



The Gonzales Inquirer

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Emergency management ready for Float Fest

Planning sessions, contingencies made for the county's largest-ever event

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County Emergency Management director Jimmy Harless said the 2022 Float Fest,

which will make its Gonzales debut later this month, could be the biggest event in terms of crowd size ever held in Gonzales County.

Harless is working with many

different agencies — from law enforcement to medical personnel to fire and EMS first responders and others — to make sure public health and safety requirements at the

festival won't overwhelm their ability to serve full-time county residents in need.

"We need to get the folks in

See **FESTIVAL**, page 16

City's new Chamber director knows allure of heritage tourism

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The new executive director for the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Melissa Henderson, is familiar with the allure of heritage tourism and how it could benefit a community like Gonzales.

Henderson's first day of work at the Chamber was Monday, June 27 as she came from a similar position at the Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce in West Texas.



Henderson

"Coming from an economy (Fort Davis) that was driven by tourism, I'm very familiar with tourism, what a tourist looks like, as well as heritage tourism," Henderson said. "Gonzales is similar to Fort Davis in that heritage tourism is the draw. And it's all about the history, and not just any history, but Texas history, and the two are really tied together."

"The fort in Fort Davis was established to protect

See **CHAMBER**, page 6



Children circle Texas Hero Square with red, white and blue colors as they participate in the VFW bike parade, above. A fireworks show capped off the evening festivities.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Water Conservation District encourages mindful water usage

BY CLAYTON KELLEY
For the Inquirer

The Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District wants to remind residents and businesses to be mindful of the water they are using. According to the US Palmer Drought Severity Index, Gonzales County is currently in an extreme period of drought.

"Typically, we don't see this extreme (heat) until moving towards the end of August, but we've had this extended heat

presently into May and June," said Laura Martin, General Manager at Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District. "We look at an extended period of time (of drought). When it becomes an extended period of time and you're looking at months, or a year, then that's what's considered a concern and larger measures have to be taken."

These larger measures include a letter from the

See **WATER**, page 15

Gonzales Department heads work on budget

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

Budget talks have begun for the city of Gonzales as department heads met with the Gonzales City Council for two budget

workshops last week.

Departments from the Gonzales Fire Department to the Waste Water Department went over their proposed budgets

See **BUDGET**, page 16

MUSEUM GRAND OPENING



The Edwards Association celebrated the grand opening of a museum on the campus of the old Edwards High School with a ribbon cutting on Friday, July 1, as part of a school reunion weekend. The Edwards High School served the African-American community of Gonzales from 1919 to 1965, when Gonzales schools were integrated.

LEW K. COHN

Prepare for even hotter weather

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

As the summer continues to roll relentlessly through Gonzales County residents are asked to prepare for triple digit weather.

In the month of June, the city of Gonzales recorded 20 triple digit days; with no triple digits reported just last year in June 2021, according to AccuWeather.

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are common during these summer

See **HEAT**, page 15



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GVEC holds 2022 annual membership meeting

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

GVEC’s 2021 annual meeting took place on June 24 at the Gonzales High School Special Events Center. In all, 1,396 members participated either in person or by proxy.

Registration began at 5:30 p.m., with GVEC Board President Lewis Borgfeld calling the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Board Vice President Melvin E. Strey delivered the invocation.

Next came the election of District Directors. All four 2022 elections were uncontested: Robert J. Werner was reelected to serve another term as District 1 Director; Shawn Martinez was reelected to serve another term as Director of District 4; Melvin E. Strey was reelected to serve another term as District 7 Director; and Don Williams was reelected to serve another term as Director of District 10.

The 2022 annual meeting video, titled “Stronger Than Any Storm,” presented an overview of projects and initiatives taken on in 2021. Much of the presentation covered Winter Storm Uri and its impact on GVEC operations and finances, while the lingering effects of



Longtime Shiner resident Jeff Pesek receives a 2022 GVEC Public Service Award (PSA) for his extensive community service, volunteer work and the impact he's made in his community. From left: GVEC Board of Directors Vice President Melvin E. Strey, GVEC Board President Lewis Borgfeld, PSA recipient Jeff Pesek, GVEC General Manager and CEO Darren Schauer, and GVEC Board Secretary and Treasurer Henry C. Schmidt Jr.

COVID-19 were also featured. Although 2021 was largely defined by storms both literal and figurative, the Cooperative overcame these challenges in partnership with those we serve.

We adjusted and adapted where necessary, but largely pushed forward as planned, continuing to empower lives and finishing the year strong, undeterred and confident in the future.

A special presentation of GVEC’s Public Service Awards (PSA) also took place during the evening. The tradition began in 1986 to recognize people, businesses and organizations who have delivered consistent, unselfish and considerable service to people around them and their communities.

GVEC’s 2022 Individual PSA went to Jeff Pesek, native of Kyle, Texas. In 2007, Jeff settled

with his wife Anne and their daughters, Cameron and Ashlyn, in Shiner after four-and-a-half years in the U.S. Army as a commissioned officer. His life since then has been defined by his role as husband and father and by his extensive community service.

His volunteerism activities include participation in 4-H, FFA, the Shiner Rotary Club and the Shiner Chamber of

Commerce. Since 2007, Jeff has also coordinated and been Master of Ceremonies for Shiner’s Memorial Day Tribute. He’s also a Pro-staff member of Headwaters for Heroes, an organization that stages therapeutic hunting and fishing expeditions for wounded veterans and Gold Star families.

GVEC’s 2022 organizational PSA went to Cibolo Family YMCA. Opened in August 2019, this organization is committed to putting “Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.”

Among its major accomplishments to date is the creation and development of Miracle Field, a rubber-surfaced outdoor baseball field located at the Cibolo Sports complex. The facility is designed with individuals with special needs in mind. The Open Doors Scholarship, which helps assure no one gets turned away from YMCA participation for lack of ability to pay, stands as one of the organization’s most important, ongoing outreach programs.

Members can view the Annual Report as well as the video presentation online at www.gvec.org.

Gonzales Junior High seeks new theater director due to department’s growth

BY CLAYTON KELLEY
For the Inquirer

As the Gonzales Independent School District’s Theatre Department continues to grow, Gonzales Junior High School is in search of a new theatre director to fill the position.

Leslie Buesing, having been the theater teacher and director at both Gonzales Junior High School and Gonzales High School for 22 years, will still be teaching and directing Gonzales High School. The driving factor of this search for Junior High School is the growth of the theatre department, which saw a spike in kids after the 2021 fall production of “Grease,” as well as the addition of sixth grade in Gonzales Junior High School.

“Grease’ had a large audience,” Leslie Buesing said. “Two campuses came and saw it, so there are a lot of kids now interested in theatre because they saw the Greasers and

the Pink Ladies and they thought it was so cool.”

Buesing said growth of the theatre department may fluctuate depending on the fall production shows.

“We did ‘Robin Hood’ one year, and that sparked interest. There was sword fights and all these other things. We also did ‘Little Mermaid’ and ‘Grease’ was huge,” Buesing said. “I don’t always do those big shows because, especially with musicals, they’re super expensive. My kids have to raise money to do those, and there’s a lot of volunteers that go into it. This year will not be a musical.”

The main purpose of the fall show is to train new people for the high school One Act Play production.

“With the fall show, you can try out new people and let them get their feet wet,” Buesing said. “It helps for students to learn what all goes into a show because it’s not just about memorizing lines.”

While the job will be a teaching position at Gonzales Junior High School, Buesing is also looking for someone to help co-direct and be a part of the team.

“I’m hoping for a creative team player that’s ready to go,” Buesing said. “I would love new energy and new ideas. Isn’t it nice to be under somebody and learn the ropes before you go off? You’ll feel more confident to be left on your own.”

Buesing wants students to realize that art provides perspective, and she believes theatre is a mandatory art form for all students.

“Theatre, which I think is so surely needed in our society today, teaches empathy,” “It teaches you to say ‘I’m looking at the world from my vision, but now I’m going to stop and imagine myself in that person’s shoes and look around the world from that point.’”

Applications for this position were posted two weeks ago and are still active.

Firefighters spend Fourth of July battling blazes

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Fourth of July weekend may normally be the time for cookouts and fireworks, but local firefighters had to spend it battling two separate wildfires which consumed a total of more than 300 acres in Guadalupe and Gonzales counties.

Some two dozen agencies were called out at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 2, to a blaze which burned about 293 acres off Dix Road near Nixon Road

in eastern Guadalupe County, not far from the Gonzales County northwest of Belmont.

The cause of the Dix Road fire remains under investigation. It threatened four buildings in the area, but with the help of the Texas A&M Forest Service, which used its bulldozers to put up containment lines, as well as air crews which dumped retardant and water from air tankers and a helicopter, the blaze was brought under control for the most part by Sunday night.

It was reported fully contained at 1:54 p.m. Monday, July 4.

A Gonzales road and bridge crew helped dig containment lines while firefighters from Gonzales, Ottine, Nixon and Belmont fought the fire.

A second fire, the Tres Dias fire, consumed nearly 11 acres east of Gonzales near the intersection of County Road 351 and County Road 352 east of Mitchell Creek on Sunday, July 3. Responding crews were able to get that blaze under full control by 10:27 p.m. Sunday.

Gaslight Theatre to present ‘Daddy’s Dyin’

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

“Daddy’s Dyin’ Whose Got the Will,” is the 2022 summer production at the Shiner Gaslight Theatre. Scenes depicting funny, tense and touching moments will tell the story about the rebirth of the spirit of a family that awaits the passing of the patriarch. Directors are Vicki and Cody Westergren.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday performances are July 29-31, Aug. 5-7, and Aug. 12-14. The Wednesday show is August 3. All are evening performances, except for Sundays,

which are matinees. For evening performances, the doors open at 6:30 p.m., meal at 7 p.m. and performance at 8 p.m. For Sunday matinees, the doors open at 12:30 p.m., meal at 1 p.m. and performance at 2 p.m.

Regular ticket sales and reservations begin Monday, July 11. Please call 361-594-2079 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays to reserve.

All tickets must be reserved in advance. No children under 4 please. For further information about the theatre, please log onto www.shinergaslight.org.

