THIS OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE IS A SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF The Conzales Inquirer

DISCOVER

GONZALES COUNTY



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WELCOME

GONZALES:

It's the place you want to be

onzales — deep in the heart of Texas. It's the place you want 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 smalltown charm, yet is located close to Texas' biggest cities and all the amenities of big city life. Gonzales is centrally located one hour south of the state capital of 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.





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WELCOME

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.

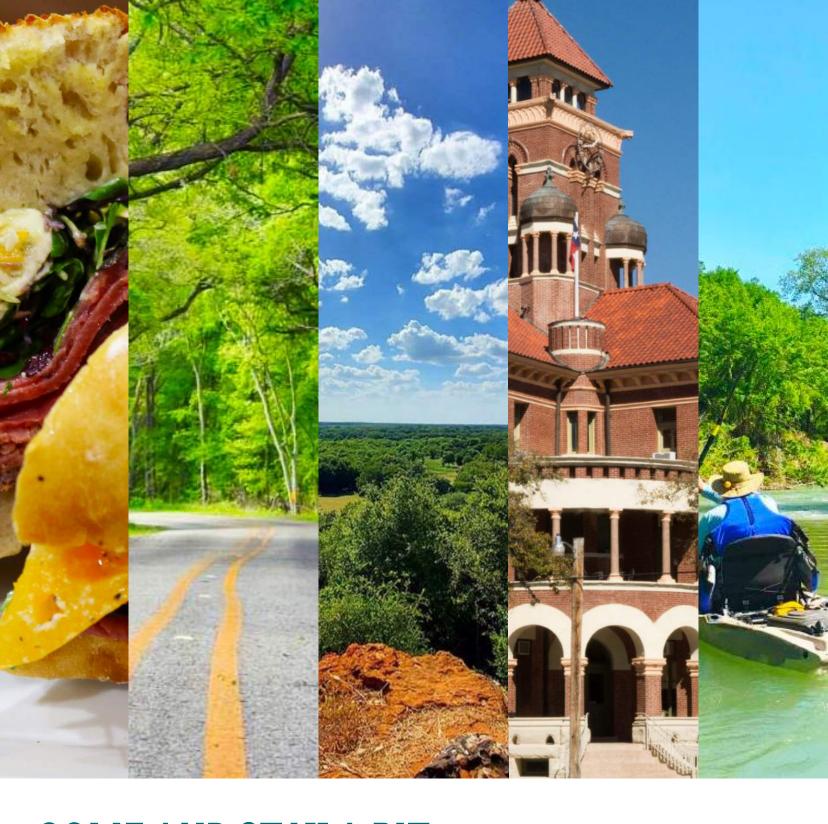
In addition to our important place in Texas history, we are proud of our grand and glorious old homes and mansions by the score that add nostalgic charm and grace to our local culture. Come and see it for yourself. See where the notorious outlaw John Wesley Hardin practiced law after serving his prison 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 Gonzales Inquirer's Craft Beer and Wine Festival the last weekend in April, or the Main Street Summer Concert Series every Friday night on the square in June through the 4th of July, Gonzales is a fun place to be. By Memorial Day weekend, there are seven fun bars and grills within walking distance on the main square in historic downtown Gonzales where you can enjoy great food, beverages and outstanding music. In addition, Gonzales is booming with numerous antique shops and craft vendors. Furthermore, Gonzales is home to numerous rodeos, livestock shows, cook offs, great barbecue, river tubing and more fun than you 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.





COME AND **STAY** A BIT.

Kickback, relax and enjoy all Gonzales, Texas has to offer. Our natural beauty is only rivaled by our proud historical connection. Book a hotel or find a comfy B&B for the perfect little weekend getaway.

TOUR GONZALES

Plan your stay at **gonzalestx.travel**





Celebrate in Beautiful Historic Downtown Gonzales, Texas



Featuring: Shiner, Bells, Texas Brewing, Saloon Door, Seguin Brewing, Blue Moon, Thirsty Planet, Freetail Brewing & More.

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 24, 2020



6:00 to Midnight

\$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 Pilgrim Opry New Heirs Band at 6, followed by Jasen Patten & Led Foot at 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 25, 2020

Beer Tent

Open to Public

4:00 to Midnight

\$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 Tequila Black at 5, Bethany Becker Band at 7. The Legendary & Grammy Award Winning AUGIE MEYERS at 9 PM.

