



The Gonzales Inquirer

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Final Float Fest preparations under way

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

Less than a week away, the final preparations for the 2022 Float Fest, set in Gonzales, are under way.

Headliners Marshmello, Vampire Weekend, Cage the Elephant, Chance the Rapper, Deadmau5 and more will take the stage July 22-23.

The festival will be held on a 765-acre private ranch in Gonzales located at 1 County Road 197 and according to officials, the location is “three times” the size of previous Float Fest festival sites.

Owner Marcus Federman has been working hard, getting the tubing and music festival set after it had been on hiatus due to COVID-19.

Federman has been in close contact

with the county, including local law enforcement, EMS and Gonzales County Judge Pat Davis, to make sure it’s a safe experience for concert goers.

He stated the “communication” between all the county officials and law enforcement has been “very great” leading into the final week before the event.

Float Fest is the only festival that has both people enjoying music, camping and tube floating in one location.

Organizers said festival goers will have “special amenities” at the event, including an onsite general store that will have items guests may need.

Federman said the store will have accessories for tubing needs, includes cell phone protection cases, and he added

See **FLOAT FEST**, page 14



MARSHMELLO



CHANCE THE RAPPER

State grant program helps business hit by COVID-19

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

A new grant program through the Office of the Governor could provide up to a one-time issuance of up to \$20,000 each to local businesses who were negatively impacted by COVID-19.

The Texas Travel Industry Recovery (TTIR) Grant Program began accepting applications on Wednesday, July 6, and while its core impact will be with the tourism, travel and hospitality industry, there are a number of businesses in Gonzales which could be helped by it.

“Because of the name of the grant, some businesses might not realize they are eligible to apply,” said Jennifer Kolbe, executive director of the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation. “The Gonzales Economic Development Corporation

See **GRANT PROGRAM**, page 13

Commissioners allow Old Jail Museum to use money for renovations

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County commissioners agreed Monday, July 11, to let Old Jail Museum director Sandra Wolff use funds already in the budget to make improvements to a new east wing of the museum that will serve as a resource center.

Wolff appeared before the commissioners to ask for permission to use the funds because the line item in the budget is labeled “repair Old Jail” and the work being done is not technically a repair but a renovation.

See **COMMISSIONERS**, page 13



Gonzales County Old Jail Museum director Sandra Wolff, right, stands with former Gonzales County Sheriff Glen Sachtleben in front of a painting he donated to the museum for the new east wing resource area. The museum’s new resource area will allow visitors to learn about the history of local law enforcement in the county and Texas law. A soft opening “sneak peek” will be held Tuesday, Aug. 2. New hours for the museum will be Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the new admission price is \$3 per person.

VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales man shot at local business

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Gonzales man was transported to a San Antonio hospital Wednesday afternoon after being shot at a local automotive paint and body shop, the Gonzales County Sheriff’s Office confirmed.

Deputies responded to a call at 1:48 p.m. Wednesday that an adult male had been shot at Jeff’s Paint Auto & More. They were able to quickly apprehend the adult male subject believed to have been responsible for the attack.

The Texas Rangers are investigating the incident and have not released the name of the victim nor



First responders in front of Jeff’s Auto Paint & More Wednesday afternoon on US 183 in response to a shooting at the business.

VANDY VAN EPPS

the assailant as of press time, according to the GCSO.

Four dead, one injured in fatal I-10 crash

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

Interstate 10 eastbound in Gonzales County was shutdown for more than 11 hours after a fatal crash was reported, Wednesday, July 6.

The accident occurred at 11:22 a.m. Wednesday near the city of Waelder, according to Texas Department of Public Safety Sgt. Rueben San Miguel and involved three truck-trailers with semi-trailers and three passenger vehicles.

A 2021 Volvo truck-tractor, driven by Wade Francis Slagle, 57, of Remer, Minnesota, along with passenger, Christy L. Hoffer, 46, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was towing a 2017 utility semi-trailer loaded with fruit and traveling eastbound on I-10 in the right lane. The traffic on I-10 had come to a stop due to road construction.

According to San Miguel, for unknown reasons, Slagle didn’t slow

See **CRASH**, page 14

Gonzales ISD talks strategic change

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

In his second school board meeting as the Gonzales ISD superintendent, Dr. Elmer Avellaneda continued to learn and listen to district needs on Monday, July 11.

The Gonzales ISD school board invited Dr. Nancy Rindone of the Schlechty Center via a Zoom meeting and went over the strategic change process.

Avellaneda explained why having this process can bring the community together.

“This is an area where as a group

See **GISD**, page 14

Drowning death investigated at Gonzales dam

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Gonzales County law enforcement is investigating the drowning death of a man in the Guadalupe River below the Gonzales dam on Sunday evening.

According to the Gonzales County Sheriff’s Office, deputies responded at about 7:34 p.m. Sunday, July 10, along with Gonzales police, Gonzales firefighters, Gonzales County Rescue, Gonzales County EMS and Texas Parks & Wildlife game wardens to the hydroelectric dam on the Guadalupe River near US 183 (Water Street) for a possible drowning.

First responders were told the victim was last seen in the river below the dam. After a brief search, his body was located and recovered by Gonzales County Rescue personnel.

Deputies said they were not releasing the victim’s name out of respect for the family, but did “send our sincerest condolences to the victim’s family.”



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County sales tax allocations up by nearly 24 percent for July 2022

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The city of Gonzales saw a 26.06 percent jump in sales tax allocations in July 2022 as the city received nearly \$56,000 more than it received in July 2021.

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced he sent cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$1.03 billion in local sales tax allocations for July, 15.3 percent more than in July 2021.

These allocations are based on sales made in May by businesses that report tax monthly.

For the month of July 2022, Gonzales County municipalities received a combined \$308,226.63 in sales tax allocations, up \$59,449.03 or nearly 23.9 percent from the \$248,777.60 received during July 2021 and up \$13,455.41 or 4.56 percent from the \$294,771.22 received last month.

For the year, Gonzales County

cities have received a combined \$2,076,237.10, up \$369,771.81 or 21.67 percent from the \$1,706,465.29 received through this point in time last year.

Sales tax allocations for Gonzales, the largest city in the county which generates the lion's share of sales tax revenue, were \$270,052.39 — up \$55,838.74 or 26.06 percent above the \$220,788.35 received last July and \$10,488.38 above the \$259,564.01 received in June.

For the year, Gonzales has received \$1,809,647.03, an increase of \$363,253.37, or 25.11 percent, above the \$1,446,393.66 the city received through this point last year.

Sales tax receipts for Nixon were \$29,468.69 for July 2022, up \$4,351.05, or 17.32 percent, from the \$25,117.64 allocated in July 2021 and \$2,940.55 above the \$26,528.14 allocated for June 2022.

For the year, sales tax allocations are up \$8,609.70 or 4.39 percent with Nixon receiving \$204,369.47

through seven months of 2022, compared to \$195,779.77 for the same period last year.

Waelder saw sales tax receipts of \$6,123.06 this month, a decrease of \$1,099.02 or 15.21 percent below last July's allocation of \$7,222.08. For the year, the sales tax allocation remains up 3.87 percent or \$1,689.12, from \$43,556.28 received through the first seven months of 2021 to the \$45,245.40 received through the same period this year.

Finally, Smiley's sales tax receipts were \$2,582.49 this month, an increase of 16.36 percent above last July's allocation of \$2,219.23, a difference of \$363.26 and \$618.04 above the \$1,964.45 received in June. For the year, sales tax allocations are down 18.21 percent from \$20,755.58 at this point last year to \$16,975.20 this year.

Two cities in Gonzales County — Gonzales and Nixon — collect a 1.5 percent sales tax rate, while Smiley and Waelder collect a 1 percent sales tax.

County	City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gonzales	Gonzales	1.500%	\$270,052.39	\$214,218.65	26.06%	\$1,809,647.03	\$1,446,393.66	25.11%
Gonzales	Nixon	1.500%	\$29,468.69	\$25,117.64	17.32%	\$204,369.47	\$195,759.77	4.39%
Gonzales	Smiley	1.000%	\$2,582.49	\$2,219.23	16.36%	\$16,975.20	\$20,755.58	-18.21%
Gonzales	Waelder	1.000%	\$6,123.06	\$7,222.08	-15.21%	\$45,245.40	\$43,556.28	3.87%

Third Court of Appeals rules against PUC in telecommunications suit

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) must immediately restore over \$200 million in past-due support to rural telephone providers from the Texas Universal Service Fund (USF), a state program designed to ensure reliable and affordable telecommunications connectivity in rural Texas, according to a judgment from the Third Court of Appeals issued June 30, 2022.

The Court ruled that the PUC “acted without legal authority” when it stopped paying more than 70% of its TUSF obligations in January of 2021. Justices said the PUC’s interpretation of the law would lead to an “absurd result.”