Celebrations Birthdays

July 7th Randy Zella	Janet Raabe Collin Richter D.J. Richter Cain Segura Aaron Ray-Lee Webb
July 8th Hagan Brown Dena Fritz Will Lamb Cynthia West Kaily Zumwalt	
July 9th Fernando Casares Del DeLa Santos Ken David DuBose	
July 10th Vernene Corby Ches Elley Trent Fernandez Cherry Moeller Esther Molina	
July 11th Penci Petty	
July 12th Daryl Brown Darrell Malik Tammy Zella	
July 13th Charlene Alvarado Kristen Cook Michael Iakopo Logan Machacek Wanda Simmons Tara Straub	

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TAYLOR RETIRES



The Gonzales County Sheriff's Office celebrated the recent retirement of jail administrator Diann Taylor, who had been with the department for more than 28 years, serving in a variety of different roles. Sheriff Keith Schmidt called Diann a “huge asset to our department.”

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Gonzales Weather

 MOSTLY SUNNY	July 7 100°/76°	Mostly sunny; hot, less humid 4% chance of rain • RealFeel 100
 SUNNY	July 8 99°/75°	Sunshine; hot, low humidity 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 102
 SUNNY	July 9 97°/77°	Sunshine; warm, low humidity 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 101
 HOT	July 10 99°/78°	Hot with a stray thunderstorm 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 102
 MOSTLY SUNNY	July 11 102°/78°	Mostly sunny; hot, less humid 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 100
 SUNNY	July 12 98°/76°	Sunshine; hot, low humidity 2% chance of rain • RealFeel 100
 PARTLY SUNNY	July 13 98°/76°	Partly sunny and hot 29% chance of rain • RealFeel 101

FIND OUT WHAT ALL YOUR FRIENDS ARE TALKING ABOUT

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HPV and you

BY BETTY COHN
Gonzales Inquirer

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a viral infection that commonly causes skin or mucous membrane growths (warts). There are more than 100 variants of HPV. Some types of HPV infection cause warts, while some can cause different types of cancer. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the United States. Many studies suggest an increased risk of HPV infection at younger ages, with the highest prevalence occurring among ages 15 and 25.

There are 14 strains of “high risk” HPV that cause cancer with the second most common of all cancers in women being cervical cancer, caused almost solely by HPV.

The majority of HPV infections do not lead to cancer, however some types of HPV can cause cancer of the lower uterus (cervix). Other cancers associated with HPV are cancers of the anus, penis, vagina, vulva, and oropharyngeal (back of the throat). These infections are transmitted sexually and through skin to skin contact. Vaccines can help protect from the strains of HPV most likely to cause genital warts leading to cancer. Vaccines are recommended for boys and girls.

While most individuals who contract HPV do not develop symptoms they are still actively ale to infect others through sexual contact. There is no cure for this virus, with warts able to go away on their on. Treatment focuses solely on removing the warts, which is the only potential symptom of this disease. Cervical cancer, also often without symptoms, requires regular screenings with recommendations being every three years for women after the age of 21. Women 30-65 can get tested every five years, if in tandem with the HPV DNA test, simultaneously. Women over 65 may discontinue testing if they have returned three normal Pap tests in a row, or two HPV DNA and Pap test without abnormal results.

HPV infections occur after the virus enters the body, generally through a cut, abrasion or small tear in the skin. Infections in the genital area are contracted through sexual intercourse, anal sex, or other skin to skin contact in the genital region. HPV infections that result in oral or

See **HPV**, page 13

GONZALES CO. HISTORY

1826 – July 2, settlement attacked by Indians. Settlers were on their way to Mina (Bastrop) to celebrate the Fourth of July with friends on the Colorado River. John Wightman stayed behind and was killed. The settlers evacuated the area.

1901 - July 6, Gregorio Cortez placed in Gonzales County Jail by Sheriff F.M. Fly. Cortez had been indicted by the Grand Jury of Gonzales County for murder of Sheriff R.M. Glover on June 14, 1901. Fly successfully thwarted a lynch mob.

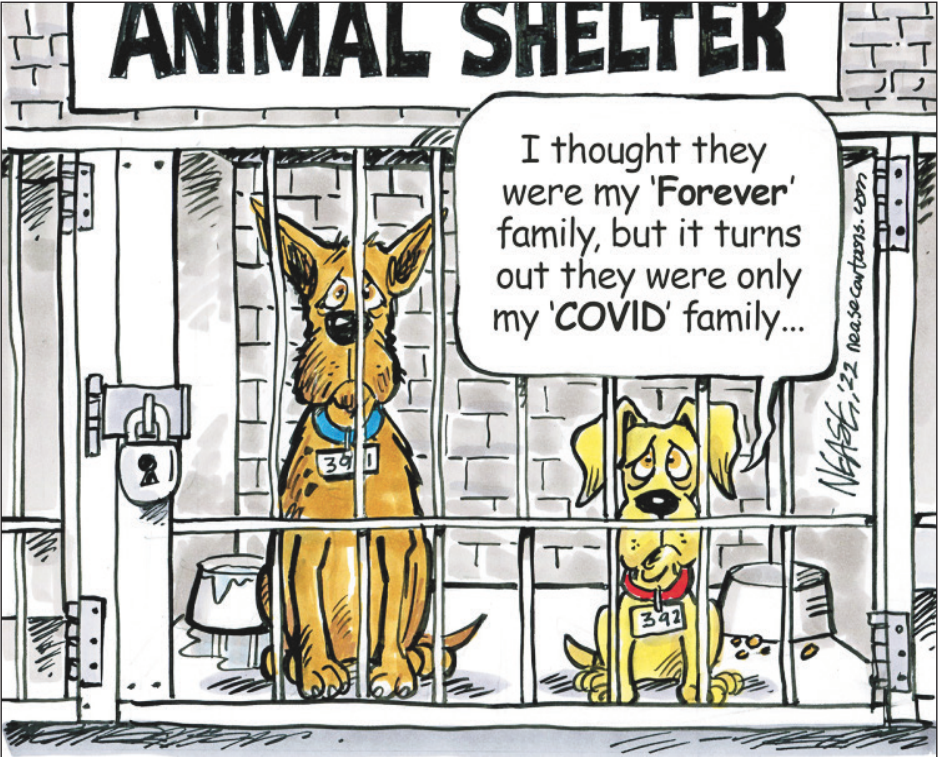
1903 - July, Inquirer laments “the Fourth of July and no band or balloon.”
- July 9, gold and silver found on Kleine Brothers’ property nine miles north of Gonzales ; gold assays at \$620 per ton.

1914 - July 3, the work of putting in curbing and cement walks around the East Avenue State Park is progressing nicely. Included is a cement bridge ‘ over the creek. Some citizens are also contracting to have cement walks poured in front of their residences.
- July 4, Jahnke Jewelry announces that it has installed a “Time Sounder” which will be set at the correct time every morning at eleven according to the United States Observatory at Washington. Folks may call to get the correct time.
- July 4, the park commissioners announce that the land on East Avenue between Tinsley Creek and Kerr Creek is State-owned park land and no livestock will be permitted to be on this land.

1916 - July 5, barbecue dinner served to over 6,000 people as Gonzales celebrated the Fourth of July with ball games, orations, dances, and fireworks.
- July 11, a party from San Marcos has leased the Hoskins building (known as the Plaza Theatre) and is reworking it to put in a skating rink.
- July 27, the Inquirer remarks that the Guadalupe is lower than it has been seen before.

1939 - July 24, Boy Scout building construction to begin by NYA boys with Rudolph Nagel serving as contractor. Rock will be quarried nearby by the NYA boys.

Opinion



Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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

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

- Confusing or unclear points.
- Crude language.
- Poor taste.
- Disrespectful comments regarding a group's or individual's ethnicity, gender, religion, culture, sexual orientation or race.
- Other incendiary language or remarks.
- Endorsements for or complaints about individually named commercial products or services.
- Poetry.
- Personal attacks.
- “Thank You” letters that go beyond general thanks to the community; attempt to serve as an advertisement for a company, individual or political party; or is submitted in lieu of a paid “Thank You” advertisement.

During periods ahead of an election, The Inquirer does not accept letters to the editor urging voters to vote for or against candidates in local elections. Endorsements should be displayed in political advertising. In light of

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

The Inquirer will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information.

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

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

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

Please send Letters to the Editor:

- Email: publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com
 - U.S. Mail: The Inquirer, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, Texas, 78629
 - In person: The Inquirer, 622 St. Paul Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 (Please bring in a digital format, if possible).
- Further questions may be directed to Publisher Lew Cohn, 830-672-2861.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Superintendent cherishes clown role ...

We’ve all heard of the futility of trying to take “country” from rural lads after they’ve moved to town, and the same likely applies to attempts to take “clown” from rodeo entertainers, even when they climb the educational ladder to school superintendencies.

This seems to elevate truth to a higher level when a clown masters a trick that makes cowboys get back on their steeds, bulls paw in disbelief and fellow clowns watch goings-on from the safety of retreat barrels.

Proceeds from clowning provided most funding for Dr. Ronny Collins' undergraduate and master's degrees from what is now Tarleton State University. Setting him apart from most other rodeo clowns was an unlikely — as well as uncanny — act. He juggles up to three chainsaws and “them a’runnin’”....

In the words of my late mother — whose exclamation upon seeing unbelievable feats varied little from this — “Now don’t that beat a hen a’peckin’!”

I agree with my mom, expanding the fowl list to include pigeons, ducks, swans, geese, chickens, turkeys and all other pecking creatures.

Dr. Collins' propensity to feel “at home” with potential chainsaw dangers would be more understandable if he had confined this act to the years of his youth. He hasn’t, though, developing the chainsaw routine a decade ago when he retired from the superintendency. His last public performance was in 2019 on his 65th birthday in Oklahoma City, and last year he performed at the Rodeo Clown Reunion of the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, CO.

A given, though, is that none of his six grandchildren are permitted to watch his act — one that should never be attempted at home....

Dr. Collins and his wife, Terri—a retired elementary school teacher — now have a small spread near Grandview.

He still teaches agriculture classes from time to time. His 22 “superintending” years were in Wellington, Jacksboro, Snyder and Mineral Wells.

I’m not sure how many folks in those communities knew of his kinship with rodeos, but had he mastered the juggling earlier, he likely would have prevailed over most unruly parents, some teachers and a few board members upon pulling the starter cord....

Before you ask, he still has all his limbs and digits, never having anything go afoul in his chainsaw juggling.