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The history of 'Come and Take It'

nder 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 brotherin-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 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 cavalrymen 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 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 twothirds 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."

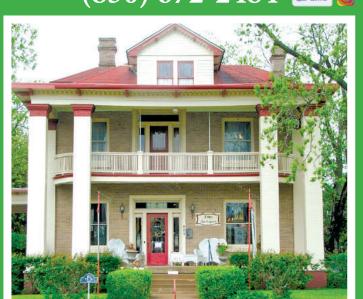
Fleeing people eventually gathered at the McClure Cabin, where Houston camped under one of the location's oak trees. During the journey Darst and her son David were riding horseback turned and looked back and saw the town burning.

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.



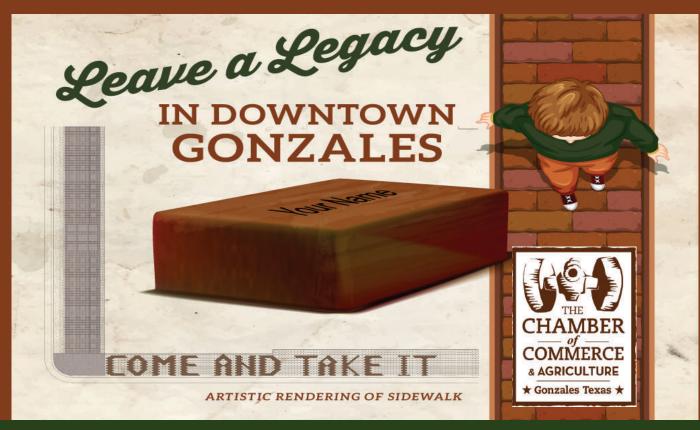
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- Renovations include new, ADA compliant sidewalks
- Sidewalks will be composed of lighter and darker bricks
- Brick will spell out "Come and Take It" from an aerial view
- Commemorative bricks are available for purchase!
- Contact the Chamber of Commerce to see how you can personalize a brick, so that you can be a part of our town's history!

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You can order a 4" x 8" brick with up to 3 lines of engraving and up to 18 characters per line for only

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Craft Beer and Wine festival a must do

onzales is proud to announce that legendary Texas performer Augie Meyers will bring his Grammy Award-winning talent to the Main Stage of the third annual Gonzales Inquirer Come and Taste Craft Beer and Wine Festival. Scheduled for the weekend of April 24 and 25 in Gonzales, this wonderful event features over 75 different types of craft beer, different vintages of wine from Texas, a Taste of Gonzales Night, games and some of the best music you'll in hear in south Texas all year long.

Located on the famous Confederate Square in the heart of historic Gonzales, the Craft Beer and Wine festival is an outdoor party featuring great beer, wine, food and five outstanding musical acts on Friday and Saturday night.

Sponsored by the Shiner Brewing Company, the festival opens at 6 p.m. on Friday night April 24 with a popular VIP night. Patrons are treated to a Taste of Gonzales, featuring some of the best food in all of Gonzales County, free tasting of all the Shiner Beer products and Coors Products, Fredericksburg and local wines and two musical acts on the Main Stage. This year, one of the oldest Texas Opry's in the state opens the music under the stars as the Pilgrim Opry New Heirs Band will bring two fiddles, three guitars, a steel guitar and a drummer to sing classic Hank Williams Sr., George Jones, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Johnny Paycheck and Eddy Arnold tunes for a couple of hours. After the Pilgrim Opry, East Texas' Jason





Patten and LEDFOOT will play Texas Blues in the genre of Stevie Ray Vaughn.

On Saturday, the festival opens at 4 p.m. with Augie Meyers being the evening's headliner. Tequila Black will open the show at 4 p.m. All VIP holders from Friday night get in free, and all Saturday attendees are given complimentary mugs and tickets for beer samples and drinks. Revelers can enjoy playing corn hole and dominoes along with enjoying over 75 craft beers from around the state of Texas and the country. Sequin Brewing, Taylor Brewing, Shiner, Bells, Saloon Door, Thirsty Planet and others will share their wares from 4 to 11 p.m. while fantastic musicians perform on the Main Stage.

Following Tequila Black will be Austin-based recording artist Bethany Becker Band. The band will bring a high energy performance and great music to the Square at 7 p.m. Following Bethany Becker, it will be the legendary Meyers of Texas Tornado fame and the Sir Douglas Quintet. Meyers won the Grammy Award in 1990 with the Tornados (Freddy Fender, Doug Sahm and Flaco Jimenez) and was inducted into the Texas Music Hall of Fame in 1990. He has played with Bob Dylan, John Hammond, Tom Waite, Willie Nelson, and other great performers.

