



The Gonzales Inquirer

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Gonzales County welcomed Gayle Bludau to her new role as County Extension Agent- Family/ Community Health.

County Commissioners welcome County Extension Agent finalist

By LIZ ADAMS
Gonzales Inquirer

Gayle Bludau was approved and introduced by District Extension Administrator Michael Haynes as the finalist for the position of County Extension Agent- Family/ Community Health. "It is my pleasure to introduce Gayle as the finalist for this position," said Haynes, who went on to say that she had previous experience in Victoria

County and that she was prepared to begin her new role on Monday. Bludau spoke to the court about her champion consumer decision making team and her interest and experience with adult education, healthy cooking, gardening, childcare conferences, and diabetes education. "I cannot wait to get to work," said Bludau. Judge Pat Davis welcomed her aboard.

During public comments, Jimmy Harless spoke about the high number of active COVID-19 cases in Gonzales County, reporting 173 active COVID-19 cases as of Monday morning and approximately 800 probable with 90 fatalities since 2020. He stated that the hospital has asked Gonzales residents to limit visits to the hospital as much as possible. Harless told the court that the

See **COMMISSIONERS**, page 17

GISD Board approves incentives for teachers

By LIZ ADAMS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales ISD Board approved a resolution that will utilize approximately 25%, or \$1.5M, of the district's ESSER III federal stimulus money for COVID-19 Retention Incentive program to reward Gonzales ISD employees for continued loyalty and service provided to the district. The district acknowledged the stress experienced by educators and other school employees during the COVID-19 pandemic that has resulted in a significant increase in school employee resignations during the school year, with some leaving the profession all together. The district expressed concern for the resulting lack of continuity for student learning and school operations and its goal to retain quality employees.

In order to reward those employees who continue to serve the district, eligible, full-time employees will receive incentive payments ranging from \$500 up to \$2,000 above and beyond their regular salary and benefits, as determined by an employee's position, in exchange for continued service to the district. Members also voted to grant authority to the superintendent to contract with the Gonzales County Election Administrator for the May 7, 2022 elections.

An order adopting the Redistricting Plan for Board of Trustees Single Member Districts

See **INCENTIVES**, page 16

Nixon City Council declares January Fair Housing Month

By LIZ ADAMS
Gonzales Inquirer

Nixon City Council approved a proclamation declaring January 2022 the City of Nixon Fair Housing Month during the regular meeting on Monday. The council voted to approve the minutes of the November 11th, 2021 meeting since the regular December meeting was cancelled. The council approved financial statements and unpaid bills. Nixon Chief of Police Miguel Cantu was presented with the ESGR Patriot Award for the department's contribution to national security and liberty through support for employee participation in America's National Guard and Army Reserves. The Fire Department's Report was given, and Mary Ann Fatheree thanked the department for their bravery regarding an incident that took place Dec. 31 involving

See **NIXON**, page 17



The ESGR Patriot Award was presented to Nixon Chief of Police Miguel Cantu for the department's contribution to national security and liberty through support for employee participation in America's National Guard and Army Reserves.



CONTRIBUTED BY KEN JONES

A small plane lands at the Roger M. Dreyer Memorial Airport.

Airport Board welcomes new member Jones

By LIZ ADAMS
Gonzales Inquirer

During the regular meeting of the airport board on Tuesday, new member Kenneth Jones was introduced to the Airport Board. The board approved minutes from December 14 meeting.

Members considered policy on authorizing the use of specific portions of the Roger M. Dreyer Memorial Airport for a wedding reception if allowed by current grant assurance and hangar lease. Discussion of benefits and legal concerns took place before the item was

See **AIRPORT**, page 16



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This table, left, contains a bugle, a deck of cards, a map and a muskrat hat in the style that was issued to Buffalo Soldiers. Below, currency, cooking utensils and canisters containing food help visitors imagine the types of things a Buffalo Soldier would have carried.



Palmetto State Park honors Buffalo Soldiers at heritage event

By LIZ ADAMS
Gonzales Inquirer

Texas Parks and Wildlife sponsored the Buffalo Soldier Heritage Program hosted at Palmetto State Park last weekend. Native Texan Lt. Ricky Dolifka, who travels the state to share Texas history in parks and schools, gave a presentation about the types of wildlife Buffalo Soldiers would have encountered. A table was piled with animal skins as visitors walked into the event.

Dolifka discussed the Native American origin for the word opossum and the uniqueness of marsupials among the deer, fox squirrels, rabbits and other animals that could be found in the area in the 1860's. The popularity of the beaver in the fur trade that nearly wiped them out and the role of the skunk in the production of perfumes were also topics of the educational program. Some of the wildlife was dangerous and new to the Buffalo Soldier, like the western diamondback rattlesnake.

Dolifka said that in his opinion, the most interesting regional animal to track is the mountain lion because it is so elusive.

"They're powerful and sleek. There are waterways and plenty of hogs and deer for them to eat, so there's a good healthy population of mountain lions in Texas," Dolifka said, adding that although, "mountain lions tend to avoid people, it's always good to be mindful of what's around you when you're camping."

He also warned that strawberry-scented shampoo is better left at home in order to avoid wildlife in search of food. Seeing or hearing a nearby animal may be possible, but Dolifka pointed out that wildlife will also leave behind evidence that they're around such as footprints and droppings. He demonstrated a camper's rule of thumb to avoid getting too close.



Lt. Ricky Dolifka displays animal pelts during Tracks & Trails event honoring Buffalo Soldiers at Palmetto State Park.

Unlike the withdrawn mountain lion, Dolifka explained that bison were curious animals who would approach humans to investigate. He discussed the bison's ability to run up to 35 mph and described them as, "the biggest, baddest animal out there on the Great Plains."

Despite being herbivores, he said

that bison were tough and that was why Native Americans gave the Buffalo Soldiers their name.

"History is something that's being made every day. We all play a part in that and if we don't remember our history, we don't have a good guide to follow in going forward and making new history," said Dolifka.

Awareness Day shines light on human trafficking

Tuesday, January 11, was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Human trafficking is a crime that involves using force, coercion, or fraud to obtain either manual labor or sexual acts in exchange for money, drugs, or other commodities. While many believe that human trafficking only happens in foreign countries and across border lines, a majority of trafficking victims face exploitation in their hometown. Of all sex trafficking victims in the U.S., around 40% of those are children. The sexual exploitation of children is a growing concern here in Texas.

Norma's House Children's Advocacy Center in Gonzales is currently working with the Office of the Governor to combat sexual exploitation in and around our community. Through Governor Abbot's "Safer Texas" initiative, Norma's House and other advocacy centers across the state will be equipped to provide services to victims of child sex trafficking.

To make a report or to get help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 or call Norma's House at 830-672-1278. For more information, visit <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/childsextrafficking> or www.normashouse.net.

CORRECTION

In the Public Hearing notice for Gonzales Central Appraisal District that ran on June 24, it said "The total amount of decrease from the current year's budget. \$121,249.00". It should have read "The total amount of increase from the current year's budget. \$121,249.00.

The Inquirer regrets any inconvenience this may have caused.

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Gonzales Weather

	January 13 66°/54°	Cloudy with t-storms possible 35% chance of rain • RealFeel 64
	January 14 68°/51°	Partly sunny 16% chance of rain • RealFeel 69
	January 15 64°/42°	A couple of t-storms possible 35% chance of rain • RealFeel 62
	January 16 60°/42°	Clouds yielding to sun 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 60
	January 17 63°/45°	Mostly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 63
	January 18 64°/44°	Plenty of sunshine 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 66
	January 19 66°/45°	Brilliant sunshine 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 65

Celebrations Birthdays

January 13th Carolyn Cain Diane Cook Kathy Lacina Keith Schmidt	Peyton Harkey Leah Richter Kelley Spahn Greg Webb
January 14th Tony Dunning	January 18th Juan Gaytan Barry Harkey Sr. Morgan McLain Roy Pfuhl Kathy Koch Pustka Joey West
January 15th Gary Heximer Sheri Shelton	January 19th Riley Brown Kelley Decker Robin Guerra Katherine Miller Kathy Lamprecht Sam Turk
January 16th Joey Moss Lupe Saldana	
January 17th Lance Cox Andrea De Los Santos	

Anniversary January 14th

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City Lights

By LIZ ADAMS
Backstage

In January 1969, four guys who grew up in Gonzales decided to start a band. This January 29, they'll be playing at J.B. Wells. They've gone their separate ways at times, but the members of the O'Neal Brothers Band have made a lot of music and memories together in the past fifty-two years. After hearing them perform Amazing Grace, I wanted to share their story from City Lights to Stars in the Village.

Brothers Larry and Bobby O'Neal learned to play the guitar by watching their father. Both recalled playing and singing on the front porch of their family's house, which has since been torn down.

"Their mom and dad were like a second mom and dad to me," said drummer Larry Fortune, "every time I'd go over there, they'd treat me like one of their boys."

Fortune remembers a time when he was in the National Guard and he could hear music from their house through an open window at the armory, which is now the Victoria College campus on Sarah DeWitt.

Lead guitarist Thomas "T.I." Hill lived on Waelder Highway with his family where they raised chickens, hogs and cattle.

"My daddy played a little acoustic guitar and my brother got to be a pretty good steel player but I was the picker of the family ever since I was little. What inspired me was when I saw Chet Atkins on the Grand Ole Opry back in the '50s. I said I want to play like that guy. I was about eight years old," said Hill.

"We've always been close," said Bobby O'Neal, explaining that Fortune and Hill were like his brothers, too. All four members of the group played by ear.

"When I wasn't working or doing chores, I'd be playing music and learning chords," Hill told me.

Fortune said he chose the drums because drumsticks didn't cost much.

"I taught myself," said Fortune.

Larry O'Neal learned rhythm but switched after hearing bass player Jody Gold with Jesse Lee and the Texas Valley Boys.

"I was just in awe of that bass guitar," said Larry O'Neal, who is lefthanded, but plays righthanded.

"Larry is also an excellent harmony singer," Hill said.

When Bobby O'Neal bought his first guitar, it was 1968 and he was listening to Merle Haggard, Buck Owens and Johnny Bush.

They found themselves performing for school talent shows in high school, then on to Hermann Sons Hall, where they made \$51.62 each. Fortune said that was enough to convince him to take the gig.

"My mom and dad were out there all the time because they liked to dance. There were dances every Saturday night and the parking lot was full. We sometimes played four nights a week and we were all working full time," said Bobby O'Neal.

They made their way through the region's dancehalls playing anything that was on the radio. If a song was extremely popular, they told me they might find themselves playing it two or three times a night. Larry O'Neal soon lost his enthusiasm for "Matilda" by Cookie and the Cupcakes.

"We started out as a country band but we knew we would need to play rock and roll for young people," Hill explained.

They learned to play hits by Creedence Clearwater Revival and the Eagles. Gonzales native Robert Remschel joined to play steel guitar with the band.

