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Rulings made in J.B. Wells estate litigation

*Trial in county
expected in January*

By **BROOKE SJOBERG**
Inquirer reporter

Litigation regarding the estate of J.B. Wells will likely see a trial in January, depending on determinations made by Judge Polly

Jackson Spencer, who is hearing the case in Gonzales County.

Following the filing and argument of motions from both the City of Gonzales and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in October for continuing litigation regarding the estate of J.B. Wells, new rulings have been issued by Judge Spencer via email. The formal written orders

for these rulings have not yet been filed.

The City's plea of jurisdiction for the case to be dismissed and motion for summary judgement which "assert sovereign immunity from Petitioner's claims," saying that the city could not be sued, and the Seminary did not present enough evidence, was denied.

The Seminary's motion to change venue was denied, so the case will remain in Gonzales County Court. However, its motion for partial summary judgement was granted as to the point of the city's use of mineral income "constituting a taking of the Seminary's property." This means that the judge has entered judgement regarding this claim as

part of their case, where other claims will be determined in trial.

The suit, which began in 2017, alleges that the City of Gonzales has breached the contract of the will of J.B. Wells, which left approximately 300 acres of land to the city to be turned into a park. The Seminary alleges that

See **J.B. WELLS**, page 14

Gonzales Winterfest is Dec. 4, 5

By **BROOKE SJOBERG**
Inquirer reporter

Winterfest celebrations begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, with an outdoor showing of "Home Alone" in the downtown square.

Festivities continue Saturday, Dec. 5 with the Rotary Club Breakfast with Santa drive thru pancake breakfast beginning at 9 a.m. The Gonzales Noon Lions Club Chili, Bean, Stew and Bloody Marys Cook-off starts check-in from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Turn in times will be: 12:30 p.m. for Bloody Marys, 1 p.m. for beans, 1:30 p.m. for chili and 2 p.m. for stew.

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Gonzales Historical Commission will be offering an architecture tour of the 1885 Gonzales County Jail, 1888 J.R. Randle Building, 1896 Gonzales County Courthouse, 1897 Randle-Rather Building, and 1937 Gonzales Memorial Museum. The tour package for all five locations can be purchased for \$35 at the Jail Museum, while tours for individual buildings will be \$10 at the door.

Several local businesses will be participating in Santa's Local Market from 10 a.m. to close.

Local food trucks will be there, such as Baker Boys, Reyna's, Texpresso, Pink Food Truck, La Bella Tavola and Sweets on the Streets. Arts and Craft vendors such as Purple Cactus Pottery will be offering come and go ornament painting, a cookie decorating

See **WINTERFEST**, page 14



Dressed as Santa's elves, Lisa Brown, District 4 City Councilman Rob Brown and Jennifer Meade ferried Santa through neighborhood streets in a decorated Jeep. (Brooke Sjoberg)

SANTA CAME TO TOWN

By **BROOKE SJOBERG**
Inquirer reporter

On Nov. 29, elves Jennifer Meade, Lisa Brown and District 4 City Councilman Rob Brown gave Santa (Valmon Meade) a ride through District 4 – which Brown was elected in November to serve.

Families watched from their patios as Santa waved and wished them a Merry Christmas. Rain delayed Santa for one day from the planned Nov. 28 tour.

Lisa Brown said she organized Santa's visit to bring a sense of normalcy for local children who otherwise would not have an opportunity to see Santa this holiday season.

"I wanted to bring Santa Claus to the children," Brown said. "With keeping social dis-

tance in mind, I thought the idea would be very uplifting during these times. I wanted to give to these children which possibly would not have an opportunity to see Santa.

"This year has been a crazy one. Our children need some type of normal within their lives. Santa was the answer for me. So Rob, Jessica and Valmon decided that they would help me make this happen."

Winterfest Friday, Dec. 5

The Gonzales Main Street lighted Winterfest parade will take place in downtown Gonzales on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

GONZALES COUNTY 4-H



Cooper LaBuhn, a 15-year-old sophomore at Gonzales High School, will be representing Texas at the 4-H National Shooting Sports Championships in June. (Courtesy Photo)

Local teen earns spot on state team

By **STEVE FOUNTAIN**
Inquirer Publisher

Having a lot of interests tends to make a person more, well, interesting. But what if one of your interests is really four different interests rolled into one – and you're good at all of them?

For Gonzales High School sophomore Cooper Lindemann-LaBuhn, his passion for hunting has landed him on a team that will represent Texas in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships in June.

In all, Texas is sending nine four-person teams to the nationals in Grand Island, Nebraska. But while the other eight teams will compete in individual events, Cooper's team with compete in Hunting Skills, which requires participants to perform in four events: using a shotgun for sporting clays, a musket-loader rifle for a three-dimensional target, a bow and arrow for a three-

See **TEAM**, page 13



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SENIOR SANTA PROJECT DONATION



Gonzales Senior Citizens received a donation for its United Way Senior Santa project from Breitschopf-Cooper Realty on Tuesday, Dec. 1. The Senior Santa project is collecting slippers, socks, blankets, space heaters, fans and toiletry items. Donations may be dropped off at 818 Seydler St. In photo from right to left: Cari Breitschopf, Garen Reese, Sheri Schellenberg, Shirley Breitschopf, Rebekah Morgan, Lynnette Cooper, Carol Hardcastle. (Brooke Sjoberg)

GEDC brings articles of incorporation into compliance

By **BROOKE SJOBERG**
Inquirer reporter

The Gonzales Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors met on Nov. 23 for its regular discussion of board business. This meeting included an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation for recommendation of approval by the city council.

Specifically, this amendment brings the articles of incorporation which dictate the residence parameters for any director of a Type B corporation into compliance with a state law that went into effect 11 years ago. The 2007 law, Texas Local Government Code 505.052, which went into effect in 2009, states that board members for municipalities with populations less than 20,000 “must be a resident of that municipality, be a resident of the county in which the major part of the area of the municipality is located; or reside; A) within 10 miles of the municipality’s boundaries; and B) in a county bordering the county in which most of the area of the municipality is located.”

The original articles from 1997 do state that a member of the board must be a resident of the city, but this section became out of date with the passing of Texas House Bill 2278, which contains Texas Local Government Code 505.052.

Current Board President Andy Rodriguez, of Personal Impressions, said he is currently the only board member who does not reside within city limits. However, he does fall within 10 miles of the municipal boundary and has met the criteria since his appointment in April. Technically, this law states that anyone residing within the county can serve on the board.

Absent at the meeting were Mayor Connie Kacir and Dan Blakemore. Rodriguez said that Blakemore’s absence was due to the outcome of the City Council election in which he lost his seat.

Director Jennifer Kolby, Vice-President Meena Patel, Secretary Gerri Lawing, and Treasurer Larry Wehde voted in favor of passing the amendment, which will go before

the City Council at its next meeting. Rodriguez abstained from the vote.

In other business:

- No action was taken for a business incentive grant application, due to missing information. GEDC Director Jennifer Kolbe said that as the application was incomplete, a grant review committee could not hold a meeting to discuss it.

- Minutes for the Oct. 26 meeting were approved.

- The Board voted to authorize Secretary Gerri Lawing to sign the amended GEDC bylaws which were approved by City Council on June 13, 2019. This amendment was a separate matter from the amendment regarding board members residential status discussed at this meeting. Rodriguez said it simply had not been signed.

- An agenda item regarding the purchase of digital billboards for the Gonzales Industrial Park and downtown area was tabled for the next meeting.

- The board received financial reports for October, with assets totaling \$4,362,000.

GONZALES COUNTY HISTORY

December

- 1827: December, a fort was completed, where St. Louis Street now meets Water Street; colonists returned to Gonzales from temporary settlement on the Lavaca River.

- 1845: On Dec. 29, Texas became a state, and Gonzales County is formed into present size and shape.

- 1853: Dec. 10, *The Inquirer* suggests that a sufficient number of seats be provided in future houses of worship because the previous Sunday there were about 250 people at the courthouse for services and some had to leave due to lack of seating.

- 1884: December, Judge Lewis declared that whittling would no longer be tolerated in the courtroom; Dec. 22, Judge Lewis declared that all entering the courtroom would be searched and all

weapons confiscated. Three pistols were taken.

- 1910: Dec. 10, the population of Texas is now at 3,896,542; Dec. 17, a new Pound Master has been appointed by the City Council as well as a new City Scavenger; Dec. 28, report that the Daughters of the American Revolution, Thomas Shelton Chapter (DAR) organized (actually formed on Dec. 26.).

- 1934: Dec. 5, Sheriff Sam Hart dumps 1,200 gallons of liquor in street; Dec. 18, first Municipal Christmas tree, lighted, erected on Confederate Square. CP&L furnished lighting and electricity; local electricians provided labor; ladies of the town decorated. George McVea donated tree, a large native cedar. Several public programs planned, including caroling.

— *Compiled by Paul and Vicki Frenzel.*

Celebrations

Birthdays

December 3rd	Bobby Manning	Karen Glover
Larry Hanks	Christian Melchor	April Iley
Mattie Ramos	Anita Rogers	Natalie Knesek
	Betty Jean Tharp	Roy Maldonado
December 4th	Rafaela Whiteley	Christie Schroeder
Betsy Boenisch		
Cheyenne Brown	December 6th	December 8th
Jerry Floyd	Bobby Cox	Trisha Becker
Bo Ivey	Abby Guerra	Daisy Freeman
Clarence Opiela	Ernie Martinez	Teresa Heximer
Kim West	Kenneth McNabb	Joan Walshak
	James Reyes	
December 5th		
Linda Falks	December 7th	December 9th
Richard Flax	Sean Allen	Natalie Herman
Jacey Harkey	A.J. Brzozowski	Wyatt Johnson
Sydney Hermann	Elwyn Gibson	Melissa Schauer

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Need help? Reach out to these efforts

By **BROOKE SJOBERG**
Inquirer reporter

Gonzales County residents who are experiencing hardships – or those who want to help those in need – can turn to several local groups that will be helping out during this holiday season.

- Gonzales County Senior Citizens is collecting slippers, socks, blankets, space heaters, fans and toiletry items. Donations may be dropped off at 818 Seydler St.

- The Gonzales High School FFA is collecting toys for a Christmas gift drive. Donations can be made through FFA students.

- Norma’s House is accepting donations, such as Christmas gifts or grocery store gift cards, as well as working with families who need them. Families seeking services from Norma’s House should call (830) 672-1278 if in need for Thanksgiving or Christmas.

- Gonzales Memorial Hospital is actively collecting canned goods as well as receiving donations of “cleaned up” but used equipment such as walkers, crutches or wheelchairs as part of its durable medical exchange program.