“For two years, rural Texans have faced the uncertainty of whether their local phone

companies would be able to ride out the financial storm created when the Public Utility Commission stopped funding universal communications services for rural areas of the state — and whether they might face dramatic increases in their phone bills or lose service altogether as a result,” said Rusty Moore, General Manager and COO of BBT Telecom and Board President of the Texas Telephone Association. “Today we are thrilled the court has agreed with us — USF is a fundamental building block of a connected rural Texas.”

Moore described the Court’s ruling as the first step to restore needed funding for rural communications and committed to working with the Texas Legislature to ensure stable and appropriate funding for the future. USF is funded through a surcharge on telephone services and is not part

of the state’s general budget.

The USF was created in 1987 because costs to build and maintain the telecommunication network over large rural areas are much higher than in densely populated urban areas, meaning many rural Texans could not afford service without a cost balancing mechanism.

Almost 4 million rural Texans rely on USF to support their affordable access to the telecommunications network, which enables voice and broadband service and powers rural cellular service.

“We look forward to working with the new commissioners at the PUC to quickly follow the court’s directions, recoup the money owed to these companies, and move on with the business of providing reliable and affordable telecommunications to all of Rural Texas,” said Moore.

Hansen disqualified from running for Precinct 4

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

An individual who had declared his intent to run as an independent candidate for Gonzales County Precinct 4 Commissioner has been disqualified.

Nixon resident Travis Hansen submitted his candidacy paperwork to County Judge Pat Davis’ office before the 5 p.m. June 23 deadline, along with a supporting nominating petition, but he was disqualified after further investigation found his candidacy did not fully meet all requirements to file as an independent, said Elections Administrator Gwen Schaefer.

To file as an independent candidate, an individual cannot be affiliated with a political party, meanign they cannot have voted in a primary election or participated in a party’s convention. First, a candidate had to file a declaration of intent to run as an independent candidate by 6 p.m. Dec. 13, 2021 with the county judge’s office.

Second, the candidate must file a candidate election with a support-

ing nomination signed by registered voters of the territory who support the candidacy and who did not participate in the general primary election or a runoff primary election.

The minimum number of valid signatures on the petition must be equal to the lesser of either 500 or 5 percent of the total vote received in the county by all gubernatorial candidates in the 2018 general election. In 2018, there were 5,613 total votes cast in Gonzales County in the gubernatorial election, so 5 percent is equal to 280.65, or 281 signatures.

As a result, the Republican primary winner, incumbent Precinct 4 Commissioner Collie Boatright Jr., will remain unopposed in the Nov. 8 general election.

The last day to register to vote for the Nov. 8 general election is Oct. 11. Early voting will be held from Oct. 24 through Nov. 4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, at the following three locations:

- Early Voting Main Location: Randle Rather

Building, 427 St. George St., Gonzales.

- Early Voting Temp. Location: City of Nixon Building, 302 E Central, Nixon.
- Early Voting Temp. Location: Waelder City Hall, 300 Hwy 90 W,

Waelder.

Election day precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8. For a list of all election day voting sites, see co.gonzales.tx.us/page/gonzales.Elections.Admin.

Celebrations Birthdays

July 14th
Wendy Allen
Will Lamb
Kristina Falany Longoria

July 15th
Sandra Crabb
Derrick Davis
Colton Filip
Carli Sky Harkey
Jenna Philips Lamb
Jeremy T. Philips

July 16th
Jaxon Lester
Brenda Petru
Trisha Storey

July 17th
Susie Bernd
Sally O'Dell
Diana Vargas

July 18th
Colson Boehm
Bonnie Condel
Bailey Connell
Gloria Lent
Bonnie Ticken

July 19th
Angie Solis

July 20th
Nicole Boehm

Anniversary

July 20th
Leroy & Pat Wenzel

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Weimar man killed in July 1 accident on I-10

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Weimar man was killed Friday, July 1, in an accident which shut down Interstate 10 near Luling in Caldwell County for more than 11 hours and rerouted traffic through the city.

Sgt. Deon Cockerell of the Texas Department of Public Safety reported the incident occurred at 2:32 a.m. Friday near the 632 mile marker (US 183) of I-10, about 2.38 miles southeast of Luling.

A 2013 International truck tractor towing a trailer was traveling in the right lane and had activated its hazard flashers to pull over on to the improved shoulder, Cockerell reported. A 2000 Peterbilt truck tractor towing

a dump trailer was in the right lane, behind the International truck tractor and trailer, and struck the trailer of the International.

The Peterbilt and its trailer traveled into the center median, rolled over and burned. The driver of the Peterbilt was identified as Jerry Wayne Shupak Jr., 51, of Weimar. He was pronounced deceased on the scene by Justice of the Peace Shanna Conley.

The driver of the International truck tractor was transported by Lockhart EMS for injuries.

Cockerell reminded drivers to “minimize distractions, don’t drive fatigued, don’t drink and drive, obey traffic control devices and always wear your safety belt.”

Airport board discusses fly-in, potential mural

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Roger M. Dreyer Memorial Airport Advisory Board met Tuesday, July 12, for its regularly scheduled meeting.

The board went over four agenda items during the meeting:

- requirements for the IRT Project; the 2022 Fly-In, a potential mural on a T hangar at the airport; and airport manager Ralph Camarillo gave an update from the KSA on the Airport Layout Project (ALP).
- No action items were approved in this meeting.

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Gonzales Weather




July 14
97°/77°

A t-storm around in the p.m.
40% chance of rain • RealFeel 97




July 15
98°/76°

Sunshine; hot, less humid
3% chance of rain • RealFeel 103




July 16
99°/78°

Sunshine and hot
18% chance of rain • RealFeel 102




July 17
98°/77°

Partly sunny and very warm
3% chance of rain • RealFeel 100




July 18
99°/77°

Clearing; warm, low humid
1% chance of rain • RealFeel 98



July 19
98°/74°

Very warm with clouds and sun
29% chance of rain • RealFeel 97



July 20
97°/75°

Partly sunny and less humid
7% chance of rain • RealFeel 95

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3

Garden

Q&A

What's the best way to handle tomato plants?

Q. Is it best to re -fertilize and prune the spring tomato plants or to plant new plants for the fall? My local nurseryman says it is best to get new plants, but it seems wasteful to me. The current plants look capable of producing in the fall.

A. Planting new tomato plants usually results in better results than trying to keep the old plants producing. One of the main factors that make new plants more successful is that the old plants are likely to have spider mites and other pests and diseases. Pull the old plants. Put them in the garbage rather than the compost pile if they have spider mites. Plant one or more of the recommended determinate selections such as STM2255, Red Snapper, Tycoon, Celebrity, and Ruby Crush. Celebrity and Tycoon are nematode resistant if your garden has a problem with nematodes.

Q. Our Cora Vinca plants look wonderful. How long will they last going into the fall? What can replace them for the winter?

A. If the weather stays warm and mild

vinca will often bloom well until November, maybe even until Thanksgiving. The winter blooming annuals that usually replace vinca and zinnias in sunny gardens are snapdragons, stocks, dianthus, and calendula.

CALVIN FINCH
Gardening Q&A

Q. We bought a new house earlier in the year and now we are ready to put the lawn in. It is not a large lawn area but there is limited soil, only about 2 inches deep. Our question is whether it is a good investment to

add more soil before we lay sod. How much soil is recommended?

A. The City of San Antonio requires at least 4 inches of soil under new lawns. I was involved in developing that requirement but if I had another chance to influence the requirement, I would recommend 6 inches of soil. Six inches of soil makes an excellent base and reservoir for a new lawn. If you have to pay for water or are faced with drought restrictions investing in the soil is a very good investment.

Q. We miss not seeing trees with colorful leaves in the autumn. Are

there any options for shade trees with fall color in Central Texas?

A. We don't have a large number of trees that produce colorful leaves but there are a few. Texas red oaks do a pretty good job depending on the weather. Chinese pistache is another tree that produces some color. Big Tooth Maples have color in the fall. They grow the best in the Hill Country. Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum probably does not qualify as a shade tree because it usually only grows to 15 feet tall, but it has colorful autumn foliage.

Q. We put up purple martin houses up for the first time this spring and were lucky enough to have birds that used the houses. Now they seem to have left. Are they gone for the year, and should we lower the houses?

A. They are probably at one of their assembly points getting ready to head south to their Amazon wintering grounds but this has been a strange year so you may want to give them a few more weeks to make sure they aren't planning another visit before they leave. Their travel plans are often unpredictable, but August 1 should be a safe date.

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales Livestock Market
July 9

Cattle 1892
Compared to our last sale:
Number 1 quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows & bulls sold steady.

Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 175-215; 300-400 lbs., 185-200; 400-500 lbs., 175-185; 500-600 lbs., 159-169; 600-700 lbs, 147-152; 700-800 lbs, 142-151. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 95-100.

Stocker-feeder Heifers: Medium and large from No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 158-175; 300-400 lbs., 157-160; 400-500 lbs., 140-159; 500-600 lbs., 143-152; 600-700 lbs., 134-142.

Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 64-73; Cutters, 75-90; Canners, 34-52; High yielding fat cows, 75-85.

Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 98-116; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 88-95.

Stockers Cows: \$600 to \$1,000.

Nixon Livestock
July 11

Cattle – 1686

Steers:
200-300 lbs - \$167-177-245
300-400 lbs - \$156-166-230
400-500 lbs - \$146-156-200
500-600 lbs - \$142-152-183
600-700 lbs - \$136-146-163

700-800 lbs - \$124-134-156

Heifers:
200-300 lbs - \$134-144-225
300-400 lbs - \$130-140-205
400-500 lbs - \$136-146-165
500-600 lbs - \$132-142-171
600-700 lbs - \$122-132-153
700-800 lbs - \$113-123-134
Slaughter Cows - \$25-87
Slaughter Bulls - \$89-109
Stocker Cows - \$550-1100
Pairs: PAIR - \$800 each

Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Sale date: July 5
Cattle on hand: 1685
Packer Cows:

Canner and Cutter Cows: \$51-87
Utility & Fat Cows: \$50-86
Light Weight Canner Cows: \$40-53
Pair/Weak: \$30-43

Packer Bulls:
Heavyweight Bulls: \$102-109
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$88-102
Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$72-90

Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: None
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$700-950

Good Cow & Calf Pairs: 3 pairs @ \$1425
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$850-1250

Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$145-190
200-300 lbs.: \$152-200
300-400 lbs.: \$150-195

400-500 lbs.: \$152-187.50
500-600 lbs.: \$144-177.50
600-700 lbs.: \$130-167.50
700-800 lbs.: \$122-150
Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs: \$135-180
200-300 lbs.: \$135-175
300-400 lbs.: \$135-177.50
400-500 lbs.: \$130-172.50
500-600 lbs.: \$130-160
600-700 lbs.: \$125-147.50
700-800 lbs: \$110-140
Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: None

A holiday shortened supply sold mostly steady. #1 kinds sold strong & very active. #2 kinds & plainer kinds sold a little softer. Packer cows & bulls sold \$2 to \$3 lower on approximately 450 head total. Large supply statewide continues to pressure this market. Still at good levels though.

Seguin Cattle Co. Market Report
July 5

Stocker cattle market steady with packer cows & bulls another 2-3 softer.

Cattle – 918

Sheep & goats – 1167
Medium & large frame #1

Steers:
200-300 lb. 1.20-1.87
300-400 lb. 1.45-1.88
400-500 lb. 1.32-1.87
500-600 lb. 1.26-1.71
600-700 lb. 1.00-1.59
700-850 lb. 1.29-1.51
Medium & large frame
#1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. 1.24-1.77
300-400 lb. 1.30-1.65
400-500 lb. 1.15-1.63
500-600 lb. 1.16-1.60
600-750 lb. 1.15-1.40

Cows:
Utility & commercial – 70-91
Cutters – 55-69
Canners – 31-54

Palpated cows (young) – None
(Middle Aged) – 400-800
Cow/Calf Pairs – 500-1025

Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding – 95-109
Light & Low Yielding – 54-94
Feeder Bulls – None

Sheep & Goats:
Nannies (Young) – 180-325
(Thin & Old) – 110-170
Kid Goats (Fat) – 2.50-4.00
(Small & thin) – 1.80-2.50

Wethers – 2.50-4.00
Billies – 1.80-2.50
Pairs – None

Barb. Ewes (Young) – 110-200
(Small & Old Ewes) – 45-105
Barb. Lambs (Fat) – 2.25-2.65
(Small & Thin) – 1.80-2.10

Wooled Ewes – 90-110
Wooled Bucks – 1.50-2.30
Lambs – None
Barb. Bucks – 400-650

Cuero Livestock Market Report
on July 8, 2022

Number of head 1,928

There were 282 cows and 34 bulls. This market was weaker across the board. This is expected this time of the year. Large receipts caused by the drought further hurt the market. Top bulls were off \$8 and cows \$10 from two weeks ago.

The calf market was noticeably higher by over \$7/cwt. Strong demand all the way through on all classes. Heavier weights continued their trend while the lighter weights from 350 pounds up were much higher for a change. The overall average price was \$7.40 higher and value per head over \$18 higher.

Packer bulls: 83.00-108.00

Packer cows:

canners & cutters 67.00-86.00

poor & weak 34.00-59.00

Palpated: 10 bred 81.00-95.00

PAIRS:

NONE

Steer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

Under 200 lbs. NONE

200-249 lbs. 147.00-180.00

250-299 lbs. 163.00-190.00

300-350 lbs. 134.00-194.00

350-400 lbs. 153.00-192.00

400-450 lbs. 150.00-188.00

450-500 lbs. 146.00-180.00

500-550 lbs. 144.00-174.00

550-600 lbs. 142.00-164.00

600-700 lbs. 141.00-163.00

700-800 lbs. 140.00-154.00

Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

Under 250lbs 164.00-190.00

300-350 lbs. 163.00-206.00

350-400 lbs. 148.00-187.00

400-450 lbs. 154.00-190.00

450-500 lbs. 152.00-175.00

500-550 lbs. 144.00-168.00

600-700 lbs 138.00-156.00

Over 700 lbs. 131.00-150.00

Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

under 200 lbs. 139.00-185.00

200-250 lbs. 139.00-170.00

250-300 lbs 139.00-170.00

300-350 lbs. 140.00-174.00

350-400 lbs. 144.00-176.00

400-450 lbs. 141.00-172.00

450-500 lbs. 143.00-172.00

500-550 lbs 141.00-161.00

550-600 lbs. 134.00-164.00

600-700 lbs. 126.00-154.00

Over 700 lbs 120.00-149.00

When co-workers steal more than your yogurt

Dear Violet,
My co-worker, we'll call her Sheri, is a young (fifteen years younger than I am) woman, who is exceptionally hard working, very attractive, and kind, to everyone.
We have worked closely in our office on many projects, and get along very well, even having several monthly getting together outside of work, with our respective families. (I am divorced with small children, she is fairly newly married, the last four years, with two children the age of my own children from her prior marriage.)
Her husband is okay, but rather dull and not that intelligent; he also treats her offhand and like something that is hanging around, instead of the love of his life. Violet, the reason this bothers me so much is because I think she may be the love of mine. Last week I tried to express those feelings, very badly, and she seemed very caught off guard, and has requested to be transferred to another department, no longer answering my texts, or phone calls.
She will not even respond to work emails. I know what I feel is real, and I know I am a better man than her husband, and would be much better to her. How do I make her see the obvious?

Seriously in love but, Spiraling

Dear Spiraling,
Seek immediate attention with a mental health professional. This young woman has been a friend, and appears to be a lovely co-worker. That is all. She has made it clear that she is not interested, and owes you no explanation as to the why of her choices.
You are harassing her which is not only unprofessional, it is illegal and against company regulations in ALL professional settings. You may be in love with this young woman, and I am not discounting your feelings, but it appears you are more infatuated with her and with getting an object that you believe you deserve more than the other boy on the playground.
People are not objects, nor do they need to be told what is best for them. She will make her own choices, and has clearly made hers, which is her right as a human being. Stop making any advances or gestures, of any kind, to this co-worker and, again, seek professional help for this clear obsession and feeling of privilege over the life of another fellow human being.
Hoping for your seeking help, Violet

Dear Violet is a relationship advice column, covering both domestic relationships and familial relationships, as well as friendships. If you have something you want to get advice about, write in and get a third party, no ax to grind perspective. Welcome to Violet's world. Send questions, comments or concerns attention: Ask Violet c/o Gonzales Inquirer at publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com.