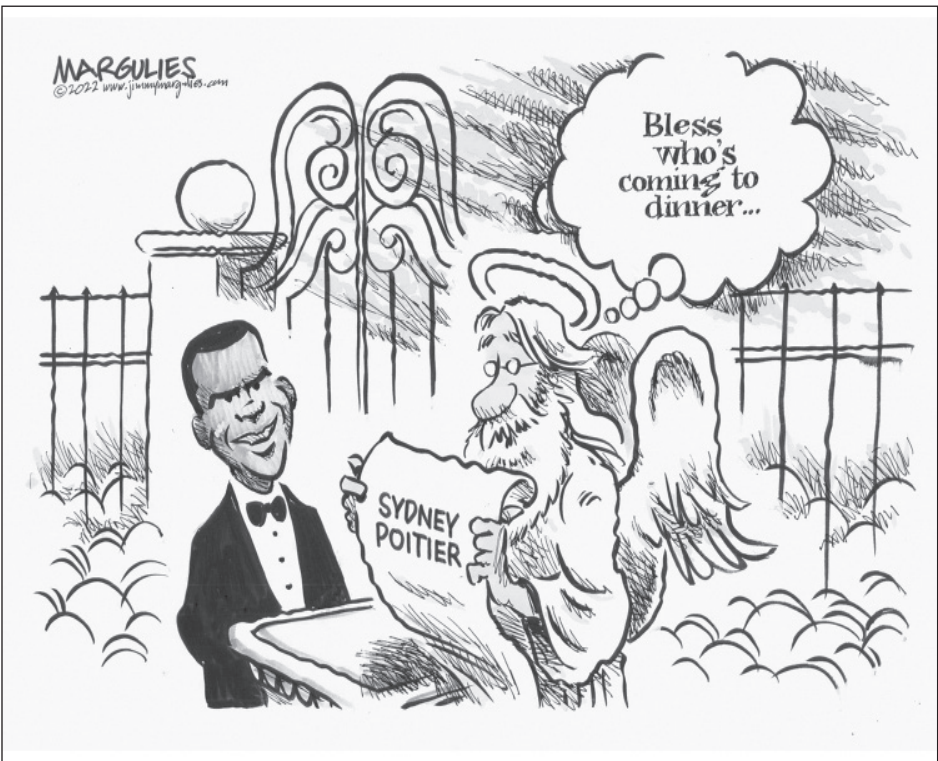
"A song that was really hot back then was by the Hollies. It was called Long Cool Woman in a Black Dress," said Fortune.

They described playing together from Cuero to Yorktown, Weesatche to Shiner, Seguin to Hallettsville. In San Antonio, they played at the Golden Stallion and the Skyline Club. They played at the Broken Spoke in Austin.

They talked about a brawl that took place during a show at the American Legion in Westhoff after a trail ride from Victoria. Bobby O'Neal described playing backup for Eddie Rabbit at the Silver Dollar in Austin and they laughed as he explained that he couldn't remember the name Norvell Phelps when it was time to introduce him. It wasn't his favorite way to do a set because he didn't always know the songs, but Fortune said they had played behind acts like Cal Smith, Johnny Russell and Stoney Edwards.

Fortune left when his daughter was born in 1975. Hill also took time for other responsibilities.

"We had a variety of other musicians that we hired. We had a piano player out of Weatherford. We had a drummer out of Kalamazoo, Michigan. We had a lead guitar player out of Spokane, Washington," Larry O'Neal said.



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.

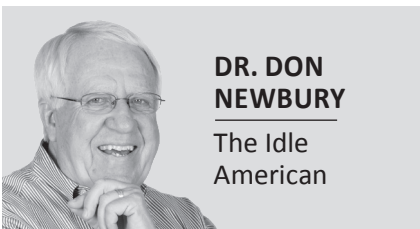
Only letters written exclusively to the newspaper will be published. Letters to a third party or those written to more than one newspaper are not accepted. "Wallpaper" – submissions that are in large part copied-and-pasted from another author or organization – will not be published.

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
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 - 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 Lew Cohn, 830-672-2861.



Two giants make exits

As the old year ended, so did the lives of two one-of-a-kind icons, one in the world of sports and the other in theology.

They died four days apart, 85-year-old John Madden in California, and almost 101-year-old Dr. John W. (Jack) MacGorman in Fort Worth, TX. (Dr. MacGorman was born on the day after Christmas in 1920, and died on Christmas Eve, 2021.)

Though their interests and professional fields seemed to differ greatly, both men had the rare ability to endear themselves to others. As a Hall of Fame Coach/turned broadcaster/turned video game mogul, Madden was considered incomparable in the world of football. In theology, few others compared to Dr. MacGorman. Both men leave immense voids....

Madden was all about football, having played and coached the sport at all levels, compiling the best NFL winning percentage of all time during his dozen-years on the sidelines. Super Bowl winner with the Oakland Raiders at age 40, he left coaching two years later, ending a decade at Oakland and vowing never to coach again.

Soon, he was making TV commercials, increasingly comfortable in front of cameras. With his "scruffy" appearance, pad-scrawling football plays and colorful descriptions, Madden was beloved by both those who knew him well and millions of others who wished they had. He was every man, remembered not for proper English and spiffy clothes, but more so for his down-to-earth style which fits the "common as an old shoe" expression. Most remember his being well clothed with his wardrobe of colorful words.

"BOOM" was a word he used emphatically in TV booths. He was also fond of "BOING!"....

A Nova Scotia born theologian, Dr. MacGorman moved westward when pneumonia persisted. He was headed for Arizona when he ran out of funds in Fort Worth.

As beloved as he was broadminded, he was a renowned biblical scholar, holding Th.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Duke University, respectively.

During his 53-year tenure at SWBTS, more than 20,000 students sat in his classes, with most becoming pastors or missionaries. He and his late wife Ruth were married 71 years, parenting four sons and two daughters. As senior adults, they adopted and reared two pre-school grandchildren. Old-time colleagues remember Dr. MacGorman's comments when he became an "instant" parent decades after their natural children were born. "Timothy is having trouble pronouncing his 'r's," he said. Other faculty roared with laughter, noting that his Scottish brogue didn't include traditional "r" pronunciation, either....

Like Madden, Dr. MacGorman was a friend to all, never abandoning his calling or his deeply-held beliefs. "Few graduates and faculty members have been as deeply admired as Dr. MacGorman," believes Dr. Jimmie Nelson, himself a graduate of Southwestern and a longtime colleague.

Always true to his conscience, Dr. MacGorman once objected to signing the seminary's Articles of Faith. Pressed to provide a signature, he signed a New Testament. Asked to "referee" a theological issue between two "poles-apart" students, Dr. McGorman refused, saying he could better serve his Lord "with a broken heart than with a guilty conscience."

One of Southwestern's most imposing buildings is the Dr. John W. (Jack) McGorman Conference Center which opened two decades ago at a cost of \$11 million....

Both Madden and Dr. MacGorman died suddenly, devoid of lingering illnesses.

Madden died three days after watching his 90-minute TV documentary with family and friends on Christmas Day.

Once asked if NFL great Earl Campbell was "in a class by himself," late Coach "Bum" Phillips answered, "If he's not, it don't take long to call the roll." Ditto for "Mr. NFL Football" John Madden and religious leader Dr. Jack MacGorman....

Dr. Newbury, long-time university president, continues to write and speak to groups and organizations of all types. Contact him at 817-447-3872; email, newbury@speakerdoc.com, Facebook, don newbury, and Twitter, @donnewbury.

The Gonzales Inquirer

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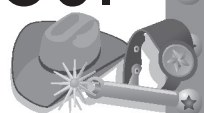
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Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

January 14 – 16
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Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co.

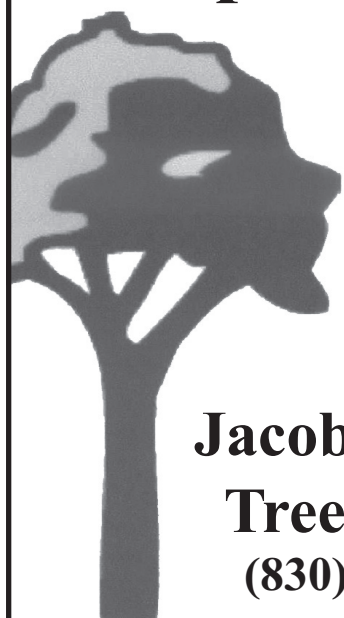
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Garden Q&A

Q. I thought snapdragons and pansies were supposed to tolerate freezing temperatures? In my garden the snap blooms and even the pansy blooms were pretty devastated by the freezing temps at the first of January. I don't relish the idea that I will have to replace them!

A It is not unusual for snapdragons to be affected by cold weather at this time of the year. It is a normal bloom "pause" but they will recover and begin their spring bloom in February. It is unusual for pansies to be as affected as they were, but they will recover even more quickly than the snapdragons.

Q. We have fire ants in our vegetable garden and in containers to the point that it is no fun to work in the garden, Is this an exceptional year for ant activity? What can we

Snapdragons, pansies will recover from freezing temps

do to control them?

A. Up until the New Year's freezes it had been mild weather and seemed to support more ant activity than usual in late December. Treat the fire ants in the vegetable garden with an insecticide with Spinosad as the active ingredient, in nonfood parts of the garden you can use the Spinosad or an anthracnose product. Follow label instructions.

Q. We planted bunny-bloom larkspur in our flower garden 2 years ago and now they are taking over. Are there any options other than to just pull them out like weeds so that our stocks and violas can receive some sun?

A. I have the same issue every year, I do pull many out as weeds and also transplant some into a designated row. For a long time, it was believed that the larkspurs couldn't be trans-

planted but it is not true. It is desirable to keep some larkspur for cut flowers and as a nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds. They are aggressive though and need to be thinned out.

Q. It is disappointing that the freezes took out most of our broccoli and cauliflower plants. Can we replant?

A. Yes, especially with the broccoli you have a good chance to harvest some more heads. You can also plant onions, more English peas lettuce, and beets now.

Q. The freezing temperatures killed the tops of our lantana. Is there any reason why we should not prune of the dead stems?

A. I recommend that you wait as long as possible to trim off frozen tops in the spring because they provide valuable cover and foraging opportunities for ground feeding birds such as thrashers, towhees, and American sparrows. Wait until March if you can.

CALVIN FINCH
Gardening Q&A



LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales Livestock Market January 8

Cattle: 1249

Compared to our last sale: Number 1 quality calves and yearlings sold fully steady to 2.00-3.00 higher. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer bulls sold steady while packer cows sold steady.

Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 215-220; 300-400 lbs., 212-222; 400-500 lbs., 185-190; 500-600 lbs., 152-172; 600-700 lbs., 147-151; 700-800 lbs., 138-144. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 80-95. **Stocker-feeder Heifers:** Medium and large from No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 160-165; 300-400 lbs., 152-153; 400-500 lbs., 145-149; 500-600 lbs., 132-142; 600-700 lbs., 126-129.

Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 51-64; Cutters, 67-74; Canners, 32-44; High yielding fat cows, 56-63. **Packer Bulls:** Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 88-98; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 76-87.

Stocker Cows: \$600 to \$1,200.

Pairs: \$750 to \$1,300.

Nixon Livestock January 10

Cattle – 1354

Steers:

200-300 lbs – \$158-225
300-400 lbs - \$148-216
400-500 lbs - \$151-207
500-600 lbs - \$140-180
600-700 lbs - \$133-165
700-800 lbs - \$122-146

Heifers:

200-300 lbs - \$122-165
300-400 lbs - \$129-171
400-500 lbs - \$132-165
500-600 lbs - \$123-161
600-700 lbs - \$117-142
700-800 lbs – \$107-134

Slaughter Cows - \$28-73

Slaughter Bulls - \$82-106

Stocker Cows – \$520-1120

Pairs: \$835 to 850

Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co., Inc.