- The United Way of the Crossroads is seeking hosts for charity drives or volunteers as part of its Be a Santa For A Senior program. Wish list items such as socks, slippers, blankets, fans, space heaters, and toiletry gift baskets may be dropped off at Gonzales National Bank, 1622 E Sarah DeWitt Dr. Items can also be purchased from their Amazon wish list. Monetary donations can be made to its online campaign.

If you have a charitable effort going this holiday season, please send information at Brooke Sjoberg at brooke.sjoberg@gonzalesinquirer.com.

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 December 5 59°/37°	Partly Sunny 6% chance of rain • RealFeel 64
 December 6 65°/38°	A couple of showers possible 30% chance of rain • RealFeel 71
 December 7 61°/42°	A couple of showers possible 30% chance of rain • RealFeel 62
 December 8 67°/39°	Showers possible 35% chance of rain • RealFeel 65
 December 9 64°/41°	Cloudy 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 64

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Gonzales ESD No. 1 recommends new Commissioner

By BROOKE SJOBERG
Inquirer Reporter

A new Commissioner has been suggested by current Gonzales Emergency Services District No. 1 to fill a vacant seat on the board.

Commissioners suggested that Tony Stone, an Assistant Safety Manager for Holmes Foods from Nixon, might be a good fit

for the board. Board Secretary Linda Carter, of Texas Benefits Solutions, said the board Commissioners were looking for county-wide representation, not just people who live in the City of Gonzales.

“That was one of our goals is to try to get people throughout the community, not everybody just located in good solid city. Because we want to be able to get the input from the outlying community.”

This recommendation will be made to County

Judge Patrick C. Davis and the County Commissioners, being the county’s regulatory body.

October financials were also discussed at the meeting. Carter said collections were higher than projected, at \$100,509.58.

Emergency Medical Services responded to 248 alarms and 145 emergency call transports for the month of October, with 79% of transports directed to Gonzales Memorial Hospital. 115 emergency patients countywide were transferred to Gonzales

Memorial Hospital with 31 out-of-county transfers, which Carter said is an increase over the last two months. The EMS-EDS reported 60 refusals, or 24% of calls, which is down from 28.5% last month.

The district received \$57,077.79 from the Gonzales Health Foundation, which was used to purchase life-saving tools commonly known as Jaws of Life, as well as an updated training dummy. Carter said funding has also been budgeted for capital improvements to the

Gonzales station, such as replacement of the mattresses, which she said are in rough shape.

“We need to improve our living quarters,” Carter said. “They’re there 48 hours, so you need to have some good spaces to rest in.”

Carter said the EMS-ESD has also begun working on a proposal for a retirement plan for EMS staff, which they currently do not have.

In other business:

- The board continued discussion regarding the Nixon station, but deter-

mined that they are waiting for county determinations regarding land before proceeding. The board is set to tour the station during their next meeting in January. They will not be having a December meeting.

- In the District Administrator’s report, EMS Director Eddie Callender shared that one-part time paramedic and two full-time paramedics were hired in October. EMS staff also participated in trainings and visited a cadaver farm.

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ELKS DONATE \$6,000 TO LOCAL EFFORTS

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, the First Shot Cookoff-Elks Committee presented checks in the amount of \$1,500 each to Foster Children Christmas Fund, Norma’s House, Gonzales County Senior Citizens and the Veteran’s Memorial. These funds were made available from the Lodge’s gun raffle.



Presenting and representing First Shot Cookoff-Elks, with a donation of \$1,500 to Veterans Memorial are Joe Kotwig, Mary Ann Day, Lori Behlen and Shirley Breitschopf. Accepting the check for Veterans is Larry Mercer. (Photo by Brooke Sjoberg)



Shown presenting a check in the amount of \$1500 to Norma’s House are Joe Kotwig, Mary Ann Day, Lori Behlen and Shirley Breitschopf. Receiving check on behalf of Norma’s House are Kim Davis, Joe Pat Nance, Debbie Fougerat, Kathy Schumacher and Charlie Mills, Judy Parks, Tanya Torres, Ashley Schurig and Barbara Stevenson and Deane Parsley-Novosad. (Photo by Brooke Sjoberg)



Presenting and representing First Shot Cookoff-Elks are Joe Kotwig, Mary Ann Day, Lori Behlen and Shirley Breitschopf. They are shown presenting a check to Kari Breitschopf, director for the Gonzales County Senior Citizens in the amount of \$1500. (Photo by Brooke Sjoberg)



Joe Kotwig, Mary Ann Day, Lori Behlen and Shirley Breitschopf representing First Shot Cookoff-Elks are shown presenting a check for \$1500 to go toward Foster Children’s Christmas Fund. Accepting check are Brenda Petru, Karen Fougerat, Noel Ince, Julie Boscamp and Jean Burns. (Photo by Brooke Sjoberg)

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Texas researcher spotlights ‘invisible incentives’

By CHRIS COBLER
Texas Press Association

The Texas Enterprise Fund took a hit for lack of transparency in a new research paper from the National Freedom of Information Coalition.

The paper by journalist Steve Miller is titled “Invisible Incentives: How Secrecy Impedes Evaluation and Accountability of Economic Development Subsidies.” Part of the paper spotlights the Texas Enterprise Fund, which the Legislature created in 2003 to provide taxpayer money to companies in exchange for the promise of jobs.

“But in numerous cases, the money has been paid and the companies left shortly after the deal was completed, taking the jobs with them,” the paper’s author writes. “The public rarely hears of it,

and the money spent is rarely recouped, although because of the opacity surrounding the TEF, it’s difficult to discern if any financial recovery by the state is achieved.”

The problem is the same across most states, according to the paper, which concludes with this recommendation: “Opening the records, fully, is the best start to handing the decision to the public.”

Renae Eze, Gov. Greg Abbott’s spokesperson, responded in a statement to the researcher’s assertions.

“When he first entered office in 2015, Gov. Abbott established procedures to ensure the protection of taxpayer money and transparency in the spending process, including changing the Texas Enterprise Fund requirements to be performance-based, meaning these companies must first meet

their contracted job requirements before any state money is paid out,” she stated. “Companies must also remain and maintain those jobs for an extra year on the contract period. If a company falls short, it will be held accountable to the hard-working people of Texas through provisions that enable us to clawback our grant.”

Plans for first vaccinations

Texas is preparing to distribute the COVID-19 vaccination to medical staff and other first responders later this month.

“Texas is ready to distribute these vaccines in the coming days,” Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted Sunday, sharing a Wall Street Journal news story about United Airlines operating charter flights to position doses of Pfizer Inc.’s COVID-19 vac-

cine for quick distribution if the shots are approved by regulators.

Earlier, Abbott and the State Department of Health Services announced their guiding principles of vaccine distribution. Texas will initially allocate vaccines based on the following criteria:

- Protecting health care workers.
- Protecting frontline workers.
- Protecting vulnerable populations who are at greater risk.
- Mitigating health inequities.
- Data-driven allocations using the best available scientific evidence and epidemiology.
- Geographic diversity that considers access in urban and rural communities.
- Transparency with the public.

Stew gets no better...

Uncle Mort’s “throw-away” lines grow mountainous in trash heaps on his place back in the thicket.

Some heard, though, are “keepers,” worthy of repeated consideration.

When still in his 90s, he warned about paying the least bit of attention to kitchen recipes that have unrecognizable or multi-syllabic words, exotic wines or ingredients to be “folded in.” He also said upon sighting the words “foie de gras,” one should “duck” into simpler, less “uppity” recipes. Finally, he suggested avoiding recipes running in large, metropolitan newspapers....

“Look for ‘em in community newspapers, where Mort claims they are more lovingly shared, often handed down to daughters, granddaughters, great-grands, etc.” I spotted such a recipe in a recent edition of Granbury’s Hood County News.

The stew recipe – traced by columnist Nancy Pricer to her late mother-in-law – first saw light of day in The Norman Rockwell Illustrated Cookbook.

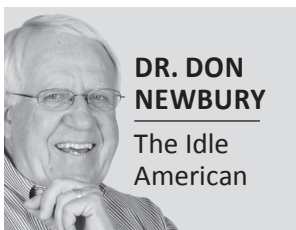
Anything associated with Rockwell is fine stuff, advantaged by a name with a distinctive “down home” feel....

Several years ago, my wife of 54 years bought a “cutesy” wall hanging, stating “Kitchen is Closed.”

She meant it. Dipping deep into the well of compromise, I agreed to taking on cooking chores if she’d accept KP duties.

Brenda agreed. I mess up; she cleans up....

Now, back to the stew recipe. At the risk of “quibbling,” I don’t like the name:



“Lazy Lady Stew.” Now I’m not believing for a minute that Old Norman would have given in to “reverse chauvinism.” After all, he painted pictures of numerous lazy men.

Who knows? Maybe his own grandmother provided this recipe, but he dared not offend her by suggesting a different name.

I plowed into rounding up the ingredients, noting that only three have more than two syllables – potatoes, tomatoes and onions....

If your appetite is whetted, and/or you happen to remember those marvelous Rockwell paintings that for decades appeared weekly on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post, following is the “Lazy Lady Stew” recipe, with added comments that I think make it even better.

Here are the ingredients: 2 lbs. cubed stew meat, 1 10-oz. package frozen peas, 2 cup sliced carrots, 2 chopped onions, 2 potatoes, peeled and sliced about ½ inch thick, 1 tsp salt, dash of black pepper (maybe 1/3 tsp), 1 can cream of tomato soup, ½ of soup can of water and 1 bay leaf.

Bake in a 275-degree oven for six hours....

Wait up! I don’t expect anything to truly bake at 275 degrees. If it does, it’ll be as rare as pine trees in West Texas.

I followed other instructions almost to the letter, except I immediately

crossed out peas, which I don’t enjoy unless they are “blackened.” Instead, I substituted a 10-oz package of mixed vegetables. It never hurts to add celery, so I did. And water chestnuts, too. (Bay leaves may be multiplied to suit your taste, or eliminated if you choose.)

Now, back to the baking modifications. I tossed all ingredients into a crockpot, setting the temperature on high for eight hours. (An hour or so may be trimmed off IF the potatoes are cut in dice-sized cubes.