U.S. BILL OF RIGHTS

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

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

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

Amendment IV
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

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

Amendment VI
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Opinion



Natural-born optimist knows value of smile

BY JAMES M. HAMILTON
Special to the Inquirer

I've always had a spirit of optimism: Looking for and often finding the good in someone or something. It doesn't cost anything extra to look on the positive side of things, but it can open you up to some ridicule.
As a young man, I was active in my hometown's Optimist Club, a civic club that billed itself "Friend of Youth." It sponsored a whole calendar of youth activities and fundraisers. At 24, I was elected president of the local chapter.
My father was not an optimist — by nature or club membership — and he loved to tease me that it "takes two pessimists to hold an optimist down."
It kind of hurt my feelings back then but today I remember it with a warm smile as just another one of his gentle ribbings.
I was a natural optimist. It rolled off my back.
All these years later, I'm still stubbornly optimistic about things within my control but I've lost almost all hope that national and state affairs will ever be set right in my lifetime. For what it's worth, national opinion polls confirm that our belief in and support for all of our society's institutions is falling fast.
What a time to be alive.
Reeling from a string of impending life changes and trying not to give way to pessimism, my wife and I drove into

Austin last week to visit a second hand bookstore. They always lift my spirits. The smell of must and dust and old paper stacked up in this little world of countless authors' ideas and imagined universes always rouses my spirits. Always.
Initially, I had it in my mind to pick up some fictional epics ("The Lord of the Rings", "Harry Potter", and "The Game of Thrones") because they speak to the power — and optimism — of a small group of characters who navigate their way through immense mortal dangers and come out successful in the end. Dark though they may be, I wanted to lose myself in long plot lines that lead slowly, inevitably to a greater good.
I wandered the stacks for a while excitedly carrying these volumes under both arms. The movies and tv shows were good but there's nothing like reading the author's own words. But I actually settled on something else entirely.
David McCullough's "1776" perfectly captures the way the disparate colonies set their differences and cultural identities aside to unite against the British at Boston and New York. So well written, it's like the author is walking the trenches and cobblestones reporting firsthand the frustrations, prejudices, and ambitions of the fighting men and their leaders.
In both Boston and New York, American ingenuity, raw strength, and vision

See **OPTIMIST**, page 12



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

On Going Home...

Thomas Wolf, the author who insisted that we can't go home again, got it wrong. One can indeed do so, but "home" may hardly be recognizable, and/or — truth to tell — noticeably improved.
It's a two-hour drive from our Metroplex home to Brownwood, our hometown, so our visits there have dwindled.
Age has something to do with it. With 85 near at hand, inclinations to visit points in any direction lessen, and wherever we are at a given moment seems like the right place to be....

Two major reasons to visit are compelling, however. Sometimes there are goings on at Howard Payne University (where I was president from 1985-1997) that beckon. I'm also back home from time to time to speak at funeral services of friends or colleagues.
Most recently, I was asked to relate remembrances of Ethelyn Smith, who died recently within weeks of age 98.
She didn't want a traditional funeral service, nor any "verbalization" at all aside from a couple of hymns. Daughter Judy George and son Robert Smith Jr. overruled, however, realizing that she wanted nothing "said." Perhaps I was the nearest thing to nothing they could find....

Renowned sportswriter Blackie Sherrod, describing his longtime friend and fellow columnist George Dolan, joked that before God made George, He broke the mold.
I'm just sayin' that the same description of Ethelyn would hit mighty close to home. As a seven-year resident with son Robert Jr. at Redstone Park Assisted Living Community, she kept life interesting for the five dozen other residents — as well as three dozen or so Redstone employees. Her life deserves review in far greater detail. In column #999 next week, there'll be more, assuming the Lord doesn't come, I don't go and creeks stay within their banks....

The most recent visit there was reflective.
I was wandering around the campus before the clock struck 7 a.m., marveling at its manicured appearance. I remembered times when we were grateful for occasional lawn waterings and mowings.
I saw a light on the president's office, so I stopped by. Sure enough, already at work was Dr. Cory Hines, HPU's fourth president since my retirement. He has amazing energy, vision and commitment. I could not be prouder of his work; he's simply the best and brightest of all the presidents I know. I started my presidency at HPU at about the age Dr. Hines is now, and don't worry about being "on par" with him. I KNOW I wasn't....

Leaving his office, I thought of a wonderful friend to whom I handed a diploma some 30 years ago. I smiled, thinking of his racing down "thrill hill" on a bicycle during his collegiate years, and his entanglement with barbed wire at ride's end. (This was but one of his great adventures, this man who is now Col. Dan Murray, an aerospace flight surgeon in the US Air Force.)
He called the other day, so I told him about my two falls which occurred six months apart — one from our church podium during an October heart attack that necessitated multiple heart re-starts and the other during a May visit to Howard Payne when I failed to see four-inch "step-down" of a sidewalk.
"I'd recommend a cane," he suggested. "They have some nice ones now, so you can look fashionable and 'with it' whether you are or not." I told him I'd plug that into the equation....

I made my way to the Runaway Train, a favorite eating place fashioned from a railroad car.
There's a series of steps to the entrance, with iron handrails for safety. As I ascended slowly, salivating at the prospect of a luscious hamburger, I grabbed the rail, hopeful to avoid "derailment."
The handrail was hotter'n somewhat, and a sobering thought occurred: Would I rather take a fall, or arrive with limbs intact, albeit one hand severely blistered by a hot rail? Maybe I should have ordered curbside, uh, railside....

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

The Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Inquirer, 622 St. Paul, Gonzales, TX 78629 is a periodical postage paid at Gonzales, Texas and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: For change of address, notify **The Gonzales Inquirer**, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629-0616

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Payable in advance	
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You can reach us at:
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Affiliations:
National Newspaper Association
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PUBLISHER Lew Cohn	STAFF WRITER Vandy Van Epps	CONTRIBUTING Betty Cohn Clayton Kelley
BOOKKEEPER Sanya Simmons	TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION Seaborn Rountree	ADVERTISING SALES Louis Decker

The Gonzales Inquirer is published every Thursday by Guadalupe Valley Publishing Co. USPS 221-740 • ISSN 1059-7158 • 622 St. Paul St., P.O. Box 616 • Gonzales, TX 78629



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I AM THE Walrus

Read and learn all about walrus on today's Kid Scoop page. Then share what you learn with a friend or family member.

Massive Marine Animal

Massive means really big. Marine animal means an animal that lives in or near the ocean. A walrus is both of those things—a massive marine animal.

A walrus lives both on land and in the water in cold northern areas. They have tusks, whiskers, and flippers.

Brilliant Blubber

Beneath their skin are thick layers of fat called blubber which keeps a walrus warm and protected from the cold. They can withstand temperatures as low as -31°F (-35°C)!

Where do walrus live?

Walrus live in the Arctic. Is that true?

T H E Y

U I F Z E P

M J W F J O

U I F B S D U J D

Write the letter that comes before each letter to reveal the answer.

How big are they?

about the size of an adult human.

6 to 10 feet long and weigh 4,000

An adult walrus can grow to be pounds. A newborn calf is 130 pounds.

Put these sentences in order!

Mighty Mustaches

Walrus have mustaches made of super-sensitive whiskers. They use these to find food at the bottom of the ocean. Walrus have between 400 and 700 whiskers, which can grow to 12 inches long.

TRUE OR FALSE: Both male and female walrus have mustaches. Circle every third letter to find out!

B C T J S R L Y U D G E

Deep Sleep

When far from _____ or land, walrus have special pouches on their throats that they can _____ with air like pillows! Once their pouches are full of air, walrus can _____ with their heads on the surface of the water and their bodies hanging _____.

Walrus live in **herds** that can have thousands of members. They pile up on the _____ to keep _____ and sleep in the sunshine.

Extra! Extra! Big, Large, MASSIVE

Look through the newspaper for something that is big. Cut it out, paste it on a piece of paper and write the word **BIG** next to it. Next find something bigger, cut it out, paste it on your paper and label it **LARGE**. Then find something even bigger, cut it out and paste it on your paper and label it **MASSIVE**.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Use comparative synonyms.

Tremendous Tusks

Wow! Here are some wild statements about walrus tusks. Are they true? Each one that adds up to an even number is true!

Walrus have long, large tusks that are actually teeth. These can be over 90cm long! That's nearly 3 feet!

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

13 + 13 + 6 =

Both male and female walrus grow long tusks, which help them live the Arctic life.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

9 + 4 + 3 =

Walrus use their tusks like poles, digging them into sand, snow and ice to help them pull their enormous bodies out of the ocean!

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

8 + 15 + 9 =

Tusks help the walrus chop through ice from under the water to create breathing holes so they can catch a breath while swimming and hunting.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE

7 + 2 + 6 + 9 =

Kid Scoop Puzzler

What does a walrus eat?

Walrus find and eat shellfish like clams from the sea floor. They also enjoy sea cucumbers and mussels. Adults will sometimes hunt fish. How many clams do you see here?

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

Kid Scoop Together Draw a Walrus

Follow the steps to learn how to draw a walrus.

1. Draw a circle for the head.
2. Add two dots for eyes.
3. Add two curved lines for whiskers.
4. Add two long, straight lines for tusks.
5. Add a row of short, vertical lines for blubber.
6. Add a row of short, vertical lines for flippers.

Hold this page up to a mirror to discover another walrus fact!

Walrus can live in the Arctic.

Write On! Ocean Sounds

Find five to ten words to describe the sounds of ocean waves. Write a paragraph using these adjectives.