He still tosses the saws to the same height as he did when he started a decade ago. Also, they are set at the same speed, posing the same danger at the same level across the years.

At age 68, Dr. Collins admits to wearing glasses for reading, but NOT for juggling....

He and Terri are proud of their sons, Drs. Brad and Todd Collins, Midlothian chiropractor and Waco dentist, respectively.

The retirees live a few hundred yards from Brad, his wife Kandace, and their children Carter, 17; Codi, 14, and Kenna, 12. Less than an hour away are Todd; his wife Amy, and their children Tred, 11; Cy, 9 and Adelyn, 7.

See **NEWBURY**, page 11



Ronny Collins

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Staff

PUBLISHER
Lew Cohn

STAFF WRITER
Vandy Van Epps

CONTRIBUTING
Betty Cohn
Clayton Kelley

BOOKKEEPER
Sanya Simmons

TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION
Seaborn Rountree

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The Little Fish with a Really Long Name:

Humuhumunukunukuāpuaʻa

This little fish with strong, powerful jaws grows to be up to 10 inches in length.

The **humuhumunukunukuapuaʻa** (sometimes just called humuhumu for short) is known for its bright, beautiful coloration. It is a kind of tropical triggerfish. Many people don't know that reef triggerfish like humuhumu can change colors!

Their color depends on what they are doing. If the fish is sleeping or resting, its colors will be muted and dull. But when the fish is active, healthy, comfortable, and unthreatened, its colors will be bold and bright.

Use the math code to color the humuhumu.

13 + 7 + 3 = ORANGE	12 + 6 + 1 = BLACK
4 + 4 + 4 = BLUE	15 + 3 + 3 = WHITE
6 + 5 + 3 = LIGHT YELLOW	17 + 2 + 2 = RED
8 + 2 + 7 = BRIGHT YELLOW	3 + 4 + 2 = GREEN

Circle every third letter to complete the sentence:

B F H J S A C D W L N A K G I L M I

In 1985, the humuhumunukunukuapuaʻa officially became the state fish of _____

H

Trigger Fish Teeth

A big name and big teeth! Reef triggerfish like the humuhumunukunukuapuaʻa have some large choppers.

In the wild, triggerfish eat crustaceans, mollusks and coral. They need strong teeth and jaws to crush shells and coral.

Snout About It

Humuhumunukunukuapuaʻa means fish with a snout like a pig. A snout is the part of an animal's face that includes the nose or nose and mouth and usually sticks out from the rest of the face.

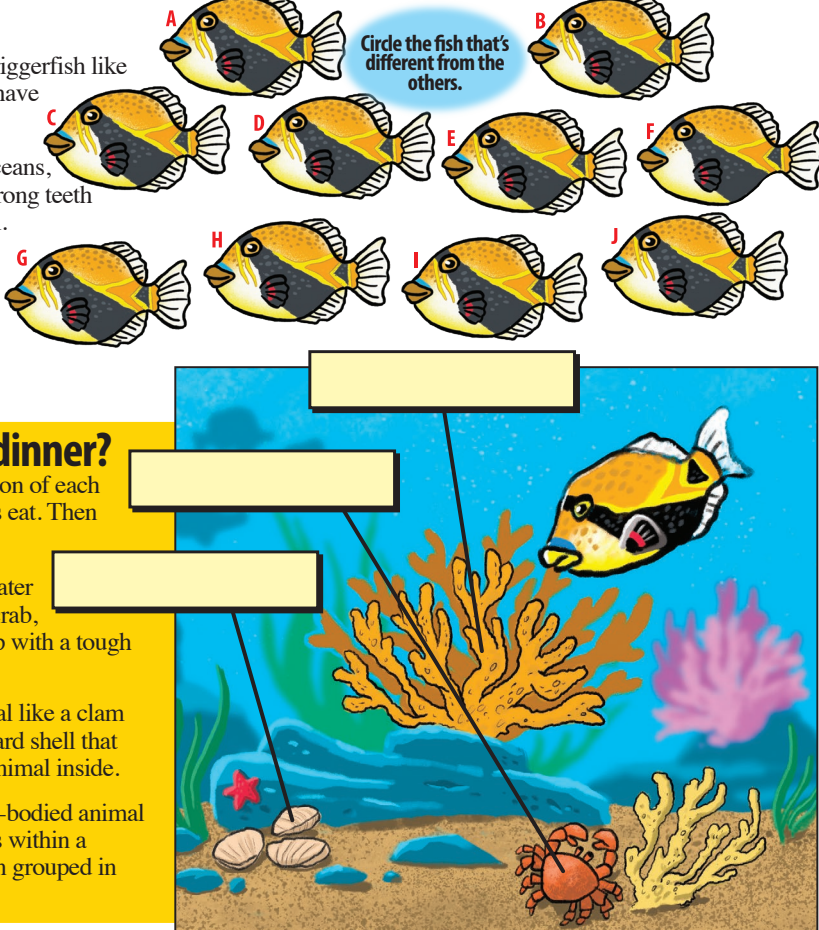
What's for dinner?

Read the description of each thing humuhumus eat. Then label the picture.

Crustacean: A water animal such as a crab, lobster and shrimp with a tough outer shell.

Mollusk: A animal like a clam or oyster with a hard shell that protects the soft animal inside.

Coral: A tiny soft-bodied animal that typically lives within a stone-like skeleton grouped in large colonies.



Extra! Extra! Syllable Search

Look through the newspaper for long words. Can you break each word into smaller syllables? Copy the entire word onto a sheet of paper, then re-write each word in syllables.

Example: **important**
im-por-tant

Standards Link: Language Arts: Separate words into syllables.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How do you pronounce humuhumunukunukuapuaʻa?

It helps to break this long word into a lot of little sounds or syllables:

Hoo-moo
Hoo-moo
Noo-koo
Noo-koo
Ah-poo
Ah-ah

Read the syllables on each line, then say them faster and faster until it comes out as one long word. Keep practicing then teach a family member learn to say it.

It's one of the longest words in the Hawaiian language. How many syllables in humuhumunukunukuapuaʻa?

Double Double Word Search

PRONOUNCE SYLLABLES TROPICAL LANGUAGE ANIMAL COLOR TEETH CORAL SHELL TOUGH REEF CRAB FACE JAWS SOFT

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?


E	C	N	U	O	N	O	R	P	T
R	T	H	J	L	F	U	S	R	E
M	O	U	H	A	U	M	O	E	E
L	U	L	C	R	W	P	F	E	T
L	G	E	O	O	I	S	T	F	H
E	H	U	N	C	R	A	B	U	K
H	U	N	A	N	I	M	A	L	U
S	Y	L	L	A	B	L	E	S	K
E	G	A	U	G	N	A	L	U	A

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.



Fishy Photo

Some time ago, an odd photo appeared on the internet that showed a gray triggerfish with human-like teeth.



The strange photo was shared thousands of times all around the world. People were amazed that a fish could have teeth that look like ours.

But the photo was fake, likely created by someone who wanted to play a joke on a lot of people. It was a pretty harmless prank, but a reminder that you can't always believe everything you see online.

Talk with a family member about some of the ways you can discover if something you see or read is true or false.

Make a list of steps you can take to be a **True News Navigator** here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Fast Fish Fact:

A female gray triggerfish can lay an average of 772,415 eggs!

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GONZALES JOB FAIR

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



Mayor S.H. "Steve" Sucher and the Executive Director of the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce Melissa Henderson holds the city's flag with the companies from the job fair in the background.



David Johnson and Bobby Spence represents the Wrangler Trucking, LLC at the Gonzales job fair last Thursday.



Representatives of Holmes Foods, Inc at the Gonzales job fair last Thursday.



Maurice Janda, fulfillment manager for Livestock Nutrition Center, represents the company in hopes to bring in new employees at last Thursday's Gonzales job fair.



Selena Hanzel, of Kaspar, at the Gonzales job fair representing the company last Thursday.



Travis Walton and Austin Butler, of ButlerWood, with Jennifer Kolbe of GEDC as they promote their business at the Gonzales job fair.



The United States Navy talent scout, Lee Heath, at the Gonzales job fair last Thursday in the Chamber of Commerce building.



Tyson's Human Resource Supervisor Aleida Leal (left) helps a Gonzales resident fill out a job application. The Golden Crescent Workforce Solution helped organized the job fair in Gonzales last Thursday.



FSNS's Talent Acquisition Specialist Steve Martinez speaks to potential job seekers at the Gonzales job fair.

CHAMBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

travelers along the San Antonio trail, so people were literally coming from Gonzales and making their way across Texas. And Fort Davis was there for them."

The opportunity to work for a larger Chamber drew Henderson to Gonzales and it didn't hurt that her aunt and uncle live in Gonzales as well.

"Fort Davis is a very small community and we probably had 100 Chamber of Commerce members," Henderson said. "The entire county, Fort Davis County, is actually unincorporated. There is not a city or municipality, and county wide, the whole population is about 2,500 people. It is a small, very, very rural community, so there's a lot of room for my career to grow in this position here in Gonzales."

"The reason I knew the position was open is because my aunt and uncle live here. My aunt Cynthia Green is the dietician at the hospital and she showed me the position was open. Originally, I'm from Slaton, outside of Lubbock."

The Chamber of Commerce is negotiating with the city of Gonzales to oversee tourism for the city and to take on a larger part of managing the city's hotel occupancy tax and tourism promotion.

Henderson said she likes to think about the historical aspect in connection with tourism and is familiar with the

demographics for heritage tourism in Texas and "how to get that demographic to come here."

"First of all, it tends to be older males, which is great because they tend to have money and go out to eat and stay in hotels, so they're really good tourists," Henderson said. "So let's get more of them visiting Gonzales, bringing their families and wives and staying in our hotels and going out to eat and spending money."

Henderson agrees with the assessment that Gonzales should be a sought-after location to visit for

Texas history. "This should be it, I mean, this is Texas history," Henderson said. "We are the original, we're the OG of Texas history. I spoke with Mayor (Steve) Sucher and he told me about some of the big historical dates we have coming up, some big years for Texas history. As part of a long-term vision, Gonzales should be at the forefront, a leader in those historical events for the whole state of Texas."