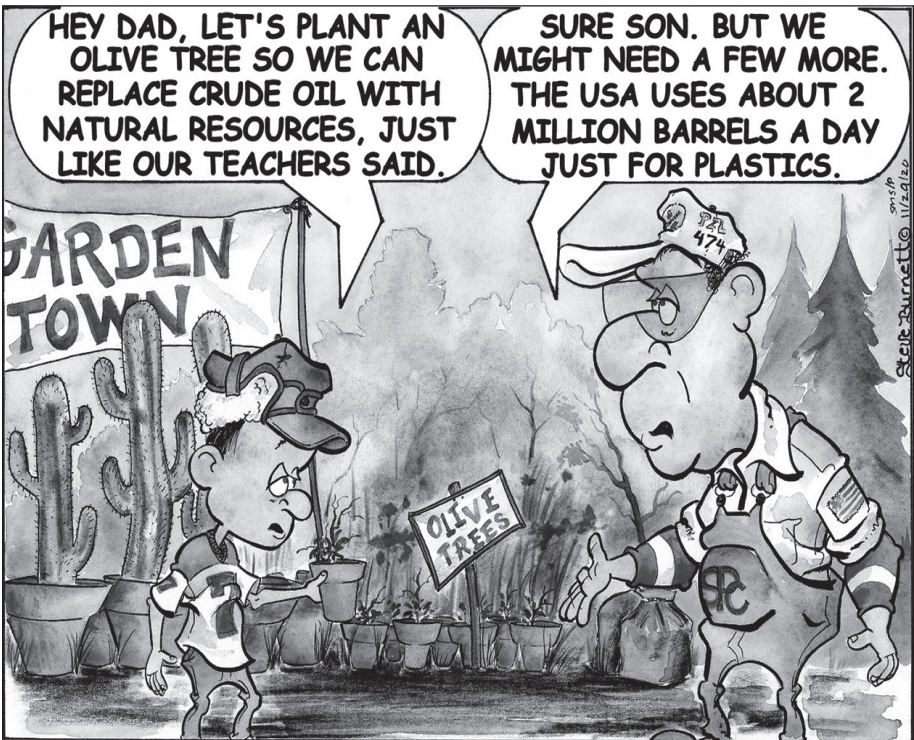
Otherwise, you’ll wind up with a dish you’ll otherwise like, but object to chomping into not-fully-cooked potatoes.)...

My wife offered “thumbs up” on the stew, but muttered about my using meat tenderizer next time. I thought the cubed beef was plenty tender, but some battles simply are not worth waging.

During her “cooking years,” she also preferred simple recipes. I chuckle at the thought of her mother standing at her side for the “cake-cutting” at our wedding reception, saying, “Remember, dear, you must use the sharp edge.”

Since I’ve modified the recipe, I may enter the fair competition--no, not the state fair, but the county fair. I may call it “Chef Newbury’s Old-Tyme Stew.” That’s the way Cracker Barrel would spell it....

Dr. Newbury is a former educator who writes weekly and is a longtime public speaker. Comments/speaking inquiries to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com Twitter: @donnewbury. Facebook: don newbury



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Democrats threaten God’s ‘Free-Will Law’

God gave each one of us, His children, His gift of, ‘Free-Will,’ to make our own decisions and choices in life.

God’s Law of, ‘Free-Will,’ to all humanity is violated, when human beings (Democrats) take it upon themselves to Force-Their-Will on other human beings.

Under God’s ‘Free-Will Law’ – I cannot tell you how to run your life, and you do not have the right to tell me how to run my life.

Government (Democrats) – comprised of fallible human beings – is attempting to Force-Their-Will (Obamacare) on us again (Socialism) in January 2021.

Bring back poetry!

It is my opinion.

We are missing a lot of ‘spirit lifting’; we could all use these days, by your not accepting “Poetry.” Poetry is what poets do. Worthy, just like the service you do unto others ...

The poets’ paint-brush is also “words.”

The Democrats will be violating God’s ‘Free-Will Law’ – again – to achieve their overall sadistic agenda.

America is God’s country, and is not the Democrat’s country.

America must beware of the new fallible administrations (Democrats) agenda, and made aware of the consequences if they succeed to veto America’s Bill of Rights, and, our individual inalienable right of – ‘Free-Will.’

American Patriots, and our military, must Stand Together, and Not Stand Down, and DEFY the Democrats Evil-Will upon our Free Nation.

Rick Sulik
Senior Citizen, Retired
Shiner

THE U.S. BILL OF RIGHTS

The following text is a transcription of the enrolled original of the Joint Resolution of Congress proposing the Bill of Rights, which is on permanent display in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum. The spelling and punctuation reflects the original.

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects,

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

WHERE TO WRITE

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Donald J. Trump (R)
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
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Phone numbers:
Comments: 202-456-1111
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Washington Office:
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Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-2934
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221 W. Sixth St., Suite 1530
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United States Senator
Ted Cruz (R)
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185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
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Austin Office:
300 E. 8th Street, Suite 961
Austin, TX 78701
Phone: 512-916-5834
Email: scheduler@cruz.senate.gov

United States Representative
District 27
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Washington, D.C. 20515
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Fax: 202-226-1134
Corpus Christi Office:
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Phone: 361-884-2222
Fax: 361-884-2223
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Victoria, TX 77904
Phone: 361-884-2222

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Room 3E.2
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Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Phone: 512-463-0118
Fax: 512-475-3736
District Address:
P.O. Box 1867 Brenham, TX 77834
Phone: 979-251-7888
Fax: 979-251-7968

Texas State Representative
District 17
John Cyrier (R)
Capitol Office:
Room E2.314
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
Phone: 512-463-0682

Texas State Board of Education
Marisa B. Perez (D)
P.O. Box 276406
San Antonio, Texas 78227
Phone: 210-317-4651

25th District Court
Judge William Old, III
211 West Court Street
Seguin, TX 78155
Phone: 830-303-4188
Fax: 830-379-0633
Email: bill.old@co.guadalupe.tx.us

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Letters to the Editor Policy

It is the policy of The Inquirer to encourage reader participation on its Opinion page. Diverse and varied opinions are welcomed. Because of space limitations, we must limit all contributors to one letter per person per month. Letters of 400 words or less will be published unless they contain language or content that the editors feel is inappropriate.

Letters must either be about Gonzales County, from a resident of Gonzales County, or in response to a story that appears in print or online in The Inquirer.

Examples of content that will cause letters to be rejected include the following:

- Confusing or unclear points.
- Crude language.
- Poor taste.

- Disrespectful comments regarding a group's or individual's ethnicity, gender, religion, culture, sexual orientation or race.
- Other incendiary language or remarks.
- Endorsements for or complaints about individually named commercial products or services.
- Poetry.
- Personal attacks.
- “Thank You” letters that go beyond general thanks to the community; attempt to serve as an advertisement for a company, individual or political party; or is submitted in lieu of a paid “Thank You” advertisement.
- During periods ahead of an election, The Inquirer does not accept letters to the editor urging voters to vote for or against candidates in local elections.

Endorsements should be displayed in political advertising. In light of this policy, we reserve the right to reject or edit letters for references to candidates and whether or not they should be elected. The Inquirer will accept letters expressing views on bond measures, constitutional amendments and other such issues. Letters will not be accepted once early voting has begun.

The Inquirer will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information.

Only letters written exclusively to the newspaper will be published. Letters to a third party or those written to more than one newspaper are not accepted. “Wallpaper” – submissions that are in large part copied-and-pasted from another author or organization – will not be published.

Letters written in response to other letter writers

should address the issue at hand. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

All letters must be signed and include the writer’s street address or route address telephone number, which will be used for verification purposes only.

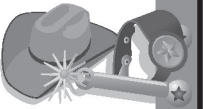
Please send Letters to the Editor:

- Email: publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com
 - U.S. Mail: The Inquirer, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, Texas, 78629
 - In person: The Inquirer, 622 St. Paul Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 (Please bring in a digital format, if possible).
- Further questions may be directed to Publisher Steve Fountain, (432) 336-2281.

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CFAP 2 sign-up deadline is Dec. 11

STAFF REPORT

Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) will continue through Friday, Dec. 11. CFAP 2 provides eligible producers with direct financial assistance due to

market disruptions and associated costs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, now referred to as CFAP 1. Farmers and ranchers who

participated in CFAP 1 will not be automatically enrolled and must complete a new application for CFAP 2. More information can be found at www.farmers.gov/cfap or by contacting the office at 830-672-7511, Ext. 2.

Breakthrough in plant disease defense

By **CHRIS COBLER**
 Texas Press Association

Texas A&M researchers announced a breakthrough in fighting agricultural plant diseases.

Kranthi Mandadi, a Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientist and associate professor in Texas A&M's Department

of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, has been working on developing new biological technologies. Mandadi and his team are based at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Weslaco.

The diseases cause billions of dollars of damage each year. The U.S. citrus industry alone would save

\$3 billion a year through control of just one of these diseases – citrus greening. Additionally, the pathogen that causes Pierce's disease in grapes is the No.1 threat to the \$1 billion wine industry in Texas.

The new technologies allow scientists to better study the pathogens and combat them.

A nuclear option isn't the first step with spider mites

Q. Our tomatoes were doing well. We have Red Snapper, Celebrity, and Tycoon plus Ruby Crush and BHN 968. The cherry tomatoes have been producing for 6 weeks and the large tomatoes for nearly a month. Now, however half of the large tomatoes have spider mites. What is your advice?

A. Keep harvesting the fruit but if the infested plants get loaded with mites and webs you may want to pull the most heavily infested plants. Removing the heavily affected plants will slow the spread to the less affected. If we get some more cool weather that may also help to allow more fruit to mature. We are into the fall season; the idea now is to just harvest as much as the plants and weather allow. I have been spraying my plants with water under pressure thinking it may also slow down spider mite reproduction.

Q. What are the gruesome looking bugs with wide legs on my tomatoes? They are dime size and hang together in large groups. They are reluctant to fly even when I brush them off the plant. I guess I could ignore them if they are not hurting the fruit,



but I would prefer removing them! Is there a reasonable insecticide to use?

A. I believe you are describing leaf-footed bugs which are related to stink bugs. They do feed on the juices in your tomatoes and leave scar tissue. If you have any Sevin left, it works to control leaf-footed bugs. I have also had success with malathion. Follow the label instructions.

Q. We recently moved to Texas from the Northeast. We had acid soil and were reluctant to use oak leaves for mulch because of the tannins. Is it different here with the alkaline soil? My neighbor eagerly took the pecan leaves we raked for his compost pile and mulch.

A. Leaves are valuable here in Central Texas for organic material. Use them for mulch or in the compost pile. It even works to let the leaves decompose on the lawn. I am not absolutely sure, but I think

gardeners in the acid rain and soil regions have revised their opinion of the value of leaves even if they are a source of tannins and acidity. Organic material is valuable in almost all situations.

Q. We successfully grew sweet peas last year and now I see some of last years seeds have sprouted. Do you think it will work to transplant the seedlings to a different part of the yard where we have a trellis?

A. Yes, for most success transplant small seedlings. Another option is to use tomato cages for seasonal trellises on the old site. The attractive blooms and fragrance of sweet peas makes them desirable for garden beds and for cut flowers brought in the house.

Q. Is it a problem that the leaves dropped from our peach tree when we sprayed it with copper hydroxide as you recommended?

A. No, that is one of the reasons why we wait until after November 1 to spray peaches with copper hydroxide to reduce bacterial infections. It is also time to spray horticultural oil to control scale insects on fruit trees. Follow label instructions.