Sale date: January 4

Cattle on hand: 994

Packer Cows:

Canner and Cutter Cows: \$48-71
Utility & Fat Cows: \$47-67
Low Dressing Canner Cows: \$28-46

Poor/Weak: \$18-32

Packer Bulls:

Heavyweight Bulls: \$88-92
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$78-88

Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$64-78

Stocker Cows:

Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: None

Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$800-1000

Good Cow & Calf Pairs: None

Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1000-1300

Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:

Number 1 steer & bull calves:

Under 200 lbs.: \$165-270

200-300 lbs.: \$155-205

300-400 lbs.: \$157-212.50

400-500 lbs.: \$146-195

500-600 lbs.: \$138-180

600-700 lbs.: \$128-165

700-800 lbs.: \$118-150

Number 1 heifer calves:

Under 200 lbs: \$145-225

200-300 lbs.: \$135-167.50

300-400 lbs.: \$130-165

400-500 lbs.: \$128-160

500-600 lbs.: \$122-150

600-700 lbs.: \$118-136

700-800 lbs: \$110-126

Replacement Heifers:

350-700 lbs.: None

The calf market opened the new year on a strong note. No. 1 types in all weight brackets sold \$3 to \$5 higher. Demand remains strong for the better kinds. No. 2 and plainer kinds sold stronger but remain discounted.

Packer cows and bulls sold \$1 to \$2 higher than year end on approx.. 140 hd. total.

Cuero Livestock Market Report on January 7, 2022

Number of head 1,623

There were 140 cows and 20 bulls.

The market started the year on a strong note as both packer cows and bulls were higher than last sale. Tops packer cows were at \$70/cwt while top bulls were up

Seguin Cattle Co. Market Report

Sale date: January 5

Quality of cattle very good. Stocker cattle \$10 better from end of last year with packer cows and bulls steady.

Cattle: 771

Sheep & Goats: 520

Medium & Large Frame #1 Steers:

200-300 lb.: \$1.01-1.82

300-400 lb.: \$1.42-1.90

400-500 lb.: \$1.46-1.98

500-600 lb.: \$1.32-1.67

600-700 lb.: \$1.31-1.58

700-850 lb.: \$1.21-1.49

Medium & Large Frame #1 Heifers:

200-300 lb.: \$1.02-1.65

300-400 lb.: \$1.18-1.74

400-500 lb.: \$1.25-1.68

500-600 lb.: \$1.30-1.50

600-750 lb.: \$1.19-1.44

Cows:

Utility & Commercial: \$60-75

Cutters: \$44-59

Canners: \$31-43

Palpated Cows (Young): \$1000-1400

Palpated Cows (Middle Aged): \$365-975

Cow/Calf Pairs: \$700-\$1,250

Bulls:

Heavy High Yielding: \$90-106

Light & Low Yielding: \$64-89

Feeder Bulls: None

Sheep & Goats:

Nannies (Young): \$220-300

Nannies (Thin & Old): \$120-210

Kid Goats (Fat): \$3.60-4.40

Kid Goats (Small & Thin): \$3.20-3.50

Wethers: \$3.05-3.20

Billies: \$1.85-2.45

Pairs: \$200

Barb. Ewes (Young): \$170-215

Barb. Ewes (Small & Old Ewes): \$140-160

Barb. Lambs (Fat): \$3.50-3.95

Barb. Lambs (Small & Thin): \$3.20-3.50

Woolled Ewes: None

Woolled Bucks: \$1.40-1.95

Lambs: \$2.05-2.40

Barb. Bucks: None

to \$99/cwt \$94/cwt.

The calf market started the year on a high note with all classes selling higher. Weights above 450 lbs were as much as \$10/cwt higher on the top end. Active demand maintained prices resulting in another good day to be selling. Overall averages were almost \$9/cwt higher on 13 pounds less weight resulting in an average value increase per calf of over \$28.

Packer bulls: 70.00-99.00

Packer cows:

canners & cutters 48.00-70.00

poor & weak 15.00-40.00

Palpated:26 bred \$700 to \$1075 per head

PAIRS: Two \$1,000 & \$1,125

Steer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

Under 200 lbs. 155.00-185.00

200-249 lbs. 202.00-205.00

250-299 lbs. 138.00-170.00

300-350 lbs. 158.00-192.00

350-400 lbs. 170.00-204.00

400-450 lbs. 165.00-200.00

450-500 lbs. 160.00-185.00

500-550 lbs. 161.00-177.00

550-600 lbs. 143.00-170.00

600-700 lbs. 140.00-170.00

700-800 lbs. 128.00-142.00

Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

Under 250lbs 155.00-232.50

250-300 lbs. 149.00-180.00

300-350 lbs. 159.00-200.00

350-400 lbs. 164.00-198.00

400-450 lbs. 162.00-195.00

450-500 lbs. 158.00-184.00

500-550 lbs. 153.00-178.00

550-600 lbs. 144.00-167.00

600-700 lbs. 136.00-167.00

Over 700 lbs. 112.00-139.00

Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

under 200 lbs. NONE

200-250 lbs. 135.00-206.00

250-300 lbs. 137.00-192.00

300-350 lbs. 139.00-180.00

350-400 lbs. 144.00-182.00

400-450 lbs. 142.00-195.00=>REPLACEMENT

450-500 lbs. 142.00-178.00

500-550 lbs. 137.00-174.00

550-600 lbs. 133.00-198.00=>REPLACEMENT

600-700 lbs. 123.00-160.00

Over 700 lbs. 105.00-145.00

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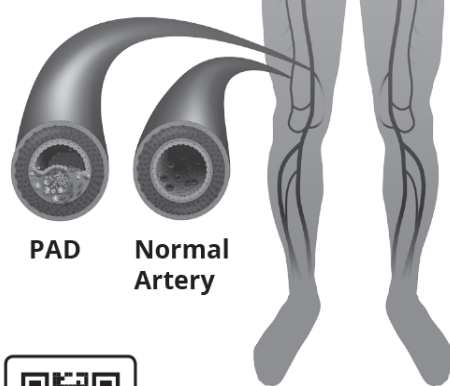
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OBITUARIES

CAROL NANCE



Carol Jeanine (McKinney) Nance, 70, passed away Saturday, January 8, 2022. Carol was born to Miley “Lee” McKinney and Viola “Leona” May (McKinney) on August 11, 1951 in the town of Nixon Texas. On September 3, 1967 Carol married the love of her life, Arno Eugene Nance, Sr. and together they shared 53 years of marriage. Carol is survived by her children; Joanna Jeanne Scott, Arno Eugene Nance, Jr. (Bubba) and his wife Kym, Troy Patrick Nance and his wife Brandi, Nancy Ellen Seely, Cynthia Wynette Aber and her husband Keith, Jim Stayton Nance, and her younger sister Deborah Rhoades. She is preceded in death by her husband Arno Sr., her parents Lee and Leona and her older sister Shirley Schultz. Carol leaves behind a huge family that loved her dearly! She has

a total of 19 grandchildren with one to be born in April for a grand total of 20. She has 6 great grandchildren. Carol was well known as Aunt Carol by so many. She leaves behind several nieces and nephews that she loved dearly. The family will receive friends from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held at 10 A.M. on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at Seydler-Hill

Funeral Home with Rev. Clint Lowery officiating. Interment will follow at Floyd Chapel Cemetery. Pallbearers: Arno Nance, Jr., Troy Nance, Jim Nance, Johnny Nance, John Gibson and Keith Gerold. Memorials and donations may be made to Memorial Heights Baptist Church. Due to the present uptick of the Corona Virus variant, protective measures regarding social distancing, limited attendance capacity, and use of personal protective masks will be required for the visitation, funeral service, and graveside burial rite. Those remotely symptomatic of COVID-19 are politely asked not to attend. Friends may leave their condolences by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

LILLIAN ANN PORTER

Lillian Ann Porter, 70, of Gonzales, passed away Thursday, December 16, 2021. Lillian was born in Gonzales, Texas on September 11, 1951 to L.V. Nation and Annie Ruth Porter. She found Christ at an early age and was baptized at Little Hill Baptist Church. Lillian attended and graduated from Gonzales High School in 1970. She later found love with Matthew Cantu. They had one child together, Lindsay. Her hobbies include watching Dark shadows, westerns, sight-seeing, nature watching and collecting special coins. Her favorite team was the Dallas Cowboys. She was the family historian. Lillian never hesitated to help a family member or friend

in need. She was always a call away. Lillian is preceded in death by Matthew Cantu (Significant Other), Annie Ruth Porter (Mother), L.V. Nation (Father) Sam Nation (Uncle), Robert Porter (Brother), Rhonda Owens (Niece), Shereece Porter (Niece), Craig Porter (Nephew) Lillian is survived by her daughter, Lindsay Cantu -Dallas, Texas Sisters: Opal Frances Porter -Houston, Texas, Maggie Nichols (Sam)-Waelder Texas, Gussie Cubitt-Victoria, Texas, Willie Gonzales- San Antonio Texas, Marilyn Faye Elm-San Antonio, Texas, Ruth Hodges-Cuero, Texas Brothers : Willie Rush (Marie)- Colorado Springs, Colorado, Robert

Nation (Annette)-Dallas, Texas, Sam Hodges-Houston, Texas, Leroy Elm -Luling, Texas and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Funeral services were held at 11 am Thursday, December 30, 2021 at Little Hill Baptist Church with Dr. A.E Cantu officiating. Interment followed in McKellar Cemetery. Pallbearers: Michael Porter, George Harrison, Kevin Porter, Shelly Hardaway, Xavier Martin and Darren Owens. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting <https://www.dwbrooksfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Lillian-Porter> Services were under the care and direction of DW Brooks Funeral Home.

FOR ADDITIONAL OBITUARIES, PLEASE SEE PAGE 11.

ELIZABETH ANN DEMMER

On January 4, 2022, Elizabeth Ann Demmer passed on to her eternal life in Heaven. She was born Elizabeth Ann Ploch on October 19, 1923 in Gillett, Texas to Theodore and Agnes (Pavalick) Ploch. Elizabeth married Herman C. Demmer, Sr. in 1942. They made their home in Gillett where they raised 2 sons and 2 daughters. They enjoyed 55 years of marriage before his passing in 1997. Also preceding her in death are her parents, and her son, James A. Demmer. Elizabeth was a devoted member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Nixon, Texas, serving in many capacities over the years. In addition to raising her family, she enjoyed bingo, flower gardening, vegetable gardening, and canning her delicious rewards. Her children and grandchildren looked forward to the large holiday meals prepared by “Granny”, as well as family dinners on Sunday. Elizabeth will be dearly missed by her children, Herman Demmer, Jr., and wife Yonnie, Catherine Walsh, and husband Shawn, Patricia Gustafson, and husband Dennis; grandchildren,

Mark, Deloris, Rebecca, Christopher, Matthew, Audrey, Jonathan, Erica, and Amanda; and 15 great-grandchildren. Visitation will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2022, 5:00pm-8:00pm, with 7:00pm Rosary, at Finch Funeral Chapel in Nixon, Texas. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, January 7, 2022 at 10:00am at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Nixon. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. Father Ouseph Kuriakose will officiate. If desired, donations may be made in Elizabeth’s name to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 207 S. Washington Ave, Nixon, Texas, 78140. You are welcome to sign the online guest book at www.finchfuneralchapels.com. Services entrusted to Finch Funeral Chapel, LLC.