Henderson said she is excited about getting to know "all of the Chamber

members" in Gonzales. "Coming from a small Chamber of Commerce to a Chamber of Commerce that has 500 members is a big thing," Henderson said. "And there's huge manufacturing companies, really big companies, in Gonzales. I really look forward to learning about them taking tours and really investing in and getting to know the businesses, not just the small businesses, but also our huge businesses, as well as some of the bigger businesses that are in the region." One of the first events

Henderson and her four young daughters will get to enjoy in Gonzales is the annual Come and Take It celebration, which will be held Sept. 30 through Oct. 2.

"We have a committee meeting next week, so I have a lot of questions about what the Chamber does to put on that event, but of course, Martha (Jimenez, the Chamber's

administrative assistant) is just on it," Henderson said. "I've already met Daisy (Scheske Freeman, who is chair of this year's festival) and I love doing event planning as well."

Chamber members and the public can meet and greet Henderson at the next Chamber mixer at 5 p.m. Thursday, July 28, at the Chamber office at 304 St. Louis Street.

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Hurricanes predicted? Here are 5 tips to prepare.



Texas and the U.S. could be in for another busy hurricane season, which runs from June through November.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts up to 10 hurricanes. Colorado State University experts forecast 9 hurricanes and they say there's a 54% chance that a hurricane comes within 50 miles of the Texas coast.

Some tips to prepare:

- Consider buying flood insurance. Flood damage isn't covered by your home insurance. Don't wait long: flood policies typically don't take effect for 30 days after purchase.
- Write a family disaster plan. Start from the TexasReady.gov website.
- Decide where and how far you'll go if you have to evacuate.
- Build a "go-kit" with food, medicine, clothes, pet food, and other vital supplies.
- Make a room-by-room home inventory (PDF). This could help later if you file a claim.

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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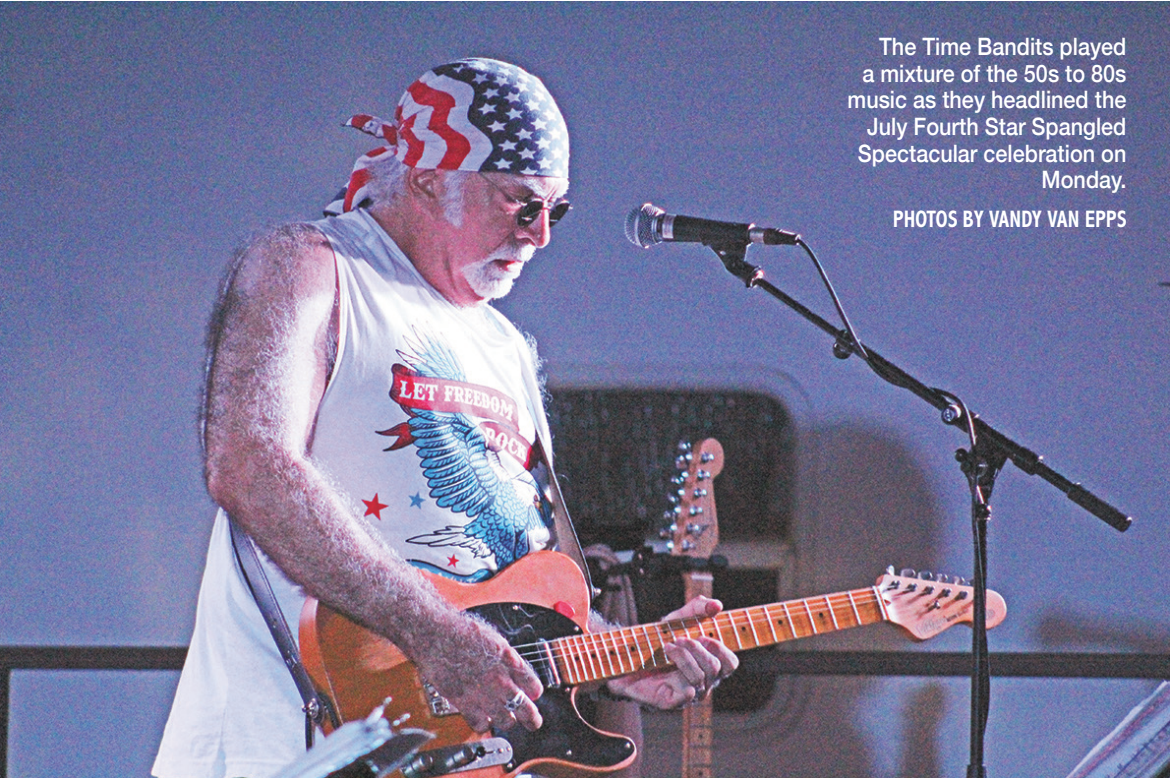
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CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE ON MAIN STREET



The Time Bandits played a mixture of the 50s to 80s music as they headlined the July Fourth Star Spangled Spectacular celebration on Monday.
PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



Main Street Director Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla gives the okay to begin the fireworks show to close out the Fourth of July celebrations.



Headliners the Time Bandits close off the final week of the Main Street concert series as they celebrate the Fourth of July holiday.



Mr. Wiggles the chihuahua takes part in the Fourth of July festivities in the VFW bike parade.



Antonio Garcia and his wife, Olga Garcia, dance to the music of The Time Bandits, of Kerrville, at the celebration of Fourth of July at Texas Heroes Square.



Three-year-old Adelynn Earp holds a sparkler as she celebrates the Fourth of July holiday with her family at Texas Heroes Square.



Ashton Moreno, 3, in his red, white and blue decorated wagon as he and other children participate in the VFW Post 4817's bike parade on Monday.



Exit 505 gets the crowd fueling with music for the Fourth of July holiday.



The United States flag flies over Gonzales as residents celebrate the Fourth of July holiday.



NIXON LIGHTS UP THE NIGHT

Nixon celebrates the Fourth of July with a fireworks show at Mustang Stadium Saturday, July 2.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

CLASSIFIEDS

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
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PREVIEW: Thurs., 7/14/22

AUCTION ENDS: Fri., 7/15/22

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500 N Nixon Ave, Nixon, 3 bdrm, 2 ba, Built

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120 Boulder Ridge Drive, Cuero, 5 bdrm, 2 ba,

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809 E Central Avenue, Nixon, 4 bdrm, 1 ba, Two

Story, Built 1950, .69acre, 2496 sqft, \$230,000

233 CR 152, Nixon, 3 bdrm, 1 ba, Built 1940,

32.4+ acres, 1024 sqft \$430,000

3053 Coral Sky, Seguin, 4 bdrm, 3 ba, Built

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315 Porpoise, Aransas Pass, 4 bdrm, 4 ba, Two

Story, Built 2013, 3626 sqft \$1,550,000

2135 Pioneer Pass, Seguin, 4 bdrm, 2 ba, Built

2015, 2319 sqft, \$385,000

UNDER CONTRACT:

342 Kratz Turnaround, La Grange, 4 bdrm, 2

ba, Two Story, Built 2002, 1.6+ acre, 2695 sqft

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1109 Robertson Street, Gonzales, \$17,500

TBD CR 388, Gonzales, 10 acres \$230,000

0 Hackberry Street, Flatonia, 1.2+ acres

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TBD Seydler Street, Gonzales, 13+ acres,

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COMMERCIAL:

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RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 01

DATE OF ISSUANCE: Jun 24, 2022

NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jul 15, 2022

Address: Railroad Commission of Texas

ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit

P. O. Box 12967

Austin, Texas 78711-2967

Fax: (512) 463-6780

Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

Rule 37 Case No. 0334637

Status/Permit No. 879276

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PENN VIRGINIA OIL & GAS, L.P., [RRC Operator No. 651780] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. , Bk., TORRY, J F Survey, A-459, EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-1) Field, GONZALES County, being 13.7 miles E direction from GONZALES, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at (512)463 6751. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jul 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-1)

Lease/Unit Name	:	OPAL
Lease/Unit Well No.	:	1H
Lease/Unit Acres	:	4201.74
Nearest Lease Line (ft)	:	null
Nearest Well on Lease (ft)	:	355.0

Lease Lines	:	349.0 F se L, 2418.0 F ne L
Survey Lines	:	349.0 F se L, 2008.0 F sw L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1

Penetration Point Location

Lease Lines:	607.0 F SE L	
	2813.0 F NE L	

Terminus Location

BH County:	GONZALES	
Section:	Block:	Abstract: 288
Survey:	ISBELL, J H	
Lease Lines:	336.0 F SE L	
	100.0 F NW L	
Survey Lines:	378.0 F E L	
	373.0 F SW L	

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-1) :

Special Rules	330/0, 80.0 acres.	
Optional Rules	330/0, 40.0 acres.	

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 14500 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Guy Grossman, at (713)722-6500.

CLASSIFIEDS

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Nixon-Smiley CISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00pm, Monday, July 18, 2022, at Nixon-Smiley Elementary Cafeteria 500 Anglin Street, Smiley, Texas to get stakeholder input on upcoming federal grant applications for the 2022-23 school year and review the Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (RIPICS)

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Scott Allen Whitescarver, Deceased, were issued on June 22, 2022, in Cause No. AD22-0192, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: April Whitescarver.

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: **Robert W. Bland**
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 119
GONZALES, TX 78629

Dated the 30th day of June, 2022.



Robert W. Bland
 Attorney for April Whitescarver
 State Bar No: 24044756
 P.O. Boxes 119
 GONZALES, TX 78629
 Telephone: (830) 672-2437
 Facsimile: (830) 672-2439
 E-mail: rbland@gvec.net

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Attention Private Non-Profit Schools

You may be eligible to participate in services through Federal Programs. Please contact your local school district regarding participation in the planning and receipt of services through Federal Programs. We would like to hear from you no later than July 18, 2022.

For more information, please contact: Jeff VanAuken, Nixon-Smiley CISD Superintendent of Schools, at 830.582.1536, extension 102.

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Indian Arrowheads Wanted – Point Type: Clovis, Yuma, Firstview & Eden. Must be old, authentic & unbroken. Absolute TOP DOLLAR paid – up to 5 figures for one point. I am a very serious high-end collector. Call 979-218-3351.

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Gonzales residents reflect on historic Supreme Court ruling

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

While Jehovah's Witnesses have chosen to temporarily suspend their door-to-door ministry due to the pandemic, their activity was almost permanently banned by one U.S. village in the late 1990s — that is until the United States Supreme Court stepped in with a historic 8-1 decision on June 17, 2002, declaring the local ordinance unconstitutional.