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OBITUARIES

RUBEN ARELLANO

Ruben Arellano, of Gonzales, passed away on Monday, July 4, 2022, at the age of 67. He was born on September 17, 1954, in Gonzales, to Marcelino Arellano and Ernestina Rivera Arellano. Ruben served in the United States Air Force. He was an active member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and valued his Christian faith.

Ruben lived in Houston most of his adult life. He attended the University of Houston and was a big fan of the Houston Astros. He moved back to Gonzales in 2014, to settle in his hometown. He spent lots of time with his adored son and grandchildren. In his spare time, Ruben enjoyed dancing, reading, and interacting with

people. He also enjoyed attending church with his friends, and he loved his trips to New York. Ruben also would be commonly found enjoying a meal and a treat at Dairy Queen. He was a huge history buff, and always enjoyed watching the black and white TV shows.

Ruben is survived by his son, Ruben Arellano, Jr. and wife Katya, of Spring, Tx, sisters, Gloria Torres and husband Michael Torres, Jr., Rachel Garza and husband Fred Garza, Jr., Olivia Arellano, and Sylvia Schwausch and husband Justin Schwausch, all of Gonzales, 2 grandchildren, Ruby and Martin Arellano, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents,



and brother, Luis Arellano.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2022, from 5:00 until 7:00 PM in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. A rosary will follow and begin at 7:00 PM. A funeral mass will be held on Friday, July 8, 2022, at 10:00 AM in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, with Father Jason Martini officiating. Pallbearers include: Ryan Arellano, Kobe Schwausch, Mi-

chael Torres, III, Justin Schwausch, Michael Torres, Jr., Fred Garza, Jr., and Greg Clack. Honorary pallbearers include: Roland Martinez, Tony Ramirez, Alisa Clack, Haley Garza, Kaitlyn Taylor, Kilee Schwausch, Megan Torres, Jacob Clack, Ashlynn Clack, Brianna Torres, Ryan Jay Arellano, Rylah Arellano, and Brandon Sirildo. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the: Faith Family Church, Women Rise Up Ministries, or Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Friends may leave their condolences and sign the guestbook by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

RANDO CONTRERAS, JR.

Rando Contreras, Jr. of Gonzales, Texas went to be with his Lord and Savior on July 8, 2022 at the age of 40.

Rando was born on August 14, 1981 to Rando Sr. and Betty Jo Contreras. He was preceded in death by grandparents Pedro and Susie Contreras and grandparents Daniel and Dolores Pekar.

Rando was raised in Gonzales Texas and cherished dearly by his family. He enjoyed his family beach trips, fishing, barbequing and simply just spending time with his loved ones. If you knew Rando you had a true friend. He was always willing to offer a helping hand. There was never a dull moment with him around. He always knew how to put a smile on your face.

Rando graduated high school in Gonzales Texas and was currently working at E.F. Ehrig & Son's as an equipment operator.

Rando leaves behind to cherish his memories, his parents Rando Sr. and Betty Jo Contreras, his wife Tina Lynn Martin, sons Josiah Daniel Contreras, Adrian Joseph Tello, Isaiah Trae Lewis, daughter Serina Raye Lewis, sister Sherry Ann Contreras, brother Donnie Joseph Contreras(Stella), brother Cordero Allen Contreras (Cruz),



brother Michael Anthony Contreras(Courtney) and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Celebration of Life Services in Loving Memory of Rando Contreras Jr.

Services will be held at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home located at 906 Saint Paul St. Gonzales, Tx. 78629

Visitation will be Thursday July 14th from 5-7pm with Rosary beginning at 7pm.

Funeral will be held on Friday July 15th at 2pm. Interment will follow at the St. James Catholic Cemetery.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home 906 St. Paul, Gonzales.

JIMMY WAYNE ZELLA

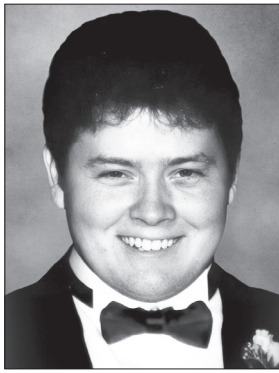
Jimmy Wayne Zella, 51, of Gonzales, passed away Friday, July 8, 2022. Jimmy was born July 23, 1970 in Gonzales to Robert and Patricia Chapman Zella.

Jimmy was born and raised in Gonzales. He worked alongside his dad and brother working cattle and performing his daily chores like cubing cattle, putting hay down for cattle and horses, tending to the cow dogs, mending fences, fixing gates and a host of chores far too many to mention. He was active in FFA in high school and enjoyed moments reveling with his classmates in town. His quiet time was spent hunting deer and fishing the lakes ponds and rivers of Gonzales.

After graduating from GHS, Jimmy worked fulltime driving trucks for Sunset Livestock and Kenny Hyden Trucking. He worked

for JGI Outdoor Advertising before moving to Mikes Construction now Werner Materials. Jimmy was an old school American man; hardworking, honest, loyal, and respectful. Certainly, all values he learned at home. He was a reflection of his father with core values of a good man, a man with integrity and grit.

Jimmy could be a goofball, a fun-loving jokester that brought smiles to many faces. He had moments of stubbornness, but generally life was a party to Jimmy. His greatest joy and finest treasure in life, was being the father to his beautiful, loving daughter Maddy or "Peanut" as he affectionately called her. Jimmy knew firsthand that the only thing better than a daddy's girl is being her hero every day. Jimmy understood the power of love as described in Corin-



thians' "Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." His love for Maddy, his "Peanut" lives on today and always.

Jimmy Wayne Zella is survived by his loving family: beloved daughter, Maddysyn Renay Zella, father, Robert Zella (Marilyn Musick), brother and sister-in-law, Brad Lynn Zella and Stacy all of Gonzales, nieces, Megan Zella of Seguin, Kate Zella of Gonzales and great-nephew, Bryson Zella of Gonzales. He

was preceded in death by his mother, Patricia Zella.

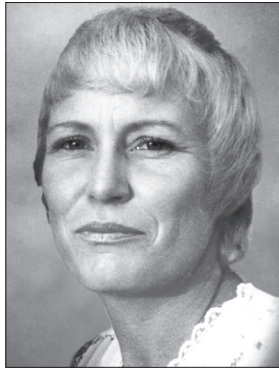
The family will receive friends from 9 am to 10 am Monday, July 18, 2022 in the First United Methodist Church. A funeral service will follow at 10 am in the church with Rev. Dr. Matt Pennington officiating. Interment will follow in Gonzales Memorial Park. Pallbearers: Stephen Werner, Kenny Siegel, Raymie Zella, Jerry Zella, Bryan Zella, Matt Chapman, Ronnie Zella, and Ronnie Tate. Memorials may be made to the Gonzales County Senior Citizens Association, P.O. Box 1834, Gonzales, TX, 78629 or charity of one's choice. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

JUDY PETERMAN

Judy Peterman, of Gonzales, passed away on Monday, July 11, 2022, at the age of 72. She was born on November 26, 1949, in Gonzales, to Herman Willham and Vera Pauline Taylor Irle. She married Hubert Davis Peterman on December 24, 1981, in Las Vegas.

Judy could be described as a jack of all trades. She was successful at everything she set her mind to. She enjoyed photography, sewing, and baking. Her famous banana nut bread was a favorite amongst her family. Judy was a completely selfless person and always put everyone else first. She showed her love and appreciation by putting other's interests above her own. Judy was a true treasure to her entire family.

Judy is survived by her husband of almost 41 years, Hubert Peterman of Gonzales, daughter, Kayla Buch and husband Will of Cuero, sons, Ralph Peterman and wife Tracey of Kempner, and Larry Peterman and wife Tammy of Corpus, sisters, Wanda Dunn and husband Thomas and Brenda Kuntschik and husband Darin, all of Gonzales, and 17 grand and great-grandchildren combined.



She was preceded in death by her parents, sons, Kirby and Kevin Hunt, daughter, Debi Hunt, and brother, William Irle.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM, in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. A funeral service will follow beginning at 11:00 AM, with Rev. Clint Lowery officiating. The family has requested for friends to refrain from sending their tributes through flowers, and instead make donations to the American Cancer Society, in memory of Judy. Friends and family may leave their condolences and sign the guestbook by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com.

Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

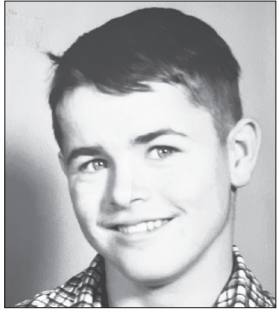
LLOYD JUNIOR EVERETT

Lloyd Junior Everett, 81, of Gonzales, passed away Wednesday, June 29, 2022. He was born December 14, 1940 in Olney, Illinois the son of Jesse Lloyd Everett and Mildred Mae Sinclair Everett.

