jeffery Pekar



Christian Pena



Isabel Perez



Stephanie Perez



K'Leigh Pish



Kelsey Polk



Jared Poteet



Leslie Ramirez



Lilliana Ramirez



Nicolas Ramirez



Suriel Rangel-Castillo









Lacee Reyna



Garrett Rickman



Aaren Rocha



Desaray Rodriguez



Joley Rodriguez



Martin Romero



Blanca Romo



Melinda Rosales



Hannah Rowland



Esmeralda Salazar



Esperanza Salazar



Adan Sanchez



Valeria Sanchez



Alexis Scott



Kali Sepulveda



Keanna Smith



Jaslyn Solis



Jose Solis



Evelyn Soto



Lizbeth Soto



Benjamin Ray Stone



Timtrell Stovall



Taegan Thwing



Tyler Valis



Ariel Vega



Isabel Vela



Fernanda Velazquez



Juan Velazquez



Emmanuel Villanueva Gonzalez



Gonzales High







John Villarreal



Seidy Villegas



Cassandra Walker



David West



Amerie White



Cody Whitfield



Spencer Yang



Presleigh Zella



Felix Zuniga



Marisol Zuniga





Alaisa Chavez



Alexis Gonzalez



Lindsey Malatek



Matilde Medina



Kelsey Polk



Hannah Rowland



Lizbeth Soto



Romy Cantu

NO **PHOTO AVAILABLE**

Clara Morales

NO РНОТО **AVAILABLE**

Brande Lead





Graduate Power

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2018!

800.223.4832 www.gvec.org



INTERNET I ELECTRIC I HOME

The Vaz Clinic, P.A.

Family Practice & TVC CLINICAL RESEARCH



Garth O. Vaz, M.D.

Veteran Owned and Operated

*All Insurances & VA Insurance Accepted *New Patients & Walk Ins Welcomed *Wellness Physical

1103 N. Sarah DeWitt Dr.

830-672-2424

Have fun in college

Editor's note: I write a version of this column every year for graduates with a few tweaks here and there. The overall theme is about the same. Don't forget to have fun in college.

ou're going to hear this a lot: "Today is the beginning of the rest of your life." Except real life doesn't quite start when you enter college. Consider college as the minor leagues. You haven't reached the majors quite yet but your time spent in the minors is vital.

To be more accurate, let's say graduation is the beginning of your training to live the rest of your life.

We all remember these rules we were taught growing up: Look both ways before crossing the street, don't take candy from strangers, nothing good happens after 2 a.m., always have a designated driver, liquor before beer you're in the clear, etc.

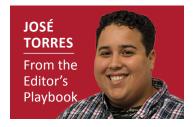
Though some of the above can be good tidbits of advice, there's one rule for me that reigns supreme.

Have fun.

This simple rule will take you far in reaching whatever goals you set for yourself whether it's success, happiness or maybe both, especially for those headed to college.

I imagine my entry into college is a bit peculiar to some here in county. I graduated high school in Germany because my dad was still in the military and our last duty station was overseas. Before Germany, my family lived in North Carolina, where we spent almost five years.

Knowing that I was going through senior year in a foreign country, there were no chances for campus visits, unless I (read: my parents) wanted to dish out that \$1000-plus plane ticket for me to do so. All my research came through the Internet, hoping that



the biggest decision I'd ever make in my life up to that point wouldn't also be the biggest mistake I'll ever make.

Then one day I get a message from one of my best friends, Adam. He tells me that he just checked out this school, the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

I remember him saying the facilities were great, it's not a big campus but the sports teams are Division I, so UNCG was far from a small school.

Then he said the phrase that pretty much convinced me to apply.

"We can be roommates."

Great thing about my friend, he knows how to have fun. So what better way to reintroduce myself to North Carolina life than to room with someone I know who is so outgoing that it would be criminal if I didn't meet any new friends.

That freshmen year I did meet some cool people, but because I was homesick (my family was an eight-hour flight away) I didn't maximize on my fun.

Sophomore year? That was a blast. My second semester of sophomore year I met another great friend named Eric. We became roommates that year and stayed together for a few more years.