Domino tournament, Big Buck Contest set this month

The 70th Texas State Championship Domino Tournament will be held Sunday, Jan. 16, at the K of C Hall in Hallettsville, TX. Registration will begin at 7 a.m. and playing will begin at 9 a.m. A consolation tournament will be held immediately for the first two setting of losers with two plaques given to the winners of the consolation tournament plus cash. A Bar B Q chicken dinner will be served in the hall for players and spectators. There will also be plates to go for drive thru customers. Short Orders and refreshments will be served during the tournament. Come join in the official Texas State Domino Championship Tournament play where there is no better competition & fellowship. You can boast you played in the Texas State Champion-

ship Domino Tournament. You and your partner may even have the honor of winning this prestigious title. This year’s Texas Domino Hall of Fame Inductees will be Harvey Woytek and Eddie Kuban. Wild Game Supper, Big Fun & Ranger, Drawing, Big Buck Contest, Merchants Booths on Friday, January 21st, at the K of C Hall in Hallettsville, TX. This is the fun night everybody waits for all year. Need a new 4x4 Ranger or Gun? Drawings for guns and a Ranger, Friday night, January 21. Tickets are available at Hoffers Drive-in Gro., Rainosek’s True Value, and at the K of C Hall now and on Friday the

21st. See this year’s fantastic results of the Big Buck Contest. Doors open at 5 p.m. and supper is served from 5:30 until 11 p.m. There will be an abundance of expertly prepared crawfish, deer, hog, dove, duck, wild rice, duck gumbo, Lavaca County sausage, wild pinto beans, all marinated and prepared by head cook Brother Richard Henke and Lavaca County prestigious Wild Game Chefs. Come be a winner of the big guns drawing and a Ranger drawing, along with

other prizes. Total value over \$45,000.00. See and talk to the folks that got the big bucks and the commercial displays. Get into a game of dominos or just visit with the folks. Admission to K of C Hall is \$12; wild game supper is free with hall admission. Bring your camper & spend the weekend with us – we have over 100 full hook-ups. For info, contact K of C Hall, 361-798-2311, www.kchall.com.

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10 Austin MFM Dr Desai Dr Malik	11 Dr Echols Dr Quintero	12 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Twitero	13 Dr Ryan	14 Amy Trost Dr White Dr Echols
17 Austin MFM	18 Dr Echols	19 Dr Quebedeaux	20 Dr Ryan Dr Malik	21 Dr Bui Dr Echols
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020 SPECIAL NOTICES

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PARTNERS

REGISTRATION 7:00 AM. TO 9:00 AM.
DOUBLE ELIMINATION
PLAY BEGINS AT 9:00 AM.

**LOSER CONSOLATION
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FOR THE FIRST TWO SETTING
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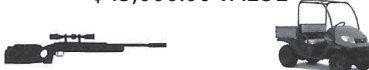
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CAL - MAINE FOODS INC. is hiring for Plant Palletizers & Cleanup positions. Benefits include: Vacation, Sick Leave, Hosp. Ins., Dental, Vision, 401K, ESOP. Apply in person. Cal-Maine Foods Inc. 1680 CR 431 Waelder, TX 78959. Mon-Fri 7-4. 830-540-4205 or 830-540-4684.

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Gonzales Healthcare Systems has an immediate opening at Sievers Medical Clinic for the position of Registration Clerk. High school diploma or equivalent preferred; previous experience in a clinic setting preferred. Full-time position with competitive salary and benefits.

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For more information, please visit our website at www.gonzaleshealthcare.com or call Human Resources at 830-519-9100.

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- Med/Surg C.N.A.: PRN positions for all shifts.
- Labor & Delivery RN: Full time positions for 7PM-7AM shift; PRN positions for all shifts. L&D experience preferred. \$10,000 RN Sign-On Bonus for full-time positions.
- OB Postpartum RN or LVN; Full time position for 7PM-7AM shift; PRN positions available for all shifts. L & D experience preferred.
- ER RN: Full-time position for 7PM-7AM shift; PRN positions available for all shifts. \$5,000 Sign-On Bonus for full-time positions.

Current Texas licensure or certification, and BLS certification required for all positions. Competitive salary and benefits packages; weekend and evening differentials will apply.

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- PROPOSAL NOTICE -

The Owner invites competitive sealed proposals from Contractors for **CITY OF GONZALES – GONZALES MEMORIAL MUSEUM and APMHITHEATRE REFLECTING POOL RECIRCULATING PUMP**, Gonzales, Texas. Proposals will be received until **2:00 p.m., Thursday, January 27, 2022**, at the office of TSG Architects AIA and at that time all proposals shall be opened and read aloud. Proposals shall be addressed and delivered to the City of Gonzales c/o TSG Architects AIA, 312 Saint Francis Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, 830.672.7801. No proposal may be changed, amended or modified after the same has been submitted. A proposal may be withdrawn, however, and resubmitted any time prior to the time set for receipt of proposals. The City of Gonzales has the right to accept or reject any bid or to waive any technicality which may be in the best interest of the City of Gonzales.

Each bid proposal must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check, or an approved bidder's bond in an amount not less than 5% of the maximum total bid, payable to the City of Gonzales, Texas without recourse, as a guarantee that the Bidder will enter into a contract and execute performance and payment bonds on the forms provided, within ten (10) working days after the award of contract.

The work will be awarded under a single lump sum contract for all general construction work per Section 00 2116 and Section 00 4200.

Included in the construction but not limited to will be:

- Recirculating System for existing reflecting pool
- Misc Concrete
- Misc Electrical
- Misc Plumbing

Substitutions: During bidding, the Architect may consider written Request for Substitutions, received at least ten (10) days prior to the original bid date and hour. Request for Substitution must be submitted in accordance with Section 01 6000.

Availability of Plans and Specifications: Plans and Specifications are available from the architect, TSG Architects AIA, 312 Saint Francis Street, P.O. Box 1573, Gonzales, Texas 78629, 830.672.7801.

GONZALES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2021				
	10 General Fund	20 Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II)	98 Other Funds	98 Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
5700 Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 19,169,784	\$ -	\$ 1,887,758	\$ 21,057,542
5800 State Program Revenues	9,270,423	-	195,569	9,465,992
5900 Federal Program Revenues	843,346	1,853,573	3,300,548	5,997,467
5020 Total Revenues	<u>29,283,553</u>	<u>1,853,573</u>	<u>5,383,875</u>	<u>36,521,001</u>
EXPENDITURES				
0011 Instruction	12,910,951	1,486,016	1,296,623	15,693,590
0012 Instructional Resources & Media Services	151,111	19,823	-	170,934
0013 Curriculum & Instructional Staff Development	387,955	6,509	422,411	816,875
0021 Instructional Leadership	298,283	-	234,188	532,471
0023 School Leadership	1,630,167	23,874	19,283	1,673,324
0031 Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Services	968,410	-	138,603	1,107,013
0032 Social Work Services	15,861	-	-	15,861
0033 Health Services	360,756	-	-	360,756
0034 Student Transportation	899,036	93,130	-	992,166
0035 Food Services	12,761	-	1,421,358	1,434,119
0036 Extracurricular Activities	802,235	1,534	255,233	1,059,002
0041 General Administration	1,603,505	30,084	-	1,633,589
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	3,007,378	-	-	3,007,378
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	147,204	-	8,162	155,366
0053 Data Processing Services	699,703	192,603	-	892,306
0061 Community Services	67,692	-	28,127	95,819
0071 Debt Service - Principal	797,380	-	740,000	1,537,380
0072 Debt Service – Interest	-	-	808,981	808,981
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Costs	-	-	1,200	1,200
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	913,220	-	-	913,220
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	451,096	-	-	451,096
6030 Total Expenditures	<u>26,124,704</u>	<u>1,853,573</u>	<u>5,374,169</u>	<u>33,352,446</u>
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>3,158,849</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,706</u>	<u>3,168,555</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
7912 Sale of Property	12,087	-	-	12,087
7915 Transfers In	-	-	5	5
8911 Transfers Out	(5)	-	-	(5)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>12,082</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12,087</u>
1200 Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>3,170,931</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,711</u>	<u>3,180,642</u>
0100 Fund Balance - Beginning	<u>10,867,162</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,136,542</u>	<u>12,003,704</u>
3000 Fund Balance - Ending	<u>\$ 14,038,093</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,146,253</u>	<u>\$ 15,184,346</u>
The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.				

January 6 Puzzle Answers

Last Puzzle Solution

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RICHARDS
ACROSS
NEW
WE
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RISK
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RESTALL
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STENCH
ASHARK
TAMPA
LAS
HO
SUNNYVALE
ROME
BAR
THE WALL
DUELL
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Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF SUSAN G. ALFORD, Deceased, were issued on January 5, 2022, in Cause No. PW21-0175, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: BECKY JO TOLLE.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o JEAN PETEREK BURNS
LAW OFFICE OF JEAN PETEREK BURNS
1606 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive
P.O. Box 827
Gonzales, TX 78629

Dated the 10 day of January, 2022.



JEAN PETEREL BURNS
Attorney for BECKY JO TOLLE
State Bar No.: 00792756
1606 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive
P.O. Box 827
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-9511
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Invitation to Proposers

Sealed proposals addressed to **Gonzales Independent School District** for: **Gonzales High School Practice Field Turf and Lighting Project, Gonzales Independent School District, Attn: Ms. Amanda Smith, Chief Financial Officer**, will be received at Gonzales ISD Administration Building, 1615 St. Louis Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629 until **2:00 p.m. (local time), Tuesday, February 1, 2022** after which time all proposals will be opened and read aloud. Proposals received after closing time will be returned.

A non-mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on **Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.** (local time) at the Gonzales High School Practice Field/Gonzales High School Field House, 1546 Seydler, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

Proposal Documents are available on the Gonzales ISD website, at: www.gonzalesisd.net/Page/171.

All interested parties acknowledge the right of Gonzales ISD to reject any or all of the Proposals and to waive any informality or irregularity in any Proposal received.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS J. B. WELLS PARK, ARENA, & EXPO FEASIBILITY STUDY & PROFESSIONAL MARKETING SERVICES

The proposal is for the provision of J. B Wells Park, as more fully described in the Request for Proposals package. Proposal packages for this project may be obtained from the City of Gonzales via Internet download at <https://www.gonzales.texas.gov/p/government/bidrfp>.

The contract shall be awarded to the responsive proposer scoring the highest on the stated criteria stated in the RFP. The right is reserved, as the interests of the CITY may require, to reject any and all proposals, and to waive any informality or minor defects in proposals received. Proposals may be held by the CITY for a period not to exceed SIXTY (60) days from the date of closing for the purpose of reviewing the Proposals and investigating the qualifications of respondents, prior to awarding of the Contract. **Any proposal received after the deadline of Friday, February 11, 2022, at 2:00 PM, will be returned to the respondent unopened.**

Proposals will be accepted for J. B. Wells Park, Arena, & Expo from companies who have established, through demonstrated expertise and experience, that they are qualified to provide the services as specified.

Respondents may attend a pre-proposal meeting at **2:00 PM on Friday, January 14, 2022**, to conduct inspections and/or investigations to be aware of existing conditions/issues. Failure to make adequate observations, investigations and/or ask questions prior to submittal shall not be grounds for requesting additional work or services. Questions shall be forwarded to **Tim Patek, City Manager** via email at tpatek@gonzales.texas.gov, by **2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 18, 2022**.

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COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE BOARD ELECTIONS PLANNED

One at-large position in Gonzales County is open on the Community Action Committee Board. CACVT administers funds for Weatherization, Neighborhood Services and the Family Outreach Program out of the Victoria office for a nine county service area.

Persons interested in serving on the board should contact Lauri Schul at CACVT by Friday, January 21, 2022 for details at 361-578-2989 ext. 203 or 1-800-365-7712.

Individuals who have an affiliation with and knowledge of the low-income individuals/families and live in the county to be represented can fill a board position. Only individuals meeting CACVT program eligibility criteria are eligible to vote.

One seat needs to be filled in Gonzales County.

