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Whether it's to learn about our history and the birthplace of Texas freedom, our hospitality, our wonderful fun events, or maybe you want to open your own business here because of our area's legendary work ethic, Gonzales is the place to be.

Located just minutes off I-10, Gonzales has a quaint small-town charm, yet is located close to Texas' biggest cities to have all the amenities of big city life. Gonzales is centrally located one hour south of the state capital of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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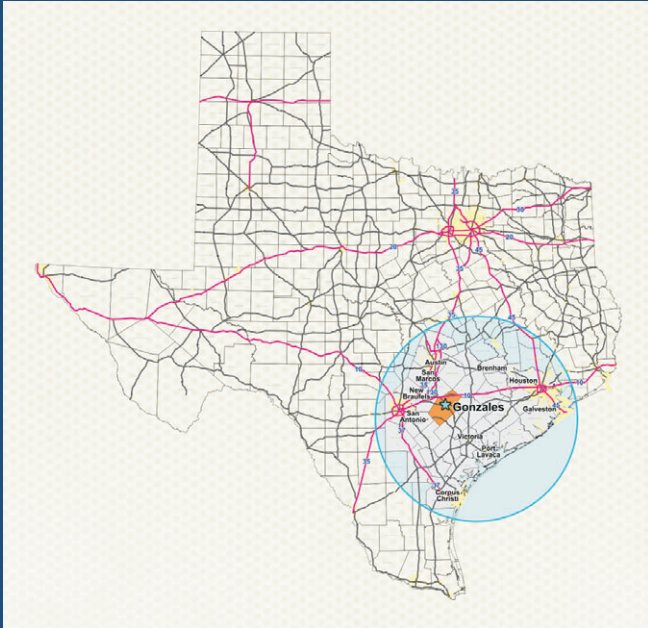
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- ★ Gonzales Chamber of Commerce
- ★ University of Houston
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History of “Come and Take It”

Under the leadership of Gen. Santa Anna, the government of Mexico was transformed into a military dictatorship, ignoring the Constitution of 1824, which had cost many lives and had secured liberties not previously enjoyed by the people. The state of Coahuila did not cooperate with Santa Anna's plans, and the state of Zacatecas rebelled, but was brutally crushed by the military. One of Santa Anna's "reforms" was to reduce the number of the militia to one soldier for every 500 inhabitants.

This arbitrary decree was a sufficient justification of Texas for her subsequent acts. Every one who knows the Texans, or who has heard of them, would naturally conclude that they never would submit to be disarmed.

Along the coast Mexican garrisons stepped up their campaign to stop smuggling and collect customs duties. At

Galveston they seized the Texas schooner Martha, loaded with supplies for the colonists. A message taken from a careless Mexican courier hinted that even more troops were on the way. Angrily the settlers burned some lumber ordered by newcomer Captain Tenorio at Anahuac.

William B. Travis had a better idea. Late in June he raised a company of 25 men and marched on Tenorio's headquarters. He dramatically gave the Mexicans 15 minutes to surrender or be put to the sword. Tenorio quickly capitulated.

Santa Anna decided that this was the time to finish off his enemies. During August he poured more troops into Texas and told his brother-in-law, General Martin Perfecto de Cos, to take personal command. Cos ordered the arrest of Travis and several other Texas troublemakers.

The Mexican leaders completely misinterpreted the situation. The Texans' real goal was to build a secure future without outside interference. They rebuked Travis because he seemed to be inviting a fight. Now they saw an infinitely greater threat: martial law, military occupation, the arrest of good friends.

Committees of safety sprang up in every town. The highly influential Telegraph and Texas Register hammered away for liberty and freedom. Then on Sept. 1 came an electrifying development — Stephen F. Austin suddenly reappeared from Mexican imprisonment.

Next week 1,000 people jammed the banquet given in his honor in Brazoria. The room fell silent as the trusted leader rose to speak. He had always preached

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Craft Beer and Wine Festival is a must do

The second annual Gonzales Inquirer Come and Taste It Craft Beer and Wine Festival is coming back to downtown Gonzales on April 26th and 27th. This wildly fun and entertaining event features over 75 craft beers from brewers from all over Texas, Michigan, Colorado and California plus over 12 different wines from four different Texas wineries.

Located on the famous Confederate Square in the heart of Gonzales, the Craft Beer and Wine festival is an outdoor party that features great beer, wine, food and outstanding music from Texas musicians.

Sponsored by Shiner Brewing, the festival opens on Friday night with the Kenneth Stewart Trucking VIP Come and Taste It celebration in the Something More Media Beer Tent. VIP ticket holders will have three hours to taste delicious food from Gonzales area restaurants and vendors, all the Shiner beer products and a sample of some of Texas' favorite local wines. During the Come and Taste It VIP



night, Gabe Gallardo will step out of his band and play solo on the David Stewart Trucking Main Stage. If year number two is like the inaugural festival, attendees will sit out under the stars enjoying Gallardo's great music, cold brew and great conversation. In addition, VIP ticket holders will get extra swag and goodies from Shiner Beer and others.

On Saturday, the festival will start at 1 p.m. with beer sampling and pours the feature of the day. Four delicious food trucks will be on site, and the party goes until 11 p.m. at night. During the day and evening, at least three different performers will take to the David Stewart Trucking main stage. The first singer is out of Katy, Texas, recording artist Bethany Becker. Following Bethany to the Main Stage is Houston's fabulous Oliver White Group, a Texas and southwest

band of renown. Headlining the night is the outstanding The Hot Attacks from Victoria, Texas.

During the day on Saturday, there will be a host of activities taking place in the tent area, with dominoes and corn hole events taking place. In addition, revelers will be able to have a choice of over 75 different types of beer from around Texas and the United States.

Besides being a fun event, the Gonzales Inquirer's Craft Beer and Wine Festival is designed to raise money for the local community college, Victoria College. Proceeds from this event go to Project 2030, a scholarship fund created by the Gonzales Inquirer to reward graduates of the Gonzales ISD with scholarships starting in 2030.

At the conclusion of each night's activities, Craft Beer and Wine Festival attendees are thrilled to walk the square in downtown Gonzales and play in the local watering holes and restaurants. The Running M, the Long Branch Saloon, and the Come and Take It Bar and Grill will all be hosting drink specials and will be bringing in late night entertainment to enchant the crowds.

Tickets are available by calling Gonzales Inquirer publisher Terry Fitzwater at (830) 672-2861 or by contacting Terry via email at terry.fitzwater@gonzalesinquirer.com.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Austin, an hour east of San Antonio, and just under two hours west of Houston. We have the perfect location for you to “Come and Visit” or to “Come and Live” — deep in the heart of Texas.

If it's Texas history you're after—we have it. Gonzales is the Come and Take It city, the place where the first shot for Texas Independence was fired way back in October of 1835. It is the home of the Immortal 32, the 32 brave Gonzales men who answered Colonel Travis' call for help during Santa Anna's siege of the Alamo. Those Immortal 32 men marched to certain death at the Alamo because they believed in freedom and liberty. This is our history and our legacy.

In addition to our important place in Texas history, we are proud of our grand and glorious old homes and mansions by the score that add nostalgic charm and grace to our local culture. Come and see it for yourself. See where the notorious outlaw John Wesley Hardin practiced law after serving his prison term for murder.

Gonzales is also a community teeming with fun events and community involvement. Whether it's the Come and Take It celebration the first weekend of every October, the Hot Rods and Hatters classic car show in late January, the Gonzales Inquirer's Craft Beer and Wine Festival the last weekend in April, Gonzales is a fun place to be. And don't forget our Main Street Concert Series that fills our town square every Friday in June through the 4th of July. Plus there are rodeos, a Casino Night for schools, livestock shows, cook offs, great barbecue, river tubing and more fun than you can shake a stick at.