After experiencing many (my student loans statement still tells me "too many") years in college, here's my advice:

• Live on campus if you can. That's how you meet new people. College is all about experiencing something different, cohabitating Make time for some fun. I know grades are important. You don't want to fall into that academic probation trap. But college isn't all about the books, it's about experiencing something different. I've been blessed to have lived in different places outside the country. There are those who I know who haven't been outside of their respective county, let alone state. Staying in your books or camping out at a library for most of your college life won't do you any good in the real world. Study, but afterwards, go out and do something where you're interacting with different kinds of people."

with those with different worldviews than you. It's hard to do all this while eating dinner or studying for a mid-term at home versus eating at the cafeteria or spending your time at the library or the study room in the dorms.

- If you're already living in the dorm, have an open-door policy. Eric had this tremendous idea of keeping the door open while we were in there. It forced us to keep a clean room while also attracting others to come in to say hey. I met a lot of great friends through this open-door policy.
- Don't feel "stuck" with your major. I started out school vying for a computer science major. Then I got cocky and added mathematics, thinking it would be easy to double major. A few failed classes later, I went down to a math minor and then dropped it altogether. Then finally I decided that computer science wasn't for me, but I had enough credits to get a minor in it, so I stuck with the minor and changed my major to English. It took me six years from start to finish to get my bachelor's degree but I am a much happier person now doing what I am doing than I was trying to get through computer science. If you're not happy with your major, don't feel stuck. Talk to some professors you trust. They can help you decide what path to take.

Which brings me to...

- Keep in contact with your professors. They have the answers. If you need their help outside of class, they will spend time to do so. College professors spent most if not all of their educational career on that specific topic they are teaching. Their courses are very important to them and they are more than willing to help any student who asks for it.
- Make time for some fun. I know grades are important. You don't want to fall into that academic probation trap. But college isn't all about the books, it's about experiencing something different. I've been blessed to have lived in different places outside the country. There are those who I know who haven't been outside of their respective county, let alone state. Staying in your books or camping out at a library for most of your college life won't do you any good in the real world. Study, but afterwards, go out and do something where you're interacting with different kinds of people.

Don't waste this great opportunity. This experience will open your eyes to a new world. In the classroom, turn in homework, try not to skip class, etc. But after the work, make time for some play. You're not going to get these years back. Make them valuable. Enjoy college. Have fun.

Safety tips for parents of teens traveling abroad

Graduating from high school is a significant milestone in the lives of young people. The next step for many teenagers after graduating from high school is to go off to college. But before teens make their way to college campuses, some may celebrate their graduations by traveling overseas without parental supervision for the first time.

Whether it's through a school-sponsored program or a graduation gift, overseas trips can be life-changing experiences for young people. Doing so without mom and dad in tow allows them to experience the sense of independence they will soon enjoy as college

While teenagers may look forward to traveling abroad, the parents they'll leave behind will no doubt experience some anxiety as their children travel thousands of miles away. But parents can take certain steps to reduce that anxiety without making trips less enjoyable for their sons and daughters.

- Stay in (digital) touch. Thanks to social media, parents no longer need to sit at home imagining what their wandering youngsters are doing in foreign countries. When sending children on overseas trips, parents can purchase international service for their children's phones so kids have access to social media websites and apps via their phones. Parents can then communicate with their children through such apps, asking kids to check in at the end of each day through direct messaging.
- Enroll youngsters in STEP. STEP, or the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, is free to U.S. citizens and nationals. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the service is invaluable to overseas travelers who, once enrolled, will receive important information about safety conditions from the embassy in their destination countries. It also makes it easier for embassies to contact travelers in case of emergencies like natural disasters, civil unrest or family emergencies.
- Make copies of travel documents. Before teens head overseas, parents should make multiple copies of important travel documents, including passports, travel itineraries, travel reservations (i.e., flight, hotel, etc.), and any bank and/or credit cards teens will be using while overseas. This can help local au-



