



The Gonzales Inquirer

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Judge to hear GBRA case in February

**BY LEW K. COHN
AND CLAYTON KELLEY**
Gonzales Inquirer

A preliminary contested case hearing on the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's request to drill three additional

water wells in the Carrizo Aquifer has been set for Thursday, Feb. 16, before hearing examiner Judge Stephen B. Ables.

GBRA is asking the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District to increase its permit from an

original 15,000 acre-feet of water rights in the Carrizo Aquifer to 24,000 acre-feet, an increase of 9,000 acre-feet.

Darrell Nichols, a senior GBRA deputy general manager, told GCUWCD at a Nov. 8 meeting that the aquifer can

reasonably accommodate their request to increase production by that amount. However, a group of citizens, including Waelder area landowner Ted Boriak, Mark and Sally Ploeger, Mary Ann Menning, Jan Lindemann, Mark Sleeper, Phil

and James Breitschopf, Daisy Scheske Freeman and William Miller, have opposed the permit request, claiming the additional drilling will deplete an already drought-riddled

See **GBRA**, page 15



SANTA STOPS BY TO DELIVER CHRISTMAS CHEER

Above: Santa Claus greets the children at the Edwards High School gym Thursday, Dec. 22. The Edwards Association handed out 13 bikes and toys for children in need from the Gonzales area. Right: Gonzales Mayor Steve Sucher makes a visit to Santa Claus at the Edwards High School gym for the Edwards Association's bike and toy give away Thursday, Dec. 22. For more photos, see page 6.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



Website recognizes Gonzales as underrated Christmas town

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The rest of Texas is finding out a little-known secret — when it comes to towns with the Christmas and holiday spirit, Gonzales is vastly undervalued by the Lone Star State.

That may change after an article on the website travelawaits.com named the “First Shot” town as one of three underrated Texas Christmas that should be on any traveler's bucket list along with such usual suspects as Fredericksburg and Grapevine.

Gonzales clocked in behind Georgetown and New Braunfels as writer and

self-proclaimed Texas travel expert Jill Robbins noted the proximity of the city to Austin and San Antonio as well as the history of the community as the site where the first shot of the Texas Revolution was fired, which already attracts many visitors to Gonzales.

“Although San Antonio and the historic Battle of the Alamo are what sticks in most peoples' minds when it comes to Texas independence, a dispute over a cannon is what got things started. If you're a history buff, you'll want to carve out time to check out the Gonzales Memorial Museum during your stay,”

See **TOWN**, page 16



Annual Go Texan steak night set for Jan. 14

BY BETTY COHN
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales County Area Go Texan (GCAGT) organization is proud to announce the 14th annual Steak Night Scholarship fundraising event.

This night of delicious food, and exciting events, will benefit area youth who endeavor to pursue their educational dreams and goals, within the Texas educational system. This life-changing and fun event will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023 at the JB Wells Park Expo Center, 2031 County Road 197, Gonzales.

See **STEAK**, page 6

Smiley utility rates will increase \$10 per month

City Marshal Robles announces resignation

BY CLAYTON KELLEY
For the Inquirer

The citizens of Smiley can expect to see a \$10 monthly

increase on their utility bills, beginning Jan. 20. The decision to increase utility fees comes after the Dec. 21 approval by the city of Republic Services' proposal to increase their contract wages for Smiley from \$15 to \$20 for an additional two more years.

See **SMILEY**, page 16

Unemployment rate steady at 3.1 percent in county

BY BETTY COHN
Gonzales Inquirer

Unemployment in Gonzales County remained steady at 3.1 percent in November 2022, the second to lowest rate of all

seven counties which comprise the Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area, for the third month straight,

See **JOBS**, page 16

Stationed in the 'Crow's nest' of Gonzales

Newest city manager settles into full-time position at City Hall

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

As the year draws to a close, the city of Gonzales now has a familiar face holding down the post as the chief administrative officer for the city.