As the 20th anniversary of that precedent-setting decision nears, some Gonzales residents wonder what their lives would be like if one of their neighbors had not knocked on their door and shared a life-changing message with them. Constitutional scholars marvel at the outsized impact the decision has had on the protection of free speech for all, agreeing with Justice Antonin Scalia's opinion in the case, "The free-speech claim exempts everybody, thanks to Jehovah's Witnesses."

Gonzales resident Marcelina Atchison, who is one of Jehovah's Witnesses, appreciates the opportunity to reach her neighbors with the Bible's message of hope. "This truly brings me joy and happiness," she said.

The 2002 Supreme Court decision in *Watchtower v. Village of Stratton* affirmed that a local village ordinance in Stratton, Ohio, requiring a permit to knock on doors violated the rights of any person who wanted to engage in free speech with their neighbor, including Jehovah's Witnesses who practice door-to-door evangelizing. The Court overturned two lower court rulings that upheld the ordinance and thus paved the way for all citizens to maintain open dialogue with their neighbors on any number of issues, including environmental, civic, political or educational.

"Looking back on the two decades since the decision, it's clear to see the wide-ranging

impact that *Watchtower v. Stratton* has had on free speech for all," said Josh McDaniel, director of the Religious Freedom Clinic at the Harvard Law School. "This is just the latest of some 50 Supreme Court victories by Jehovah's Witnesses that have helped establish and broaden First Amendment jurisprudence throughout the last century."

The village of Stratton became a center of controversy in 1998 after the mayor personally confronted four Jehovah's Witnesses as they were driving out of the village after visiting a resident. Subsequently, the village enacted the ordinance "Regulating Uninvited Peddling and Solicitation Upon Private Property," which required anyone wishing to engage in door-to-door activity to obtain a permit from the mayor or face imprisonment. Jehovah's Witnesses viewed this ordinance as an infringement of freedom of speech, free exer-

cise of religion, and freedom of press. Therefore, they brought a lawsuit in federal court after the village refused to modify its enforcement of this ordinance.

"Our motive for initiating the case was clear: We wanted to remove any obstacle that would prevent us from carrying out our scriptural obligation to preach the good news of the Kingdom," said Robert Hendriks, U.S. spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses. "Making it a criminal offense to talk with a neighbor without seeking government approval is offensive to many people, but particularly to God who commanded Christians to preach the gospel."

Heeding this scriptural command is important to Atchison. "I enjoy the opportunity to tell others about God. He has invited us to get to know him," she said.

Today, Atchison shares the Bible's message with her neighbors by engaging in a produc-

tive ministry through letter writing, phone calls, and virtual visits. However, she is looking forward to knocking on doors again.

"We are thankful that we have the legal right to practice our ministry from door to door," said Hendriks. "When the time is right and conditions are safe, we hope to visit our neighbors in person once again."

This victory is one of more than 250 rulings in cases brought by Jehovah's Witnesses in high courts around the world that have expanded the rights of people of all religious faiths. "It's hard to point to any organization, let alone a religious organization, that has had such a profound impact on the shaping of constitutional law over many decades in the Supreme Court," said Harvard professor McDaniel.

For more information on the *Stratton* case, go to www.jw.org and type *Stratton* in the search field.

UMHB honor roll announced for Spring 2022

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton announced that 502 students have been listed on the Spring 2022 Provost's Honor Roll. To receive this recognition, a student must achieve a 3.85 grade point average (GPA) or better on a 4.0 scale.

In conjunction with this, 523 students were named on the Dean's Honor Roll for Spring 2022. To receive this recognition, a student must achieve a 3.5 – 3.849 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale.

Monica Velazquez of Waelder was named to the Dean's Honor Roll.

Louie the Lightning Bug offers electrical safety learning

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

In his 36th year, Louie the Lightning Bug continued delivering GVEC's Electrical Safety Program to local classrooms. The Cooperative's mascot remained fully online during the 2021-2022 school year, but fully committed to and engaged in spreading the "safety bug."

This continued an approach developed for 2020-2021. Although in-person classes returned this year, many COVID-related constraints remained, and Louie again welcomed students to learn about electrical safety through the Electric Universe website at gvec.electricuniverse.com.

His message of "playing it safe around electricity" reached over

3,100 students throughout the Cooperative's service territory. Forty schools participated in the program during the 2021-2022 school year.

Electric Universe allows students to explore electrical safety with Louie through games, short video clips, and fun activity and coloring pages. Teachers also have a space on the site offering lesson plans, experiments and references to help incorporate Electric Universe into their classrooms. Additionally, Louie crosses new frontiers through the website, spanning a wider age range with advanced learning pages for older students as well as energy-saving and home safety tips for grownups.

You can check out Electric Universe at gvec.electricuniverse.com.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office
06/26/22 – 07/02/22

06/26/22
Garcia, Autumn Belle, 10/1998, Victoria: Commitment/Sentence – Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 >1G <4G, Released – Weekender

06/28/22
Davis, Tyler Joe, 03/1983, Luling: Caldwell County Warrant – Abandon Endanger Child Intent/Know/Reck/Criminal Negligence, Requires \$6,000 Bond; Intent/Know/Reck/Criminal Negligence, Requires \$6,000 Bond; Intent/Know/Reck/Criminal Negligence, Requires \$6,000 Bond; Released – Transferred to Caldwell County

07/02/22
Jones-Miller, Joshua Deonta, 05/2000, Waelder: Commitment/Sentence – Resist Arrest Search or Transport; Released – Work Release

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

GCSO	03	Constable 4	00
DPS	02	DWCSO	00
GPD	03	DEA	00
WPD	00	TPW	00
NPD	02	GCAI	00
GISD	00	Rangers	00
SMO	00	Other	00
Constable 3	00	Total	10

NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

While Dr. Collins spent most of his years in education — including doctoral study at Oklahoma State University — he's extremely grateful for his rodeo days as a bullfighter and clown. He still is a card-carrying member of the International Pro Rodeo Association.

He was inducted into the Cowboy

& Arena Champions Hall of Fame in Kerrville in 2016 as a rodeo clown/bullfighter, and into the Cowboy Protection Association Hall of Fame last year as a bullfighter.

He's a valued friend who'll "do to ride the river with," a description born many years ago when cattle drives stirred up dust. And I'd say that even if his sons

weren't graduates of Howard Payne University, where I did most of my "presidenting..."

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to write weekly and speak throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newlybury@speakerdoc.com. Facebook: Don Newbury. Twitter: @donnewbury



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ACROSS

1 hula hoops and mullets, e.g.

5 TX George Jones' "The Race ____"

6 "____-tat" (knocking or gunfire)

7 TX Jamie Foxx's first name at birth

8 TXism: "Devil's ____" (praying mantis)

17 "Texas Tea"

18 TXism: "____ _ duck in water"

21 4-term Dallas mayor: ____ Thornton

22 truck rubber

23 TXism: "he's ____ walk the river with"

24 TX Bob Wills' "Take ____ to Tulsa"

29 Laredo had a large anti ____ smelter

30 this Bob started a chain of Texas cafeterias

31 big Texas-__ game

32 TXism: "like two dogs fighting ____" (vicious)

34 QB Blake for IFL Frisco Fighters

35 ____ and reel

36 Anglican church service at sunset

37 in Coleman County on U.S. 283

38 TXism: "would ____ maggot" (putrid)

39 TXism: "thick as ticks ____"

41 two- ____ (fake)

42 "without further ____"

DOWN

1 crowd pleaser all over Texas on July 4 (2 wds.)

2 TXism: "skinny ____"

3 TXism: "it'll ____ something better comes along"

4 between meals treat

9 TXism: "you can write it ____" (certain)

10 " ____ a scratch" (unharmd)

11 it's now Verizon

43 TXism: "get your ducks in ____" (get organized)

44 this Warren starred with TX Dennis Quaid in 1983 film "Tough Enough"

45 "The Texas Chain ____ Massacre" (1972)

46 former Cowboy DE Ed " ____ Tall" Jones

47 a birdie is one ____ par

48 walked ostentatiously

50 " ____ hunt" (prank)

12 "mi casa es ____ casa" (neighborly)

13 emotional shock

14 poetry metrical foots

15 Henrietta is the seat of this county

16 state where the Chisholm Trail ended (abbr.)

19 "The Three ____"

20 Barbary sheep

22 "shoo" is a word said ____

24 "Mighty ____" does not flow in Texas

25 New Year's ____

26 UT-Austin mascot

27 AT&T Center and Toyota Center

28 country of Astros and Rangers

29 TXism: " ____ mama" (waitress)

30 ____-Temco-Vought was a Dallas corp.

33 TXism: "he's ____ big for his britches"

34 white precipitation

35 TX A.J. Foyt, e.g.

37 TXism: "dead as ____"

38 a secure Texas subdivision?