And if it's business you want, well Gonzales is home to a number of major businesses and industries because of our proud, diverse and hard-working local population. Our local economic development corporation, our award-winning Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, our nationally renowned Main Street Program, Victoria College, our four-star Gonzales Health Care Systems—all are ready to welcome and serve you.

So what are you waiting for? Make the simple decision—Come and See Us.

You will be glad you did.

If it's Texas history you're after—we have it. Gonzales is the Come and Take It city, the place where the first shot for Texas Independence was fired way back in October of 1835. It is the home of the Immortal 32, the 32 brave Gonzales men who answered Colonel Travis' call for help during Santa Anna's siege of the Alamo. Those Immortal 32 men marched to certain death at the Alamo because they believed in freedom and liberty. This is our history and our legacy.



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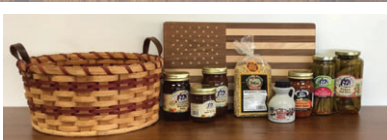
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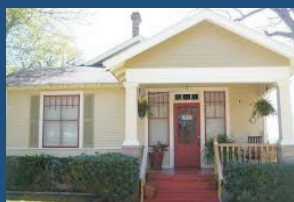
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Hotel Alcalde

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830-519-4500

Wolff Lodge

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32 THINGS TO DO IN GONZALES COUNTY

There's plenty to do in Gonzales County and the surrounding area. We trimmed it down to 32 to represent the "Immortal 32." The Immortal 32 are the Gonzales men and boys who, on March 1, 1836, fought their way into the beleaguered Alamo to die with Colonel William B. Travis for the liberty of Texas. They were the last and only reinforcements to arrive in answer to the final call of Colonel Travis.

1

Come and Take It Celebration: Celebrate the first shot of Texas Independence in downtown Gonzales on the first weekend in October. Live music, food, arts and crafts, carnival, parade and various contests, there is so much to do during Come and Take It weekend.



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- ❖ March 22nd
- ❖ May 17th
- ❖ July 19th
- ❖ September 20th
- ❖ November 29th



2 **Fiesta Guacamole:** If you like guacamole, then you're sure to love Waelder's annual festival at Waelder City Park every Labor Day weekend. Music, food and, of course, guacamole, are the highlights to the weekend celebration.

3 **Leesville Country Fair:** Second weekend in October. This annual get-together is a host of fun for the whole family



4 **Winterfest:** Downtown Gonzales turns on its holiday lights on the first weekend of December. Downtown merchants keep their doors open late Friday for the Jingle Mingle while Saturday is a full slate of activities including the lighted parade that begins at 7 p.m. with a guest appearance by Santa.

5 **Pilgrim Opry:** Hosted monthly at the Pilgrim Community Center featuring a rotating list of musicians plus dinner each month. Call the hall at 830-857-1666 or 830-437-2316.

6 **Smiley Bantamfest:** Bantamfest 2019 takes places on May 4 at the Smiley Community Center from 11 a.m. – midnight. From free kids games, pony rides, to horseshoe tournaments and a car show, there's something for everyone at the Bantamfest put together by the Smiley Bantam Activity Group.

7 **Gonzales Chamber of Commerce Banquet:** The annual chamber banquet early in the year not only allows local business and civic leaders to mingle, dine and donate to a good cause — it allows the community to honor special guests in attendance by awarding them community service and lifetime achievement awards.

8 **The "5F" Event:** Gonzales Healthcare Systems Foundation host the Forty Fellas Foodfest Foundation Fundraiser, which pits 20 duos (the "40 fellas") against each other in a cooking competition. The event provides Gonzales a casual networking opportunity for its community leaders and raises money for the hospital.



9

Local bars: Have a drink at the local watering holes here in Gonzales. Live music, pool tables, good eats, Gonzales has it all at spots such as the Running M Bar & Grill, Come and Take It Bar & Grill, Long Branch Saloon, TA Sports Bar, GG Steaks & Spirits, Spanky's Sports Bar and the Elk's Lodge.

10

Craft Beer & Wine Festival: The Gonzales Inquirer's Come and Taste It Craft Beer and Wine Festival, which takes place the last weekend of April, is a wildly fun and entertaining event which features many craft beers and different wines as well as music performances during the two-day event. Proceeds from this event go to a scholarship fund created by the Inquirer to reward graduates of Gonzales ISD with scholarships starting in 2030.

11

Shiner Half Moon Holidays: Held July 5-6 in Shiner. A small-town festival with all the fixins. www.shinerhalfmoon.com

12

Luling Watermelon Thump: Just north of Gonzales is Luling's annual Watermelon Thump, always the last full weekend of June since 1954. Live music, carnival rides, a petting zoo and, of course, watermelon! The Watermelon Thump is fun for kids and adults all ages.

13

Yorktown Western Days: Drive about 50 miles south the third weekend of October for this annual free music festival. Festivalgoers can look forward to the live music, kids tractor pull, hay dive and much more.

14

Cuero Turkeyfest: Always the second weekend of October, the Cuero Turkeyfest features the Great Gobbler Gallop, fun foods, kids events, live entertainment and more.

15

Shiner Music Fest: The 6th annual fest happens in October at Green-Dickson Park. Expect festival-style concerts and camping. www.shinermusicfest.com.

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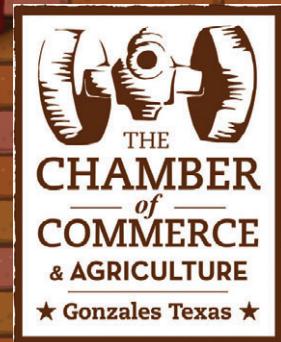
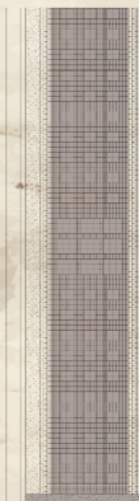



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The Gonzales Inquirer
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The 2nd Annual

Come & Taste It

Craft Beer & Wine Festival

Friday, April 26th and
Saturday, April 27th

Celebrate in Beautiful Historic Downtown Gonzales, Texas

Featuring: Shiner, Bells, Revolver, Seguin Brewing, Blue Moon, Thirsty Planet, Freetail Brewing & More.

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 26, 2019

VIP Beer and Wine Tasting Event 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.

\$50 includes free beer, wine and food, exclusive early admission to beer tent on Saturday, one complimentary beer stein from Shiner, one complimentary beer mug for Saturday, and 8 tickets for samples and pours on Saturday. Music provided by Gabe Gallardo, formerly of Gonzales.

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Beer Tent

VIP Hours 1:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Open to Public 2:00 to 11:00 p.m.

\$25 admission to the beer tent, 8 tickets for samples and pours, and a complimentary beer mug. Wine, water and other refreshments available. Music provided by Bethany Becker and Oliver White Group during the day. The Hot Attacks out of Victoria, TX will be playing from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

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WINERIES

OVER 75 DIFFERENT CRAFT
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MUSIC ALL
DAY &
EVENING



Following the festival, several downtown night clubs and restaurants will be featuring
special entertainment to round out the evening of fun!



16

Moulton Jamboree: Held up the road in Moulton the last weekend in July. Dance, cookoff, parade, vendors, parade, cold beer. www.moultontexas.com/jamboree

17

Lions Splash Pad: The newest addition to the city playscape. Located between St. Lawrence and St. Louis streets in Lions Park. Water is activated by sensors on each end. Open to the public.