Gonzales Police Chief and interim City Manager Tim Crow saw his interim label removed at the Thursday,

Dec. 15 Gonzales City Council meeting, when the council voted to hire Crow as the full-time city manager over two other finalists. He succeeds Tim Patek, who took a similar position in Wimberley in October.

Crow has been serving Gonzales for more than 25 years, including 19 years as the city's police chief, and he is excited to beginning a new chapter in the town he is proud of serving.

“I've spent the past 25 years serving here at the city and look forward to many more

See **CROW**, page 15



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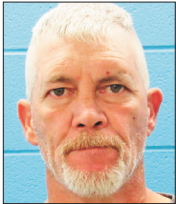
Luling man arrested on multiple charges

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A Luling man was arrested by Seguin police on Wednesday, Dec. 14, preventing what could have been a future aggravated assault.

According to the Seguin Police Department, officers responded to the 100 block of West Donegan shortly after 9 a.m. Dec. 14 for a suspicious activity call. A caller advised that a male subject was staring into the office, causing staff to be concerned.

Upon arrival, officers spoke to the caller, who was able to identify the male as Melvin Lee Hill III, 56, of Luling, and provided a photograph of Hill outside the location. At this time, Hill was not



Melvin Lee Hill III

seen on property. The caller stated Hill was involved in a family violence case that their law office was currently working.

The caller also stated Hill has an active protective order which states that Hill is prohibited from possessing or purchasing any firearm, which was confirmed by law enforcement. The caller stated that they believed Hill would possibly be driving a black Mustang.

A Seguin police officer was able to locate a black Mustang in the area of the office. The officer conducted

an investigative stop on the vehicle, where he recognized Melvin Hill as the driver. During the investigative stop, the officer conducted a probable cause search of the vehicle, which resulted of the following items found inside the vehicle:

- White crystal-like substance
- Winchester .308 bolt-action rifle
- CN RomArm AK-47 rifle
- 3 loaded magazines
- Sig Sauer 9mm handgun
- Taurus .357 Magnum revolver
- Backpack containing multiple boxes of ammunition, rope, zip-ties, gloves, tools, and other miscellaneous items

Hill was taken into custody for the narcotics and violation of a protective order. Once Hill was booked at Guadalupe

County Jail, the Seguin Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division conducted an interview with Hill. After further investigation, they found that Hill took specific actions amounting to more than mere preparation to commit the offense of aggravated assault.

Hill was charged with possession of a controlled substance $\geq 4\text{G}$ $< 200\text{G}$ (\$25,000 bond), violation of protective order bias/prejudice (\$20,000 bond), four counts of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon (\$800,000 total bond), aggravated assault with deadly weapon (\$200,000 bond).

Bond was set by the honorable Judge Heather Hines Wright.

This case remains under investigation.

Alleged car thief injures 2 lawmen in Highway 95 crash

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A pair of law enforcement officers were injured Friday morning, Dec. 16, after they reportedly crashed during a chase that began when they reportedly tried to stop the driver in connection with a stolen car alert they'd received.

A Guadalupe County Sheriff's deputy and a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper were treated for their injuries following the Dec. 16 crash, Guadalupe County's Chief Deputy Joshua Ray reported.

Officers reportedly tried to stop a car that matched the description of a stolen car alert issued earlier that day. Rather than pull over, however, the suspect driver punched the car's accelerator, and the chase was on, Ray said.

It ended minutes later in a crash along the westbound lanes of Interstate 10 near Exit 599, the

Marion turnoff located just beyond Seguin.

Both the injured deputy and state trooper have since returned to patrols with their respective agencies.

The suspect was not injured. He was, however, booked into the Guadalupe County Jail, Ray said, where records later showed that the man was also wanted on out-of-state warrants for burglary and robbery, both stemming from California criminal cases.

The man arrested was not immediately identified by the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office, as their investigation remained active when this was story was first reported.