Confederate Square is surrounded by seven bars that will have drink specials and entertainment to keep everyone rockin' while the concert is going on. The Running M, Come and Take It Bar and Grill, The Long

Branch Saloon, La Bella Tavola, The Templin Saloon, Willie's Place and Memo's will all be jumping. Proceeds go to Project 2030, a scholarship program for Gonzales ISD graduates who will be attending college starting in the year 2030.

While in Gonzales, there are many great things to do. There are over 15 antique and craft shops for the shoppers. If it's history you after, you are coming to the right place. Gonzales is the Come and Take It city. It is where the first shot for Texas Independence was fired, and it is the only community to send re-inforcements to the relief of the Alamo. Colonel Travis asked for reinforcements and the Immortal 32 from Gonzales were the only ones who responded knowing they were marching to certain death. Glorious historic mansions line some of the streets and there are vintage hotels on the square and numerous lovely B&B's.

Gonzales is a fun place to be all year long as we host a summer concert music series on the square during the summer, have rodeos almost every weekend, a Winterfest every December, and the annual Come and Take It celebration are just a few of the fun things to do here. For more information on events and activities, call the Gonzales Inquirer at 517-930-1368 or email terry.fitzwater@gonzalesinquirer.com.

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

You'll be glad you did.

The Right Touch of Comfort!

Enjoy the comfort of our accommodations and all the extras.

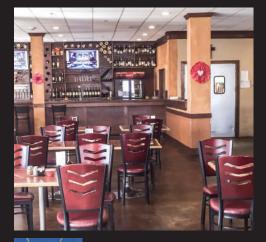
#1 Hotel on Trip Advisor



The Dilworth Inn

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La Bella Tavola 601 N. Saint Joseph St. Gonzales,TX 830-672-3600



Bar and Grill 401 Saint George St. Gonzales, TX 830-519-4081

Come & Take It



Central Station Yoakum, TX



THINGS TO DO

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.



THINGS TO DO

2

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.

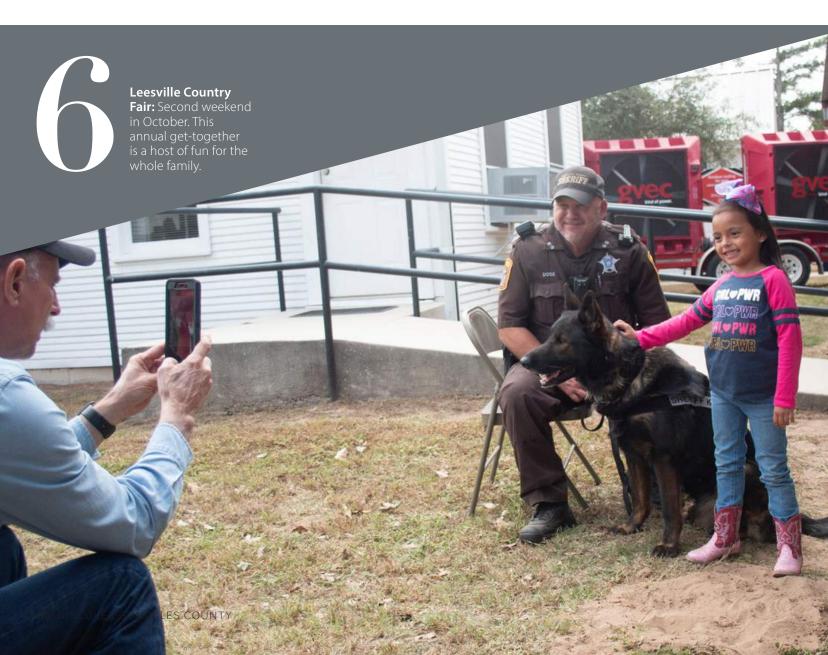
3

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.

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.

5

Smiley Bantamfest: Bantamfest 2020 takes places in early May at the Smiley Community Center from 11 a.m. – midnight. From free kid's 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.









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Prive about 50 miles south the third weekend of October for this annual free music festival. Festivalgoers can look forward to the live music, kid's tractor pull, hay dive and much more.