18

Independence Park Golf Course: Play a round at the city's 22 acre, 9-hole course with native pecan trees along the Guadalupe river. Open 7 days a week. 830-672-1324

19

Lynn Theater: Watch the most recent blockbuster movie right here in Gonzales at the local Lynn Theater. Their two-screen operation shows movies all week, Monday-Thursday have 7 p.m. showings, Fridays are 7 and 9:30 p.m., Saturdays are 4, 7 and 9:30 p.m. and Sundays are 4 and 7 p.m.

20

Pioneer Village: From blacksmithing to butter churning, the Pioneer Village Living History Center is a place where folks of all ages can go to learn about life in the late 19th Century. Located north of the intersection of Business US HWY 183 and US HWY 90A, Pioneer Village is open 1-5 p.m. every day except Monday.

21

Spoetzl Brewery: Home of Shiner Beer just 20 minutes east of Gonzales. Stop in for a free brewery tour. Food available on Saturdays. www.shiner.com/brewery/tours

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

22

The Guadalupe River: Kayak, canoe, float, fish, or admire the natural wonder that courses through the middle of the county. Part of the Texas Paddling Trail designated by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Put in at Lake Wood Recreation Area, take out at the Gonzales hydroelectric dam.



The First Shot Battle recreation takes place during Come & Take It weekend on 3 p.m. that first Saturday.



The Living History Center

From blacksmithing to butter churning, Gonzales' Pioneer Village Living History Center is a place where folks of all ages can go to learn about life in the late 19th Century.

Known locally as "The Village," the center is an outdoor museum featuring a collection of 1800s houses, outbuildings and businesses. It is located north of the intersection of Business U.S. Highway 183 and U.S. Highway 90A.

Pioneer Village stands as a monument of history with its collection of buildings on a 12-acre tract which is part of the original Spanish cross design for the town of Gonzales. The project started as a way to save endangered historic structures in Gonzales County and has gradually evolved into a living history museum where school children from all over South Texas tour to learn about their heritage.

"It's a place to go and see how people lived at the turn of the century," Frenzel said. "There are few places where you can see a log cabin like the one we have. There's also a ranch house that was built in 1850 by the Gates family."

The 10 buildings restored at Pioneer Village include houses ranging from an 1830s split-log house to an 1890s Greek Revival House, as well as businesses where a blacksmith and broom maker ply their trade on special days. Because all of the buildings

that have been brought in and restored are from inside the county only, they are a showcase for the architectural history of this area.

"The village is doing better than it ever has," Frenzel said. "We recently got three frame buildings — the church, school and Metzler house — new windows and painted them."

On special occasions the village serves as a backdrop for costumed historical re-enactments and skill demonstrations.

"We have things like a blacksmith, dutch oven and a place where people can learn to churn their own butter," Frenzel said. "It's great on popcorn!"

Some of the special events that take place at the village are the Dutch Oven Cook-off and Melodrama, First Shot Battle Re-creation and Stars in the Village.

"It's great that people of today can sort of time travel and see how people lived back then," Frenzel said. "We try to stress the fact that at that time, every family had to work to survive," "Pulling together. And that's really what a family is."

The First Shot Battle recreation takes place during Come & Take It weekend on 3 p.m. that first Saturday. Meanwhile, the Stars in the Village celebration is held during the first weekends of December.

Pioneer Village is open 1-5 p.m. every day except Monday. Adult admission is \$5, children 4 to 12 is \$3, and children under 3 get in for free.

Healthcare close to home

Gonzales Healthcare Systems is dedicated to serving our community with state-of-the-art services and equipment and meeting the needs of our growing community.

We as a healthcare system have evolved and have brought our community more services closer to home since opening the doors in 1978. There have been many new additions to our hospital over the years and in the future of Gonzales Healthcare Systems, there will continue to be updates to our facility, as well as bringing new services to the community.

Some of the highlights over the years include a remodeled emergency room, expansion of the outpatient area, remodeled inpatient rooms and nurses' station, expansion of Sievers Medical Clinic, creation of the Jane Johnson Women's Center and 3D mammography, construction of thrive Healthplex, and currently in the building phases: a new Waelder Medical Clinic.

Currently, Gonzales Healthcare Systems proudly offers these services to our community members: radiology, laboratory, pediatrics, family medicine,



OB, an infusion center, occupational health, emergency room, surgery, home health, inpatient care, as well as thrive Healthplex which includes fitness, med spa, and therapy. The Surgical Clinic inside thrive houses our general surgeon, orthopedic surgeon, and cardiologist.

Gonzales Healthcare Systems also features a Specialty Clinic that houses many types of specialty physicians throughout the month. While not only providing great care, we offer the convenience of having these

Currently, Gonzales Healthcare Systems proudly offers these services to our community members: radiology, laboratory, pediatrics, family medicine, OB, an infusion center, occupational health, emergency room, surgery, home health, inpatient care, as well as thrive Healthplex which includes fitness, med spa, and therapy.

services available to our residents so there is no need to drive out of town. Our Specialty Clinic currently offers Neurosurgery, Urology, Podiatry, Nephrology and so much more! The monthly specialty calendar is printed in each "Gonzales Inquirer" edition.

Gonzales Healthcare Systems is here to make sure all of your family healthcare needs are met. Visit us, and let us show you why we are THE choice for healthcare close to home.

Laboratory

Sievers Medical Clinic

Imaging Services

Emergency Services

Memorial Hospital
Home Health

Therapy Services

Surgical Specialty Clinic



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Gonzales, TX 78629

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GonzalesHealthcare.com

thrive Healthplex

Inpatient Services

Waelder Medical Clinic

Foundation

Occupational Health

Surgical Services

Outpatient Clinic



Historic Gonzales Main Street



Gonzales, known for its late 19th and early 20th Century commercial and institutional buildings in the downtown area, was awarded Official Main Street status in 1988. Through the revitalization and restoration efforts of the community, Historic Downtown Gonzales has become a great place to Shop, Dine, Play and Stay.

Visit Gonzales and stay at one of our historic hotels and bed and breakfast in the heart of downtown or in one of our approximately 550 hotel rooms located throughout the community. Stroll through the many antique shops and specialties shops. Enjoy a delicious meal at one of our fine restaurants. Enjoy live entertainment and fine dining at the Running M Bar and Grill. The Come & Take It Sports Bar is the place to watch your favorite sport on one of the big screen TVs while enjoying a drink or a fine meal. Watch a first-run movie at the Lynn Theater. Take the walking or self-driving tour and relive the history of Gonzales.

Gonzales Main Street sponsors the Main Street Concert Series every Friday

night in June. From 6-10 p.m. enjoy great outdoor entertainment on Confederate Square. This free event has great music, arts and craft show, food and is just good ol' family entertainment. The concert series ends with the Star Spangled Spectacular held at 6 p.m. July 4th on Confederate Square. The show ends with a spectacular fireworks display that can be seen throughout the city.

During the Christmas season, downtown shines with lights outlining the buildings and stars adding a holiday sparkle to this historic area of Gonzales. The Christmas season kicks off with a lighted Christmas parade the first Saturday in December. Other activities for the Winterfest weekend include Breakfast with Santa, arts and crafts show, Historic Homes Tour, Stars in the Village and much more.

Visit Historic Downtown Gonzales and have a great experience. Shop! Dine! Stay! And Play!

For information, contact the city at 830-672-2815 or MainStreet@gonzales.texas.gov.



THE HEIGHTS

REHABILITATION & LONG TERM CARE

Of Gonzales

The Heights® is designed to resemble a typical home with a warm color palette, high-quality fixtures, and appealing furnishings so that elders feel comfortable, safe, and secure. The more intimate setting of The Heights® of Gonzales, with private living, dining, and family areas, promotes stronger social bonds among the elders, their families, and our team members.