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 Heifers:
 200-300 lbs.: \$107-117-160
 300-400 lbs.: \$106-116-140
 400-500 lbs.: \$114-124-141
 500-600 lbs.: \$106-116-141
 600-700 lbs.: \$102-112-122
 700-800 lbs.: \$97-107-111
 Slaughter Cows: \$24-58
 Slaughter Bulls: \$46-85
 Stocker cows: \$450-760
 Pairs: None

Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co., Inc.

Sale date: November 24

Cattle on hand: 2060
 Packer Cows:
 Canner and Cutter Cows: \$39-58
 Utility & Fat Cows: \$35-52
 Lightweight Canner Cows: \$23-35
 Poor/Weak: \$15-25
 Packer Bulls:
 Heavyweight Bulls: \$77-84
 Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$70-78
 Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$55-70
 Stocker Cows:
 Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$190-1375
 Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$625-750

Good Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1275-1625
 Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$800-1025
 Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
 Number 1 steer & bull calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$145-205
 200-300 lbs.: \$145-195
 300-400 lbs.: \$138-172.50
 400-500 lbs.: \$135-167.50
 500-600 lbs.: \$115-137.50
 600-700 lbs.: \$110-130
 700-800 lbs.: \$98-124
 Number 1 heifer calves: Under 200 lbs: \$130-170
 200-300 lbs.: \$115-157.50
 300-400 lbs.: \$115-152.50
 400-500 lbs.: \$110-145
 500-600 lbs.: \$102-128
 600-700 lbs.: \$100-115
 700-800 lbs: \$95-112.50
 Replacement Heifers: 350-700 lbs.: \$125-180
 The market this week was a little lower overall. No. 1 classes sold steady to \$5 lower on Good Demand. Overall average was \$3 lower. Large supplies in all areas and lack of rainfall hurting. Packer cows and bulls sold \$2 to \$3 higher on approx. 275 hd. Total.
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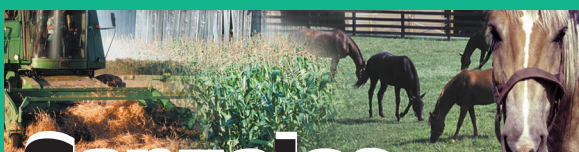
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OBITUARIES

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ESTHER JUENGERMANN



Esther and Jack Juengermann, whom she had known since childhood, began dating when he returned from WWII. They married on June 23, 1948, in Corpus Christi. They had one child, Jennifer Leah. The family lived and worked in several towns before settling in San Antonio where they lived for many years. They were longtime members of Christ Lutheran Church of Alamo Heights. After moving to Fort Worth in 2006 to be near their daughter, grandchildren, and great grandchild they became members of Trinity Lutheran Church.

After retiring from their careers, as a teacher and commercial pilot, Esther and Jack enjoyed traveling, playing bridge, and having fun with friends. They

were happily married for 69 years until Jack's death on April 7, 2018.

She was the last of the Rossow children to claim her reward. Her parents, and her siblings, Johnny Rossow, George Rossow, Alma Rossow, Bertha Baker, Lillie Dullnig, and Nora Arhelger lit the way for her— as did her beloved husband, Jack.

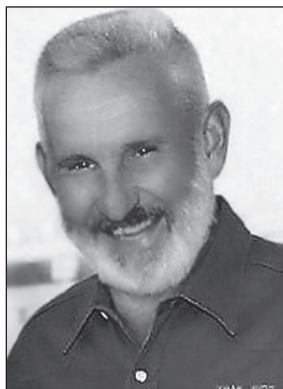
In addition to her daughter, Jennifer Hill and son-in-law, Ken, Esther is survived by her grandchildren, Elisabeth Fairbanks and husband John, and Rebecca Hill and partner, Fulton; and great-grandchild, Hunter Rodriguez.

Due to the constraints of COVID 19 there will be a small committal service held privately in Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, consideration of contributions to local food banks or Trinity Lutheran Church, in her memory, is suggested.

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NATHAN ELDER WHEAT



Nathan Elder Wheat, age 84, of Nixon, peacefully entered eternal rest on Friday evening, Nov. 27, 2020. He was at his childhood home surrounded by his family. Nathan was born on March 10, 1936 at Dr. Elder's Crestview Hospital in Nixon to Jack Madison and Florine (Elder) Wheat. Nathan lived a very blessed, happy life; born and raised in Nixon, he graduated from Nixon High School in 1954. He graduated from Texas Technological College (now Texas Tech University) in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

He married his high school sweetheart, Dixell Hewell, at the First Baptist Church in Nixon on December 7, 1957. He soon joined the United States Army, and he and Dixell moved to Augusta, Georgia where he was stationed at Fort Gordon. After proudly serving in our military, with babies in tow, they returned home to Nixon where he began his teaching career and continued his family's ranching tradition.

As an educator, Mr. Wheat touched the lives of so many in the Nixon and Smiley communities. He followed in his grandmother's and mother's footsteps as teacher, principal, bus driver, and driver's education teacher. Stories tell that his students loaded many tractor parts and farm implements in the trunk of the driver's ed car! Nathan and Dixell enjoyed working with school groups and chaperoned countless Senior Trips. Oh, the stories they have! Being honored as "Teacher of the Year" in 1992, he was the epitome of a teacher and would use any opportunity to share his knowledge and love of learning.

Saying Nathan was very involved in his community is truly an understatement. He believed in kindness, service, and paying-it-forward. Over the years, he dedicated his time and effort to numerous organizations including, but not limited to, the Nixon Boy Scout Troop, Nixon Mahan-

Patteson American Legion Post 547, Nixon-Smiley EMS, Feather Fest, Nixon Lions Club, and Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show. Raised in the First Baptist Church of Nixon, he also dedicated many hours to the First United Methodist Church of Nixon, where his family attended. He was honored as "Citizen of the Year" in 1988.

Nathan continued his grandfather's and father's legacy with membership in the Nixon Masonic Lodge, and commitment to the San Marcos Commandery and the Alzafar Shrine, earning his 50 year pin from the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine in 2011. In 1998, he received the Golden Trowel award from The Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. and A.M.

As a member of the Texas Tech Alumni Association, Nathan loved his Red Raiders and continued trips back to Lubbock for tailgate parties, football games, and reunions with his "Third Floor East Sneed Hall" gang, even including their 50th reunion in 2008. Floating the Frio River (in his jeans and black socks!) and fishing along the Texas Coast were lifelong treasured happenings with family and friends.

Nathan became a Life Member (#466) of the San Antonio Livestock Show in 1948, and he supported this organization up until the weekend before his passing. He was a tireless member of S.A.L.E. Trail Ride Committee, was chosen Committeeman of the Year in 2006, and selected as an Honorary Director in 2012.

Endless, wonderful memories were made spending

time with his trailride family, extending across Central and South Texas. Innovatively converting a stock trailer to a cook trailer, with all amenities possible, Nathan became the one everyone depended on for a hot cup of coffee, meals along the trail, benefits, and cook-offs. Nathan was a charter member of the Cross Country Trail Riders of Nixon, a member of the Sandhills Trail Drivers of La Vernia, the S.A.L.E. Trail Ride Association, and a Lifetime Director of the Old Chisholm Trail Drivers Association.

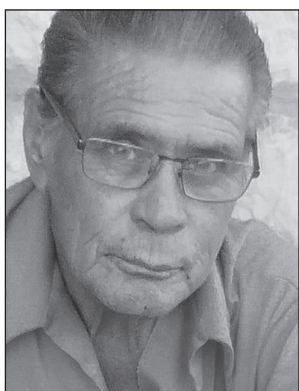
Nathan is preceded in death by his parents, his younger brother, Michael Cassidy "Mike" Wheat, and his sister-in-law, Sue Wheat.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Dixell; son, Nathan E. Wheat, II and wife Renee; daughter, Janna Dixell Wheat; daughter, Jacilyn Hewell Wheat; grandchildren Katelyn Sorell, Erin Dixell Ronshausen and husband Shawn, and Madison Jayd Holmes; sister-in-law, Linda Hewell Piland; nieces, nephews, cousins, and many, many friends.

He may have had many names... Nathan, Mr. Wheat, Flattop, Pa, and even Santa Clause... but Nathan was undoubtedly one-of-a-kind and will be missed by so many. In retirement, one of his favorite things was to sit and watch it rain while enjoying a cold Lone Star Light. So, the next time you see droplets from the heavens, raise your glass and remember him with a grin!

The family plans to have a memorial service at a later time. As Nathan had a giving heart, the family has established a memorial account at Third Coast Bank for contributions in lieu of flowers. All contributions will be given back to the Nixon and Smiley communities in his honor.

RAUL CONTRERAS



Raul Contreras was born and raised in Gonzales, Texas on Sept. 4, 1950 to Pedro and Jesusa Sanchez Contreras. He attended school in Gonzales and graduated.

He left Gonzales after graduation and moved to Grand Junction, Colorado where he stayed for many years.

Raul loved to work on cars, go fishing and making everyone laugh. He was known as one of the best mechanics around the area. If you needed

your car fixed, just call on Raul.

His passion was spending time with his family, especially when he came back home to Texas.

Raul spent the last months of his life back home in Texas, where he was surrounded by his loving family. Especially his brother Rando and sister in law Betty Jo.

His wishes were to be cremated.

A memorial service is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020.

Time: 11 a.m.
Location: Harris Funeral Home, 127 Highway 90A, Gonzales, Texas

JAMES PAUL BENEDICT



James Paul Benedict, 96, went to be with the Lord on Nov. 23, 2020. He was born Sept. 24, 1924 in Belmont Texas, to Henry Paul and Olga Emma Soeffje Benedict. James "Buddy" Benedict was the oldest of three siblings, one of them his twin sister. He married his long-time sweetheart Agnes Ann Wurz on Sept. 19, 1948. They started their life together in El Paso TX. Buddy retired from 25 years of service with Halliburton as a Diesel Mechanic and 20 years with the Gonzales County Maintenance Department. James had honorably served in the United States Army Air Corp in WWII.

Bud grew up at their home place in Belmont listening to his daddy and family play music. He loved to dance and be with his family. He also enjoyed time with the guys and spent many years hunting at their deer lease. His life revolved around work and play, and he was always known as the one folks could count on, his word was his bond. He is survived by his son Hank Benedict and wife Dawn; daughter, LouAnn Norton and husband Butch; granddaughters, Kody Campbell, Kari Gothard and husband Shane, Natalie Land and husband Gordon, Christina Benedict and a grandson, Anthony Benedict. Great-grandchildren, Rebecca Bender, Cole Harris, Tyler Wright, Jake Wright, Darla Campbell, Patrick and Michael Benedict. And one great-great granddaughter, Haysleigh Jo Wright. He was preceded in death by his wife, parents, twin sister, Joyce Duncan and sister, Betty Arnett.