All which which we have a second control of the con

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

10

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

11

Local bars: Have a drink at the local watering holes here in Gonzales. By Memorial Day Gonzales will feature six bars in walking distance of the square in downtown Gonzales. Live music, pool tables, and good eats: Gonzales has it all. Visit the Running M Bar & Grill, Come and Take It Bar & Grill, Long Branch Saloon, La Bella Tavola, Templin Bar and Grill, Willie's Place, Memo's Bar and Grill, the TA Sports Bar, GG Steaks & Spirts, Spanky's Sports Bar, the American Legion, Mr. Taco and the Elks Lodge.



13

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.

14

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

15

Moulton Jamboree: Held up the road in Moulton the last weekend in July. Dance, cookoff, parade, vendors, parade, cold beer. www.moultontexas.com/ jamboree 16

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.



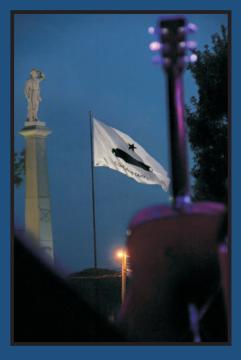
Eat, Shop, Stay & Play Annual Mainstreet Events!



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





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 **CALL (830) 672-4530** FOR MORE INFO.

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.

THINGS TO DO

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.

20

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.

Independence Park Golf Course: Play a ro at the city's 22 acre, 9course with native peo trees along the Guada river. Open 7 days a wi 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.

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.

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





25

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

26

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.

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



30

Chasin' Tail Crawfish Boil: On April 18th at the Brickyard Pavillion, the third annual bash features all the crawfish you can eat, a corn hole and washer board tournament, great music, chicken poop bingo, BBQ and other activities takes place on the Guadalupe River. Contact Btitney Banderas at (830)203-8019 for details.

31

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.

32

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.

Healthcare that's close to home

onzales 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,



Feel the Difference

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 services available to our residents so there is no need 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.

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.

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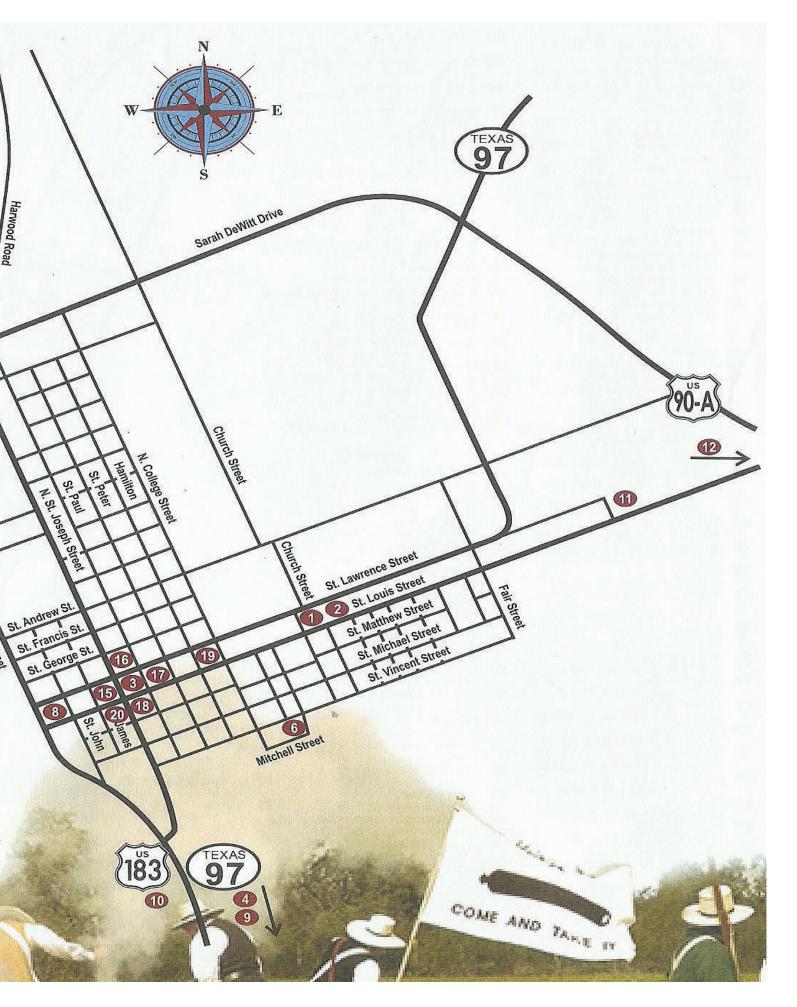