Once officers complete their investigation into the Dec. 16 crash to see if any additional charges might be forthcoming from that incident, the man will likely be extradited to California to face whatever charges he has pending there.

Flatonia man killed in Highway 95 crash

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A 79-year-old Flatonia man died in a two-vehicle accident along Highway 95 south of Cistern on Saturday, Dec. 10, according to accident report from the Texas

Department of Public Safety.

The report said Richard Steubing, 79, of Flatonia, was a passenger in a 2005 Chevy Cavalier that reportedly crossed the center stripe at a curve in the road and collided with a 2007 Lincoln MKX driven by Linda Crump, 74, also of Flatonia.

Crump was injured in the incident and taken to St. David's Hospital in Austin, where she was listed in stable condition.

Two teens in the Cavalier were also seriously injured and rushed to Dell-Seton. They were later listed in stable condition.

Hallettsville shooting victim recovering

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Hallettsville Police Department released an update late Friday to the case it worked last week regarding the woman who reportedly got shot in the local Walmart parking lot on Monday, Dec. 19.

Last week's shooting victim was identified as Jenna Rae Allen, 25, who received a single gunshot wound to the abdomen, the young woman's parents, John C. and Kris Allen, all of Hallettsville, told police as they also confirmed both the time and location of the attack on their daughter.

Police were initially contacted by Lavaca Medical Center personnel on Monday after in response to a shooting victim under their care, HPD initially reported. Jenna told them at that time that the shooting had occurred in the parking lot next door to the local hospital.

As officers scoured the store,

parking lots and surrounding businesses for clues—all searching for what they believed could be an active shooter investigation still, the report said—Jenna Allen was rushed to University Hospital in San Antonio, where she underwent emergency surgery.

Despite a thorough search of both parking lots and the surrounding area, nothing stood out as potential active shooter situation, their release said, so they eventually opened the crime scene back open to Christmas shoppers, who were out in force last week as part of the holidays ahead.

Additional information about what led up to the shooting, or who the alleged gunman might be was still under investigation as this story was written early Monday, Dec. 26, the police department reported.

As of early Monday, no arrests were yet linked to the case.

Police Chief Randall Schlauch also thanked the many citizens who

had already forwarded along their accounts on what happened that day. He further urged residents to keep their eyes open and report anything that seems suspicious.

"The Hallettsville Police Department is requesting anyone with information about this incident to let your story be heard," he said. "HPD is following up on leads and is reaching out to the Texas Rangers for some additional assistance. We are very appreciative to those of you that have come forward with information, and we welcome any additional information anyone may have.

Although family members reported Thursday that Jenna's surgery had gone well and that they expected she should make a full recovery, Schlauch urged that everyone "please keep Jenna and her family in your thoughts and prayers."

Class of '23: Apply now for GVEC scholarships

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

GVEC gave out 20 college and trade school scholarships last year totaling \$50,000 in financial to member's families' children's education, and with 26 school districts in their service area, they'd like to do it once more in 2023.

Applications for the current round of funding must be received by a minute before midnight on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2023, to be considered. Scholarship winners will be notified in early March.

Encouraging the area's youth to work hard and follow their dreams is the purpose behind the GVEC Scholarship Program.

Scholarships are awarded each year to graduating high school

seniors who want to continue their education at college or trade school. Once scholarship recipients are selected, GVEC holds a recognition luncheon to celebrate their accomplishments along with their families and school administrators.

Scholarships are for \$2,500 and awarded in two disbursements: \$1,250 for the fall semester and \$1,250 for the spring semester at the recipient's school of choice.

GVEC sends tuition reimbursement funds for the allotted semester upon receipt of the required information requested by GVEC. Recipients are responsible for providing GVEC with valid course enrollment in addition to paid tuition information so funds can be disbursed.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Have a parent or legal guardian who is an active GVEC electric account in their name.
- Be a 2022-23 high school graduate and be able to meet all admission requirements of the college, university or trade school selected.
- Agree to attend classes as prescribed by the school's curriculum for the semester in which tuition is paid.