Graveside service was held at 10 a.m. Saturday,

and Gordon Land. Memorials may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, 200 SE 1st Street, Suite 800, Miami, FL 33131. Friends may sign the guest register and leave condolences to the family by visiting www.seydlershillfuneralhome.com.

Due to current CDC, State and local mandates, protective measures regarding social distancing, limited attendance capacity, and use of personal protective masks will be required for the graveside burial rite. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home 906 St. Paul Gonzales, Texas 78629.

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We all strive to survive this life

Hope your Thanksgiving was great, even if you weren't able to be with everyone you would've like to have been with. It's all too easy to complain about things when they're not going the way we'd like. This makes it all that much more important to continue thanking God everyday for the blessings you do have, remembering that some are less fortunate ... turkeys, for example.

As I continue with my house makeover, transitioning from "Eloise's emporium" to "Eric's tropical paradise by the sea", I've recently acquired a few large artificial palm trees to add to the ambiance (and they do), a definite no-no in some peoples book. Having edited the Master Gardeners newsletter for several years, if Eloise was still here she'd be punching me in the stomach until my tongue popped out.

I'm fully aware that after this article is published that I may have an unruly crowd of master gardeners protesting in my front yard, as they can get a little crazy at times, I'll just throw out some packets of heirloom seeds in order to execute my escape. But, in my defense ...

While loving real plats as much as anyone (with years of receipts to prove it), I'm trying to get the look I'm after with as little ongoing work as possible. People always complimented Eloise on her extraordinarily green thumb, but truth be told (now that my tongue's safe), she was a world class plantaholic. Frustrated that I could never get her to attend a meeting (admitting the problem is the first step towards recovery), gotta say, our house and yard did look great, thanks honey. But, who has two black thumbs but still loves plants, that's right... this guy!

I've recently finished my first season of the ever popular game show "Survivor." I had heard people talk about it but didn't understand what a hugely successful and long running show it was (40 seasons).

While it's entertaining and fun to watch, I think it sums up capitalism and the American way perfectly. A dozen or so contestants are stuck on an island or other remote location, attempting not only to win physical challenges, but trying to outsmart



ERIC ESTES

Love, Eric
and Eloise

the others by lying, cheating, stealing and manipulating each other in pursuit of a million dollar prize.

I'm certainly not against healthy competition, but throwing out morals, integrity and self respect in pursuit of the almighty dollar (didn't God use to be referred to as the Almighty?), just ain't right. How do those commandments go again; you shall have no gods before me or worship any image (\$), you shall not steal, bear false witness or covet your neighbors belongings, and you shall honor your father and mother. The overall winner of the show promised and swore to someone on his father's life, then broke the promise. When directly asked by the contestant he'd lied to if the million dollars was more important than his father, he answered with a resounding Yes! His defense; it's only a game.

As we are all striving to survive the game of life, we must keep in mind our eternal life as well. Matthew 7:12 says "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for thus sums up the law and the prophets." This is what most of us know as the "Golden Rule."

A local teacher was trying to explain this concept to a high school senior and they just couldn't grasp it, and thought she was kidding. Our youth are being programmed by what we allow as acceptable in today's society, to be more self centered than they already are. In AA it's known that the people who recover have the ability to be honest with themselves. Can we turn things around? I guess that depends ... can we be honest?

Until next time, be safe, love you guys, Eric.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

CITY OF GONZALES
CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Gonzales, by this instrument, notifies the public of a PUBLIC HEARING on a city-initiated request presented for Planning and Zoning recommendation and City Council action on the following project:

The below listed properties are currently zoned R-1 Residential District and the City of Gonzales is initiating a zoning change to establish an overlay Planned Development District for all of the properties within the Lou's Garden subdivision to establish minimum setbacks, minimum lot depths, maximum lot coverage, minimum lot area and other development standards to allow the existing properties to be in compliance with the city's zoning regulations while maintaining the base zoning of R-1 Residential District.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 1, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 2, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 3, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 4, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 5, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 6, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 7, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 8, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 9, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 10, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 11, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 12, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 13, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 14, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 15, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 16, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 17, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 18, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 19, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 20, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 21, Block 1

Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 22, Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 23 Block 1
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 1, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 2, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 3, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 4, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 5, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 6, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 7, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 8, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 9, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 10, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 11, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 12, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 13, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 14, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 15, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 16, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 17, Block 2
Lou's Garden Subdivision, Lot 18, Block 2

The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a **Public Hearing December 14, 2020 at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph St. at 5:15 p.m.**, to allow for public comment on the application to rezone the listed properties. After consideration and recommendation by Planning & Zoning Commission and the Public Hearing, the application for rezoning will be presented to **City Council for a Public Hearing and possible approval on January 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph St.**

The City Council encourages citizens to participate in the public comment and public hearing process for all applications for zoning or rezoning before the City Council. Citizens unable to attend meetings may submit their views to Kristi Gilbert, City Secretary for the City of Gonzales, by mailing them to P.O. Drawer 547, Gonzales, TX 78629. For additional information, contact the City Secretary office at (830)-672-2815.



Waelder Independent School District Solicitation	Solicitation # 20-002 Due Date: January 25, 2021 DUE NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM (CST) LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
--	--

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP): DISTRICT TRUCK

Waelder Independent School District is receiving sealed proposals for **District Truck, RFP #20-002**, as per the attached specifications. Proposals will be accepted at Central Office (201 US Highway 90 W, Waelder, TX 78959) or by mail (P.O. Box 247, Waelder, TX 78959) until 3:00 PM on January 25, 2021.

It is not the policy of Waelder ISD to purchase on the basis of low proposal alone; "Best Value" being the controlling factor. The District will evaluate each bid received and make awards based on the criteria enumerated in Texas Education Code 44.031(b).

Vendors must fill in all blank columns on items being proposed such as Vendors Brand Name and Number, Unit Price. The above information must be clear and concise. **This proposal form must be used, and all proposals are to be signed. Failure to follow these instructions could be cause for the proposal to not be accepted.**

QUESTIONS REGARDING SPECIFICATIONS OR BID PROCESS CALL:
Tiana Landry
Finance Director
830-239-5612

To ensure proper receipt of bid response, please include Company Name, Bid Number, and Bid Name on the outside of the delivery envelop or package.

This Bid is a firm offer which shall be irrevocable and open for acceptance for ___ calendar days (60 calendar days unless otherwise specified) from the day set for submission of bids (30-day minimum is usually required for School Board Approval).

DISTRICT PROFILE

Waelder I.S.D. is a rural district located in Central Texas about halfway between Houston and San Antonio on Highway 90. Waelder I.S.D. has an enrollment of approximately 320 students from Pre-K through twelfth grade. District Boundaries are in Gonzales and Caldwell counties.

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION

CAUSE NO. OTH20-0081
**IN THE ESTATES OF EPIFANIO T. CEDILLO AND
RAMONA H. CEDILLO, DECEASED**

**TO ALL UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS
OF THE ESTATES OF EPIFANIO T. CEDILLO AND
RAMONA H. CEDILLO, DECEASED**

Pauline Cantu filed in the County Court of Gonzales, Texas, on **November 18, 2020** an **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP** in the estates of **Epifanio T. Cedillo and Ramona H. Cedillo**, Deceased, requesting that **the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Epifanio T. Cedillo and Ramona H. Cedillo, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in said estate.**

The Court may act on said Application and any opposition at any call of the docket on or after 10 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the **Gonzales County Courthouse, 414 St. Joseph St, Commissioner's Courtroom, in Gonzales County, Texas.**

All UNKNOWN OR MISSING HEIRS of this estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to said Application before the above stated time and date **should you desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any contest, objection, intervention, or response in writing** with the County Clerk of Gonzales County, Texas, **on or before the above noted date and time.**

Given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office in Gonzales, Texas, on November 23, 2020.

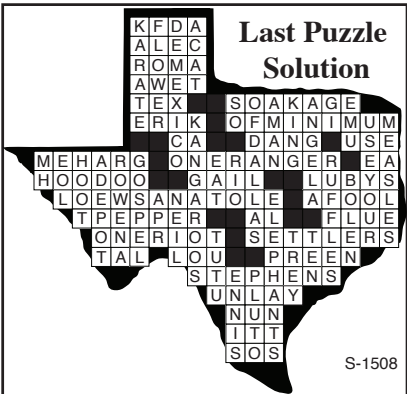
Lona Ackman, COUNTY CLERK
Gonzales County, Texas
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Gonzales, Texas 78629

By:
Carly Russell, Deputy

Plaintiff(s) Attorney:
Robert W. Bland
PO Box 119
Gonzales, Texas 78629
830-672-2437



November 26 Puzzle Answers



OBITUARY

ROGER DALE BEENE, SR.

Roger Dale Beene, Sr., 69, of Gonzales, saddled up and rode to heaven on Saturday, November 28, 2020. Roger was born Oct. 14, 1951 in Gillett, TX to Floyd Leon Beene and Dorothy Bell Beene and was raised by Dorothy and stepfather D.R. Moseley. He married Joyce Maxine Yates on July 2, 1973 in Seguin.

Roger owned and operated Roger Dale Beene, Sr. Trucking Company for over 40 years. Prior to this he rodeoed riding bulls and later roughnecked in the oil field. Roger was a hard man but was a good man. He was always there for his children and friends. Roger had an outstanding work ethic and when he could take time away from work, he enjoyed fishing, hunting and trail rides with his family and friends.

Roger is survived by his admiring family; daughter, Trincia Beene Schultz; sons, Roger Dale Beene, Jr., and Judge Roy Beene; sisters, Bobbie Jo Condel, and Peggy Moseley; brothers, James Beene, Mark Moseley, and Kenneth Moseley; grandchildren, Clegg Beene, Coy Hill, Mikahl "Joe Dale" Mederos, Allen Beene and J'Celyn Dale Beene; and great-grandchild, Kaden Johnson and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. He



was preceded in death by his wife, daughter, Tayre Dale Beene, parents, brothers, Vernon Moseley, Ricky Moseley and stepfather, D.R. Moseley.

Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 in Gonzales Memorial Park with Rev. Todd Craven officiating. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org. Friends may sign the guest register and leave their condolences by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com.

Due to current CDC, State and local mandates, protective measures regarding social distancing, limited attendance capacity, and use of personal protective masks will be required for the graveside burial rite. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home 906 St. Paul Gonzales, Texas 78629.

Be sure to take care of 'you' during the holidays

By ULLY WAGNER
AmeriCorps

Family, traditions, travel and festivities are hallmarks of the holiday season. Managing the holidays may also mean coping with stress, worry and conflict along with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It can be tempting to prioritize the happiness of others during the holidays but taking time for yourself is more important than ever, particularly this year. Review the self-care checklist and resources below for tips on how to take care of yourself and make your holiday season merrier.