He was a member of Eastside Baptist Church. He enjoyed working outdoors, watching sports, good food and spending

time with family. He is survived by his sister Anita Lou Rinehart of Gonzales; niece Susan Carmichall and husband Jay of Conroe; nephew Douglas Alan Rinehart of Gonzales; grand-niece Rachel Meraz; grand-nephew Sean Rinehart and great grand-nephews R.J. and Xander Meraz.

He was preceded in death by his parents;



brother in law John Douglas Rinehart and niece Charlotte Rinehart.

Graveside services will be held 10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 16, 2022 at the Saturn Cemetery with Reverend Hollas Hoffmann officiating.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com Arrangements are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home, Gonzales.



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Hospice of South Texas recognized for quality of care

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Hospice of South Texas, Victoria’s local not-for-profit hospice, is proud to announce an outstanding achievement in quality of care.

Hospice of South Texas was recently awarded an Elite Status by HEALTHCAREfirst Hospice Honors Program. HEALTHCAREfirst Hospice Honors Program recognizes hospices that provide the best patient and family caregiver experience.

Elite Status recognizes a select few hospice organizations who have scored above the national average for quality of care. HEALTHCAREfirst identified award recipients by evaluating performance on a set of twenty-four quality indicator measures. Hospice of South Texas scored higher than the national average on all 24 quality indicators.

The Hospice Honors is a landmark compilation of hospices providing the best patient and caregiver experience.

This prestigious annual review recognizes Hospice of South Texas’ continuous efforts to provide the highest level of quality as measured from the caregiver’s point of view. Quality of care surveys are issued

to the primary caregiver 3 months after the death of the patient.

“It is a great honor to recognize that the patients’ families are the ones who have rated their experiences with our organization so highly,” said Michael Chavez, Executive Director, Hospice of South Texas.

Award criteria were based on Hospice CAHPS survey results for an evaluation period of October 2020 – September 2021. Individual hospice performance scores were aggregated from all surveys with a final survey status of complete for the evaluation period and were compared on a question-by-question basis to a national performance score calculated from all partnering hospices contained in HEALTHCAREfirst’s Hospice CAHPS database.

“Our goal is and will always be to provide the highest quality of care to our patients and their families. Every day we continue to work to improve quality of life for our patients from ensuring comfort, emotional support, and education to the ability to live each moment more fully. It is a true honor to gain recognition for our commitment to quality care from those whose opinions matter most — the families of those in our care,” said Chavez.

OBITUARIES

AGNES T. “MiMi” IRLE

Agnes T. “MiMi” Irle, 84, of Gonzales, passed away Friday, July 8, 2022. She was born March 23, 1938 in Gonzales the daughter of Eugene and Inez Zumwalt Fisher.

She was affectionately known as “MiMi” by the many children she babysat in her home throughout the years, a name given to her by her loving granddaughters which was picked up by all the kids who were cared for by her.

She was a dedicated San Antonio Spurs fan, loved to dance, espe-

cially waltz. She was known as a fantastic cook, fried chicken, chicken and dumplings and her wonderful sugar cookies, most of all special Christmas cookies. She was a lifelong member of the Memorial Heights Baptist Church and a docent with the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce.

She is survived by her granddaughters Michelle West and husband Ken and Brittanie Bailey all of Gonzales and her great-grandchildren Kaileigh, Taylor, David and Brayden West.



She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Ray Irle, daughter Martha Bailey, sister Bessie Cleveland and brother Robert Fisher.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 11 at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Graveside services will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at the Slayden Cemetery with Reverend Clint Lowery officiating.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home 906 St. Paul, Gonzales.



Leaks inside the curbs of N Fair street as water flow into the intersection of Fair St. Louis St. Monday morning.

VANDY VAN EPPS

CHURCH BRIEFS

Monthalia scholarship dinner

Monthalia Methodist annual Brotherhood L.A. Lindemann Jr. Scholarship Dinner will be held Friday, July 15, at the church, 1926 CR 112, Cost.

Plates will include a half barbecue chicken dinner, potato salad, brown beans and dessert and will be served

from 5 p.m. until sold out. Plates are \$10 per person with drive-through service only.

Life Changing Church

Life Changing Church, 407 CR 236, Gonzales. July 17, 6 p.m., Evangelist Preston Sperry. Come and See What The Lord has For You.

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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

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1592

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

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

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Answers found in next week’s Classifieds.

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Est. 1925

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The Gonzales County Water Supply Corp. is seeking a general manager.

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July 7 Puzzle Answers

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1592

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

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G-Town Striders qualify 8 for AAU Jr. Olympics

BY LEW K. COHN
INQUIRER PUBLISHER

Eight members of the G-Town Striders, a Gonzales-based youth track and field team, have qualified for the 56th annual AAU Junior Olympics next month at North Carolina A&T Truist Stadium in Greensboro, North Carolina, Coach Quincy Johnson said.

G-Town Striders athletes who qualified to compete from Aug. 1-6 include:

- Aurdree Hernandez – Turbo Javelin;
- Avionna Houston – Discus, Shot Put, Turbo Javelin;
- Jaliyah Jackson – Turbo Javelin;
- Kea'anna White – Discus, Shot Put;
- Keiryah Greathouse – Javelin, Shot Put;
- Jermain Upshaw – Javelin;
- Keath White Jr – Javelin;
- Matthew Cubit – 800m Run, 800m Relay, 1500m Run.

The Striders will hold a 20-year reunion and fundraiser on Saturday, July 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Edwards Association, 1427 Fly St., to raise money to send the



The G-Town Striders are ready to send eight athletes to the AAU Jr. Olympics in Greensboro, North Carolina, next month. Members of the Striders include, front row from left, assistant coach Khelsea Cray, Matthew Cubit, Aurdree Hernandez and Keiryah Greathouse. Back row are Keath White Jr., Avionna Houston, Jaliyah Jackson, Kea'Anna White, Jermain Upshaw and head coach Quincy Johnson. Not pictured are Jayda Glass, Alexis Padilla, Rylan Williams and assistant coach Robert Shelton.

CONTRIBUTED

Striders to the AAU Jr. Olympics.

On sale will be rib boats, sausage sandwiches, brisket sandwiches, a bake sale and more. G-Town Strider alumni will also be recognized as they celebrate 20 years of Striders and their coaches.

The G-Town Striders practice on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and have competed at several area and regional meets in preparation for the AAU Jr. Olympics, their biggest meet of the season.

Golf scramble



The winning team from the July 6 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, David Hernandez, Gary Schroeder, Ralph Aguirre, Jake Barnick, and Brant Philippus.

CONTRIBUTED



The second-place team from the July 6 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Pat Davis, Jerod Boehm, Dee Tiller, Jim Floyd and Mike Turk.

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Loving thy neighbor

BY FATHER ROBERT CERTAIN

Episcopal Church of the Messiah

Will you ... love your neighbor as yourself?

This is one of the questions asked of persons baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church, and to which we respond, "I will, with God's help."

This question reminds me of the story of the Good Samaritan, where the "neighbor" is not the person the mugged and robbed man looked to for help and kindness, but the one to whom he would never look, even the one he might abhor, but nevertheless who stops to render aid and comfort in a time of need. The point of the inquiry is to remind us to extend God's love to those whom we consider rogues, charlatans, fools, aliens, and enemies – anyone whom we might disdain or abhor because they differ from us in religion, race, gender, economic viewpoints, politics, or any other fence we have erected around ourselves.

In the high tension of American society today, we need "God's help" to see each other as neighbor across political and social lines and to see our differences as elements that en

See **LOVING**, page 12

The Good Old Days



ERIC ESTES

Love, Eric and Eloise

wouldn't have noticed, if only I had that kind of focus. This experience got me to remembering my younger years, and the many fond memories I have of them...

Back in the day, the internet and digital streaming were nothing more than wishful futuristic sci-fi concepts. Now-a-days we can watch TV on our phones. Scotty still may not be able to beam us up, but who knows what the future may hold. In my day, when the wheel and fire were still considered great technological advances, we had to wait with great anticipation for Saturday mornings to get our cartoon fix. So, with plenty of Cheerios, Cap'n Crunch, Crispy Critters and Fruit Loops on hand, the Saturday morning cartoon extravaganza began!

Besides the standard favorites like Mighty Mouse, Tom & Jerry, The Jetsons, and the Chipmunks, who could get enough of the roadrunner blowing up the coyote on the Bugs Bunny show. I can't be certain, but due to the uncanny resemblance, Elmer Fudd may actually be my grandfather? I could also hardly wait for the next episodes of Johnny

Quest and Clutch Cargo, where they freakily super imposed real mouths on cartoon characters. Underdog was always a favorite, probably cause I kinda had a thing for Sweet Polly Purebread. I even once played in a band named Snidely Whiplash, after the villain on Dudley Do-Right. Shows like Tarzan, Mr. Ed, Captain Kangaroo and The Monkeys were also Saturday afternoon favorites. Thunderbirds was always fun, a british sci-fi show focused on futuristic technology and utilizing advanced puppeteering for its time. There's way too many to name here, but let's just say that Saturdays played an important part in the good old days memory catalog for this young'un.