Amenities include large private and semi-private rooms, day rooms, and Wi-Fi Internet as well as outdoor activity areas, walking tracks, and gardens. We also provide the latest in rehabilitation therapies and equipment so that elders can achieve the best results.

Special features of The Heights® of Gonzales include:

- Large private and semi-private rooms (Available)
- Private bathrooms and private showers (Available)
- Electric beds
- Flat-Screen TVs with satellite in every room
- Wi-Fi Internet services
- On-site beauty salon and barber
- Private family dining room
- State-of-the-art rehabilitation gym with customized modalities
- Beautiful courtyard, gazebo, and covered patios
- Transportation to and from appointments and activities

ACTIVITIES

The activity program at The Heights® of Gonzales is designed to enrich the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being of every elder in our care. Our community activity director arranges daily and monthly activities, including individual and group activities, to create a sense of community through building relationships and encouraging participation. Our care team and volunteers are dedicated to helping elders continue to be a part of the Gonzales community and live life to the fullest extent possible with activities that include art, music, gardening, entertainment, outings, and trips to local shops.

701 NORTH SARAH DEWITT, GONZALES, TX 78629

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SERVICES

Skilled Nursing/Long Term Care

Skilled nurses with a strong background in current trends and practices are essential to quality care and successful outcomes. The Heights® of Gonzales Rehabilitation and Nursing Center's 24/7 nursing team is led daily by doctors and nurse practitioners experienced in various subspecialties.

Rehabilitation

The Heights® of Gonzales provides comprehensive rehabilitation services including speech, occupational and physical Therapies, available 7 days a week. Our Rehabilitation Team designs a customized program providing residents with the greatest opportunity to return to their prior level of function and living accommodations.

Support Services

Among our skilled nursing and rehabilitation services, we provide an array of support services within our community to ensure your loved one is receiving the quality and specialized care possible. It is our vision to be the dynamic network of premier health care communities devoted to excellence through quality and integrity.

Respite Care

At some point in our lives, many of us are charged with being primary caregivers for elderly family members. Our Respite Care program provides a safe, warm and family-like environment for loved ones while offering caregivers a break from the responsibilities of daily caregiving.



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For information contact
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Visit our website www.gonzales.texas.com
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Eat, Shop, Stay & Play Annual Mainstreet Events!



Star Spangled Spectacular
July 4th
Live Music & Fireworks



Mainstreet Concert Series
Friday Nights in June
Food, Games, Arts & Crafts

Winterfest

First Weekend in December
Lighted Christmas Parade, Historic Homes Tour,
Arts and Crafts, Stars in the Village, Breakfast with
Santa & More