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Points of Interest

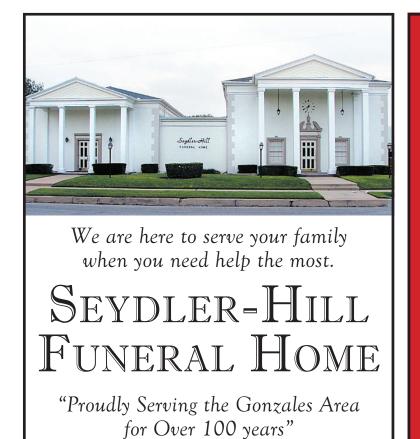
- **1** Gonzales Memorial Museum
- 2 The Eggleston House
- Central Square Old Jail Museum,
 Courthouse, Chamber of Commerce
 & Visitor Center
- 4 Come and Take It Battleground
- 5 Gonzales Pioneer Village & Living History Center
- 6 JB Wells House
- 7 Fort Waul CSA
- 8 Market Square State Association 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











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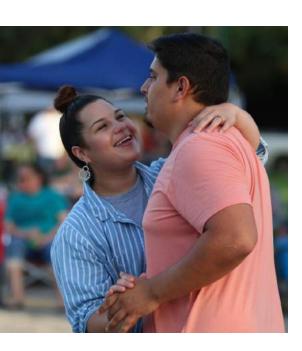








Visit historic Gonzales Main Street



onzales, 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 Bar and Grill 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 pm to 10 pm 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.

Gonzales EDC



- ★ Prime business location
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- ★ Gonzales Chamber of Commerce
- ★ University of HoustonSmall Business Development Center
- ★ Victoria College
- ★ TXGN Railway



www.gonzalesedc.org Genora Young, President/CEO,GEDC 830-263-9327 gyoung@gonzales.texas.gov



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Victoria College plays a vital role

ictoria 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.



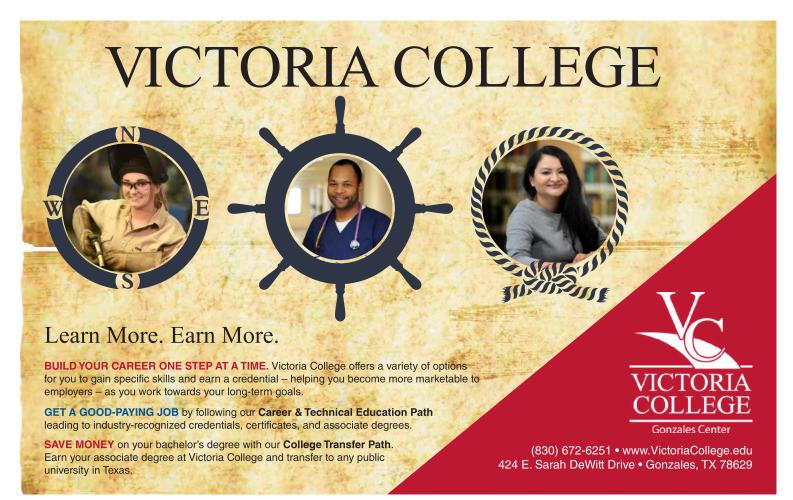
Nursing students at Victoria College's Gonzales Center can utilize state-of-the-art technology like the recently purchased Anatomage 3D medical imaging table. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"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 certifi-

cations 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.







Diamond in the rough

Diamond A is an undiscovered gem in Belmont

By TERRY FITZWATER

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

ne of the undiscovered gems of Gonzales County is the Diamond A store and gas station located on the corner of county highways 90 and 80 in Belmont, Texas. Also known as Goss BBQ, the store opened in December 2015 and has been pleasing people from all over the county and state ever since. Whether people come for Dick's famous barbecue, breakfast tacos, lunch or just to get gas, they leave as friends and family.





"Our family has owned the property out here for a long time," said Dick Goss, owner and operator of Diamond A along with his wife Shirley. "My daddy—Fleming Goss--used to run an old garage up the road a piece. He would work on cars and do some light mechanical work.

"In order to make more money, he started selling soda and candy and other things like that to draw more customers in. Eventually, he tried barbecuing brisket and discovered he was good at it. He started selling brisket and other food at his store, and people started coming in from all over."

According to Goss, the family store operated for years.