It's a shame that those days of innocence and moral integrity have all but fallen by the wayside for the children of today. Now they're faced with questioning their own sexuality, which is not only insane, but evil. However, those perpetuating this insanity will pay a price. Matthew 18:6 warns us that anyone causing Gods children to stumble would be better off drowning with a large stone around their neck. We all will be held accountable for our actions, whether we believe it or not. It's our God given duty to love and protect children... and who in their right mind wouldn't want to?

Until next time, love you guys, Eric.

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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
BAPTIST Clark Baptist Church FM 794, Gonzales	St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont.	Full Gospel Church 1426 Fisher, Gonzales	Emmanuel Fellowship 1817 St. Lawrence, Gonzales
Country Baptist Church Highway 87, Smiley	St. Paul Baptist Church SE 2nd Street, Waelder	JEWISH Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul HashemYeshua1 @yahoo.com	Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship Highway 80, Leesville
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Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley	Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales	Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales	New Life Temple for Jesus Christ 16214 US 90 W, Harwood
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First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales	Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales	Harwood Methodist Church Harwood	Thompsonville Community Church CR 423, Thompsonville Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
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Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office, Harwood	Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	
Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ, Belmont	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	
Leesville Baptist Church E. of Highway 80 on CR 121	CHURCHES OF GOD Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	
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Reyna Navarro, third from left, was named valedictorian of Victoria College's Associate Degree Nursing Program Spring 2022 graduating class. Pictured with Navarro are, from left, VC Board Vice Chair Luis Guerra, VC President Jennifer Kent, salutatorian Kim Garcia, VC Board Member Catherine McHaney and VC Dean of Allied Health Darla Strother.

CONTRIBUTED

Victoria College honors 27 ADN graduates

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College's Associate Degree Nursing Program honored 27 Spring 2022 graduates during a pinning ceremony on May 12 at Victoria College's Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts.

The graduates received their pins during the ceremony, while family and friends were in attendance and able to watch the ceremony remotely.

Reyna Navarro of Brookshire was named the class valedictorian, and

Kim Garcia of Victoria was announced the class salutatorian.

Victoria College's two-year Associate of Applied Science degree in nursing is fully approved by the Texas Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

Successful completion of the ADN Program enables graduates to apply for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. Satisfactory achievement on the exam qualifies graduates for licensure as a registered nurse.

Following are other Spring 2022 graduates of Victoria College's ADN Program listed by their hometown:

- Gonzales
- Shea Michael Sibley
- Luling
- Jessica Robinson
- Nixon
- Monica Yanes
- Shiner
- Traci Boedeker
- Yoakum
- Stephanie Fojtik, Colette Liendo, Anthony Sanchez

Shiner St. Paul seniors attend Boys State, Girls State

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

This year's St. Paul High School delegates for American Legion Boys State and Girls State are Joseph Twyford and Ashlyn Pesek. Both Twyford and Pesek are exceptional examples of what Boys State and Girls State represent.

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each student becomes a part of the operation of his local, county, and state government. At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, and the duties and responsibilities of a



Twyford



Pesek

franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical, with city, county, and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices.

With American Legion Girls State, both the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary began an effort over five decades ago to devise a means to educate

our youth on the duties, privileges, and responsibilities of American citizenship. This program was developed to give young leaders an opportunity to learn the challenges of government by performing the same duties as real office holders in the everyday world, to inform them of the rights and privileges of American citizenship, and to instill a deep sense of the personal responsibilities and obligations which this citizenship entails.

Like other students throughout the State of Texas, Joseph and Ashlyn were selected on a competitive basis by their local high school and Legion Posts. Congratulations to these great student leaders!

VC Museum to host free KIDStory Saturday events

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College's Museum of the Coastal Bend will host "KIDStory Saturdays" in July and August.

KIDStory Saturdays offers visitors an opportunity to discover Texas history and explore the stories of children in the Coastal Bend from prehistoric times through today. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Saturday, participants will gain insight into the daily life of a different group of children, such as indigenous inhabitants, French colonists, Spanish missionaries and early ranchers.

KIDStory Saturday themes are as follows:

July 16: A Day Among the Early People of Texas – Attendees will take part in activities that would have been part of a typical day 13,000 years ago, including weaving a basket or creating a projectile point. There will also be presentations on flint-knapping and fire technology.

July 23: A Day in a Texas Garden – Attendees will plant a seed to take home and learn about foraging for food and provisions. Presentations will cover backyard gardening and Texas native plants.

July 30: Ships & Cannons – Participants will get to be part of a cannon crew, build a boat, navigate their own voyage, and see demonstrations on cannon firing, steel and flint.

Aug. 6: A Day at the Dig Site – Attendees can take part in archaeology activities that help discover Texas history, dig and screen for artifacts, and keep a log of their finds.

Aug. 13: Texas Ranch Life – Children can create a brand, rope a cow and make butter in a mason jar. There will be presentations on cowboy gear and life on the cattle trail.

This event is best for children ages 5 and up. All supplies will be provided. A donation of \$5 per participant



VC's Museum of the Coastal Bend will host "KIDStory Saturdays" in July and August to give children an opportunity to discover Texas history.

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is suggested to assist with supply costs. Pre-registration is not required.

The Museum of the Coastal Bend is located on Victoria College's Main Campus at 2200 E. Red River Street in Victoria.

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LOVING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

rich us all, not as causes for destruction and division. The American poet, Robert Frost addressed this concern in his poem, "Mending Wall" in 1914. One neighbor believed that "good fences make good neighbors," but the poem insists that "Something there is that doesn't love a wall, That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it, And spills the upper boulders in the sun; And makes gaps even two can pass abreast." Perhaps if we stop throwing rocks at one another, we might be able to walk together through the gaps in the wall, repairing our relationships rather than rebuilding our divisions.

Democrats, Republicans, Independents, conservatives, liberals, moderates and people of all faiths together make up the tapestry of American society. People with heritage in Europe, Africa, South and Central America, Asia add pattern, color and design to our culture. Each and every one can bring light to the darkness of our lives and healing to our wounds – if our eyes are open to see God's hand at work in the world around us and in the lives of those to whom we look.

OPTIMIST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

won the day. While the war raged on for several more years, the actions in 1776 of everyday women and men — united in purpose — were turning points in the overall struggle. What they did really mattered.

Henry Knox and his men floating then dragging then pushing 120,000 pounds of cannons and mortars 300 miles across winter swept lakes and mountains to Boston to completely surprise and displace the whole British army. They didn't lose a single firing piece.

The steel-nerved boatmen who silently transported over 9000 American soldiers a mile across the East River from Brooklyn to Manhattan in a single dark night to rescue them from certain annihilation by the advancing British so they could fight again another day.

And dozens of tales of smaller acts of bravery, cowardice, and indifference. It's worth the read.

I need to remember that Americans are capable of coming together. I need that kind of optimism about our country right now and for the future. We all need that — right now.

If you are feeling pessimistic about current events or what the future holds for your children and grandchildren, know that people through the ages have lost hope at times. They've railed against their leaders. They've turned against their neighbors.

But what's within our control right now? The way we speak, drive, spend our money, treat our families and neighbors, the words that come out of our mouths or that we post on social media.

Those Optimists back in my hometown recited a creed at the end of each meeting. Among other things, we said we would "give every living creature we meet a smile."

There's a place to begin.

Smile. Let your heart smile too. We will get through these difficult times.

James M. Hamilton lives in Gonzales.

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Gonzales ISD announces administrative hirings

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales Independent School District has announced three more hirings to critical administrative roles within the district.

Wanda Fryer will serve as the new director of secondary education, while Karen Perez will be principal at Gonzales Junior High School and Vanessa Gibson will be the principal at North Avenue Intermediate School.

Wanda Fryer
For the past 20 years, Wanda Fryer has served in various administrative roles in the GISD, including assistant principal and principal at North Avenue, and principal at both Gonzales Junior High School and Gonzales High School campuses.



Fryer

Currently, Fryer serves as the director of student and community services. While serving in those leadership roles, she ensured students and staff a quality education with an emphasis on climate and a “growth mindset.”

Fryer stated, “I am thrilled and beyond excited to continue my growth mindset belief as I continue serving the students, parents and staff in my current and new role of director of secondary education.

Karen Perez
For the last 21 years, Karen Perez

has served in various educational roles including teacher, CTE coordinator, assistant principal and principal. Her commitment to students, staff and community members is evident by her relentless effort to ensure that every student is given an opportunity to learn, grow and feel a sense of belonging.