While teenagers may look forward to traveling abroad, the parents they'll leave behind will no doubt experience some anxiety as their children travel thousands of miles away. But parents can take certain steps to reduce that anxiety without making trips less enjoyable for their sons and daughters.

thorities track travelers who have gone missing or help those travelers who have been victimized by thieves or criminals. Keep a copy of these documents at home and give teens a copy of each document to take with them as

• Document your teenager's medical history, including medications. Parents no doubt know their children's medical histories backwards and forwards, but teenagers may not be so familiar, and, even if they are, that familiarity won't be too useful if kids are unconscious. Create a file that documents your child's medical history, including all medications the child takes and any allergies he or she has, and make sure kids travel with it at all times. Medical practitioners overseas will find this invaluable if they need to treat teens.

• Discuss safety and overseas laws. Before kids head off, parents should have a lengthy discussion about safe travel and the importance of obeying laws in their destination countries. Make sure youngsters know to avoid walking alone at night and to resist strangers' offers of food or drinks. In addition, teenagers should abstain from consuming alcohol even if it's legal for them to do so in their destination countries, as their low tolerance for alcohol can put them in precarious

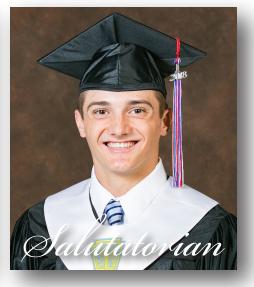
Overseas travel can change the lives of young people for the better. But parents of teens traveling abroad without parental supervision for the first time should work with their children to ensure they're safe for the duration of their trips.



Nixon-Smiley



Brandon Jacobo



Colby Newman









CLASS OF 2018 Nixon-Smiley



Mariela Abundis



John Alvarez



Raegan Atkins



Tyler Austin



Karley Brassell



Colt Brazeal



Valeria Campos



Leon Carrera



Elix Carrillo



Jacob Casas



Tatiana Castillo



Lonny Cook



Alexis DeLeon



Kiana Dyer



Antonio Flores



Arianna Flores



Ricardo Flores



Diana Gaytan



Gabriel Gidcumb



Jonah Goodwin



Hannah Gordon



Michael Heasley



Miranda Hernandez



Devin Hester



Elizabeth Hodge



Tapanga Ivey



Brandon Jacobo



Nixon-Smiley



Darian Jenks



Haley Kalisek



Briana Krueger



Shelby Lay



Natasha Lazo



Danielle Long



Noe Lopez



Mariela Macareno



Jake Martinez



Raylon McKinney



Scott McKinney



Chaelee Mejia



Maggie Mendez



Xavier Mendiola



Madison Mikesh



Matthew Mills



Jason Montoya



Brayan Morales



Sydney Newberg



Colby Newman



Colleen Newman



Yesenia Ochoa



Efren Olalde



Jesus Olvera



Jesau Osuna



Eric Perez



Luis Perez



Oscar Perez



Xavier Perez



Calvin Pyatt



Nixon-Smiley



Zachary Ramirez



Aaron Ramos



Francisco Reyes



Jorge Reyes



Reyna Reyes



Angelica Reyna



Marcella Rivas



Daniel Rodriguez



Ida Rogers



Maria Salinas



Reese Samford



Cody Schnitz



Emily Smith



Pierce Stewart



Tiara Sullivan



Gustavo Tirado



Jake Torres



Justice Torres



Valeria Torres



Elizabeth Tovar



Austin Trevino



Casey Ulrey



Rebecca Vair



Jeremiah VanZandt



Victoria Velasquez



Chelsey Venegas



Michael Venegas



Nelson Villagomez



Monica Yanes



Jason Yell

Productive ways to spend the summer after graduation

raduation is a momentous day in the lives of col-**▼** lege students. After years of schooling that dates all the way back to preschool or kindergarten, newly minted college graduates are finally ready to begin their professional lives.