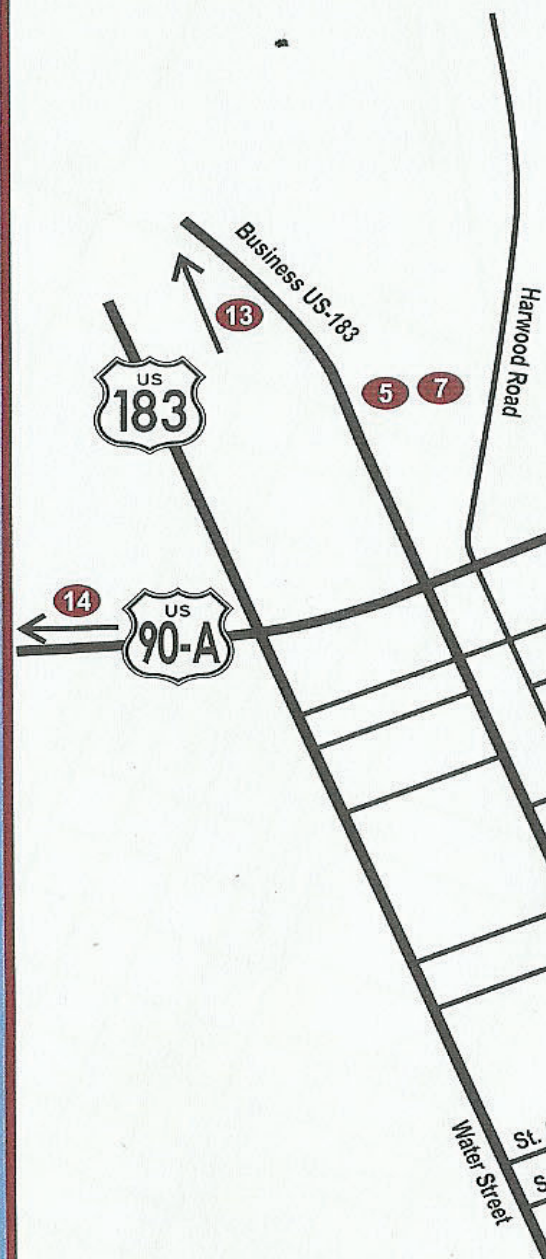


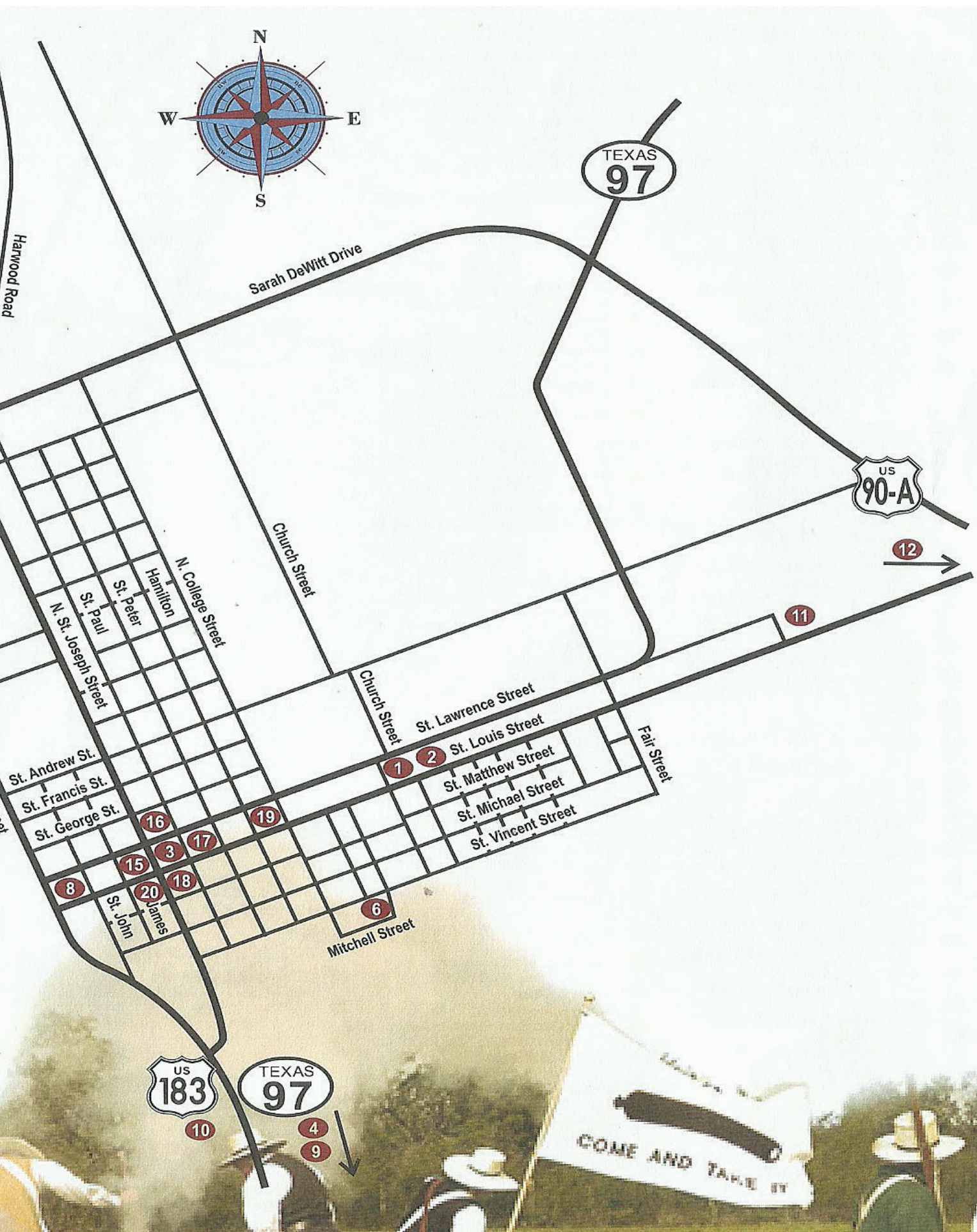
WWW.GonzalesTX.Travel

*Welcome to
Gonzales, Texas
"Come and Take It"*

Points of Interest

- 1 Gonzales Memorial Museum
- 2 The Eggleston House
- 3 Central Square – Old Jail Museum, Courthouse, Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
- 4 Come and Take It Battleground
- 5 Gonzales Pioneer Village & Living History Center
- 6 JB Wells House
- 7 Fort Waul CSA
- 8 Market Square – State Association of Texas Pioneers Museum
- 9 JB Wells Park
- 10 Independence Park & Golf Course
- 11 Disc Golf Course
- 12 Braches House & Sam Houston Oak
- 13 Palmetto State Park
- 14 Lake Wood Recreation Area
- 15 Texas Hero Square
- 16 Confederate Square
- 17 Church Square
- 18 Military Square
- 19 Cemetery Square
- 20 Robert Lee Brothers, Jr. Memorial Library





WALKING TOUR



Park your car at the Old Jail Museum at the corner of St. Joseph and St. Lawrence for this 1.3 mile walking tour.

1 Old Jail Museum, 1887, 414 St. Lawrence*
Used as the county jail until 1975, cells and gallows occupy second floor, law-and-order artifacts on first floor.

2 Fire Station and T41 Steer weather vane
The T41 weather vane represents one rancher's brand and his desire to advertise his occupation.

3 Gonzales County Courthouse, 1895*
Designed in form of Greek cross by renowned Texas architect J. Riely Gordon, Romanesque Revival courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors may walk through the historic building.

4 Church Square*
First United Methodist Church, 1900
First Baptist Church, 1903
426 St. Paul and 422 St. Paul, respectively. Part of the public lands now for the City of Gonzales, now permanently leased to First Baptist and First United Methodist Churches. (Gothic

Revival)
5 Edward Lewis House, 1910
605 St. Louis – Mrs. Lewis' grandfather, Andrew Ponton, was Alcalde (mayor) of Gonzales in 1835.

6 Paul Levysen House, 1877
612 St. Louis – Greek Revival/ Symmetrical Victorian
7 Randle House, 1898
624 St. Louis – Built by architect W.A. King. Former home of James Polk Randle, prominent Gonzales merchant. (Victorian)

8 J.B. Kennard House, 1895
621 St. Louis – Designed by J. Riely Gordon, this late Victorian residence is one of a few of its type remaining in Texas. Glass and pottery chip mosaics in gables. Queen Anne/Shingle Style. National Register of Historic Places Marker.

9 Episcopal Church of the Messiah, 1881*
721 St. Louis – The oldest public building still in use for its original purpose. Pulpit and altar are of Guadalupe Walnut.

(Gothic Revival)
10 Episcopal Rectory, 1890
721 St. Louis – Rectory and church are on the site of Cemetery Square, as designated in 1832 Mexican survey.

11 Gonzales Junior High School 1940/41
400 N. College – The gym, auditorium and school buildings were a WPS project. The vocational building was built one year before.

12 Gonzales College, 1851*
820 St. Louis – One of the first women's colleges in Texas, it was built with stone from Maurin quarry 10 miles away. It has been restored as a private residence. (Greek Revival/ Victorian)

13 Rather House, 1892*
828 St. Louis – Built during the "Cotton was King" era for C.T. Rather, cotton planter and banker. (Greek Revival/ Victorian)

14 Charles Hoskins House, 1911*
Architect was Atlee B. Ayres,

designer of the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium and Randolph Air Force Base Tower. (Classical Revival)

15 Sam H. Hopkins House, 1911
912 St. Louis – A.B. Ayres designed this house for Hopkins, an attorney. (Classical Revival/ Prairie School influence)

16 Frank Vrazel House, circa 1910
1006 St. Louis – The Vrazel gin was located next door to the house. (Prairie School)

17 P.R.I.D.E., 1890
1034 St. Louis – Residence converted into a daycare center. (Victorian)

18 Guadalupe Apts., 1920*
1118 St. Louis – Built as a hospital by Dr. George Holmes, converted to apartment building in 1978.

19 Memorial Museum, 1936*
414 Smith – Built to commemorate "The Immortal 32" and those who died in service to the Republic of Texas. Houses the iconic Come & Take It

cannon. Murals on the wall by James Buchanan Winn. Hours: 10 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m.

20 Midkiff House, 1905*
1222 St. Louis (Prairie School)

21 Eggleston House, circa 1845
1300 block of St. Louis – Oldest standing structure in the city. Built by H. Eggleston on the Guadalupe River, it now sits on City Park. (Dog-run log cabin)

22 DAR House, circa 1930.
Behind the Eggleston House. Mrs. Murphy had the structure built for Boy Scouts by relief workers under the direction of State Park Supervisor Louis H. Scholl. It was later turned over to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

23 Edward Sweeney House, 1926
1109 St. Lawrence – Surrounded by spectacular oaks, this house was built by Edward Sweeney, descendant of J.C. Dilworth, early Texas banker. (Cotswald Cottage or English Tudor)

Victoria College plays vital role

Victoria College's Gonzales Center, located at 424 E. Sarah DeWitt Drive in Gonzales, recently celebrated 10 years of training the local workforce and preparing students in Gonzales County and neighboring counties to take their higher education to the university level.

The Gonzales Center opened in May 2007 and offers day, night and online classes. Students can obtain college credits that can be used toward Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees and transfer to four-year universities.

"We are proud to be a part of the Gonzales Center," says Victoria College President Dr. David Hinds. "It serves approximately 380 credit students and over 300 noncredit students per year. Many of those students would not pursue anything beyond high school if the Gonzales Center was not here."

VC's Gonzales Center also offers a Vocational Nursing Program and training in truck driving, welding, HVAC, electrical trades and other industrial trades. Adult education, financial aid and advising services are also available.



Nursing students at Victoria College's Gonzales Center can utilize state-of-the-art technology like the recently purchased Anatomage 3D medical imaging table. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Gonzales ISD students have an amazing benefit through shared services offered by Victoria College's Gonzales Center," says Gonzales ISD Superintendent Kimberly Strozier. "The ability to gain both high school and college credits through a dual-credit program right in our hometown serves our students tremendously in preparation for their futures. Additionally, advanced vocational course opportunities in areas such as welding and nurse aide provide our students the ability to gain training for immediate job opportunities and garner

additional certifications in specified areas. The partnership with VC's Gonzales Center is a gift for our students and this community."

VC's Gonzales Center recently unveiled its new Tutoring Resource Center and remodeled nursing skills lab. This fall, the Gonzales Center will begin offering Carpentry Level 1 and Plumbing Level 1 courses. A Drywall Level 1 course will begin in Spring 2019.