"It was an old-fashioned set up," Goss smiled as he recalled the old days. "My dad would open up a little screen to serve the food so he could keep the flies out. Then the food was eaten in a screened-in room to keep the flies away from the customers. It worked just fine."

Eventually times change. Goss' daughters Laura and Lisa started pestering Dick to build a new building on the corner of county highways 80 and 90.

"My daughter Laura was really adamant that the property we owned on the corner would be a perfect place to build a convenience store," Goss said. "We started planning eight years ago and put a lot of thought into the design and appearance. We submitted our idea to a developer who offered input too. In 2014 we decided to pull the trigger and build what we have now."

Goss said his daughters and wife had good ideas on what the store should like. He consulted a company on where the interior shelving should be located. As they started to build, they made modifications when they discovered they did not like something or did not like the way things looked.

"Once we put up the shell we started painting inside," Goss recalled with a chuckle. "With three women helping make decisions I tell everyone the inside of this building has been built and repainted three times over!"

In December 2015 the doors finally opened. The family was proud of the design and thrilled they had created a community-oriented facility everyone could enjoy.

"We wanted to make everyone who comes in feel welcome and comfortable," said daughter Lisa Goss who manages the store. "We enjoy our customers—they are like family to us. We want them to have a good experience."

The Diamond A is famous for Goss BBQ. Dick and his helpers arrive at the store around 4:15 a.m. daily to cook and prepare fresh food. Dick starts the brisket at night before he leaves, and then cuts it when he arrives the next morning. Whether its BBQ sandwiches or famous breakfast tacos, everything is prepared fresh each day.

"People will come in and get a cup of coffee and stay for hours," Goss says proudly. "Other times they'll get something to eat and end up staying for a while. I'm proud they feel comfortable here."

Goss has lots of stories of people coming from all over. Nolan Ryan is a regular customer. People who have traveled from Minnesota and California have befriended Dick and his wife and still send cards and letters.

"My wife and I have been married almost 54 years and we're finally getting to know each other," Dick joked. "But building this store with my family is something I'm always going to be proud of."

Gonzales EDC is working for you

conomic 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 beau-



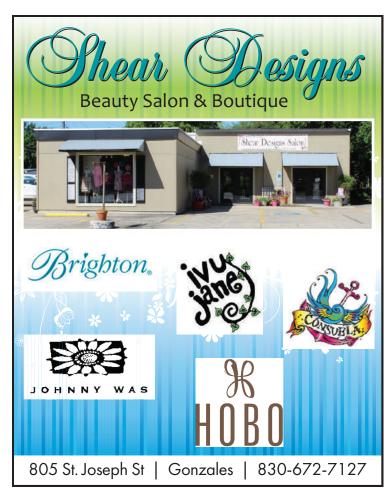
ty of having a local EDC and CVB working for you is that their efforts are not funded by local tax payer dollars. CVBs obtain their funding from the local Hotel/Motel Tax (HOT Tax), which is paid by visitors staying in local hotels. HOT Taxes are used to promote tourism. By law, the use of HOT Taxes 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.



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.









PHONE NUMBERS

Important phone numbers to have

Gonzales City Hall: 830-672-2815

Nixon City Hall: 830-582-1924

Waelder City Hall: 830-788-7331

City of Smiley: 830-587-6220

Gonzales Chamber of Commerce: 830-672-6532

Gonzales Inquirer newspaper: 830-672-2861

Gonzales County Courthouse:

830-672-2327

Gonzales ISD: 830-672-9551

Nixon-Smiley CISD:

830-582-1536

Waelder ISD:

830-239-5600

Gonzales County Game Warden:

830-857-5436

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office:

830-672-6524

City of Gonzales **Police Department:**

830-672-8686

City of Nixon **Police Department:** 830-582-1395

City of Waelder **Police Department** 830-788-7270





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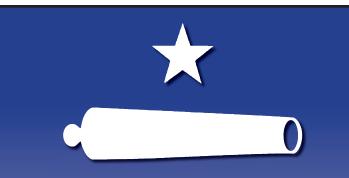
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Pioneer Village: Living History Center

rom 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.