The Gonzales County position will be voted on by mail in ballots from individuals meeting CACVT Program criteria.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

CITY OF GONZALES
CITY COUNCIL

The Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council of the City of Gonzales, by this instrument, notifies the public of a PUBLIC HEARING on a proposed amendment to the City of Gonzales Zoning Regulations to amend the following Sections:

Garage requirements from Residential Zoning Districts SF-6 (Section 14.304.c.2), SF-8 (Section 14.305.c.2), SF-10(Section 14.306.c.2), and SF-A (Section 14.307.c.2); and

Removal of posted sign notice provisions in Section 14.902 Zoning Text and Map Amendments, 14.903 Public Hearings and Notification Requirements for Zoning Related Applications; and

Removal of variance applicability limitations and addition of existing structure financial hardship provisions in Section 14.1002 Zoning Variance.

The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing January 18, 2022 at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph St. at 5:15 p.m., to allow for public comment on the proposed amendment. After consideration and recommendation by Planning & Zoning Commission and the Public Hearing, the proposed amendment will be presented to City Council for a Public Hearing and possible approval on February 10, 2022 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 amendments before the City Council. Citizens unable to attend meetings may submit their views to the City Secretary's Office 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. For more information on this item please visit the City's website at www.Gonzales.Texas.gov.

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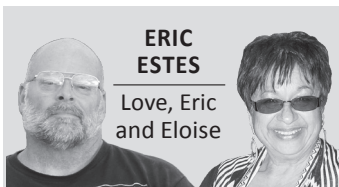
Hey there ya'll (that's Texas talk for you all), hope you've girded them loins and are ready to tackle yet another year of life here on planet earth. I can't help but feel that it's of paramount importance to keep focused on the positive side of things as we enter the vast mystery of 2022.

From what I've seen so far, it seems that our hope has not only not been crushed, but invigorated instead. I think it safe to say that we're all fed up with playing the role of victims to viruses, politics, and threats of world domination by the powers that be.

Can't help but think of the scripture (Philippians 4:13) that says "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Yep, it's time we take back the responsibility for our own welfare, peace

and tranquility, keeping hope alive and walking in the faith that if we'll allow him to, God's got us covered regardless of what life throws our way! Now excuse me while I loosen my girding, in all the excitement of my ra-ra speech I strapped in a little too tight and the voice in my head slowly became a high pitched screech...yep, that's better (sigh...)

I witnessed this sense of renewed hope on New Years eve. Waking up that morning, I found myself unusually invigorated to continue with my home makeover, and excited about some of the things I have planned for the coming year. But yet again, life had other plans. No sooner had I filled my coffee cup before noticing one of my favorite donkeys laid out in the pasture. He was a



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

rescue and climbing up in years when we adopted him ten years ago. Unable to be petted in the beginning, I worked with him until he became a big furry love pillow. After attending to him for many hours, he breathed his last and I spent the rest of the day burying him.

He was a great pet, friend and much loved part of our family, and will be missed greatly. To top things off, the sense of loss triggered the deep feelings of sorrow I've often felt throughout the myriad of losses I've suffered in recent

years, of course, Eloise being at the top of the list. Love, loss, and the pursuit of God seems to be the overwhelming theme at this stage of the game. Realizing that I'm far from being alone in this seemingly unending reality, keeps all of you in my prayers constantly.

I totally appreciate the life that God has allowed me to live, trying not to take one second of it for granted as it could be over at any moment, as should we all. While excited to make Gods acquaintance face to face at some point, I pray he'll keep me around long enough to finish the tasks he's set before me, and have confidence he will.

Sitting on the porch that evening, coffee in hand awaiting the fireworks to begin, while feeling sad and missing the loved ones

that are no longer sitting beside me, I couldn't help being full of gratitude for all of the great things God has allowed me to be a part of these last sixty four years. Truth be told, I didn't deserve any of them as I haven't been nearly the man God intended when he created this sorry sack of bones, which makes the gift all that much sweeter...Thank You Lord!

As midnight struck there were far more fireworks in the sky than I've ever seen in our small town before, and I could hear children and adults alike yelling "Happy New Year" at the top of their lungs. I could tell by their overwhelming enthusiasm that they too, had a renewed sense of hope in their heart, as should we all!

Until next time, love you guys, Eric.

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OBITUARIES

JAMES WAYNE PATTERSON

James Wayne Patterson, 72 of Gonzales, Texas went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 in Katy, Texas. He was born in Newgulf, Texas on April 6, 1949 and he was the youngest son of Frank Mathew Patterson and Dessie Finch Patterson. James grew up in Houston and graduated from Lamar High School in 1967. He attended the University of Houston before moving to San Antonio to join his parents in the family business, Aladdin Rents. During this time, James volunteered to coach youth football for the Boerne Junior Football League, which his brother Frank established in 1972.

While in San Antonio, he met the love of his life Vickie Lynn Willard. They married on August 4, 1973 and had two children, Jayme and Jim Pat. James then moved his family to Houston and began brokering land leases in the oil industry. In the mid 1980's, James became an investment banker and sold municipal bonds with multiple firms and worked alongside many different family members. Throughout his 30-year career, James forged trusting relationships with clients which developed into lifelong friendships.

While raising their family in Houston, James and Vickie became active at Second Baptist Church and School. James had a deep love for his country and alongside Vickie, worked for and supported conservative causes. He served on the Quarter Horse Sale Committee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and was a member and competitor in the ACHA and NCHA cutting horse associations for many years. In 1996, James and Vickie moved from Houston to their ranch in Gonzales County. At that time, they became members of Memorial Heights Baptist Church and loved their new community.

In his free time, James loved traveling, hunting, fishing, and rooting for his beloved Houston Cougars. He derived great joy from riding horses and spending time with family and friends on The Patterson Ranch. He was a devoted husband and



father, adoring grandfather, and a loving "Uncle Jim" to his nieces and nephews. His fun-loving personality and infectious laugh made him a joy to be around. He was well loved and will be dearly missed by all.

James is survived by his sister, Rebecca Ann Pacheco and husband Jesse Pacheco of Katy, his daughter Jayme Patterson Mason and husband Richard Emil Mason of Waco, his son James Patrick Patterson and wife Danielle Jayne Patterson of Katy, and granddaughters Taylor Jaymes Mason, Rachel Elena Patterson, Katherine Elizabeth Mason, Reagan Leigh Patterson, and Charley Victoria Patterson. He is also survived by his father-in-law Eugene Neal Willard and wife Cheryl Freeman Willard of Waelder, and numerous nieces and nephews. James was preceded in death by his parents Frank Mathew Patterson and Dessie Finch Patterson, his wife Vickie Willard Patterson, his sister Myrna Sue McLeroy, and his brother Frank Mathew Patterson, Jr.

There will be a visitation on Friday, January 14th, at 1:00 p.m., and a celebration of life service beginning at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 422 St. Paul St., in Gonzales, Texas. Interment to follow at Waelder Cemetery in Waelder, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Memorial Heights Baptist Church, 1330 N. College Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629 or First Baptist Church, 422 St. Paul Street P.O. Box 83, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydler-hillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

ROBBY J. FORD



Robby J. Ford was born on December 17, 1972 in Houston, Texas and passed away at 49 years of age on January 3, 2022 due to a lengthy illness.

He is survived by his mother Virgie Ford Walker and stepfather Graham Ross Walker, his loving daughter Alexis Leigh Ford, stepfather Benjamin James Jalufka, grandfather Robert E. Hoot of Riverside, Texas, Joann Hoot of Gonzales and half sister Jamie Hoot and godmother Holly Payne of Houston, as well as many cousins and 3 nieces.

He was preceded in death by grandparents Joe and Shirley Ford of Gonzales, grandmother Olive Hoot and cousin, great aunt Virgie Lee Emmons Dechman and cousin Mij Dechman.

Robby lived in Junction, Texas a few years as a child and loved it. He'd go back to Junc-

tion just to see that part of the Hill Country and visit the Ingram Ranch where Johnson Creek flowed through where he lived.

He graduated from Gonzales High School and attended Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos for two years studying journalism. He was inspired and eventually got a job with the Gonzales Inquirer as a reporter and he loved it!

Robby played the drums from junior high through senior high at Gonzales High School.

His mom purchased his first drum set for him at 5 years old (a Muppet one at that), but was drumming on pots and pans when he was a baby. His love for music and drums definitely showed up early. He had a lot of respect for the old drummers like Buddy Rich and many others. Robby was in several bands over the years, too many to remember. When he was in school, his band practiced in the family barn and all of the boys were like his mom's sons. He loved all of his musician friends and old high school friends and kept in touch with them.

Robby loved his animals, even insects, and could tell you anything about them. His first big interest in scorpions was when our neighbor, Jill Barnett gave him two emperor scorpions she'd ended up with after a Vacation Bible School, much to his mom's chagrin.

There were several other different scorpion species from what his mom believes was a pet shop in San Marcos.

He loved barbequing and making meals that generally all involved barbeque. He even published some of his recipes in the Inquirer. He was also an AVID Star Wars fan from a very early age, a BIG Nebraska Corn Huskers fan who generally loved all college games and loved to fish. He loved camping out back with his good friend Matt Aquirre.

Robby won several awards for writing while working for the inquirer and loved his work there. He especially enjoyed doing human interest stories and everyone appreciated his down to earth writing. He met so many kind people in Gonzales and they appreciated him immensely.

A Memorial Service will be set for a later date.



Pen a Tale

Choose a word from the word bank to fill in each blank, but only use a word once. When you have chosen a word for each blank, start from the beginning to read a new story you can share!

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Jack

A _____ named Jack was sure his _____

had disappeared. He had lost his most important

_____. It was a _____ day for Jack. Although

his _____ told him not to _____, he

_____ anyway. He ran up the stairs to

His bedroom, thinking everything was just

_____. Suddenly, a little _____ from

the _____ caught his attention. Jack's _____

had been _____ all along.

closet
mother
boy
happy
rival
friend
enemy

sad
laundry
clothes
pretend
whimper
basket
cheer

shirt
there
worry
stairs
awful
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frustrating
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ACROSS

- 1 subdivision map
5 TX Don Henley sang the lead on "Life in the Fast ____"
6 Ted Cruz assistant
7 TXism: "____ dance to that tune" (agree)
8 Mexican "siesta"
9 TXism: "want ____ I could spit"
16 TXism: "a whole ____" (lot of)
18 in Texas, drawings and scratch-offs
21 TX Linda Ellerbee's "And ____ It Goes"
22 welcome rugs
23 enjoy barbecue, e.g.
24 cut ____ (divide in equal parts)
30 "____ is fair play"
34 ____ Fehrenbach book: "Lone Star: A History of Texas and Texans" (1968)
35 a false god, e.g. (2 wds.)
36 "____ and mean"
37 "____ the roof"
39 TXism: "trust ____ always cut the cards"
43 he starred in "King Creole" with TX-born Carolyn Jones
44 receiving for work
45 he married TX-born Dale Evans (init.)
46 TXism: "____ of breathing room" (spacious)

- 47 many in South Texas are bi ____
49 those who accomplish 44-across
52 pos. of Dallas Cowboy Dalton Schultz
53 assn. for Texas pro golfer Ben Crenshaw
54 clamorous meaning of 37-across
55 former Cowboy star RB, Tony (1977-87)

- 58 charlatans
59 TX Foreman lost the title to this Muhammad in 1974
60 this Thornton was a 4-term mayor of Dallas (init.)
61 donkey