- Which self-care habits do you practice?
- Eating nutritious foods daily.
- Getting restful sleep each night.
- Taking medications as prescribed.
- Scheduling "you" time.
- Engaging in regular physical activity.
- Asking for help when needed.
- Saying "no" and putting your needs first.
- Addressing stress and difficult emotions in a timely manner.
- Helpful Self-Care Resources
- Eating well during the holidays can be an uphill battle. SNAP food benefits can help put healthy food on your table throughout



the year. Visit yourtexasbenefits.com for more information on what SNAP offers and how you can apply.

Mental health

Staying mentally and emotionally well may be particularly difficult with the added stress of the season and COVID-19. Visit the Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council website (mentalhealthtx.org) to access mental wellness resources as well as information on finding help for you or someone you love. Texas Health and Human Services launched its Statewide COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line to help Texans experiencing mental or emotional challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can call toll-free, 24/7, at (833) 986-1919.

Exercise

Regular physical activity can help us stay healthy and manage stress. Texercise, an HHS health promotions initiative, offers free resources and programs to engage adults 45 years and older in regular physical activity and a good diet. Visit www.texercise.com to learn more about healthy aging and to request a free copy of the Texercise handbook.

Caregivers

Staying on top of caregiving responsibilities while managing the holidays can be challenging. Caring for others is difficult work and taking time for yourself is essential. You can call the Caregiver Action Network Help Desk Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Central Time at (855) 227-3640.

For additional caregiv-

ing tips, visit the following resources:

- Take Time Texas offers short-term respite care services to provide caregivers with brief periods of relief or rest. Use its search tool to find respite near you. <https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/taketimetexas>
- 10 Tips for Family Caregivers from the Caregiver Action Network. caregiveraction.org/sites/default/files/10%20Tips%20for%20Family%20Caregivers.pdf
- Caregiving and the Coronavirus: Tips for Caregivers from the Family Caregiver Alliance. www.caregiver.org/sites/caregiver.org/files/pdfs/caregiving-and-coronavirus-tipsheet-v2-200408.pdf

Ullly Wagner is an Age Well Live Well AmeriCorps VISTA Leader.

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Ehrig reappointed to GBRA Board

By **BROOKE SJOBERG**
Inquirer Reporter

Steve Ehrig, of Gonzales, was reappointed to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Board of Directors by Texas Governor Greg Abbott on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

This term is set to expire in 2025. Ehrig has served on the GBRA board since 2018, and currently sits on its Audit Committee.

Ehrig said that his biggest priority as a board member continues to be serving as a voice for Gonzales County and seeking a solution to funding repairs for GBRA dams, which do not produce enough profit to cover repairs, as well as meeting the needs of growing populations upriver.

“That area is going to need water, and more water in the future and with the treatment plants that need to take care of all the growth up there, that’s where GBRA is really growing,” Ehrig said. “And then along with the lakes and everything. Just to try



Steve Ehrig (Contributed photo)

and find a solution for the three lakes that really don’t have a solution at this time, to get the dams rebuilt.”

“Three of the lakes have formed their own associations, and with taxes, they’re going to pay for the rebuilding of those dams. I’m just out there still trying to find a money source to try to help

rebuild the other three remaining dams.”

Ehrig is owner and partner of Ehrig Brothers Agriculture, E-BARR Feeds and E Brothers Ranches. He has previously served as president of Texas Young Farmers and is currently a member. In addition, he is a director for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Other organizations which count him as a member include the Gonzales County Agents’ Advisory Board, the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program, The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks and the Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association. Ehrig has previously served as a member of the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District, an announcer for the Gonzales Livestock Show Association, president of the Gonzales County Farm Bureau, and the Gonzales County Appraisal District Agricultural Advisory Board.

County tops 1,300 cases

STAFF REPORT

There were 34 new COVID-19 cases reported in Gonzales County from Wednesday, Nov. 25 to Tuesday, Dec. 1, bringing the total case count to 1,306 according to daily updates from County Judge Patrick C. Davis. Of these, 1,250 are determined to have been recovered, with 10 deaths reported.

The county has 46 active cases as of Dec. 1.

Department of State Health Services Data also shows that hospitalizations of lab-confirmed COVID-19 in Trauma Service Area P, which Gonzales County is included in, have risen to an even 15% as of Dec. 1. This is a 5.6% increase from Tuesday, Nov. 24, just a week before.

The executive order from Texas Governor Greg Abbott which allows bars to remain open at 50% operation capacity and other businesses at 75%

operation capacity states that hospitalizations must be below 15% capacity to do so. If hospitalizations exceed 15% of capacity, counties within that TSA do not qualify to opt-in to this order. As of Dec. 1, there are only three TSAs with hospitalizations at 15% or below: O (Capital Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council), P (Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council) and Q (Southeast Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council).

Cases continue to be reported on district websites in Nixon-Smilely Consolidated Independent School District and Gonzales Independent School District, but Waelder Independent School District has not updated its website detailing case counts since Nov. 16, four days before the district went on its extended winter break. In NSCISD, there are six active cases. In GISD, there are four, with two among students.

State prison system will shutter 3 prisons amid staffing shortages

By **JOLIE MCCULLOUGH**
The Texas Tribune

As the state prison system sees fewer inmates and a critical shortage of officers in the pandemic, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is permanently closing another prison and shuttering two more at least temporarily.

The Scott prison in Brazoria County will be closed Dec. 15, and the Gurney and Neal units, near Palestine and Amarillo, respectively, will be emptied and temporarily closed by the end of the year, a TDCJ spokesperson told The Texas Tribune on Tuesday. Inmates and desperately needed staff will be transferred to nearby lockups, according to TDCJ.

The agency already closed three lockups in September as the inmate population plummeted during the pandemic to the lowest number seen in decades, according to state budget reports. From March to October, 18,000 inmates resided in the Texas prison system after the coronavirus caused a monthslong halt of transfers from county jails and a backlogged, sluggish court system.

“The population is 122,000 and change, and it’s been fairly stable in the 121 [thousand] to 122,000 range for a couple months now,” said TDCJ spokesperson Jeremy Desel. “But that’s the lowest prison population for TDCJ since 1995.”

The closure of Scott, Gurney and Neal will bring the Texas prison system down to a total of 101 state lockups, Desel said. In September, Garza East prison in Beeville and the Jester I Unit near Sugar Land were permanently closed, and the Bradshaw State Jail in Henderson was emptied and is now idle. All of the shuttered units housed only men.

Although the pandemic has spurred a dramatic decline in the prison population, the number of



Texas will close prisons in Brazoria County, Palestine and Amarillo due to a critical shortage of staff. (Martin do Nascimento for The Texas Tribune)

inmates and units has also steadily decreased for more than a decade as crime rates fall and officials turn toward things like mental health services and diversion programs. And although it’s unclear if the prison population will again bounce up as restrictions of the pandemic are lifted, having fewer prisons means the agency can try to stanch the bleeding of its corrections workforce.

TDCJ has long struggled against dangerous, chronic understaffing, but the number of officers has reached critical lows in recent months. In October, the agency was short by more than 5,500 officers, or about 22%, according to an agency report.

Many prison units are short hundreds of officers, and several are less than 50% staffed.

In October, about 560 full-time corrections officers worked at the three closing units. Desel said those employees can be transferred to nearby units — each prison has at least one other in the same county. Gurney and Neal, which will be idled, are woefully understaffed, and officers are especially needed at neighboring prisons.

Inmates at severely understaffed prisons have reported being malnourished; being fed small, sometimes rotting sack meals in their cells; and rarely getting to move around. Officers have reported more assaults and

said they were forced to cut corners and work too much overtime.

Gurney employed more than 240 corrections officers in October. In the same county, Michael and Coffield prisons were both under 60% staffed, with a shortage of about 235 and 340 officers, respectively, according to the state report. Neal’s nearly 130 full-time officers could work at the adjacent Clements prison, which was understaffed by about 460 officers, with only 42% of positions filled.

At the same time, about 4,000 incarcerated men resided in those units and would need to be rehoused, according to TDCJ

data. The state budget report listed nearly 18,000 prison beds as available.

Although they are generally broadly applauded as a cost savings and a shift away from mass incarceration, prison closures during the pandemic bring mixed feelings for Michele Deitch, a senior lecturer and prison conditions expert at the University of Texas’ LBJ School of Public Affairs and law school.

During the pandemic, understaffed prisons have often rotated employees among multiple units to try to fill shifts, potentially cross-contaminating the lockups, where the coronavirus spreads like wildfire. More than 26,000 inmates and nearly 7,000 staff members have tested positive for the virus, TDCJ data shows. At least 173 inmates and 27 employees in TDCJ have died.

Deitch enthused about the closing of Scott, a century-old prison; Gurney, a transfer facility; and Neal, which is severely understaffed. Still, she worried about the virus’ spread as prison units combine.

“These all make sense to close. ... It will help in a lot of ways,” she said. “The one piece that really worries me, though, is that by needing to presumably consolidate the population of two facilities into one, you’re going to increase the density of the population in the other facilities, which is exactly not the approach you want in COVID.”

Disclosure: The University of Texas at Austin has been a financial supporter of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune’s journalism. Find a complete list of them here.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at www.texastribune.org

ACROSS

1 Rising _____, TX

5 honorary Texas Ranger: _____

6 former MLB pitcher from Texas, David _____

7 transport for Dallas-based Greyhound (2 wds.)

8 TX-born Steve Martin song: “King _____”

9 flightless Australian bird

12 TXism: “_____ of” (lots)

17 puzzling things

19 “Ma,” the first governor of Texas

21 “_____ up” (getting ready)

22 TXism: “she could talk a wagon out of _____” (talks a lot)

23 _____ Blanca, TX

28 dork, dweeb

29 gas _____ led to a school disaster in New London (1937)

30 reveal an art work

31 WBAP’s business

35 TX Janis Joplin album: “I Got _____” Kozmic Blues

36 site where Missouri City, TX slaves learned they were free in 1860 (2 wds.)

42 TXism: “mean as a _____”

44 cut into two parts

46 airport buildings

48 slain

49 this Ron was “Tarzan” on NBC (1966-68)

50 a church building recess

51 more mentally healthy

52 TXism: “he’s ugly as homemade _____”

53 TXism: “fits like ugly _____ ape”

54 “Lexington” at Corpus Christi is an _____-class aircraft carrier

DOWN

1 it’s located on the 3rd floor of the TX Capitol (2 wds.)

2 “Jackson County Herald-_____”

3 Alaska’s islands

4 TX Drew Stubbs played for the Cincinnati _____

9 Muslim ruler

10 Louise and Irlene to Barbara (2 wds.)

11 this Ulysses first saw combat at the “Battle of Palo Alto” in TX (init.)

12 a TX doc is current pres. of this assn.

13 in Ellis County on U.S. 67 & 287

14 a Great Lake

15 TXism: “_____ spell” (rest)

16 TXism: “tow _____” (burlap bag)

18 graduate sch. test

20 this Holley wrote first English history of Texas (init.)