40 TXism: "could count the ____" (light rain)

41 TX Buddy Holly's "Not ____ Away"

44 TXism: "went to the well ____ too often"

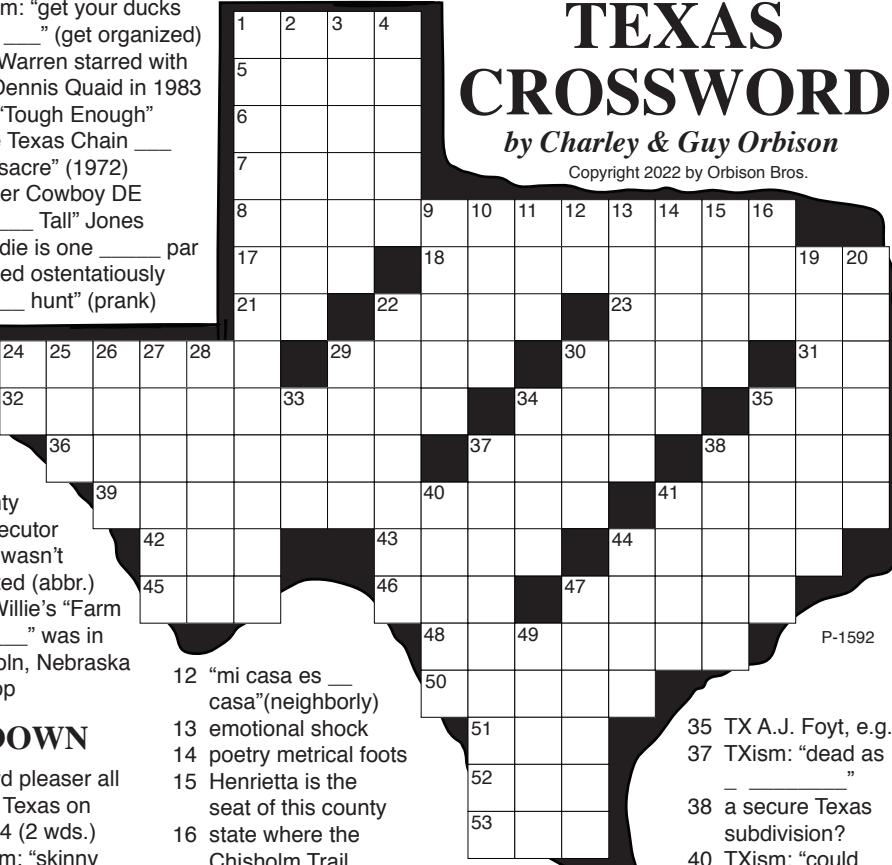
47 volunteer worker

49 TX Willie's "Farm ____" was in Manor, Texas

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1592

SUDOKU

		5		1				
1		8	2		4			7
				3				
	8		1		9			
7				5	6			9
							3	2
6								
	3		8		4			
		4			2		6	

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

SPORTS

LaBuhn places sixth in national shooting competition

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales High School incoming senior Cooper LaBuhn was chosen to represent the state of Texas last fall as one of the four members of the Texas 4-H Smallbore Rifle Team.

Cooper is the son of BJ and Erin Lindemann-LaBuhn.

After multiple months of practice, the team, along with eight other Texas teams in different disciplines, traveled to Grand Island, Nebraska to compete in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships. Overall, Texas earned the honor of third place as a state. Multiple other Texas team members earned individual and team medals and ribbons.

Cooper earned the distinction of sixth place individual in the smallbore silhouette event. The Texas smallbore team placed third as a team in the silhouette event. In the Smallbore Rifle 3-Position event, Cooper's team placed third overall.

As a culmination of the week, team accomplishments are combined, and overall awards are presented at the individual and team level. Congratulations to Cooper and his teammates for earning fourth place smallbore rifle team overall.

Team members included Cooper LaBuhn, Lea Soule, Bethany Butler, and Justin Jurek. The team was coached by Stephen Jurek of Columbus.



CONTRIBUTED
Cooper LaBuhn of Gonzales competes at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska, in smallbore events.



CONTRIBUTED
Cooper LaBuhn, above, an incoming Gonzales High School senior, receives his sixth place ribbon in the smallbore silhouette event at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska. LaBuhn, the son of BJ and Erin Lindemann-LaBuhn, is a member of the Texas 4-H Smallbore Rifle Team, which includes fellow members Justin Jurek, Lea Soule, Bethany Butler and coach Stephen Jurek.



CONTRIBUTED
The Texas smallbore team placed third as a team in the silhouette event. In the Smallbore Rifle 3-Position event, Cooper's team placed third overall.

Veterans' Memorial annual golf scramble winners announced

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales County Veterans' Memorial Association held their 10th annual three-man golf tournament on Monday, July 4, at the Gonzales Independence Golf Course.

The first place team was comprised of Bill Hyman, Butch Jackson and Michael Collie. The second place team was Clint Irle, Ron Pekar and Aaron Etzler. The third place team was Derek Grahmann, Adam Staton and Ryan Lee.

Closest to the pin awards were donated by gift certificates donated by Baker Boys BBQ:

- Hole #4, Randall Dupree
- Hole #6, Jackie Wal-drip
- Hole #9, Dalton Handley

The longest drive certificate was donated by Derek Grahmann and the winner was Ben Flores.

Organizers of the event expressed their thanks to all those who came out to celebrate Independence Day and help raise funds for the Veterans Memorial.

Sponsors for the event included BYK; the family of Doyle Allen; Southwest Engineers; Logan Insurance; Fehner & Son Grain and Firearms;

Hand Ranch; XL Oil Field Services; TSG Architects/Tim Gescheidle; Gonzales Livestock Market Inc.; DuBose Insurance; JoAnn Mercer; Daniel and Mary Tomas/Justin Pope; Seydler-Hill Funeral Home; Tyson Foods Inc.; Michael "Mercer Welding"; Larry & Beth Mercer in Memory of Capt. Wm. P. Mercer; MILDU,LLC; Gonzales Lodge #38 I.O.O.F.; Schmidt & Sons, Inc.; Lindemann Fertilizer Service Inc.; West Motors/Service; Texas Poultry Supply; Gonzales National Bank; D&D Liquor; LeAnn Wolff CPA PC; Gonzales VFW Post 4817; Guadalupe Valley Veterinary Clinic; W. B. Farm & Ranch; Roeber Insurance Agency; South Star Bank; Scott Dierlam/State Farm; Sage Capital Bank; J-Bar-B Foods; Kessler's Appliance Service; Ehrig Brothers Ag.; E-Barr Feeds Gonzales & Hal-lettsville; Glenda Kessler USAF; Steve & Mary Willman; Will & Tiffany Lamprecht Fm.; First Shot Cook Off; Larry & Beth Mercer; and Carolyn Breitschopf; also GCVMA board members Derek Grahmann, Elgin Heine-meyer, Steve Willman, Steve Ehrig, Bill Kessler, Glenda Kessler and Larry Mercer.

SUMMER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE



CONTRIBUTED
Gonzales Junior High summer volleyball league came to an end on Monday, June 27, with both the seventh and eighth grade teams going undefeated versus Yoakum, Shiner, and Hallettsville. This upcoming season is going to be exciting, Coach Joey Carrizales said.

Shooting team seeks members

Interested in joining the Gonzales Shooting Team for the 2022-2023 school year?

The team have an informational meeting open to Gonzales County 4H, Jr. FFA and FFA members ages 8-18. Come out to get information and hands on experience on joining our team! Shotguns will be available if needed.

Dates are July 10 at 1 p.m. in Gonzales and July 17 at 1:30 p.m. in Waelder.

For questions and to sign up, please call: BJ LaBuhn at 830-203-1505 or Ken DuBose at 830-857-5435.

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OBITUARIES

JOSEPH DANIEL HARRIS

Joseph Daniel Harris, 31, of Austin passed away on Tuesday, June 28, 2022. He was born on April 8, 1991 in Seguin to Susan DeBerry and Paul Kevin Harris. He is preceded in death by his father, Paul Kevin Harris, and grandmother, Betty Lou Harris. He is survived by his wife, Hailey Brecosky, mother, Susan Rodriguez, stepfather, Joe Rodriguez, maternal grandparents, Kenny and Teresa DeBerry, paternal grandfather, Rama Harris, uncles Jack DeBerry and Tommy DeBerry, and his in-laws Gary Brecosky, Ronda Miller, and Weston Brecosky.

Joseph was raised in Gonzales by his parents, Susan and Paul. The family were members of Eastside Baptist Church. Joseph was an only child, and he was cherished dearly by his family. He enjoyed summers with his grandparents and cousin TJ. Joseph loved basketball, kickboxing, music, and time with his friends. As a child he loved 90's cartoons, which grew into a broader love of stand-up and other comedies. From a young age, he developed the skill to make everyone around him laugh.

Joseph graduated from Gonzales High School and went on to receive



his associate degree in mechanical fabrication and welding from TSTC in Waco, TX. Joseph returned to Gonzales to work at Gonzales Manufacturing where he greatly enjoyed his work building industrial boilers and learning from his early mentors. He met his wife Hailey, also from Gonzales, during this period.

Joseph and Hailey moved to Austin so she could attend college and to further his career. They decided to make Austin their home where they spent many years with Joseph's beloved Great Danes, Odin and Zoe. The couple married on February 12, 2021, in Austin.

Joseph loved his work and mastered many skills in his trade. He grew his career at AirCo Mechanical under new mentors, and he made many lasting friendships. He liked to

spend time at home with Hailey and the dogs where he enjoyed cooking, watching his favorite movies, shows and comedies, and playing the blues and Spanish guitar. He loved to participate in many athletic hobbies including strength training, Muay Thai, Jiu Jitsu, hiking, and mountain biking.

Although he was somewhat of a homebody, Joseph loved an adventure and to travel. He frequented attended live music shows and greatly enjoyed music festivals. He cherished his friendships and experienced great joy in making others laugh. Joseph was a kind and genuine person who greatly impacted the lives of people who knew him. His absence is now and will always be deeply felt by those who loved him.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 9, 2022, at 2:00 PM in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home, with Rev. Hollis Hoffman officiating. A reception will follow at the Eastside Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Friends may sign the guestbook and leave their condolences by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

FRANCISCO “FRANK” GONZALES



Francisco “Frank” Gonzales, 77, of Westhoff passed away Saturday, June 25, 2022. He was born October 3, 1944 in Sugarland to the late Domingo and Trinidad Castro Gonzales. Frank graduated from Pearland High School. He married Maria Cisneros on February 14, 1990 in Pearland. Frank was a Safety Officer for Black & Veatch Company in Kansas City, Missouri. He was a member of Lyons Club and was a Volunteer Fireman for the Pearland Volunteer Fire Department. Frank enjoyed woodworking and loved playing Santa for his community.

Frank is survived by his

wife of 32 years, Maria Gonzales; daughters, Gloria C. Garcia of Nixon and Linda Quiroz of Westhoff; sisters, Lucy Padilla (Bill) and Linda Rivas (Renee), both of Pearland; brothers, Domingo Gonzales (Linda) and Santiago Jim Gonzales (Linda), both

of Pearland; grandchildren, Glorianne Santos of Harker Heights, Jodie Marie Reina of San Marcos, Victoria Hickman of Victoria, Marissa Munoz of Smiley, Maria Medina of Gonzales, and Joseph Quiroz of Dallas; 11 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will begin at 1 pm on Saturday, July 9, 2022 at Freund Funeral Home with a memorial service to follow at 2 pm.

You may sign the guest book or send condolences at www.freundfuneralhome.com.