DOWN

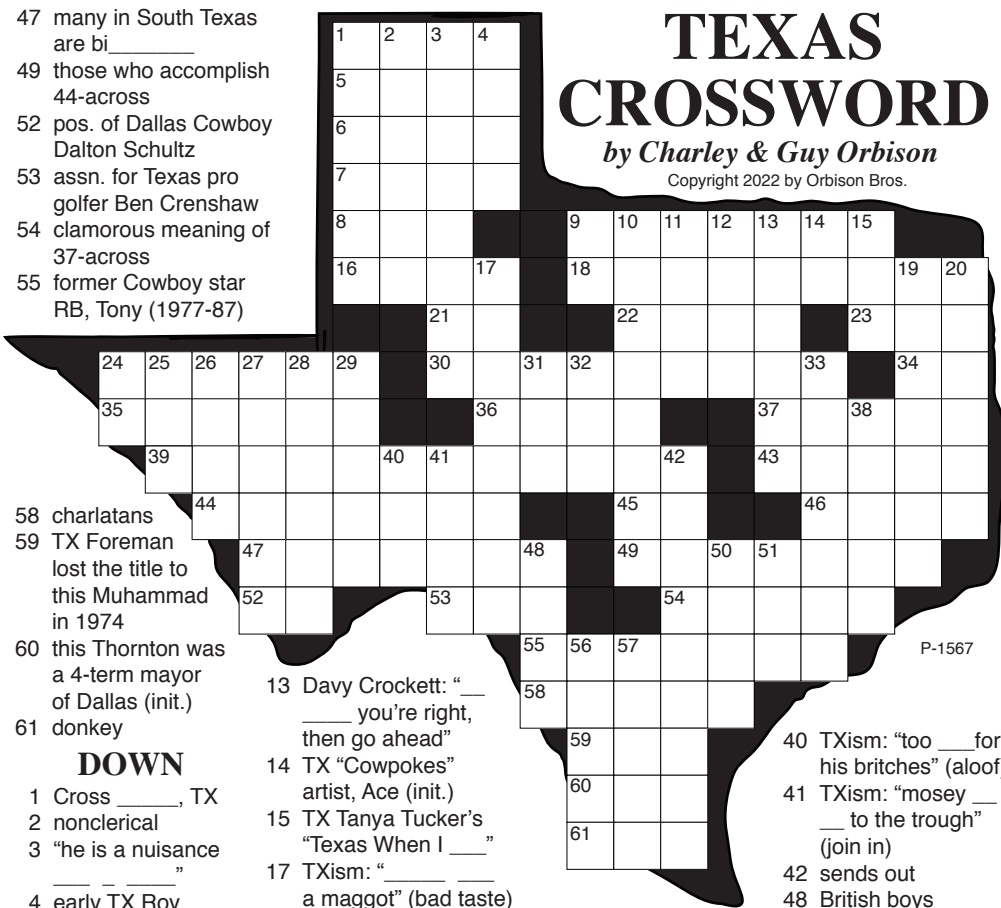
- 1 Cross ____, TX
2 nonclerical
3 "he is a nuisance ____"
4 early TX Roy Orbison band: "____ Kings"
9 birth state of Austin resident and actor Chris Klein (abbr.)
10 TXism: "sticks like stink ____"
11 TXism: "take a ____ at it" (try)
12 director Preminger

- 13 Davy Crockett: "____ you're right, then go ahead"
14 TX "Cowpokes" artist, Ace (init.)
15 TX Tanya Tucker's "Texas When I ____"
17 TXism: "____ a maggot" (bad taste)
19 black widow spider ____ mate
20 anxiety and worry
24 state where TX Holly died (abbr.)
25 dir. from Crockett to Mount Pleasant
26 bees' casa
27 one can improve ____ hand in poker

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CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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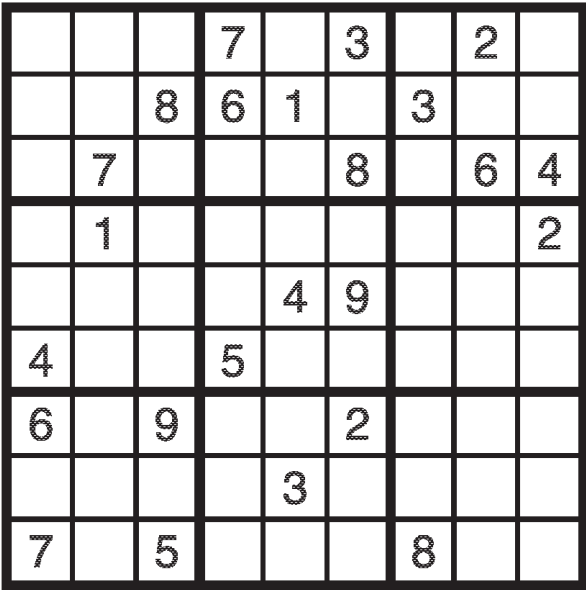


P-1567

- 28 country singer, Morgan
29 star of 1945 film "San Antonio," Errol
31 lake "La Sal del ____"
32 apprehend
33 book: "Sam Houston: The ____ Texan"
38 TX blues pianist ____ Joe Hunter

- 40 TXism: "too ____ for his britches" (aloof)
41 TXism: "mosey ____ to the trough" (join in)
42 sends out
48 British boys
50 small European deer (plural)
51 "____ wit" (foolish person)
56 TX-born Evelyn Keyes was Suellen ____ in "Gone With the Wind"
57 in Crosby County on U.S. 82 and 62

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Answers found in next week's Classifieds.



LOUIS DECKER PHOTOS

Alan Orduna looks to break away from the Canyon Lake Hawks. Gonzales went 1-2 last weekend in the Seguin Tournament.

Apaches win one, lose two in Seguin Tournament

By Louis Decker
Special to the Inquirer

The Seguin Tournament afforded the Gonzales Apache Soccer Team a chance to face some schools with larger enrollments. The Tribe performed admirably, but finished the weekend 1-2 after defeating Canyon Lake, and falling to Santa Fe and Gregory-Portland.

Gonzales 3, Canyon Lake 0

In the opening match, the Apaches came out aggressive from the start and dominated both the pace of the match and their opponent in a shutout victory. Gonzales got a big game from Tristan Gomez, who scored a pair of goals in the contest—a header off a corner kick in the 11th minute and a breakaway goal in the 70th minute to put a bow on the gift-wrapped victory. Sandwiched in between, Duran Mendoza found the back of the net on penalty kick

See **SOCCER**, page 13



GOOOOOAAAAALLLL! Duran Mendoza sends the penalty kick past the goal keeper to increase the Apache lead. Gonzales would win the match, 3-0, over Canyon Lake, but finish 1-2 in the Seguin Tournament last weekend.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



It was a big week for GHS alumnus Devon Williams, as she was honored as Lone Star Conference Defensive Player of the Week and IBC Bank Player of the Week. The Javalinas won two contests last week to open LSC play.

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Waelder rolls to 3-0 in district

By STEVE FOUNTAIN
Waelder ISD

The Waelder High School boys basketball team won on the road at McDade, posting a 70-44 win on Friday, Jan. 7. The win kept the

Wildcats (5-12) perfect in 1A District 30 play with a 3-0 record.

McDade was playing short-handed, so Waelder played all of its available players. In the end, nine players scored for Waelder,

led by Clayton Dudley with 16. Marco Jaimes added 11 and Luis Perez scored 10.

The Wildcats will attempt to remain perfect in district as they play at Austwell-Tivoli on Friday, Jan. 14.

LadyCats push win streak to three

By STEVE FOUNTAIN
Waelder ISD

The Waelder High School girls basketball team won its third consecutive game with a 42-28 win at McDade on Friday, Jan. 7.

The Ladycats (4-4) got off to a fast start behind

Jalissiah Thompson, who scored 10 of her game-high 18 points in the first period. Maely Bracamontes added 12 for Waelder.

The win improved the LadyCats 1A District 30 record to 3-2, placing them third in district as they close the first half of district

play at Austwell-Tivoli on Friday, Jan. 14. The team had an open date on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

In district, Waelder opened with a pair of losses to Moulton (56-23) and Nordheim (29-25), before edging Prairie Lea (26-24) and routing Runge (55-17).

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Lady Mustangs rally to down Marion, 50-48

By Louis Decker
Special to the Inquirer

The Lady Mustangs lost a battle but ultimately won the war on Tuesday, as they saw a halftime lead turn into a deficit before mounting a dramatic comeback to claim a 50-48 road victory over the Marion Lady Bulldogs.

The first quarter gave a hint of things to come, as both teams traded scoring runs. Nixon-Smilely found themselves on top at the end of one period of play, 11-9, however. They would continue to pad their lead, outscoring Marion, 14-9, in the second to take a 25-18 lead to the locker room at halftime.

Marion took control of the contest in the third, as they opened the quarter with a 7-0 run. After the Lady Mustangs broke the run with a 3-pointer by Madisyn Rice, the Lady Bulldogs went on another run, a 9-0 scoring streak, which was broken by another Nixon-Smilely trey, this tie by Kendall Amaya. When the horn sounded to end the period, Marion had outscored the Lady Mustangs, 20-6, to turn a seven-point deficit into a seven-point lead, 38-31.

The Lady Bulldogs continued to build on their lead in the final period, eventually stretching their lead to 10 points, 48-38. From there, the Lady Mustangs began their comeback, shutting out Marion for the rest of the way, while scoring 12 points, with Amaya hitting two clutch free throws, to win the game.

Amaya led the way in the score column with 14 points, including three 3-point baskets. Rice was also in double figures, with 13, and Greenlee Houseton contributed 11 points and 5 rebounds.

Nixon-Smilely is 14-12 on the season but, more importantly, 3-1 and alone in second place in District 26-3A. They return home Friday night to host Randolph.

Lady Mustangs rout Luling

On Tuesday, January 4th, the Lady Mustangs did just what was expected when facing an opponent who has yet to win a game this season—they controlled the contest from the opening tip, as they rolled to a 48-18 home win over the Luling Lady Eagles.

Three Lady Mustangs tallied double figures, as Greenlee Houseton recorded a double-double with 14 points and 10 steals. She just missed a triple-double with 6 rebounds. Mady Velasquez added 12 points, while Abby Fox poured in 10 points.

Nixon-Smilely led 10-5 at the end of the first and continued to stretch the lead each quarter, leading 23-8 at the half, and 34-13 at the end of third.



LOUIS DECKER

IN AND OUT – Brayden Martinez puts up a last second shot against Great Hearts Monte Vista on Friday night. The ball ended up not bouncing the Mustangs’ way as it fell off the rim, and the GHMV Lions prevailed 58-57.

Mustangs falter on the road

By Louis Decker
Special to the Inquirer

The Marion Bulldogs protected their home turf Tuesday night, as they led from start to finish in a 64-40 win over the Nixon-Smilely Mustangs.

It was the middle of the contest that proved to be the Mustangs’ doom, as they were only able to muster a total of 10 points in the second and third quarters, while Marion was able to put up 28 points in the same period.

The Bulldogs led 17-11 at the end of the first and took a 32-19 lead to the half. In the third quarter, the Bulldogs outscored the Mustangs 13-2 to lead 45-21 going to the final period, where the teams played on even terms.

Nixon-Smilely is now 15-4 on the season, but the Mustangs fall to 2-2

in District 26-3A, which ties them for third place with Marion and Great Hearts Monte Vista, the two teams that have defeated them.

The Mustangs are back in action Friday as they look to protect their home court when the Randolph Ro-Hawks come to town. Tip-off is set for 8 p.m.

Mustangs rally to down Luling

Finding themselves facing a double digit deficit in the first half, the Nixon-Smilely Mustangs rallied to force overtime and, ultimately, take a 57-51 victory over the Luling Eagles on Tuesday, January 4.

The Eagles had the early advantage and raced out to a 27-14 lead in the first half, but, led by 26 points from Dustin Mejia, the Mustangs began to claw back into the contest and force

overtime, where the game was eventually put away from the free-throw line.