23 “mi casa es _____ casa” (neighborly)

24 TX Marcus Johnson is a WR in this state

25 TXism: “beats anything I _____ saw”

26 TV controller

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Missed free throws costly in Apaches OT loss

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales High School boys basketball suffered a frustrating 72-60 loss in overtime to the visiting TMI-Episcopal Panthers on Dec. 1.

The Panthers hit a buzzer-beating 3-point shot to send the game into overtime at 58-58. The Apaches offense struggled in the extra frame, with Jahaius Goode's two free throws with 23 seconds left accounting for the team's only points.

Free throw shooting proved the Apaches (1-2) downfall in the fourth period. The Apaches had erased an 8-point halftime deficit by outscoring the Panthers 24-8 in the third period to take a 47-39 lead. The Apaches controlled the boards on both ends of the court and pushed an uptempo pace on the transition to control the period.

The Apaches led by as many as 11 with less than three minutes to go in the game, and led by five with 1:13 to go. The Panthers hit two free throws to pull within three, 58-55.

The Apaches missed all six free throw attempts in the final minute – where even one made shot would've made it a 4-point lead and a two-possession game.

Overtime proved no kinder to the Apaches, who suffered through missed shots and turnovers – including back-to-back steals that were converted into baskets that built up a 10-point lead for the Panthers, a 5A team in the TAPPS private school division.

Jaydyn Lookabill scored a game-high 24 to lead the Apaches. Goode added 13 and Jacob Bakken 12 to lead the Apaches.

The Apaches will host three consecutive games, starting Friday, Dec. 4 with a 6 p.m. game against 6A Eagle Pass. The team then hosts 4A Bandera at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, followed by a Tuesday, Dec. 8 matchup with 5A Bastrop at 7:30 p.m.

The team defeated Luling, 71-42, on Nov. 24. Lookabill scored 27, with Xavier Aguayo adding 14 and Braden Barfield 12.

Lady Apaches Basketball

The Gonzales High School girls basketball recorded its

fifth consecutive win on the road at Yoakum, 43-31, on Dec. 1.

After a sluggish first period that saw the Apaches (5-1) lead 8-4, Gonzales put up 13 in the second period to take a 21-10 halftime lead. The Apaches led 31-16 after three periods.

Hayley Sample continued to lead the team's scoring from the paint, recording a game-high 23 points. No other Apaches finished in double-digits, with Sam Barnick next at 7 points, and Caitlyn Rhoades with 6.

Outside shooting continued to be an area of concern, as the Apaches were 3-of-24 from outside the key – including just 1-for-11 from 3-point range.

The Apaches are on the road to face 2A Kenedy on Friday, Dec. 4 for a 6:15 p.m. game, before traveling to 4A Sealy for a 6 p.m. game on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Mustangs basketball

The Nixon-Smiley High School boys basketball team had its scheduled Dec. 1 game at Pettus cancelled due to COVID-19. The Mustangs anticipate resuming play next week with a Tuesday, Dec. 8 game at Sacred Heart at 6:15 p.m.

Lady Mustangs basketball

The Nixon-Smiley High School Lady Mustangs basketball team suspended all activities due to COVID-19. The move cancelled the games Nov. 17 against Kenedy, Nov. 20 vs. Poteet, Nov. 23 vs. Yoakum, Nov. 24 vs. Shiner, and its Dec. 1 game at Shiner St. Paul.

The team has added a game into a previously open date on Friday, Dec. 4, hosting San Antonio Fox tech at 6 p.m.

The girls have a Saturday, Dec. 5 home game against Yorktown at 3:30 p.m. before traveling to Hallettsville Sacred Heart on Tuesday, Dec. 8 for a 6:30 p.m. game.

Waelder Wildcats

The Waelder High School girls basketball team will played its second game of the season on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at Moulton at 6 p.m. The team lost its opener back on Nov. 24 to Medina, 30-26.

See **APACHES**, page 13



Jacob Bakken, right, and Jahaius Goode, middle, go up for a rebound Dec. 1 against TMI-Episcopal on Dec. 1. (Steve Fountain)



Apaches guard Xavier Aguayo is fouled while dribbling up the court against TMI-Episcopal. (Steve Fountain)



Jaydyn Lookabill (21) pushes the ball up court against TMI-Episcopal. He finished with 24 points for the Apaches. (Steve Fountain)

Gonzales Apaches Girls Basketball

(0-0, 5-1)

- Nov. 6: Victoria West 56, Apaches 30
- Nov. 10: Apaches 61, La Grange 44
- Nov. 13: Apaches 65, Mathis 28
- Nov. 20: Apaches 57, Floresville 35
- Nov. 23: Apaches 60, SA SW Legacy 48
- Dec. 1: Apaches 43, Yoakum 31
- Dec. 4: @ Kenedy, 6:15 p.m.
- Dec. 8: @ Sealy, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 11: vs. Del Rio, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 15: vs. Fredericksburg, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 18: @ St. Paul, 6:15 p.m.
- Dec. 21: vs. Alice, 2:30 p.m.
- Dec. 28: @ Blanco, 2 p.m.
- Dec. 29: @ Seguin, 12 p.m.
- Dec. 30: vs. Aransas Pass, 1 p.m.
- Jan. 8: vs. Cuero, 7:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 12: @ La Vernia, 7:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 15: vs. Navarro, 7:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 19: @ Pleasanton, 7:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 22: Open
- Jan. 26: @ Cuero, 7:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 29: vs. La Vernia, 7:30 p.m.*
- Feb. 2: @ Navarro, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 5: vs. Pleasanton, 7:30 p.m.*#

* 4A District 27 game

Senior Night

Head Coach: Mike Fowler

Gonzales Apaches Boys Basketball

(0-0, 1-2)

- Nov. 21: Alamo Heights 72, Apaches 50
- Nov. 24: Apaches 71, Luling 42
- Dec. 1: TMI-Episcopal 72, Apaches 60
- Dec. 4: vs. Eagle Pass, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 5: vs. Bandera, 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8: vs. Bastrop, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 11: Open
- Dec. 12: @ Lockhart, 5 p.m.
- Dec. 15: vs. Poteet, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 18: vs. Victoria East, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19: @ Jourdan, 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 28: @ Schulenberg, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 29: vs. Blanco, 1:30 p.m.
- Jan. 5: vs. Fredericksburg, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 8: Lehman, 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 12: vs. La Vernia, 7:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 15: @ Navarro, 7:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 19: vs. Pleasanton, 7:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 22: Open
- Jan. 26: vs. Cuero, 7:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 29: @ La Vernia, 7:30 p.m.*
- Feb. 2: vs. Navarro, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 5: @ Pleasanton, 7:30 p.m.*
- Feb. 12: @ Cuero, 7:30 p.m.*

* 4A District 27 game

Senior Night

Head Coach: Alec Paramski

Nixon-Smiley Mustang Girls Basketball

(0-0, 1-1)

- Nov. 10: Yorktown 51, Mustangs 43
- Nov. 14: Mustangs 44, Natalia 30
- Dec. 1: @ Shiner St. Paul (Cancelled)
- Dec. 4: vs. San Antonio Fox Tech, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 5: vs. Yorktown, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8: @ Hallettsville Sacred Heart, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 11: Open
- Dec. 12: @ Karnes City, 12:30 p.m.
- Dec. 15: vs. Stockdale, 6:30 p.m.*
- Dec. 18: @ Cole, 6:30 p.m.*
- Dec. 22: @ GH Northern Oaks, 6:30 p.m.*
- Dec. 30: vs. Luling, 6:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 5: Open
- Jan. 8: @ Marion, 6:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 12: vs. Randolph, 6:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 15: @ Stockdale, 6:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 19: vs. Cole, 6:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 22: @ GH Northern Oaks, 6:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 26: vs. Luling, 6:30 p.m.*
- Jan. 29: Open
- Feb. 2: vs. Marion, 6:30 p.m.*
- Feb. 5: @ Randolph, 6:30 p.m.*

* 3A District 26 game

Head Coach: Jeff Van Auken

Waelder Wildcats Boys Basketball

(0-0, 0-2)

- Nov. 17: Nixon-Smiley 53, Wildcats 36
- Nov. 20: Weimer 67, Wildcats 45
- Dec. 1: Round Top Carmine 71, Wildcats 49
- Dec. 4: vs. Yoakum, 5 p.m.
- Dec. 5: @ Flatonia, 1 p.m.
- Dec. 11: vs. Hallettsville, 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 15: @ Prairie Lea, 7 p.m.*
- Dec. 18: @ Runge Runge, 7 p.m.*
- Dec. 21: @ LaGrange, 12 p.m.
- Dec. 28: @ Dimebox, 3 p.m.
- Jan. 5: vs. McDade, 7 p.m.*
- Jan. 12: vs. Austwell, 7 p.m.*
- Jan. 15: vs. Moulton, 7 p.m.*
- Jan. 19: @ Nordheim, 7 p.m.*
- Jan. 22: vs. Prairie Lea, 6 p.m.*
- Jan. 26: vs. Runge, 7 p.m.*
- Jan. 29: @ McDade, 7 p.m.*
- Feb. 5: @ Austwell, 7 p.m.*
- Feb. 9: @ Moulton, 7 p.m.*
- Feb. 12: vs. Nordheim, 7 p.m.*

* 1A District 30 game

Head Coach: Justin Harris



Gonzales High School basketball coach Alec Paramski discusses a called foul with a referee in the fourth quarter of the Apaches' 72-60 loss to TMI-Episcopal. (Steve Fountain)

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BM3 Daniel Lane Waddell of Harlingen, TX, USCG, Port O'Conner, TX

Tyrell L. Johnson, US Army, Fort Stewart, Georgia

Zach Head of Gonzales, US Marines, Hawaii

John Dubose III of Gonzales, US Navy, California

Howard Schwausch of Gonzales, US Army, Afghanistan

Ernie Martinez of Gonzales, US Marines, California

Matthew Davis, of Gonzales, US Navy, Belle Chasse, Louisiana

Clay Gregory of Gonzales, US Navy, California

Greg Kuntschik Jr. of Gonzales, US Army, Killeen

Kevin Kuntschik of Gonzales, US Marines, California

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To submit the name of a serviceman or woman, email to: ads@gonzalesinquirer.com

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Include name, rank, hometown, branch of military and location stationed.

TEAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dimensional target, and a .22 rifle for fixed targets are varying distances.

“When you’re on this team, you kind of have to be proficient in everything,” Cooper said. “You have to be able to shoot a rifle, as well as a bow, as well as a muzzle loader, and a shotgun. It’s difficult.”

Cooper has been competing in the event for three years – including the 2019-2020 season that was wiped out due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting young

But his time in 4-H and hunting are among his early childhood memories.