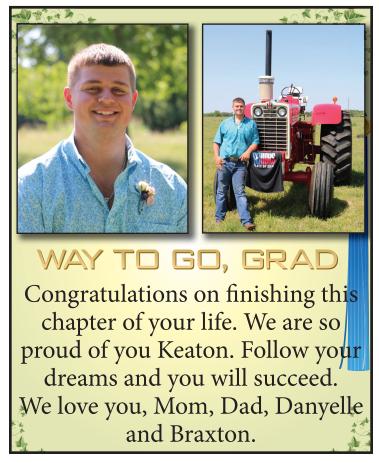
That can be a scary prospect for some students, especially those who graduate without jobs lined up. The summer after graduating from college can be a time like no other in the lives of new graduates. It can be easy to grow dejected as weeks or months go by without receiving a job offer. But spending the summer after graduation as productively as possible can help graduates overcome any dejection they might feel and increase their chances of landing a job.

- Contact career services offices at your alma mater. Career services offices can help recent graduates as they look for their first jobs out of college. Such offices may have access to job and internship opportunities that grads do not. In addition, they may coach grads on interviewing techniques and on ways to stand out in crowded job markets.
- Seek internships. If part- or full-time employment is proving elusive, don't be afraid to seek and ultimately accept internships, which can provide a way for grads to get their foot in the doors in certain industries. Summer internships may already be filled, so scour job boards for fall or winter internships.
- Start networking. Students who interned can get in touch with their past supervisors or mentors and find out if the company is hiring. Such people may be more inclined to bring someone with direct experience onboard — even if that experience was brief and unpaid. In addition, grads can connect with adjunct professors who work in their desired fields.
- When job hunting, don't get pigeon-holed by your major. Just because a student graduates with a particular degree does not mean he or she needs to look for work in that field. In fact, many companies may prefer entry-level applicants with degrees that are not specific to their industries so their new hires are blank slates who can be easily trained.
- Attend job fairs. While other graduates may be taking the summer off, enterprising grads looking for work should attend as many job fairs as possible. Graduates likely won't leave job fairs with employment offers in hand, but job fairs are a great way for grads to meet hiring managers and submit their résumés to potential employers.
- Customize a résumé for every job. Be sure the curriculum vitae is not static. Write and refine résumés for each job you apply for, mildly tweaking the wording or accomplishments to address the key phrases used in the job listing.

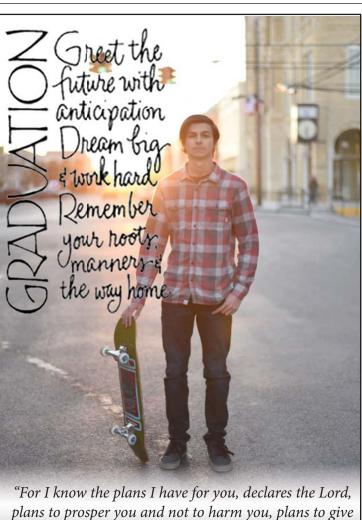
It can be tempting for recent college grads to spend the summers after graduation relaxing, but those who spend that time productively may lands jobs more quickly than those who do not.



It can be easy to grow dejected as weeks or months go by without receiving a job offer. But spending the summer after graduation as productively as possible can help graduates overcome any dejection they might feel and increase their chances of landing a job.







you hope and a future." Jeremiah 20:11

It seems like only yesterday that you brought home a kindergarten class picture with "Class of 2018" written on the bottom. At the time that seemed SO far away. Well, here it is. May 2018.... your high school graduation. From kindergarten through today, you have worked so hard to make your dreams come true. You set goals and you achieved them. Your family is so proud of the man you have become! A man that isn't afraid to be bold in his faith and let God lead the way. Continue on this path J.D. We can't wait to see what your future holds! We love you so much!