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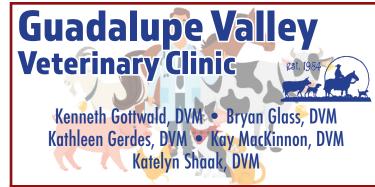


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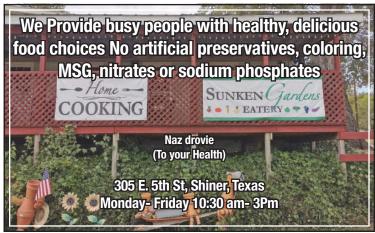














Shining on in Shiner

Antiques, Art and Beer—a Texas classic

By TERRY FITZWATER

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

hen it comes to describing just how unique Beverly Sanders' Antiques, Art and Beer business in Shiner is, the right words are hard to come by.

But make no mistake: whatever words do come to mind rest assured Antiques, Art and Beer is one of the coolest and most unique stores in all of Texas.

"I have to be honest: when I opened the business in 2001, I wasn't sure what I was going to put in here," Sanders said a few weeks ago. "I actually bought the building without a solid business plan because I was in love with the building and the architecture ever since I moved here from Hawaii. Joe Overton was the owner at the time and I didn't think he would sell. After asking him about the property a few times, one day I made him a low-ball offer and to my surprise he took it.

"My kids thought I was nuts because I was going out to estate sales, yard sales and auctions (without ever having done that before) and buying everything under the sun and putting it in storage. Then I bought the building and their response was 'Mom, what are you doing?"

Beverly laughs at the memory. "Honestly I didn't know what I was going to do with all the stuff I had bought and what I was going to do with this place. But it's a God thing—God was preparing me for the journey I was about to embark on. I just didn't know what his plan was when I started."

After buying the property, Beverly and her son attacked the inside of the building and started cleaning. The building had been vacant for 11 years, and according to Beverly, "the building was filthy."

"As we were cleaning the place out, I considered putting antiques in at the beginning," she said. "Then I thought I would put some of my own art in here, but I wasn't 100 percent sure my art would sustain the business," she laughed.



As Sanders slowly started to put things into the building, the idea came to her to also sell beer.

"The upstairs of this building has an interesting history," Sanders smiled. "The upstairs used to be a brothel. There are four rooms up there and for a long time that was what was going upstairs."

As Sanders continued to wrestle with what to call her business that was selling antiques, art and beer, she had a conversation with her credit card company that clinched the naming of the business.

"I didn't know what to name my business in the beginning," Sanders recalled. "I was on the phone with Chase Manhattan and they told me they could not insure my business because they had no history of insuring antiques and beer together.

"The agent and I were discussing this and he told me he needed at least three different lines of business in order to issue a policy. When I told him what I was selling he said 'that's it! We can insure Antiques, Art and Beer because it fulfills our requirement.' I have kept it ever since."

Sanders claims she has over 400 different types of beer on the premises, in addition to 300 different types of wine. She also has at least 15 different flavors of fudge available in the store. The store features a unique tin ceiling, and now has an outside patio (2007) and a back room. Every other Saturday, she sells brisket

and sausage out back. When asked what the most popular request she has in the store Sanders joked: "Well, the men always tell me I should reopen the brothel!"

"I am proud of how the store has evolved over the years, but there are some things I am especially proud of," Sanders said. "I was one of the first — if not the first — to integrate my business in Shiner.

"My store was the first of its kind ever in the world (that accepted charge cards according to my credit card company) that sold products of this nature where you could also buy a cold beer and/or have a nice glass of wine."

At the end of the day, Sanders has come to believe that it was God's will that she open and operate Antiques, Art and Beer.

"Over the years, I've had lots of troubled people visit and they come in and cry over their beer," Sanders said. "I listen, then I get out the Good Book and I read scripture to them. Many of those people have found God in my store, and I am forever grateful to the Almighty that I am able to mentor and counsel those troubled souls. Many of them have come back to tell me how they have turned their lives around and how they have found God.

"I guess I came to Shiner to start my own little ministry," she laughs. "Come to Antiques, Art and Beer and I'll sell you a beer and save souls."