For more information about VC's Gonzales Center, call (830) 672-6251 or visit VictoriaCollege.edu/GonzalesCenter.

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moderation; after a year in Mexican jails, how did he feel?

He left little doubt. Santa Anna was destroying the people's rights.

Word had just come of a serious problem at Gonzales. The colonists there were shining up a small cannon given them years ago to ward off Native American raids. Ugartechea, sent a file of cavalymen riding to Gonzales with an order for the surrender of the gun. Gonzales Alcalde Andrew Ponton received the order and stalled for time. He buried the cannon in a peach orchard and sent runners to the surrounding area for armed assistance.

Soon, the Texans shed all pretense of ever surrendering the cannon. Joseph D. Clements delivered a message to the Mexican army: "I cannot, nor do I desire to deliver up the cannon...and only through force will we yield."

Meanwhile, word was spreading that the Texans at Gonzales needed help. Volunteers responding to the call to arms rushed to the scene, and the little Texan force of 18 mushroomed to 150 by Sept. 30.

Also at this time, Sara Seely DeWitt and her daughter Evaline made a flag — back then referred to as the Old Cannon Flag — now called the Come and Take It flag. Depicted on a white cloth was a cannon with a lone star above it, and the words "come and take it" beneath the cannon.

On Oct. 1, 1835, Capt. Francisco Castaneda arrived from San Antonio with something less than 200 men. Ugartechea intended a show of force. Castaneda, blocked by the Guadalupe, demanded the ferry be restored, and the cannon handed over. There was some parleying, a demonstration by the Mexican cavalry near the town, and considerable yelling and taunting by the Texans, who dared the Mexicans to "come and take it!" echoing the words emblazoned on their newly created flag.

That night the Texans silently slipped across the Guadalupe and formed a defensive square. The Texans resumed their advance toward the Mexican camp in the fog shrouded dawn of Oct. 2. They were sure Castaneda planned to attack this day; they might as well hit him first. Quietly, they edged through the fog. With them was the cannon, dug up from the peach orchard, loaded with chains and scraps of iron.

The Texan militia blundered into the

There was some parleying, a demonstration by the Mexican cavalry near the town, and considerable yelling and taunting by the Texans, who dared the Mexicans to "come and take it!" echoing the words emblazoned on their newly created flag.

Mexican pickets, but in the dark and fog there could be no war. Everyone drew back and waited until daybreak.

The fog lifted suddenly, showing both forces drawn up on an open prairie. With the Come and Take It flag flying, the Gonzales cannon fired, and Capt. Castaneda immediately requested a parley, asking why he was being attacked.

Colonel Moore, commander of the Texans, explained that the Captain had demanded a cannon given to the Texans for 'the defense of themselves and the constitution and the laws of the country,' while he, Castaneda, 'was acting under orders of the tyrant Santa Anna, who had broken and trampled underfoot all the state and federal constitutions of Mexico, except that of Texas,' which last the Texans were prepared to defend.

Castaneda answered that 'he was himself a republican, as were two-thirds of the Mexican nation, but he was a professional officer of the government,' and while that government had indeed undergone certain surprising changes, it was the government, and the people of Texas were bound to submit to it.

Moore then suggested to the Captain, if he were a republican, he should join the revolution against tyranny by surrendering his command, and join them in the fight. Castaneda replied that he would obey his orders. At this, Moore returned to his own lines and ordered the Texans to open fire. There was a brief skirmish, and the Mexican force abandoned the field and rode back toward San Antonio.

The Runaway Scrape

The Alamo fell to Mexican forces under Gen. Santa Anna in 1836. Texas had declared its independence just five days before the worst defeat the Republic had yet suffered. The Goliad Massacre took

place three weeks later and was an even worse defeat than the Alamo, leaving 342 soldiers dead. The odds were stacked against the Texans and their fledgling Republic.

Between the fall of the Alamo and the death of Colonel James Fannin and his men, Texas was defeated at the battles of Refugio and Coleto. Susanna Dickinson informed General Sam Houston of the Alamo's fall on March 11. She gave him the bad news before the defeats at Coleto and Refugio, and still Houston knew he couldn't defeat the Mexican army with the number of troops he had. He was skeptical that his army would be able to stand toe-to-toe with the Mexican regulars.

Houston decided to retreat beyond the Colorado River. This was not just for his army, but civilians as well. Thus began the Runaway Scrape; a rearguard action that lasted for a month-and-a-half as Houston zigzagged across Texas until the army turned and fought at San Jacinto.

Local historian Vicki Frenzel gave her own account of the events, with the most prominent account being that Sam Houston ordered the town to be burned.

"When an invading army is coming through, you don't want to leave them any shelter, supplies or anything they can use to help themselves," Frenzel said. "The men had to burn the town to stop the Mexican army from having any resources as they advanced.

"Margaret Darst, whose husband Jacob died at the Alamo, was on the runaway scrape," she said. "She wrote an account saying the people were already starting to drift out of town even before they heard the Alamo fell. They knew it was going to happen; it was just a matter of time."

Fleeing people eventually gathered at the McClure Cabin, where Houston camped under one of the location's oak trees. During the journey Darst and her son David were riding horseback turned and looked back and saw the town burning.

It was one of the coldest and wettest springs in recorded history, with freezing overnight temperatures. This made the mass exodus even tougher.

Santa Anna broke up his Army into columns, believing there were not many Texans remaining. He thought the Texans were crushed and that one swift stroke would chase the rest out of Mexican Texas.



23

High school football: What better way to spend your Friday night then to support the local high school football teams? The Gonzales Apaches are a Class 4A team that competes at Apache Field. The Nixon-Smilely Mustangs are a Class 3A, the Shiner Comanches (2A) and the Shiner St. Paul (private school) share the same field and the Luling Eagles are a Class 3A.

24

Gonzales County Go Texan Steak Night: Enjoy the thickest, juiciest steak in town while supporting local agriculture students. Held each January at the J.B. Wells Expo Center.

25

Gonzales Memorial Museum: The city-owned museum is home to the First Shot Come and Take It cannon plus historical artifacts. Enjoy the reflecting pool out front and check out the 1930s amphitheater out back. 414 Smith St., Gonzales 78629. 830-672-6350.

26

Gonzales Guided Tour: Stop by the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and talk with Liz or Daisy about scheduling a tour with history masters Leon or Paul and take a 45 minute ride around town hearing about local legend, lore, and a few jokes cracked along the way. Call the chamber at 830-672-6532.

27

Historic Homes Driving Tour: Get a map at the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and have a self-guided driving tour across town.

28

Texas Water Safari: Called the world's toughest canoe race, it makes its way through Gonzales County via the San Marcos and Guadalupe rivers the second Saturday in June. Find a good spot and cheer them on as they head to the Texas coast, a 260 mile non-stop race. www.texaswatersafari.org

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29

Texas Junior High Rodeo state finals: The TJHRA state finals take place from May 26 – June 1. Cheer on the local junior high cowboys and cowgirls as they compete for buckles and statewide titles.

30

Flatonia Czhilispiel: The annual festival in small Flatonia held the fourth weekend in October. Chili and barbecue cookoff, parade, car show, carnival, and nightly dances under the big tent. www.flatoniachamber.com/p/czhilispiel

31

Palmetto State Park: A little park with a lot to offer just off of U.S. 183 and near I-10. Enjoy swimming, camping, fishing the San Marcos River, bird watching, and summer camps for the kids. 78 Park Rd. 11 S., Gonzales 78629. 830-672-3266.