“I’ve been in shooting sports since I was Kindergarten-age,” said Cooper, who turns 16 in January. “I think that is one of the great things about this organization is that it is more than just shooting; it is teaching kids that are so young the right way to handle firearms and be proficient in everything.”

Cooper remembers starting out single-shot .22 caliber rifles and pistols.

“They all had minimal moving parts to keep things simple,” he said. “We worked our way up slowly, shooting a little bit of everything.”

Both of Cooper’s parents – Erin and Brennon – are avid hunters. His younger brother, Coy, 13, is part of the same 4-H shooting club and competes in the sport clay event.

Making the team

Like many other activities, competitions shut down after Spring Break 2020 due to COVID-19. In selecting a four-person team for the Hunting Skills competition, state organizers took into account everything from practice rounds to competitions from the previous season.

Cooper thinks his performance at the state 4-H shooting competition in Manor in July 2019 was pivotal in his selection.

“I did very well in the last competition that I went to,” he said. “I believe that is what secured my spot this year, just because I excelled in the hunting and wildlife event – which I have never really done before. So I showed very big growth. That’s what really, really secured me a spot.

Cooper stressed that there was more to the competitions than shooting.

“Shooting makes up small part of score,” Cooper said. “There are four categories that test your knowledge – not just of hunting, but of fishing and other outdoor



Practices for Cooper LaBuhn include targets on his family’s ranch, the 4-H ranges in Guadalupe County, as well as a range operated by law enforcement in Guadalupe County. (Courtesy Photo)

sports. Three are written and one is where you presented scenarios in person.

“Presentation of skills, answering verbally – all 4-H activities require it. Shooting skills do not get enough credit in developing verbal and social skills.”

Prepping for June

With teammates in Grimes, Travis, and Van Zandt counties, coordinating a joint practice creates some logistical challenges.

The team hopes to get together as many as 12 times ahead of Nebraska.

Cooper said one of his teammates alternated between first and second in each of the four Hunting Skills events in their last competition.

“There’s a little bit of a love-hate relationship there,” Cooper said with a laugh.

While Cooper competes with the Gonzales County-based Sundowners 4-H Club, he practices with the Guadalupe County 4-H, which has one of the best programs in the state. Cooper and his mother are looking to solidify a shooting team in Gonzales County in the near future.

Erin and Cooper trying to

develop club within Gonzales County.

“My sister and I learned shooting through the 4-H and the NRA,” Erin said. “We recently received a grant from the NRA for the Gonzales County 4-H shooting team to buy new equipment. Some of the equipment we have now my sister and I used.”

The competition

Cooper says the archery portion of the Hunting Skills is his favorite.

“Archery is the best:100 percent, absolutely, no question,” he said.

His least favorite is the sporting clays. He said he puts in the most practice on the clays, trying to improve what is usually his lowest score in the shooting competition.

“It’s so hard to get it,” Cooper said. “You have to be naturally gifted to shoot a shotgun. It keeps me on my toes and is the most challenging. It hurt my score the most.”

There is no set layout for the shooting clays. Distances vary. Launchers are hidden from view. The competitor never knows where the clay will be coming from or the direction it will go.

Once at one of the shooting



Cooper LaBuhn says that archery is his favorite of the four events included in the 4-H Hunting Skills competitions. (Courtesy Photo)

Local shooting team

Erin Lindemann-LaBuhn is working on developing the 4-H shooting program in Gonzales County. Anyone interested in joining the local club may contact Erin at: erinlabuhn@yahoo.com

positions, the competitor yells “pull.”

“Sometimes they throw clays on the ground – called rabbits,” Cooper said. “Sometimes they shoot straight up – that’s very difficult. I’ve never had a bird fly straight up on me. I think they do that to keep us on our toes. They can be at an angle in front of you like a pheasant, towards you like a duck going over your decoy, fly laterally like a dove.

“... Something is going to happen. You just don’t know what it is going to do or where it come from. It could be a hole in a bush which gives you very little time to shoot, or it could be across open pasture and you have all the time in the world.”

Scoring is based on either a “hit” or a “miss.”

Cooper said muzzle-loaders bring their own set of challenges. Competitors load a .50 caliber lead ball through the barrel opening, using a ramrod to pack the percussion cap, black powder, and the lead ball.

The challenge is that there is a delay between the time the trigger is pulled and when the cap ignites. That means the shooter has to stay steady after they pull the trigger.

“I see a lot of people struggle – when I try to help a lot of people – who struggle with that event because it is so difficult to not look where you shot immediately after you pull the trigger, which you can do with a modern gun, but can’t with a muzzle loader,” Cooper said.

The event is scored on a hit-or-miss basis, which the target mounted on the kill zone of animal-shaped targets.

A .22 caliber rifle is used for a fixed target rifle event. Targets can vary in distance from 20 to 60 yards, and in the size of the kill zone with targets ranging from the size of a squirrel to that of a bear. In addition, portions of the competition may require shooting uphill or downhill. Competitors are not allowed to measure distance, so they must estimate distance when using the front and rear sites – no scopes – on the rifle, while also adjust for wind and trajectory.

Competitors get one shot at each of six targets and are scored on a hit-or-miss basis on the kill-zone target.

Cooper used a compound bow for his favorite event.

Three-dimensional targets of turkeys, antelope, deer, bears and other critters are placed at distances from seven to 80 yards.

Unlike the hit-or-miss, there is a ringed target over target’s kill zone. A hit in the inner circle (heart) is worth 12 points and the outer circle (lungs) is worth 10. A miss is zero; however, a hit outside the kill zone will deduct points from a score.

“It’s better to miss than to hit outside of target,” Cooper said. “It mimics the ethics of hunting.”

Off the range

Cooper’s interests go beyond shooting sports. He is fascinated by the medical field and is exploring becoming a cardio-thoracic surgeon. He also plays on the Apaches’ baseball team, has a breeder goat herd and shows goats in both 4-H and FFA events.

“I’m a busy guy. I love to hunt and fish,” Cooper said at the end of the phone interview – while sitting in his family’s hunting Jeep on the way back from a hunt.

APACHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The boys basketball team lost to Round Top Carmine, 71-49, on Dec. 1. Ryan Valdez had 21 points for the Wildcats.

The team is scheduled to host Yoakum on Friday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m., and at Flatonia on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 1 p.m.

GHS Powerlifting

The Gonzales High School powerlifting team is set to opens its season on Saturday, Jan. 9 at Kyle Lehman High School. The team has five meets scheduled ahead of the March 3 girls regional and March 13 boys regional.



T.J. Riojas looks to make a pass against TMI-Episcopal on Dec. 1. (Steve Fountain)



Apaches guard Brady Barfield (1) covers a TMI-Episcopal player in the second half of the teams’ Dec. 1 game. (Steve Fountain)

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Decline in financial aid signals possible drop in college plans

By KATE MCGEE
Texas Tribune

The number of Texas high school seniors filling out the federal financial aid application for college, known as FAFSA, is down so far from last year, a sign worrying state higher education leaders that the COVID-19 pandemic is still disrupting many students' pathway to college.

According to the National College Attainment Network's FAFSA tracker, just 24% of Texas seniors have filled out the vital Free Application for Federal Student Aid as of Nov. 20, a 14.6% decline compared to the same time last year.

Preliminary enrollment data from the state shows this fall's college enrollment was down 3%, or more than 47,000 students, primarily among community colleges.

The enrollment and application data was discussed at a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board press conference, where officials said they are concerned that the pandemic is disproportionately affecting underrepresented students, including low-income students, Hispanic and Black students, and rural students.

Higher education leaders across Texas say high school counselors are struggling to connect with students virtually and students aren't receiving the same information about college applications and financial aid that they would be if they were in school every day.

"A year ago it was really easy to find a high school senior in the hall at the school, but now the student may not even be in the building," said John Fitzpatrick, executive director of the nonprofit Educate Texas, on a call with reporters Tuesday.

To combat the declines, the state recently launched a public-private partnership called Future Focused Texas to better support counselors and students, and maintain the state's college enrollment numbers



during the pandemic.

The program includes weekly resources that school counselors can pass to students with deadlines, financial aid eligibility requirements and FAFSA supports. The state also created a new chatbot called ADVi that can immediately answer students' questions 24 hours a day, send reminder texts and connect students with virtual advisers during the week.

So far, 700 counselors across the state have already opted into the program, but the group is trying to double that number. More than 100,000 high school seniors have signed up for the text message program.

Program leaders say they are trying to meet students where they are on social media.

"They will listen to another kid on Tik Tok or something a lot more than me as their dad," said Fitzpatrick, referring to his own teenagers. "We're trying to use the same tools to create this sense of this online community so kids and families can do the same thing they do with Amazon to apply and get

into college."

Students can also get feedback from peers on the college admissions essays.

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown a wrench in Texas' progress toward its 60x30 plan, which aims to ensure 60% of Texans age 25 to 34 have some kind of postsecondary credential by 2030. According to a report presented to the board in October, progress had slowed between 2015 and 2018 so the state was already unlikely to meet that goal by its deadline.

"Accelerating progress will require strengthening academic preparation, support and advising in K-12 and higher education to improve higher education completions in Texas," the report stated.

"It also will require the state's ability to make a strong recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Texas schools and the economy."

While the program is focused on high school seniors, juniors can also opt in to the new text message program by texting COLLEGE to (512) 829-3687.

WINTERFEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

contest, Jump-n-Fun Games, a photo booth, face painting and more.

A live music performance will be given by Ty Dillon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Carriage rides will also be given by the Buggy Barn Museum from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Studio E will be having the first of its Christmas performances from 5:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the downtown square.

From 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Pioneer Village Living History Center will offer its annual "Stars in the Village" programming, with campfire popcorn, cookies, Wassail,

hot chocolate, candle and ornament making, as well as a visit with Santa. Admission is \$5 for ages 5-12, and \$8 for adults.

The Lighted Christmas Parade will pass through downtown historic Gonzales from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., followed by a Tree Lighting ceremony. The next Miss Gonzales County and Royal Court will also be announced at this time.

From 8 p.m. until close, there will be an opportunity for families to have pictures taken with Santa.

Given that there are still active cases of coronavirus in Gonzales County, Gonzales Main Street encourages continued extended cleanliness measures such as hand washing, staying home when sick, social distancing.

J.B. WELLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the City has breached these terms by building the J.B. Wells Park, Expo and Arena on the property, as well as temporarily leasing some of the property as R.V. lots and entering into mineral leases on the property.

Judge Spencer also wrote that a recent order from the U.S. Supreme Court suspending certain kinds of jury trials through Feb. 1 could force the current trial date of Jan. 26 to be moved.

When reached for comment, representation for the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary stated that as orders for these

rulings have not yet been filed, any comment is "premature."

Representation for the City did not respond to the Inquirer's request for comment before publication time.

Copies of these filings may be accessed at the Gonzales County Clerk's Office.



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