Children of the GVEC Board of Directors and employees are not eligible for this scholarship.

Application forms are available online at <https://www.gvec.org/community/scholarships/>.

Those attending two- or four-year colleges or universities and those attending trade schools must fill out the appropriate forms.

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21 CHEVY MALIBU LT 61K MILES, #P1788.....\$23,875
15 CHEVY SILVERADO LT 97K MILES, #23029A..\$23,495
20 JEEP COMPASS TRAILHAWK 62K MILES, #P1774.....\$23.977

Celebrations

Birthdays

December 29th

Hayleigh Burns
Jarrett DeCola
Pam Melendez
Sherry Mills
Jacob Reyes
Patrick Woodson
Mikayla Wyatt

January 1st

Rosie Brown
Willie Mae Brown
Jason Cook
Tommy Lindemann
Jimmy Mills
Sara Schmidt
Debbie Toliver

January 3rd

Amanda Frederick
Kathy Hall
Jo Ann Moses
Bonnie San Miguel
Joey Solis
Mattie Thorpe
Travis Zella

December 30th

Cullen Eppright
Pill Peterson
Carly Russell
Donna Spahn

December 31st

Lisa Gindler

January 2nd

Rodrigo Acevedo

January 4th

Wynoka Chenault

Anniversary

January 2nd
Curtis & Rachel Schramm


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Gonzales Weather



CLOUDY

December 29
75°/63°


Considerable clouds
25% chance of rain • RealFeel 75



MOSTLY CLOUDY

December 30
73°/50°


Clouds giving way to some sun
2% chance of rain • RealFeel 71



MOSTLY SUNNY

December 31
67°/48°


Mostly sunny
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 66



PARTLY SUNNY

January 1
67°/48°


Partly sunny
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 69



SHOWERS

January 2
57°/50°


Mainly cloudy with a shower
55% chance of rain • RealFeel 64



CLOUDY

January 3
64°/48°

Cloudy
25% chance of rain • RealFeel 64



MOSTLY CLOUDY

January 4
62°/44°

Mostly cloudy
25% chance of rain • RealFeel 65

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

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JB Wells to host Beef Cattle CEU program

BY DWIGHT SEXTON
Special to the Inquirer

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Gonzales County is sponsoring the Beef Cattle CEU Program to be held on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the JB Wells Expo Center in Gonzales. Five CEUs have been applied for private, commercial, and non-commercial pesticide license holders.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the program begins at 9 a.m. Melissa Barton, Texas Department of Agriculture, will discuss Pesticide Applicator Laws & Regulations.

Following will be Britany Chesser, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Aquatic Vegetation Program Specialist to address Pond Weed Identification and Management. Concluding the morning will be Lee Williamson, Texas Parks, and Wildlife Biologist to discuss Update on Feral Hog Toxicant Research and Development.

A catered meal will be served, then Bryce Macdonald, Corteva Agriscience Range and Pasture Specialist, will discuss Pasture Weed and Brush Management, followed by Noel Troxclair, Texas Department A&M AgriLife Extension Agent from Uvalde County, will discuss Pasture Insect Pests. The program should conclude at 3 p.m.

The JB Wells Expo Center is located at 2301 County Road 197, near the intersection of US 183 and Texas 97, south of Gonzales.

The cost is \$30 per person, which includes refreshments and a catered lunch. RSVP by calling the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Gonzales County at 830-672-8531 by 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9.

Individuals who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation are encouraged to contact the Extension Office by Jan. 1 to determine how accommodations can be made.