Freund Funeral Home, 361-275-2343.

JUANA G ALVAREZ



Juana G. Alvarez, 92, of Waelder, passed on Monday, June 27, 2022. Juana was born April 19, 1930 in Waelder, Texas to Ascension and Tomasita Gonzalez. Juana was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Waelder and was an active member of the Guadalupe Society.

Juana married Ciriaco Alvarez. Their married life was blessed with three children. She raised her children while at the same time she and her husband were migrant workers tending to cotton fields across Texas. Soon Juana began work at the local Eureste Grocery Store owned by Felipe Eureste and later owned by Dan and Martha Eureste. Being a people person, she truly enjoyed it. Later she ventured into a new area of work at the Oak Manor Nursing Home in Flatonia and stayed there until she retired.

She enjoyed visiting with all who crossed her path, especially the residents at Oak Manor. The love of her faith, of music and dancing, her family

and friends, and keeping up with her yard and flower beds, were her favorite pastimes. Enjoying all her favorite activities, one thing for sure, you would not find her without her make-up on and a smile on her face. She was very independent, living in her own home as was always her hope, until two months ago.

She is survived by many who miss her; her brothers, Lupe(Rallie), and Sam (Helen); her daughters, Lupe Ibarra (David), Mary Mendoza (Manuel); grandchildren, Veronica (Benny), Candida (Ramiro), Regine (Darren), Matthew (Memo-

rie), Manuel Jr. (Apryl), Christopher's wife Dalia; 16 great-grandchildren, 5 great great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her son (John), 2 brothers (Ascension Jr. and Modesto), 2 grandsons (David III and Christopher James), great granddaughter (Miriam G.), and nephews and niece (BJ, Jonathon, Margie).

Her family offers their sincere thanks for the words of comfort, encouragement, and prayers received during this time of sorrow.

Rosary: 9:15 – 10:00 at the St. Patrick Catholic Church, Waelder, Texas

Funeral Mass: 10:00 at the St. Patrick Catholic Church, Waelder, Texas

Interment: 2:00 P.M. at the Waelder Community Cemetery, Waelder, Texas

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HPV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

upper respiratory lesions are usually contracted via oral sex.

Risk factors include number of sexual partners, with the higher the number increasing likelihood of contracting the disease. Having sex with a partner who has multiple sex partners also increases risks. Those

with a weakened immune system are susceptible increased risk to all infections, including HPV

Risk of developing HPV or developing genital warts, or other HPV related genital lesions, is decreased by being in a mutually monogamous sexual relationship, reducing your number

of sex partners, moving forward, and using latex condoms.

Betty Cohn is a retired registered nurse with 35 years of experience in the medical field in a variety of roles. She will write a semi-monthly column about medical-related topics and welcomes questions and suggestions at bospangle@yahoo.com.

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672-8013

Graveside services for Elaine Turner will be held on Saturday, July 2, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at Harwood Cemetery in Harwood, Texas. Rev. Spain Trask will officiate.

There will be no visitation. She was born in Gonzales, Texas on January 13, 1941. Elaine grew up in Palacios and graduated from Palacios High School with the class of 1959. She married Alfred Turner and shared over 47 years of marriage together before being separated by his death in 2008. Mrs. Turner was a dedicated wife, mother, and homemaker and a devout Christian and enjoyed studying geneal-



ogy. She was a member of the First Assembly of God Church in Gonzales for many years. She moved to Teague in 2017 and attended the First Assembly of God Church as long as her health permitted.

She is survived by one

ELAINE TURNER

daughter, Judy Gibson & husband Terry of Teague; one son, Jimmy Turner & wife Traci of Luling; ten grandchildren, Laura Thompson & husband Tony of Richardson, Grant Turner of Lockhart, Jenna Drake & husband Kendrick of Buda, Brad Gibson & wife Melissa of Raleigh, NC, Nick Gibson & wife Morgan of Longview, Cory Pomeroy & wife Amber of Leander, Lane Rountree of Luling, SaraJo Rountree of Luling, Ashley Motloch of Lockhart, and Matthew Bebee of Houston; six great-grandchildren; two brothers, Thomas Tumlinson & wife Dorothy of Eden, NC, and Robert Tumlinson & wife

Shirley of Lolita; numerous other relatives and friends.

Mrs. Turner was preceded in death by her husband, Alfred O. Turner; her mother, Ovella Tumlinson; her father, Newton Tumlinson; and one brother, Clyde Tumlinson.

The family requests memorials be made to the First Assembly of God Church, P.O. Box 597, Teague, Texas 75860.

Please visit our website at www.bowersfuneralhome.net to sign the memorial guestbook or to leave a message for the family.

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Gonzales Healthcare Systems
JULY 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
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11 Austin MFM Dr Malik Dr Desai	12 Dr Echols Dr Quintero	13 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Twitero	14 Dr Ryan	15 Dr Bui Dr Echols
18 Austin MFM	19 Dr Echols	20 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Miller	21 Dr Ryan Dr Malik	22 Dr Echols
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Butter your popcorn

Hey there folks, how are we doing today? I guess it all boils down to how we think we're doing today. I'm sure we're all more than familiar with the saying that "Happiness is a choice." To a big extent, this is basically true, but how do we consciously make that choice when needed? Let's just say that God created one complicated species when he created human beings, a mystery that is by no means fully understood yet, and may never be. He gave us the ability and right to make choices, but as history has proven, we all to often make the wrong ones and don't seem to learn much from them. Yep, God works in mysterious ways, and here we are.

I've often contemplated, and been perplexed by, how my own mind works (or sometimes doesn't), and have yet to figure it out. It honestly still freaks me out that while we sleep, our conscious mind is at rest, while our subconscious is creating random movies without our permission. Some are so much fun that it's hard not to choke on your popcorn, while others can be totally unnerving and hard to shake off after waking up. Many are just downright confusing, leaving you stumbling around with a scowl on your face and a giant question mark tattooed on your forehead?

I also find it somewhat puzzling that I've experienced good feelings in bad times, and bad feelings in good times. I'm sure many of you have questioned this yourself. I've felt agitated when there was no apparent reason for it, while remaining calm and collected when it seemed like all hell was breaking loose. I've sometimes felt alone and isolated while surrounded by loved ones, yet strangely connected when actually being alone. I've been curiously sad at times, while unexplainably exuberant at others, many times overlapping within the same situation. Trying to come to a satisfactory solution to this phenomenon can be exhausting, if not a bit frustrating.

If you're waiting for some profound wisdom that will offer a solution to this quandary, sorry to disappoint. However, I'm more than happy to share some of what I've discovered to work for me along the way. First off, I'll say that my overall happiness and contentment level has increased significantly since I allowed Christ into my life. A choice that he allowed me to make on my own terms, and one I'm happy to say, I've never once regretted. That doesn't mean that life's magically transformed into a "Bowl of cherries" (easy) existence, but the difference is night and day. Whether we allow Christ into our lives or not, we'll still go through the things that humans go through, but with God watching over and guiding us, life rises to a whole new level.

Happiness is defined as a state of well-being and contentment. However, it's often misconstrued and thought of as a fun and exciting, trouble free existence...don't we wish. The sheer exhilaration of euphoric feelings is pretty awesome, and simply doesn't happen often enough in my book, so enjoy them when they come naturally. But, to live in this state is not only impossible, but would burn us out and destroy us, just ask any drug addict or alcoholic that's tried to accomplish this through artificial means. Having some real world experience in this department, I can assure you that it doesn't work!

Paraphrasing Philippians 4, it reminds us to not be anxious about anything, but in every (good and bad) situation, pray and give thanks to God, and a peace that defies understanding will guard your heart and mind. So, when troubling thoughts arise, just change channels and put on God TV, adjust your 3-D glasses, butter your popcorn and sit back, the show's about to start...and stay tuned for the coming attractions!

Have a great week, love you guys, Eric.

REUNION BRIEFS

65TH HARWOOD HOMECOMING

The 65th annual Harwood Homecoming will be held Sunday, July 10 at the Harwood Community Center.

A catered BBQ meal will be served at noon for the cost of \$10 a plate. Attendees are asked to contact the Cemetery Association at 830-857-6070 (call or text) or email ccfair@gvtc.com by July 5 to reserve enough meals.

The Homecoming is an event to raise money for the upkeep of the Harwood Cemetery. Donations will be accepted that day or may be sent to the Harwood Cemetery Association, PO Box 70, Harwood, TX 78632.

Bubba Damon is the chairman of the Harwood Cemetery Association and members include Steve Anyan, Peggy Blackmon, Clint Fairchild, Julie Fairchild, Johnny Don Johnson, and Christy Lacy.

Copies of the financial statement and recent obituaries will be available at the registration table. The Harwood Museum will be open for viewing that day.

SPIES FAMILY REUNION

The 66th annual reunion of the descendants of August Spies will be held on Sunday, Aug. 7, at the Moravia Dining Hall, across the street from The Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church, 11134 FM 957, Schulenburg, starting at 10 a.m.

Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish & dessert, with lunch being served at 12:30 p.m. Plates, utensils, cups & tea will be provided. Please bring silent auction and door prize items. Kitchen crew will be volunteers this year!

For further info, please call Janet Spies @ 512-461-3236 or email at jspl456@yahoo.com. Check the August Spies FaceBook Page for more news!

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First Assembly of God 509 E. 3rd St., Nixon	Stratton Primitive Baptist FM 1447, 9 miles east of Cuero	FULL GOSPEL Camp Valley Full Gospel Hwy 80, 7 mi. north of Nixon	El Centro Cristiano "Agua Viva" 403 Highway 90 W, Waelder
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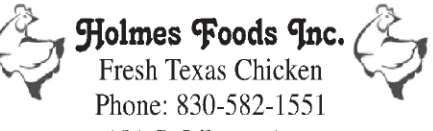
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There will be a free beginner quilt-making classes for youth, 10 to 14 years of age, will be offered by the Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild this summer. Quilt classes are scheduled for Monday through Thursday, July 25 through 28, 9 a.m. to noon at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Shiner.

Please call Mary Shafer at 713-530-2975 to register and get information. Participation is limited to seven students. Enroll only if you can attend all of the

class sessions. Deadline to enroll is Friday, July 15.

Students need to bring: Sewing machine in good working order, machine instruction manual and small scissors for cutting thread.