Along with Mejia’s 26, the Mustangs got double figures from Brayden Martinez, who scored 14, and Braxton Regalado, with 10.

Mustangs suffer first district loss

The Mustangs found themselves on the other side of a comeback on Friday night, as the Great Hearts Monte Vista Lions rallied from a 38-30 half-time deficit to win 58-57 and hand Nixon-Smilely their first district loss.

The Lions responded in the second half by outscoring the Mustangs 14-12 in the third quarter, and 14-7 in the final period to take the win.

Regalado led the Mustangs with 20 points, along with 10 points each from Martinez, Mejia and Carl White.

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SOCCER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

just before halftime.

The Gonzales defense was lights out, not only keeping Canyon Lake off the scoreboard, but also denying the Hawks many scoring opportunities. Freshman goal keeper Andres Govea had two key saves midway through the second half, when the outcome was still in doubt.

Santa Fe 4, Gonzales 1

Friday night, the Tribe found itself up against a very talented Santa Fe Indian team and suffered their first defeat of the season. The lone

Apache goal was scored by freshman Emiliano Lopez. Coach Charles Bunch said, “The season is bright after these boys have a chance to gel and develop chemistry. [We] are very young but have a great group of returners leading the way.”

Gregory-Portland 2, Gonzales 1

On Saturday afternoon, the youth of the Apache squad played a hand in their loss to the Gregory-Portland Wildcats. “[We] played very well against a bigger school but had a hard time finding the back of the net offensively and had a couple mishaps due to youth defensively,” said Bunch. Luis Garcia provided the only score of the contest for Gonzales, as he played a nice cross from the



LOUIS DECKER

Jesus Huerta’s corner kick led to the first score of the game on Thursday against Canyon Lake. The Apaches would win the match, 3-0, but finish 1-2 in the Seguin Tournament.

left side, leading to an “own goal” when the Wildcats tried to clear, but instead knocked the ball into the net.

Saturday’s match was the final one for Bunch as head coach. He is stepping down to accept a position with La Vernia. “I will miss Gonzales more than can be explained and wish the Boys and Girls nothing but the best the rest of the season. I hope they

both have an amazing year and I will be watching from afar,” said Bunch.

Gonzales is now 2-2 on the season and return to action this weekend in the Pleasanton Tournament, with matches against Uvalde (Thursday), Wimberley (Friday), Monte Vista Christian from California (Saturday) and Santa Fe (Saturday).



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Stop in to say ‘Hello’ to Mr. Parton, and enjoy a refreshment.

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honoring
Gerald Parton



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O'NEAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

He described them all as great musicians but said they had all stopped by the early '80s. They didn't play together again until one day in the '90s when Bobby O'Neal called them over for some hamburgers and hot dogs.

"And all four of us were together and, of course, we ended up playing music," said Larry O'Neal.

Bobby O'Neal chimed in, "I couldn't remember what I did yesterday, but I could still remember the words to songs we hadn't played together in a decade."

Although Hill and Fortune no longer live in Gonzales, the band still plays at Pioneer Village every year and they usually play for a Luling class reunion every June. They've

performed for the Watermelon Thump and Come and Take It.

"We'll still do the old country music but we mostly play gospel now," said Bobby O'Neal, who has written a few gospel tunes of his own and often leads music worship at Eastside Baptist Church.

Fortune plays regularly for the Abiding Word Lutheran Church. The longtime members of the O'Neal Brothers Band agreed the atmosphere for their music is different than it once was in the glow of city lights.

"We took a lot of pride in what we were doing on that stage. I'm glad I stayed with it. It was profitable in the long run. The Lord really blessed me," said Hill.

Spade & Trowel Garden Club 2021 Stars Around The Gonzales Memorial Museum

★★★★ COMPLETE STARS ★★★★★

* In memory of Carolyn Tinsley Deschner from John Tinsley

* In memory of Helen Nelson & Annie Ruth Nelson from Mary Ann Maclean

* In memory of Mrs. Clare Dreyer from Mr. & Mrs. Jene Dreyer

* In memory of Allan Fink & Mary Ellen Fink from Betty Fink

* In memory of Julie Denise Jackson Kelso from Butch & Nancy Jackson

* In memory of Ruth "Baby" K. Denman and W.B. Denman from Bryan & Ellen Denman

* In memory of Hulda & Joe Marek, Clarence Marek, Morgan Marek, Alan & Sammy Marek & Joey Marek from Walter R. Marek

* In memory of Elizabeth Davis from Le Ann Wolff

* For City Beautification of Gonzales from John & Iris Mohrmann

* For City Beautification from Sherri & Dale Schellenburg

* In memory of Glenna Howell Nelson from Valorie Howell Elkin

* In memory of Ruth Reaves & Lisa Howell from Valorie Howell Elkin

* For City Beautification from DuBose Insurance Agency

* In memory of Alyce Merle & Ezelle Ball from Frank Ball

* In memory of Colby Brown from Mary & Frank Benes

* In memory Pat Turk, Moochie Turk, Milton & Willie Turk, Milton Turk, Jr., Dr. Walter & Jackie Sievers from Sam Turk

* In memory of Marion "Feetie" Storey from Philipp & Natalie Storey

* In memory of Jim Logan from Nancy Logan

* In memory of Clara & Don Sachtleben and Travis Toland from Jo & Glen Sachtleben

* In memory of Charlie, Mary & Denis Tomas, Noel & Gladys Lidemann from Mark & Patti Lindemann, Erin, BJ, Cooper & Coy, LaBahn, Kacey, Ross, Hank & Tayte Butler

* For City beautification from Sage Capital Bank

* For City Beautification from Ray Irle & Pricilla Finch

* In memory of Otto & Larry Gindler from Marian Gindler

* In honor of Mary Ella Scheske Hurt from James J. Scheske

* In honor of Joy Carson, We are grateful for her continued work from Elgin Heinemeyer

* In memory of Laura Bivens from Mona & David Bivens

* In memory of Fletcher & Jane Johnson - to Make Gonzales Better, from Ellen Johnson

* In memory of William & Frances Baron, Jerry Gorden & Buddy DuBose from Sandra Gorden

* In memory of Vonnie DuBose from the Kardosz family

* In Honor of the loyal volunteers at Pioneer Village from Paul & Vickie Frenzel

* In memory of Christopher Todd Ashby from Rita & Rick Ashby

* For City Beautification from John & Martha Jo Whitt

* In memory of Lea Ann Brzozowski Wyant from the Culak, Robinson & Hamilton families

* In memory of Lea Wyant, Laura Wilson & Carol DuBose from Connie Dolezal

* In honor of Bobby de la Garza, Sr. from Rene de la Garza

* In honor of Allison Coale from John Coale

* In honor of Sarah Coale from John Coale

* In honor of Katherine Elizabeth Merkl from Kristi Posey

* For City Beautification from Dan & Lucianne Blakemore

* In memory of Louise Priesmeyer from Barbara & Richard Crozier

★★★★ PARTIAL STARS ★★★★★

* In memory of Leon Netardus from Rosemary Netardus

* In memory of Marion "Feetie" Storey from Glynda Christian

* For City Beautification from Mary Jean Neuse

* In memory of Bill & Tim Massie from Viola Massie

* In honor of Elgin Heinemeyer, In memory of Robert Ynclan, Donald Brzozowski and Becky Connell from Kay Brzozowski

* For City Beautification from Carolyn Mikesh

* In memory of Jeanne Walshak Boothe from Rita Hendershot

Capitol HIGHLIGHTS

Emergency SNAP benefits again extended

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is again extending emergency food benefits this month, with more than \$307 million in emergency allocations expected to help more than 1.5 million Texas households.

The agency received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to extend the maximum allowable amount of benefits provided through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. That means recipients will receive at least \$95 in emergency SNAP allotments by Jan. 31, in addition to their regular allotment.

Texans in need can apply for benefits at [YourTexasBenefits.com](#).

Former Houston NFL player pleads guilty to fraud

A former linebacker for the Houston Texans has pleaded guilty to taking part in a scheme to defraud a player health care reimbursement fund by submitting false claims totaling more

than \$129,000.

Shantee Orr is one of eight former NFL players accused in a case led by Texas Department of Insurance investigators working with prosecutors from the Harris County District Attorney's office.

"Those claims were for rehab therapies and medical treatments that were never actually provided," TDI prosecutor Rick Watson said. "The players and the trainer would each get a cut of the money that was reimbursed by the fund."

Orr pleaded guilty to a third-degree felony, paid restitution and will serve five years' probation.

Insurance companies line up to sue ERCOT

As the one-year anniversary of the winter storm that left millions without power approaches, more than 100 insurance companies are suing the state's main power grid operator and a number of electricity providers, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Defendants are the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, as well as compa-

nies that supply power through ERCOT. The power failure caused more than \$10 billion in property damage, primarily to residences.

The suit claims ERCOT "failed to adequately prepare for the 2020-2021 winter season, and in fact, planned to fail," noting that the agency had projected the state would end up in the highest state of emergency in the event of an extreme weather event, the Statesman reported.

ERCOT controls nearly all the state's power grid.

Abbott sues feds over vaccine mandate for Texas National Guard

Gov. Greg Abbott last week announced he will sue the federal government to fight a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for members of the Texas National Guard.

In a letter released last week, Abbott prohibited the Texas National Guard from punishing any service member who does not receive the vaccine.

"Unless President Biden federalizes the Texas National Guard in accordance with Title 10 of the U.S. Code, he is not your commander-in-chief under our federal or state Constitutions," Abbott wrote. "And as long as I am your commander-in-chief, I will not tolerate efforts to compel receipt of a COVID19 vaccine."

The Biden administration maintains the secretary of defense has the legal power to require vaccines. In a mid-

November press conference, Pentagon press secretary John F. Kirby said, in part, "When (guardsmen are) called up for their monthly training, they're still federally funded. So (the secretary) has those authorities. And he believes, and this is a larger point, that vaccinated forces are a more ready force."

COVID-19 cases more than triple in past week

The omicron variant of COVID-19 has sent cases skyrocketing throughout the state, with a record-high 413,994 new cases reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University in the past week — nearly four times the number reported the previous week.

A total of 717 new deaths were reported, up 70% from the previous week.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 9,803 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations as of Sunday, an increase of 77% from the previous week. Just a month ago, hospitalizations had dropped below 3,000, according to DSHS. The number of new cases this past week is more than ten times the total reported a month ago.

Gary Borders, a veteran award-winning Texas journalist, compiled this report. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and, once upon a time, the Hill Country News in Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](#).

INCENTIVES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was approved.

The Gonzales FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) gave a presentation titled: Paving the Way: Teachers Need Higher Pay.

The board voted to notify the Commissioner of Education of the intent to renew the Gonzales ISD District of Innovation Plan.

Board members voted to approve the purchase of 200 Chromebooks to be utilized to complete the replacement cycle process at the end of the school year and to ensure that incoming ninth graders will receive a new Chromebook that will remain in their use for the remainder of their high school years. The \$89,808 included Chromebooks and cases. The board also voted to approve the purchase of Promethean Board for grades PK-5th.

Changes to Gonzales ISD adult breakfast and lunch meal prices were approved, increasing from \$2.35 to \$2.75 for adult breakfast and from \$4.10 to \$4.15 for adult lunch.

Board members voted to approve the update to DCE (local) policy regarding the Non-Chapter 21 contracts to include any person assigned to a professional, supervisory position for which neither SBEC nor the District requires SBEC certification.

Administration provided the board with an update on the district's finance re-

port.