JANUARY GARDENING CALENDAR

Last year and in 2021 our coldest spells of the winter did not come until February but this year Christmas week is forecast to be seriously cold with lows forecast to be under 20 degrees for four days. Right now it is December 22 as I write the January Calendar and the sun is shining but the winds are beginning to blow in prep for the expected cold spell. The birds seem to be familiar with the forecast and are at the bird feeders racing to collect and consume as much birdseed and suet as possible. It has been an excellent early winter for observation of the birds because the drought and heat made it so that there was not much bird food beyond that offered by bird feeders. The net result was that much of the slim pickens available was concentrated at the feeders where the birds could be observed. Expect January to be the same. Water will continue to be in short supply along with seed and suet. The suet attracts the insect eaters such as the woodpeckers, wrens, mockingbirds, orange crowned warblers, wrens, and kinglets. Use suet flavored with pepper to attract the birds but repel the squirrels. Sunflower seed is the favorite seed. It can be flavored with pepper to repel rodents too but you can also feed it is a steel



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In the vegetable garden the Brussels sprouts, carrots, kale, turnips, rutabagas, cabbage, and onions should be doing fine. The broccoli, beets, lettuce, cauliflower may have been injured by the cold but they should recover enough to complete a harvest. Of course the cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, and peppers that you were unable to put in a protected spot are done for as a result of the cold.

In the flower garden most of the pansies and violas escaped

damage to their flowers from the cold but most of the other cool weather annuals such as snapdragons, stocks, dianthus, calendulas, petunias and alyssum will be facing a pause in their blooming to recover from the cold damage. The sweet peas will probably have to be reseeded. If you covered the cyclamen and primula with 2 layers of fabric and their bed was sheltered they probably fared pretty well.

Expect both the winter weeds and the lawn grass to be frozen back and browned from the cold weather, but also expect the weeds such as rescue grass and annual bluegrass, bedstraw, henbit, and chickweed to resprout very quickly. There is plenty of seed spread over the landscape. Mowing the weeds on the lawn works well to control them or use one or more of the contact herbicides. Take the time to review the label instructions to improve the product's performance.

A reminder on the trees and shrubs! The soil is very dry and if the plants are going to survive they need to receive some special watering to keep the root ball moist. Start by generously soaking newly planted shrubs and trees and then provide a watering once/week until the rains return.

Garden Q&A

Christmas cold snap shouldn't disrupt wildflower plantings

Q. I didn't realize how many seeds that Texas mountain laurels produce. I know they are poisonous and it bothers me that there are so many on the ground under our shrub border. Is it advisable that we collect all those extra seeds and dispose of them?

A. I have Texas mountain laurel in my shrub border along with lots of pets and wildlife and the seeds over the years have never been a problem. I have also conferred with other horticulturists and even a few veterinarians to confirm that the seeds are not attractive as a wildlife or pet food. Even if they are consumed the seeds' coating prevents digestion of the central toxic parts.

Q. How will the cold weather at the end of December affect our wildflower plantings? I

had some success with bluebonnets, poppies, blue curl, and larkspur and will be disappointed if the cold weather disrupts the whole planting.

A. I think you will be in pretty good shape especially with the bluebonnets. The bluebonnets usually are not affected by cold weather. If some of the larkspur, poppies, and blue curl freeze back, expect a new wave to germinate with the return of more mild weather. The winter weed competitors will also freeze back and then a new wave of rescue grass, henbit, dandelions, thistles, and bedstraw will also germinate.

Q. What is the weed that grows in the fenceline and shrub border that looks like hack berry except it has savage thorns. Can you give us any advice for controlling it?

A. I believe you are describing spiny hackberry, *Celtis pallida*. You are right, the thorns are savage. It surprises me that Paul Cox and Patti Lesli in their book describe it as a favorite browse target because of the nutritional value. When I prune them out of the fenceline or shrub border I dab some Cut Vine and Stump Killer on the pruning cut so the offending seedling does not resprout from its roots.

Q. Our cyclamen look in pretty bad shape after the cold spell. The leaves look okay but the blooms are wilted, will they recover? What should we do?