Perez stated the following, “I am honored to have been selected to lead the Gonzales Junior High campus.”

Vanessa Gibson
For the last 17 years, Vanessa Gibson has worked in the education field as a paraprofessional, science teacher, English teacher and the last seven years as an administrator. The last three years have been spent in Lockhart with Lockhart ISD as an assistant principal at Navarro Elementary.

Gibson stated, “I am overjoyed with the opportunity to serve as the Principal of North Avenue to continue the success of all students that enter those doors. I look forward to building positive relationships with students, staff and the community to ensure the district’s vision and goals are met.”



Perez



Gibson

GRANT PROGRAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(GEDC) encourages all eligible establishments impacted by COVID-19 to apply for these funds.”

Industries eligible for TIIR assistance include arts, entertainment, and recreation; food services and drinking places; traveler accommodation; RV parks and recreational camps; traveler arrangement and reservation services; convention and trade show organizers; breweries; wineries; and distilleries.

As COVID-19 started becoming prevalent in Texas in mid-to-late March 2020, many businesses — especially small ones centered around the service industry — found themselves having to shut down for weeks at a time due to concerns about the spread of the virus. Kolbe said it had a colossal impact on the Gonzales business community and led economic development officials to seek ways to help lessen the blow.

“It’s fair to say we were all caught by surprise by the impact of the business shutdown,” Kolbe said. “Gonzales, through the GEDC, was one of the first economic development corporations in the region to develop and deploy a grant program focused on businesses with fewer than 25 employees. This action helped many businesses we enjoy patronizing today survive and minimized the loss in both property and sales tax revenue.

“This new round of funding through the Texas Travel Industry Recovery Grant Program can help them strengthen their financial positions and help prepare for any future pandemics or disasters.”

The TTIR program will issue a one-time grant of up to \$20,000 to eligible

Texas businesses. Applications will be accepted in phases by industry group. Below is a listing of application timelines, based on business NAICS code:

- Category 1 – July 6-31, 2022:
NAICS 312120, 312130, 312140, 5615, 561920, and 7212: Examples of these codes includes distilleries, brewers, wine makers and travel agencies.
- Category 2 – Aug. 1-21, 2022:
NAICS 71: Examples of these include performing arts companies, musical groups, sports teams along with promoters, managers, independent artist writers and entertainers.
- Category 3 – Aug. 22-Sept.11, 2022:
NAICS 7211: Examples of these are hotels, casino hotels, bead-and-breakfast, and inns.
- Category 4 – Sept. 12-Oct. 2, 2022:

NAICS 722: Example of these are special food services, mobile food services, restaurants, cafeterias, grills buffets, buffets and snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars.

• Category 5 – If funds remain after the first four phases a fifth phase will revisit any unfunded applications to award the remaining funds.

The Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office will host a series of webinars for specific industry groups to provide more information and answer questions on the program and application process.

To register for the webinars and for eligibility and grant application details, deadlines, and more, go to <https://ttir.gov.texas.gov/Home/Signup>.



COMMISSIONERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion.

“We have had an unusual event this year that has made this necessary,” Wolff said. “When the (Gonzales) Chamber (of Commerce) moved out, we’d been wishing to be able to expand for years. And when they moved out, they moved out quickly and took everything, so we don’t have money to do repairs or people to do repairs and develop the east wing at the same time.

“The east wing is a one-off deal. It requires quite a bit because we had to start from taking things out like the carpets and clean up and start from the ground floor. We’ve done that and we’ve gotten pretty far, but we kind of live from month to month and we don’t have money to put up front, pay for whatever we need and submit an invoice. And everything we need now is not classified as a repair, so we need money moved to some account we can use for operating and finish up the development because we’re nearly there.”

County Judge Pat Davis explained the county auditor’s office had concerns about using a line item in the budget earmarked for repairs for operating or renovating expenses without an authorization to do so.

Commissioners also heard information about upcoming Float Fest from Emergency Management Director Jimmy Harless as well as Sheriff Keith

Schmidt and EMS director Eddie Calendar. Cooperation with the organizers of the event has led to a detailed safety plan that is in place to handle the event while also making sure residents continue to receive services as needed, Harless said.

Donald Hoffman of the Rancho Nixon Historic Association also discussed upcoming projects for the organization, presented a copy of his recent book to the commissioners and discussed the unique history of the southern end of Gonzales County, which includes John Wesley Hardin, the birth of the Texas cowboy and the proliferation of the quarter horse.

In other action, commissioners:
• received interlocal agreements for mobiles and portable radios to be purchased with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

• Approved the County Clerk’s Record Archive Plan and continuation of the Record Archive Fee for funding and preserving County Clerk records following a public hearing.

• Approved an engagement letter with Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates for the county audit.

• Tabled a discussion of a project description change on the GLO CDBG-MIT grant for new communications towers for Gonzales County until next meeting.

• Held a budget workshop.



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Traffic backs up on Interstate 10 eastbound in Gonzales County after a multiple fatality accident east of Waelder on Wednesday, July 6. Four people were killed, including an 11-year-old child. A fifth — also a juvenile — was airlifted to a San Antonio hospital.

WANDY VAN EPPS

CRASH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

down near a construction area and hit a 2020 BMW 440, driven by Mona Mack Nesbitt, 62, of Lubbock, along with two minor passengers, and continued, crashing into the rear of a 2018 Wabash semi trailer carrying batteries, towed by a 2020 Freightliner truck tractor, according to San Miguel.

Four people (Slagle, Hoffer, Nesbitt, and an 11-year-old female from Amarillo in the Nesbitt vehicle whose name was not released) were pronounced dead at the scene at 11:50 a.m. by Gonzales County Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Jesse Almaraz.

A boy in the BMW was airlifted via helicopter to a San Antonio hospital in serious condition, San Miguel said.

The driver of the 2020 Freightliner sustained injuries and was transport-

ed to Gonzales Memorial Hospital in Gonzales.

The wreckage and debris from the accident caused the interstate to shut down. Lone Star Hazmat arrived on scene and assisted with the clean up of the batteries. Assisting agencies were the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office, Flatonia Fire Department, Waelder Fire Department, Gonzales County EMS, Gonzales County Rescue and the Fayette County Sheriff's Office. The investigation is ongoing and no more details are available at the time of this release. The next of kin has been notified for each deceased individual.

"I-10 was closed from 11:22 a.m. to 11:40 p.m. Traffic was diverted onto a feeder road and diverted around, but I-10 was closed down for almost a little over 11 hours," San Miguel said.

GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and as a community we're going to have to revolve around and start running with a strategic change process... the new five year vision for the district it starts today," Avellaneda said.

The Schlechty Center is a non-profit organization that works with school boards to classrooms with a focus on student engagement, Rindone said.

The program's "strategic change agenda" processes differently than a normal traditional strategic plan.

Rindone went over the process with the board, from the discovery process, capacity audit, extended discovery and focus conversation.

"We have to have alignment not only with our school community, but also our community [in Gonzales]. I think this gives us an opportunity to

align everybody to the goals that we as a district want to meet and want to reach," Avellaneda said.

Avellaneda included all the departments in the mix from the technology, curriculum, instruction department, and human resources department and many more.

"If we can get it organized to where everybody knows our mission, our vision, our core values as a district, we have a shot of being very successful," Avellaneda said.

In other business, earlier the board approved the following agenda items:

- approved the teachers' appraisal calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.
- approved an interlocal agreement with Waelder ISD for transportation services.

FLOAT FEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there will be a "draft beer bar" near the entry point to the river.

"Once floaters are ready to head out, they can grab a post-float drink at the all-day Swim Hole Lounge or grab refreshments from the Wingstop Food Truck and Monster Energy Rehab Zone," Federman said.

The sponsor for the event is Coca-Cola, and Coke will be active throughout the event, including "Coca-Cola Ice House," a Texas-style watering hole serving up ice cold Coca-Cola, including Marshmello's new limited-edition Coca-Cola Creations flavor.

"The Coca-Cola Ice House also features multiple elevated viewing decks that overlook the Coca-Cola stage, as well as shaded areas



VAMPIRE WEEKEND

and lounge furniture for guests to enjoy," festival organizers said in a press release.

Shuttle transportation will be offered for those traveling from San Antonio, Austin, Houston, and San Marcos and to the ranch.

Float Fest music gen-

eral admission and VIP tickets, tubing and camping passes, and more are available for purchase online at <https://www.festicket.com/eventgenius/float-fest>. Festival goers can begin arriving as soon as noon on Friday, July 22.



An aerial view of the 765-acre private ranch on County Road 197 where Float Fest will be held next weekend, July 23-24, in Gonzales. The tubing, camping and music festival will be held for the first time since 2018.

CONTRIBUTED

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