32

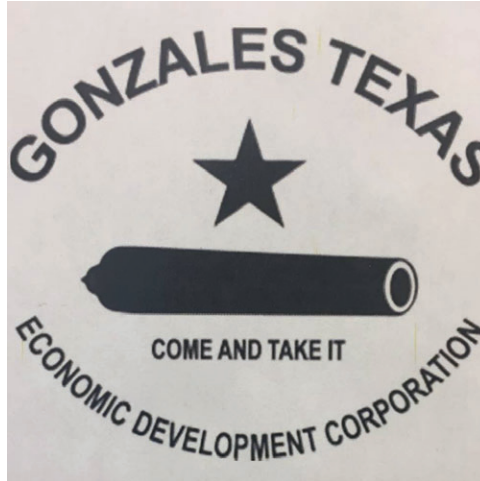
Main Street Concert Series: Every Friday in June leading up to July 4, Gonzales Main Street sponsors the Concert Series with great outdoor entertainment on Confederate Square.

GEDC is working for you and the community

Economic Development Corporations (EDCs), what are they and how do they work for our community? EDCs are non-profit corporations created by the Texas Legislature in 1979. EDCs are operated separately from municipalities and not funded by property taxes. EDCs receive their funding from a ½ cent of the sales tax on retail sales paid by consumers.

The mission of the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) is to “Drive Business Opportunity for Gonzales, Texas.” The recent \$50M expansion of BYK USA, Inc. is a prime example. GEDC led the initiative by coordinating and facilitating the joint efforts of all Gonzales County taxing entities and state and federal agencies. Gonzales competed with China, Germany, and Kentucky for the expansion of this German based international company. The joint efforts resulted in an incentive package powerful enough to compete and win in a highly competitive global market. What is the benefit to Gonzales? There was an immediate increase in the local tax base. In addition, the package provides for a continuous increase in the tax base over the next 10 years. This resulted in the retention of the \$8M annual payroll, the creation of 20 new jobs over 10 years, and the implementation of new technology in Gonzales. Additionally, the combined efforts of this partnership sent a strong message to the business world that Gonzales is competitive and business friendly.

Located in the heart of south Texas, Gonzales is an optimum location with easy access to US Interstate 10 via US



Hwys. 90 and 183. Rail access through TXGN Short Line is another unique advantage to doing business in Gonzales. Other transportation options key to business development include easy access to sea ports located in Houston and Corpus Christi.

GEDC is not only focused on the recruitment of industry and big business, they are committed to “driving opportunity” for the retention and growth of existing businesses and prospective entrepreneurs, large and small. Funds are available for qualifying projects through Loan and Grant programs. GEDC also supports the revitalization of downtown through funding of the Main Street Business Improvement Grant Program for façade improvements and utilities relocation.

Economically vital communities most often have an EDC that has a strong working relationship with the local

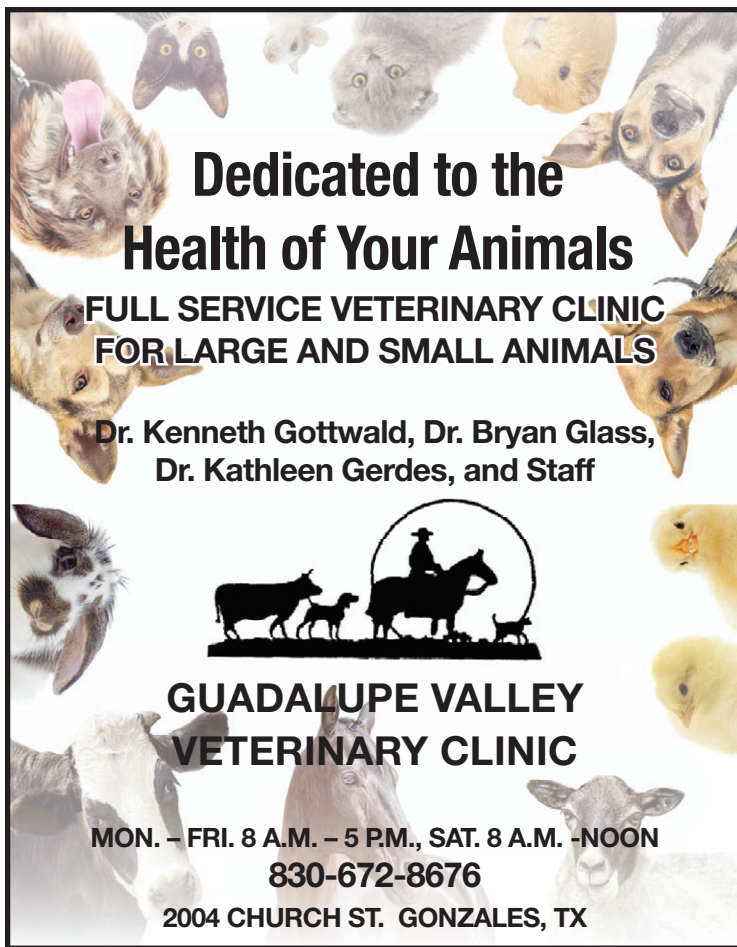
Convention and Visitors’ Bureau (CVB) to promote tourism and create a greater awareness of a community. Tourism is the number two industry in Texas, behind oil and gas. Every tax dollar spent by a tourist is one that does not have to be collected from citizens to pay for local government services. Statistically, each Texas household saves \$690 in state and local taxes generated by travel. The beauty of having a local EDC and CVB working for you is that their efforts are not funded by local tax payer dollars. CVBs obtain their funding from the local Hotel/Motel Tax (HOT Tax), which is paid by visitors staying in local hotels. HOT Taxes are used to promote tourism. By law, the use of HOT Taxes is heavily restricted for tourism expenditures such as convention facilities, promotions/marketing and the salaries of tourism personnel. HOT Taxes cannot be comingled with other city revenues nor can they be used for street maintenance, infrastructure repairs, or other city services.

The mission of the Gonzales CVB is to promote local and regional tourism by creating a greater awareness of our rich heritage and many unique tourism assets. Gonzales, the Birthplace of Texas Independence, was pivotal in determining the future of the state.

Combined efforts and productive working relationship between GEDC and the Gonzales CVB are “Driving Business Opportunity,” bringing new money into the community, and reducing the burden on the local property owners and tax payers.




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The Lake Wood Recreation Area is a quiet spot to camp, fish, and get away alongside the bank of the Guadalupe River.
PHOTOS BY ERIK MCCOWAN / GONZALES INQUIRER

NATURAL BEAUTY

Look for the big watermelon on the front of the Leesville Cafe for your beacon to the best burgers in town.



A scenic drive through Gonzales County

By Erik McCowan
Staff Reporter

Gonzales is a fine town, for sure, but there's much natural beauty outside those city limits that you should enjoy. A roundabout ride on the county's western side uncovers some scenic byways that you should take a few hours to enjoy.

Do yourself a favor and start at Palmetto State Park. If you can break away from the natural beauty there, stroll south on FM 2091 toward Alt. U.S. 90. Pleasant pastures flow on either side of the road, showcasing the area's agricultural production in poultry farms and cattle ranches. If it's the spring or early summer, be prepared for a vast display of wildflowers.

You'll have to turn east on 90 for a bit, but FM 2091 continues southward to the Guadalupe River, the ribbon of green lushness that bisects the county.

At the end of the road you'll find Lake Wood Recreational Area nestled right alongside the banks. A pecan tree-covered campground is the perfect spot to stay a while and admire the river. An old Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) dam creates a manmade waterfall that soothes the senses. Though the lake in Lake Wood is currently a memory thanks to part of the dam malfunctioning some years back, you can still enjoy the water without missing a thing.