Students will learn sewing, pressing and rotary cutting techniques. The Guild will provide fabric, batting, thread, pins, pin cushions, quilt instructions, quilt block-decorated bags, embroidered name tags, snacks and lots of TLC.

Come to learn a new skill, create a colorful wall hanging and have fun!

Victoria College announces Spring 2022 Dean’s List

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College has recognized the outstanding academic performance of 107 students by naming them to the Spring 2022 Dean’s List.

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average over a

minimum of 12 academic credit hours within the semester and must not have any unsatisfactory grades in any classes.

Students named to VC’s Spring 2022 Dean’s List include:

Gonzales:

- Ashley Berger, Ramona Reyna, Asia Taylor

WATER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

state stating that surface water rights must be reduced as well as underground water.

“If we reached a point where we stayed in this drought for an extended period of time, then I would have to send out a letter stating that we would have to cut back all of large producing water wells. It would be an overall cutback, everybody would have to reduce for those larger production wells,” Martin said. “That’s not something we’ve ever had to do before and hopefully we won’t have to do that.”

Residential water use accounts for 72 percent of water distribution in urban landscape according to the Texas Water Journal and Texas Water Resources Institute. The Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District is encouraging those to be mindful and conserve their water use. The GCUWCD recommends people inspect pipes and faucets. Faulty water leaks may occur if not inspected. They also recommend to water outside trees and lawns once a week, instead of every day. Watching the weather will be helpful in watering the lawn. For example; don’t water after a rainy day, according to the GCUWCD.

“The hours of the day are important when you water,” Martin said. “You don’t want to water during the heat of the day because most of it is lost to evaporation

and won’t go on the grass anyways. Primetimes are early in the morning to late in the evening to water”

They also recommend any cattle troughs aren’t being overwatered or overflowing and there is a stopper valve on those. Martin also recommends changing the type of landscape one has in their yard to have a xeriscaping instead of one that consumes large water, such as pond plants that require additional watering.

“Don’t wash your car every week. Take a shower, instead of a bath, is really big on consumption,” Martin said. “There’s all these small little things that if we all did it together, we could conserve more.”

Gonzales is a place with an abundance of water according to the GCUWCD.

“We have an abundance of water. We are in a blessed region of the state where we have a plentiful amount of water,” Martin said. “So much so that land owners have sold their water rights and water is being taken out of the county to provide for other counties that maybe don’t have as much.”

The only thing the GCUWCD doesn’t allow is waste, Martin said. Water must be used with a purpose.

“It’s a precious resource that we all have to share,” Martin said. “It’s something that we have to take care of and work together as a team to be mindful of how much water is consumed.”

HEAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

months, and there are ways to prevent and help once symptoms are displayed or observed.

Dr. Commie Hisey, D.O., the chief of staff of the Gonzales Health Care System, went over the differences between the two heat illnesses. Emphasizing that heat exhaustion is caused by overheating from doing outside activities like sports and yard work, and heat stroke is more severe and can cause physical damage.

“So heat exhaustion is a milder form. It’s something that a lot of us if we recognize early can stop and prevent from progressing,” Hisey said. “Whereas once you have heat stroke symptoms you really need to get in for medical attention as soon as possible.”

During the summer months, the hospital has reported people with symptoms of being overheated and dehydrated, according to Hisey. The hospital, at this point, attempts re-hydration and to bring the core temperature of the individual within normal limits, attempting quick recovery for the patient.

“The problem though most people start to have afterwards is they didn’t develop some heat intolerance for several days, maybe even weeks after one of these episodes, if it’s severe enough and they really can’t tolerate much heat at all for any length of time.” Hisey explained.

The common signs of heat exhaustion are feeling dizzy/faint, excessive sweating, rapid/weak pulse, muscle cramps, feeling cool and clammy and nauseated/vomiting (seek medical attention if a person vomits and symptoms get worse or more than hour). Prevention of heat exhaustion includes plenty of fluids (water or sports drink), cool showers, and cold compresses, as well as looser clothing allowing air ventilation and discontinuing any outside activity.

“Whether it was a sports activity or get into a shape, get into some cool area and wait until all those symptoms resolved before getting back out and going anywhere,” Hisey said.

Heat stroke is a more severe heat exhaustion; medical attention is required for this condition.

Symptoms include high body temperature (above 103 degrees), loss of consciousness, confusion, seizures, not sweating, rapid strong pulse, throbbing headache, and nauseated/vomiting.

“Those people [with heat stroke symptoms] need medical attention immediately going to a hospital right away, so that fluids may be administered,” Hisey explained.

Heat stroke can lead to organ damage and even worst case, death.

People that are really susceptible to heat stroke are children under four and adults 65 or older, and Hisey advises people to plan out and “be mindful” when doing activities in the excessive heat.

“Do activity outside the morning when it’s cooler, get in the shade get in air conditioning when it starts to get hot or not be doing any of those big activities,” Hisey said.

Here are some tips from Hisey before going out doing any activities outside in the heat: drink plenty of fluids, avoid drinking caffeinated drinks and alcohol, it can increase chances of getting dehydrated and heat exhaustion. Wear light weight and light colored clothing outside, take cool showers or baths to help cool down, and do activities in a temperature controlled environment if can.

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FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gonzales County aware there will be quite a few people coming into the community,” Harless said. “We’re looking at about 15,000 people (on the festival grounds) for that week-end. That’s about twice as many people as we usually see in Gonzales for Come and Take It.

“We need people to be aware that the traffic is going to be tremendously increased, so we need everybody to pay attention to that if they can. Every business is going to be busy, so people need to exercise patience and good judgment.”

Float Fest will be staged July 23-24 on the Guadalupe River at a 765-acre private ranch on County Road 197, just off US 183 south of the Gonzales city limits. Major activity at the site will actually begin the day before, on Friday, July 22, in what organizers call “load-in day” as the ranch opens up to those who will be camping on-site.

As many as 100 Float Fest employees will be working at the site for the entire month of July to put on what has been called one of the Top 50 music festivals in North America by a number of publications.

“Marcus Federman, the promoter, is a really good guy and he has put together a great team of folks to run that event,” Harless said.

Harless said Gonzales County has been holding regular planning sessions with Federman as well as with state, county and city first responders and other agencies to discuss what is needed and he is pleased with the contingencies that have been put in place.

“What we’ve done is bring in a lot of assets — state assets mainly, because the sheriff’s office and fire departments don’t have the manpower to do everything that is needed,” Harless said. “The Department of State Health Services is helping us and highway patrol (DPS) is going to have an increased presence in the county for the weekend; I think they call it their task force.

“Guadalupe County’s Emer-



gency Management folks are also coming in because that’s where Float Fest was previously held and I’m good friends with many of them since I live in Seguin. We’re also going to have a beefed up presence of game wardens because of the river aspect of the Float Fest.”

Harless said a donation by Federman and Float Fest is funding the presence of TEXSAR — Texas Search and Rescue’s mounted search team. Harless said the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization has a great deal of assets that would be beneficial in case of emergency.

On the medical side, Harless said Gonzales Healthcare Systems was especially concerned about “protecting the hospital’s ability to operate in case something were to happen — a mass casualty event.”

“STRAC, the South Texas Regional Advisory Council, is bringing in what they call a MMU, or mobile medical unit,” Harless said. “It’s a big trailer that opens up and expands to increase capacity. The last thing we had decided was they were going to set up at the hospital to kind of supplement and take

that strain off the emergency room.”

Harless said PHI Air Medical, which provides air ambulance services in Gonzales County, will have a helicopter assigned to Gonzales County on-site that will either be housed at the festival grounds or at the JB Wells Park, Arena and Expo, which is where the county will have a command center for the weekend of the festival.

“The city has graciously granted us permission to use most of JB Wells on the north side toward the river, so you’ll see a tremendous presence there,” Harless said.

Federman and his staff have also contracted with Ascension Seton Medical Center out of Austin to have a “level I trauma doctor” on site, Harless said.

“They will have top medical folks at this facility in the event they need to handle dehydration and respiratory issues,” he added.

Meanwhile, AT&T is also chipping in with a piece of equipment called a COW, or “cell on wheels” after a request was made by local authorities.

“First responders have what

we call FirstNet (a high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety and first responders) in case something major were to happen with the communications system and we couldn’t use it,” Harless said. “AT&T is bringing in their mobile unit and they are going to set it up at JB Wells so we can utilize communications separate from what the towers at the event would control. They used a very similar piece of equipment in Uvalde because the towers were inundated there after the mass shooting.”

Also, emergency responders are expected to take part in a mass casualty tabletop exercise to simulate possible events that could occur and how to respond to them to be better prepared for the festival, Harless said.

“I’m kind of excited about Float Fest,” he said. “You know, of course, in the job that I do, it’s always my job to worry about the bad things and to be prepared, but to also hope for the best. And so I’m kind of excited about this event coming to Gonzales County.”

BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with Mayor Steve Sucher and the city council and listed out their list of top priorities.

“What we’re going to be doing is going over the budget, kind of in a condensed form, just looking at stuff, giving you the information,” City Manager Tim Patek said. “And then we want to get feedback from you guys how you want us to handle the budget.”

One of the big topics that most departments are dealing with is inflation from increased fuel prices and materials, causing many departments to readjust their budget.

Patek explained to the council that the departments are conservative when spending and “get what they need within a reasonable price.”

“We’ve always been that way. Whatever is leftover gets back into the general fund,” Patek said. “We don’t want to go and start spending and just to get rid of the money. We want to be conservative and make sure we get what we need but make sure we need it.”

Patek will take a look at the fuel budget for the departments, and see where the gas prices are going.

Before the start of the budget workshop Tuesday, June 28, the council approved two agenda items:

--approved to make Councilwoman Sherri Koepp as mayor pro tem.

--approved to authorize the city manager to execute an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Gonzales County and the City of Gonzales.



THE WOMAN EVENT

SATURDAY, August 6, 2022

JB WELLS EXPO CENTER

Doors open at 5:30pm; DINNER AND PROGRAM at 6:00pm

featuring

Connie Northam, Speaker

Erin Fortner, Musical Guest

Ladies bring your friends for a night of Fun, Fellowship and Food. Also for the Sharing of God and Proclaimed Praise. Drawings for Door Prizes throughout the evening.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS, CALL (830)672-9595

Tickets \$10