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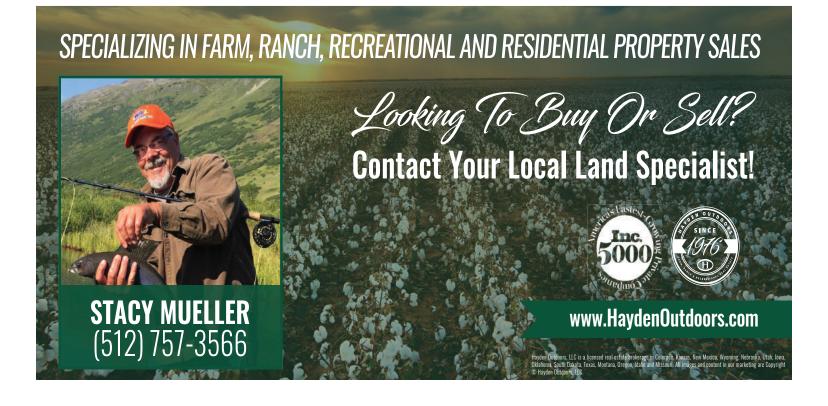
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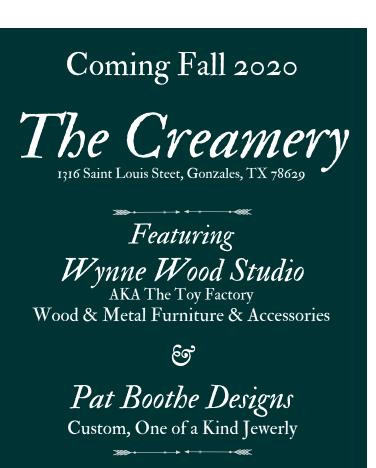
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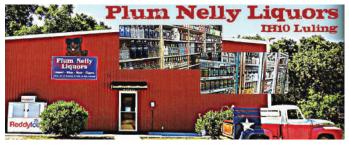
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PLACES OF WORSHIP IN GONZALES COUNTY

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Gonzales Family Church Assembly of God 320 St. Andrew

First Assembly of God 509 E. 3rd St., Nixon

New Life Assembly of God Corner of Church St. & Jessie Smith St., Gonzales

BAPTIST

Clark Baptist Church FM 794, Gonzales

Country Baptist Church Highway 87, Smiley

Eastside Baptist Church Seydler Street, Gonzales

Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley

Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115 Waelder, TX, 78959 First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales

First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon

First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley

First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder

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 1330 N. College, Gonzales

> 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 1020 St. Andrew, Gonzales

Stratton Primitive Baptist FM 1447, 9 miles east of Cuero

St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont.

St. Paul Baptist Church SE 2nd Street, Waelder

Shiner Baptist Church Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales Union Valley Baptist Church FM 1681, NW of Nixon

CATHOLIC

St. James Catholic Church 417 N. College, Gonzales

Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales

St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon

St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder

St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley

CHRISTIAN

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling

CHURCHES OF CHRIST Church of Christ

1323 Seydler St., Gonzales

Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo)
201 E. Second St. Nixon

Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon

Church of Christ, Belmont

CHURCHES OF GOD

Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales

Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales

New Beginnings 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales

New Way Church of God in Christ 514 St. Andrew, Gonzales

EPISCOPAL

Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, Gonzales

EVANGELICAL

La Vos del Evangelio, Mision Capilla del Pueblo W. Central at Hwy. 87, Nixon

FULL GOSPEL

Camp Valley Full Gospel Hwy 80, 7 mi. north of Nixon

> Full Gospel Church 1426 Fisher, Gonzales

JEWISH

Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul Hashem Yeshua 1@yahoo.com

LUTHERAN

First Evangelical Lutheran 1206 St. Joseph, Gonzales

Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS 1310 St. Louis, Gonzales

METHODIST

Belmont United Methodist Highway 90A, Belmont

Dewville United MethodistWest of FM 1117 on CR 121

First United Methodist 426 St. Paul. Gonzales

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 1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley

Webster Chapel A.M.E. 1027 Church St., Gonzales

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Agape Ministries 512 St. James, Gonzales

Bread of Life Ministries 613 St. Joseph, Gonzales

Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77, South Hallettsville Cowboy Church of Gonzales County
J.B. Wells Show Barn

El Centro Cristiano "Agua Viva" 403 Highway 90 W, Waelder

Emmanuel Fellowship 1817 St. Lawrence, Gonzales

Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship Highway 80, Leesville

> Lighthouse Church of Our Lord 1805 Weimar, Gonzales

New Life Temple for Jesus Christ 16214 US 90 W, Harwood

River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley

Two Rivers Bible Church 1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL

Faith Family Church
1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales

PENTECOSTAL

Faith Temple

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

HolyTemple of Jesus Christ No. 2 1515 Dallas, Gonzales

Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia 893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling

Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales

Thompsonville Community Church CR 423, Thompsonville Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90

Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236

PRESBYTERIAN

Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116

Presbyterian Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales

Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero

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