According to the district's report on federal grant funds, GISD received the final fund allotments for previously approved federal grants. ESSER II funds were awarded. Planning meetings were held and funds were allotted to ensure that staff remained employed during the closure times (19-20 school year), technology was upgraded to facilitate computer-based learning, and needed instructional materials for RTI programs were provided. The remaining third of the ESSER III funds were awarded. Planning meetings were held and funds were allotted to ensure that the current learning loss plan will continue through the 2024 school year and retention stipends were implemented. Perkins, ESSA, IDEA B, and Rural and Low Income Schools funds were allotted to continue to provide the needs based on the current learning plans. Funds were distributed among the campuses based on the number of students that are served by each campus for the appropriate grants. The funds will continue to serve each campus based on their individual needs. Updates to the grant applications have been completed.

The Superintendent's Report indicated that enrollment was down slightly from last year, though attendance improved.



STUDENTS FIGHT FOR TEACHER PAY INCREASES

It happens May 2nd through May 6th. Do you know what occurs during these 5 weekdays?

It is a time where students, the community, administration, and many more show their gratitude to teachers all over the world. Yes, it is teacher appreciation week, but this does not mean that we should only celebrate our teachers during this week in May. After all, they do so much for the future of society. They help shape the minds of future leaders and allow students to have a safe learning environment where they can feel comfortable with themselves.

Teaching is a profession that calls for a person to play many different roles throughout the day, but it is not one that is paid for all that the job calls for, which is why Gonzales High School students Nicolas Martinez and Andrea Meza have teamed to bring awareness to stagnant teacher salaries.

Both students are members of the Gonzales Family Career and Community Leaders of America, or FCCLA, chapter. This student-led organization provided them with a platform to create a project that would be able to help them pay homage to their educators and fight for their educators profession. And so, the two decided to create a service project that revolved around teachers.

Together they created 'Paving the Way: Teachers Need Higher Pay.' The project is a professional

presentation complete with a slideshow and a survey that the team created. The slideshow is full of research the two studied regarding teacher pay and the reasons that they believe teachers should be paid more.

As for the survey, it includes 16 questions in total and was sent across the Gonzales Independent School District. The two also created stickers with their project emblem to be given to all teachers in the district. Nicolas and Andrea intend to share their project with other school boards in close proximity and compete with it at their Region V FCCLA Conference in Corpus Christi on January 28, 2022.

"Teachers do more than just teach," Nicolas Martinez said. "They are counselors. They are mentors. And they provide students with valuable insight and solutions to any possible problems they may have. For this reason and many more, I can proudly say that teachers truly do pave the way." Andrea Meza states that they are "becoming what every teacher wishes for their students. Young adults who are ready to tackle the world with confidence, and it's all thanks to their teaching."

The two will continue to share their message with the community and remind everyone to respect their teachers, not take their education for granted, and help other students understand what being a teacher truly means.

AIRPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tabled for further consideration.

The board tabled plans for an Airport Owners and Pilots Association event until absent board members could be present.

Airport Manager Ralph Camarillo gave an update on the board's public meeting with KSA Engineering about the master plan for the airport set to take place in mid-February.

Board member John

Coale gave an update on airport mapping and the layout diagram for the 2022 Fly-In scheduled for October.

Monthly fuel sales and hangar rental fees were reported, and the monthly statement balance was \$25,108.00.

Members discussed ways to promote the airport to Gonzales residents who may not know about it and expand its safe use for larger aircraft.

Trying to get fit? Your health insurance could help

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- A free app to help you count steps and track your fitness.

Similarly, your workplace might have wellness incentives. Some employers offer coaching by phone or health screenings. Check with your human resources department.

Have a question about insurance? Call the Texas Department of Insurance at 800-252-3439 or visit [www.tdi.texas.gov](#).



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NIXON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

an oil rig.

Council members voted to approve a resolution regarding a contract for the purpose of financing a “HYDRO VAC” machine.

Discussion was held regarding repairing the Nixon Police Department Roof. Only one quote was received for \$5800 to remove and replace roof panel screws. Alderman Mark Soto asked Cantu if this item was an emergency. The chief described the need to protect against water leaks. Soto said he would like to discuss a more permanent solution. The decision was tabled for further consideration.

The council discussed a separate Nixon Community Center contract for Nixon Smiley CISD organizations, though it was tabled due to needed improvement on the contract.

The council voted to add a City of Nixon Employee Tool/Equipment Responsibility Policy and Agreement to the Nixon Policy and Procedure Manual.

Council members voted to authorize the City Manager to renew the Splashpad loan with Third Coast Bank.

Justin La Fleur expressed concerns about the dangers when residents ignore regulations banning fireworks inside the city limits. Other council members shared his frustrations and considered options such as designating a safe zone. La Fleur said that other towns were increasing fines to prevent unregulated use of fireworks. Changes to the Fireworks Ordinance # O 12-06-1 were tabled.

Council members voted to adopt a resolution regarding the civil rights policies for the 2020 GLO Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program, Contract #22-085-071-D330. There were five separate policies that the city was required to adopt in order to receive this grant. The council voted to accept the policies and approved a resolution designating authorized signatories for contractual and financial documents pertaining to the 2020 GLO Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program, Contract # 22-085-071-D330.

Amendment #1 for the Grant Administration Services contract for the 2020 Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program Contract Number #22-085-071-D330 was approved. Amendment #1 for the Engineering Services contract for the 2020 Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program Contract Number #22-085-071-D330 was also approved. The council voted to adopt local procurement policies & procedures pertaining to the GLO Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program, Infrastructure Contract Number #22-085-071-D330.

The council discussed the purchase of an imaging system with Municipal Court Technology Funds, though a motion was made to move the discussion to closed session.

Police Chief Report and City Manager Report were accepted. The police department stated that enforcement of House Bill 873 will begin Jan. 18 regarding dogs being chained and that residents would be notified of the changes.



Jimmy Harless explained requests for variances and exceptions to county subdivision rules to commissioners on Monday before changes were approved.

COMMISSIONERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

city of Nixon had requested COVID-19 testing, but tests have not been available.

The court approved and Judge Davis read a proclamation declaring Jan. 23-29, 2022 Gonzales County School Choice Week.

Commissioners discussed and approved Gonzales County EMC’s temporary assistance to

Lavaca County with septic inspections.

The court approved exceptions to the Gonzales County Subdivision rules in Precinct 2 and 4 and changes to lots in Precinct 3. The preliminary plat for Whispering Oaks Subdivision in Precinct 2 was approved. A request for a variance was approved in Pre-

cinct 1.

Previously accepted donations amounting to \$22,300 to the County Sheriff’s Office were requested and approved for the purchase of radios. A maintenance agreement with Quantum for the backup library for Odyssey was approved.

December 2021 minutes and

the County Clerk’s report of fines and jury fees were approved. The court received a monthly constable’s report from Precinct 3 and the continuing education certificate of completion by the Tax-Assessor-Collector for the period of Jan. 2, 2021, to Jan. 1, 2022. The court approved budget amendments and paid bills.

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The Gonzales Inquirer

Employers prepare for job fair Jan. 14

By LIZ ADAMS
Gonzales Inquirer

Local organizations including Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent, the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, Gonzales Chamber of Commerce, Victoria College Gonzales Center and Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative have teamed up to bring employers and jobseekers together by hosting the upcoming job fair on Jan. 14.. It will take place between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Victoria College Gonzales Center located at 424 E Sarah DeWitt Drive. The job fairs are part of the GEDC business retention and expansion plan.

“We generally have between 14 and 20 employers from the greater Gonzales area seeking to fill positions immediately. Historically, we have a great representation from employers looking to fill positions in the utility, manufacturing, food processing, transportation, and healthcare industries. The positions they are looking to fill span from entry-level to management and employers are looking for a variety of skillsets,” said GEDC Economic Development Director Jennifer Kolbe.

According to Victoria College Gonzales Center Assistant Manager Melissa Robinson, job seeker should not be discouraged from applying if they lack qualifications because employers will often pro-

“We generally have between 14 and 20 employers from the greater Gonzales area seeking to fill positions immediately.”

— Jennifer Kolbe, GEDC
Economic Development Director

vide training and Victoria College offers academic, career and technical education classes that give job seekers skills that make them extremely marketable.

Victoria College can provide classes in welding, electrical, truck driving, and HVAC as well as nursing.

Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent has prepared to help employers with positions they’d like to fill. Career counseling and assessment testing help to match qualified applicants to job openings and Workforce Solutions supplies space for interviewing, along with training for new and expanding businesses, human resources services and several special services for youth, veterans and those with disabilities. Business Solutions Representative Chris Perez can be contacted at 361-578-0341 extension 2131 to discuss recruitment needs.



Sam Benes of Gonzales and Zakery Johnson of Shiner, members of Boy Scout Troop 231, earned the Eagle Scout Award. The award is the highest advancement in scouting.

Slaughter tapped to perform in first-ever theater showcase

Brayden Slaughter, a junior at Shiner Catholic School, has been nominated to participate in an inaugural event.

He has been selected to be a part of the TAPPS “Theater Showcase” at TAPPSCON22 in Waco this summer.

Brayden was chosen to participate in this inaugural event based on his performance at the State One-Act Play Competition in November 2021. At the state competition, Brayden was named Honorable Mention All-Star Cast.



Local teens become Eagle Scouts

Sam Benes of Gonzales, TX and Zakery Johnson of Shiner, TX each have earned the Boy Scouts of America’s highest advancement award, the Eagle Scout Award. Members of Shiner’s Boy Scout Troop 231, the two scouts were recognized in their Court of Honor ceremony on January 9th at The Shiner Diner.

Only 4% of all Boy Scouts advance to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Candidates for

Eagle Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges and successfully complete a community service project to earn his Eagle rank. Benes’ project was the construction of a playground structure for Lockhart Montessori school. Johnson’s project was the restoration of a Shiner railroad depot cart for the Wolter’s Museum.

Benes is the youngest son of Lance and Jennifer Benes. He is a graduate of St Paul High

School and is currently a freshman at LSU studying business.

Johnson is the son of Ron and Beth Johnson. He is a senior at St. Paul High School and plans to attend college in the Fall to study Construction Science.

The boys are proud to be part of Shiner’s legacy as the Eagle Scout Capital of Texas. The two scouts are grateful to the Shiner Businessman’s Club, their troop leaders and their communities for their longstanding support.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff’s Office Sheriff’s Report 01/02/22 – 01/08/22

01/03/22
• Center, James Russell, Jr., 06/1989, Adkins
Wilson County Warrant – Assault causes Bodily Injury
Released on \$6,000 Bond

01/04/22
• Santos, Danielle Francine, 04/1961, Houston
Commitment/Sentence – Possession Controlled Substance PG 1/1-B <1G
Remains in Custody

01/05/22
• Alexander, Abijah Tqwen, 06/2000, Waelder
Commitment/Sentence – Evading Arrest Detention

w/Vehicle Released
• Molina, Caleb Rene, 03/1991, Leesville
Local Warrant – Burglary Habitation Intend other Felony
Released on \$75,000 Bond

01/07/22
• Difabio, Ernesto Bobier, 02/1976, Philidelphia, PA

Wilson County Hold - Unauthorized Use of Vehicle Remains in Custody
• Dreyer, Colton Allan, 04/1994, Gonzales
Commitment/Sentence – Possession Controlled Substance PG 2 <1G
Released – Weekender
• Hernandez, Jessie, 04/1965, Luling
Possession Dangerous Drug

Released on \$500 Bond

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processings:

GCSO	07
DPS	01
GPD	06
WPD	00
NPD	00
GISD	00

SMO	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00

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