The park's headquarters sells bait, snacks, drinks, and much that you will need for a stop, day trip, or weekend excursion. Day passes are \$8 per vehicle and camping runs \$23 per day for tents and \$28 for campers and RVs. Photos on the wall show proof of the lunkers that lurk just under the river's surface. If you're lucky, you might meet one.

Get back on 90 and head west. There's an old abandoned community called Oak Forest. Take CR 143 and it winds past a few ruins that appear to be old mills and a store until you see the river again. There, a high bridge offers a grand view of the valley below. The old Oak Forest Bridge was dismantled sometime back, but happily resides as a pedestrian bridge near the disc golf course in Gonzales. That is also worth checking out.

Get back on the highway and head to Belmont at the intersection of Hwy. 80. If you want some local flavors, this is a great spot. Visit Oliver Pecan Co. for a pound of the state nut of Texas, or get it covered in chocolate or the many other variations they have there. If you need a barbecue fix, stop at Diamond A at the corner and order the brisket or a chopped beef sandwich. It will fortify you on your journey.

Head south on Hwy. 80 to the wide spot they call Leesville. There, the Leesville Cafe and Kuntry store offers more down-home food choices. You'll find chicken fried steak and chicken, pork chops, and a long list of burgers that take their names from

The First Shot Monument in Cost is a popular destination for those studying the course of Texas Independence.



popular watermelon strains. There's the Black Diamond, Jubilee, Rojo Grande, and Grand Champ, plus many others. The Mikesh family that owns the restaurant is in the melon growing business, thus the theme. Word is they often come away with the top prize at the Luling Watermelon Thump.

Head back north to FM 466 — a path on the Texas Independence Trail — and go east. The road was a corridor from San Antonio in the 1800s and undoubtedly a lot of history carted down its path. The road follows the river valley and a quick stop at the Monthalia Lutheran Cemetery shows headstones written in German representing the original settlers that lived there.

Continue on until the Hwy. 97 intersection and head north back toward town. But not far, right there on the left, is the community of Cost and the grand monument that marks the occasion of the "first shot" that ticked off the Texas Revolution.

When you're finished there, head back into Gonzales past the wide-open fields and into the historical heart of the city. Enjoy a beverage, maybe a late meal, and a good rest as you recall your drive and the historical road you just traveled.



The Monthalia Lutheran Cemetery is a quiet place that holds the graves of the area's German inhabitants from the 1800s.

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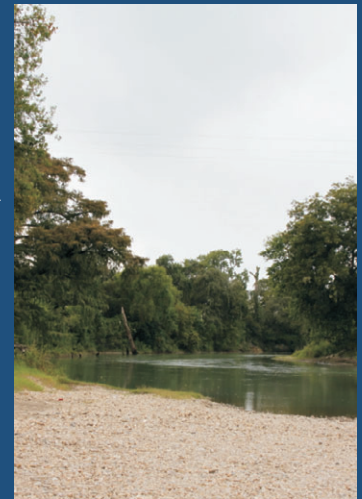
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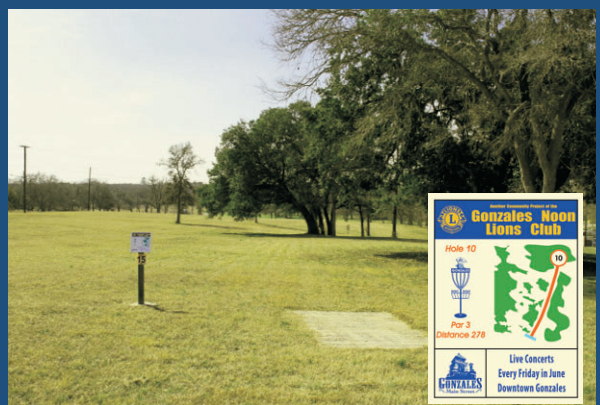


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**Gonzales Chamber
of Commerce:**
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Gonzales Inquirer newspaper:
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**Gonzales County
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Gonzales ISD:
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HIDDEN GEM

Stop by Elida's Snack Shop for good burger

By Erik McCowan
Staff Reporter

There's a few things that are certain in Waelder: trains, throngs of workers heading in for their shift, and tasty homemade burgers.

The Inquirer was out and about this week looking for those down-home, far-flung, sometimes overlooked eateries that people say you gotta try. Elida's Snack Shop was one, though our publisher only knew it as "that burger stand by the side of the road as you get into town." Oftentimes that's the code word for the best food around.

Romeo Ortiz and wife Elida opened the little burger stand just shy of 18 years ago said Romeo, having to sit and think about it a while. While she wasn't there — she holds a

regular gig across town managing the dollar store — she must be quite the lady, having her name on one of the best burger stops around. The couple have been together 36 years, so the secret must be in the burger sauce.

"I retired from my job a while back, so we started this and we enjoy it," Romeo said. "After hours she comes out here and helps me. We hang out here together."

The Snack Shop has covered outdoor seating for those wanting to dine al fresco. There's a good view of the coming trains, and about anything else that happens to wander by, as they are located on Hwy. 97 just before the tracks and the greater downtown area. Just look for the big burger on the front of the building.

"We've got a lot of customers across the street at J-B who come here just about every

day and a lot of truck drivers stop by," he said. "They like it."

Their menu holds burgers, hot dogs, chicken nuggets, Frito pie, drinks, ice cream, and snow cones. While business for the cones might be slow during the colder months, Romeo insists they taste good year-round. With flavors like strawberry, tutti fruttì, margarita, cherry, and apple, he's probably good at his word.

A first-person account of the \$5 cheeseburger confirms that it was definitely worth the stop. Next time, an order of fries or onion rings will be mandatory.

If you're in the area or want to head that way one day, the hours have you covered from lunch, brunch, and dinner. Elida's Snack Shop opens at 11 a.m. and closes "around 8:30-9 p.m."



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Highway 87, Smiley

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First Baptist Church
403 N. Texas, Nixon

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Highway 108 N., Smiley

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Greater Palestine Baptist Church
S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)

Greater Rising Star Baptist Church

Harwood Baptist Church
North of Post Office, Harwood

Iglesia Bautista Macedonia
201 S. Congress, Nixon

Iglesia Bautista Memorial
Highway 97, Waelder

Leesville Baptist Church
E. of Highway 80 on CR 121

Memorial Heights Baptist Church
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Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
100 Capes, Gonzales

Oak Valley Baptist Church
Highway 97, Bebe

Old Moulton Baptist Church
1121 N. College, Gonzales

Providence Missionary Baptist Church
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Stratton Primitive Baptist
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St. Paul Baptist Church
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St. Andrew St., Gonzales
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First United Methodist
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First United Methodist
410 N. Franklin, Nixon

Harris Chapel United Methodist
S. Liberty St., Nixon

Harwood Methodist Church
Harwood

Henson Chapel United Methodist
1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales

Monthalia United Methodist
CR 112 off Highway 97

Smiley United Methodist
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1027 Church St., Gonzales

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Highway 80, Leesville

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1805 Weimar, Gonzales

New Life Temple for Jesus Christ
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River of Life Christian Fellowship
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PENTECOSTAL

Faith Temple
Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon

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Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia
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Temple Bethel Pentecostal
1104 S. Paul, Gonzales

Thompsonville Community Church
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3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR
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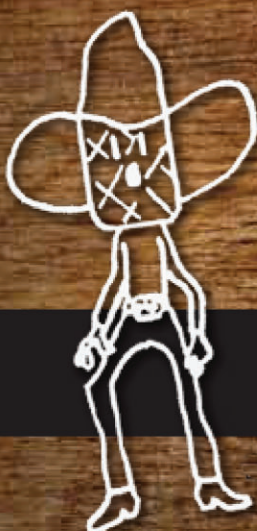
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