Dad, Mom, Kristyn, Mimi, Gramma, Uncle Chris, Auntie Jennifer, Christian, Jaxson, Uncle David, Auntie Crissy, Brookie, Brayden, Uncle Coy and Makayla



Shiner St. Paul



Andrew Wagner

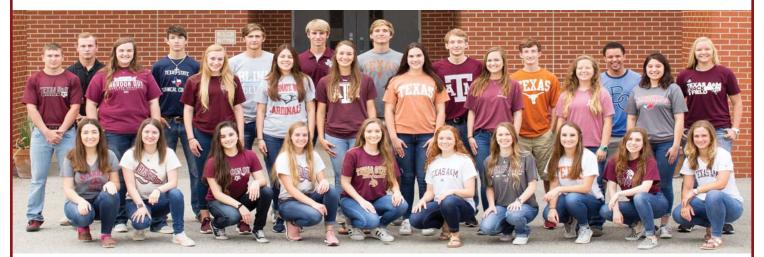


Elyssa Wagner



Darby Johnson

CONGRATULATIONS ST. PAUL CLASS OF 2018



100% of the 2017 SPH graduates have been accepted to institutions of higher education.

Photo By: Lori Raabe

Shiner Catholic School

St. Paul - St. Ludmila

424 St. Ludmila | PO Box 725 | Shiner, Texas 77984 | 361-594-3843 www.shinercatholicschool.org





Shiner St. Paul







Lillie Ann Bell



Parker Fayee Clay



Scarlett Rose Crawford



Jacob Paul Darilek



Jaydon Thomas Darilek



Sydney Nicole Grabarkievtz



River Jordan Haynes



Daniela Hinojosa



Krystin Marie Hodges



Emma Theresa Hull



Jack Janecek



Tre'zell Elijah Jenkins-Perry



Darby Loraine Johnson



Conor Gage Kresta



Kayla Brianne Kubenka



Kayla Marie Malatek



Taylor Elizabeth Mills



Mackenzie Katherine Parker



Pilar Flor Romero



Tiffany Anne Thomas



Nayeli Guadalupe Vega



Ashley Ruth Wachsmuth



Andrew Jacob Wagner



Elyssa Ann Wagner



Michael Patrick Wagner



Nathan Gerard Wagner



Jenna Marie Wenske



Waelder High



Ashlynn Noyola



Laisha Paramo Rangel











Waelder High



John Aguilar



Mirasol Aguilar



Abijah Alexander



Katie Benitez



Kashanna Durst



Isaiah Ewing



Fabiola Flores



Ke'Shaya Moore



Arturo Morales





Ashlynn Noyola



Alejandro Ontiveros



Laisha Paramo



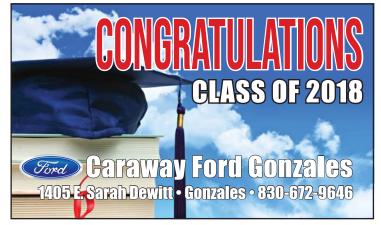
Alexis Porter



Malorie Puente

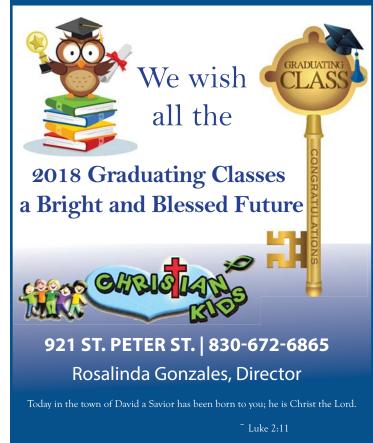


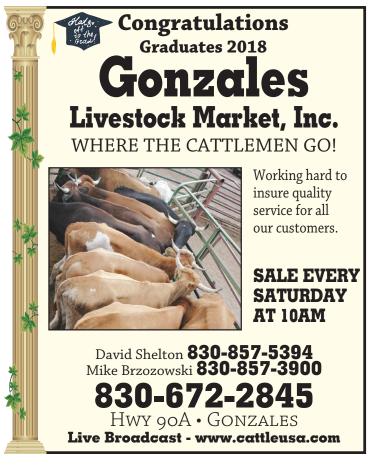
Daniel Sullivan

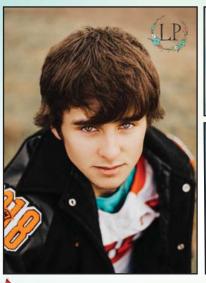
















We are so proud of you! Can't wait to see what the future holds! We love you! Mom, Royce & Maggie

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

-Jer 29:11