A. If you did not cover them as protection from the cold the foliage may survive but it is likely that the existing flower buds were destroyed. If so, the blooms will not recover this season. Just to be sure you can let the plants attempt to recover or replace them if new plants with visible flower buds are available at area nurseries.

CALVIN FINCH

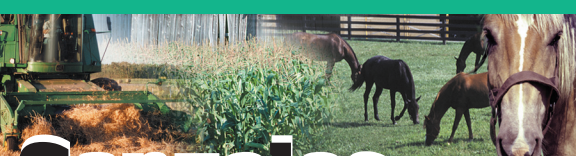
Gardening Q&A



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GONZALES CO. HISTORY

- 1885 - January 24, The Inquirer states that the trees planted on the courthouse grounds (this would be the 1857 courthouse on Central/Courthouse Square) are too small and trifling. "Perhaps they fill the contract but if so, the contract was very loosely drawn."
- 1904 - January 7, the fire house horses have been placed in their stalls at the new fire station and appear to be very much at home.
- 1912 - January 12, Notice to public health officials from State Health Officer: if any case of cerebro-spinal-meningitis appear, the patient must be isolated at once, sidewalks must be cleaned and disinfected, citizens should purchase a nose and throat disinfectant from a druggist, public conveyances must be cleaned and disinfected, public gatherings should be avoided, all schools must be closed, and citizens should not spit on the sidewalks.
- January 16, guards placed to quarantine Gonzales County, preventing spread of spinal meningitis. All roads entering the county and all depots will be guarded. Schools will not be closed because there are as yet no cases in the city. In order to place the guards, Dr. Maness has to procure tents and supplies for every guard station.
- January 16, Work is begun on the Park Square (Texas Heroes) preparatory to building the curbing that is to surround the plot that will be beautified by the Civic Club.
- January 18, two cases of meningitis are reported in Waelder. Now all entrances into the City are guarded and the schools are closed. No public gatherings should be scheduled. The Opera House has cancelled all shows. Church services and meetings are cancelled.
- January 18, Everyone who has entered the City as a visitor will be placed in a detention camp about a mile north of the City on the Luling road (formerly known as the poor house property.)
- January 18, Several cures for meningitis are printed in the Inquirer in the form of letters from supposed authorities. One was to rub turpentine on the spine, cover with flannel and then heat up the clothes-pressing irons and start applying them to the spine until it blisters.
- January 18, Hoskins Brothers Mercantile is remodeling and will install a double wide stair case to the second floor.
- January 24, two cases of meningitis are reported within seven miles of the City.
- January 30, the Inquirer suggests that Gonzales needs a hospital and the best place for it would be North Avenue because it is fully a hundred feet higher than the City and so a more healthful environment.
- 1923 - January 20, just east of the Hoskins Building, on St.George Street, (Block 34) the Gonzales Telephone Company had a reception in its new brick building, built where the Frederick Reese residence had been razed.
- 1930 - January 18, coldest weather in twenty-five years, with temperature dropping to zero.
- 1940 - Population of county, 26,075
-Population of town, 4722
-January 11, NYA has set up sixty workshops throughout Texas, since its inception in June, 1938. Unemployed youth are given work experience as well as opportunity to earn money.
-January 22, heavy snow blankets most of Texas, with Gonzales getting 4"
-January 24, the second floor of the Episcopal Rectory burns
- 1963 -January 3, Jahnke Jewelry Store has moved to 619 St. Joseph Street. Mrs. R.P. Jahnke reports that prior to this move she and her family had operated the business at 403 St. George Street for some fifty-five years. Mrs. Jahnke and her daughter, Mary, now operate the store.
- 1966 - January 6, Plaza Hotel burned to the ground
-Gonzales County Migrant Health Clinic opened, 711 St. Joseph Street (later known as Gonzales Community Health Center)



An apple a day leads to years

Dear Violet,

My wife and I are both in our seventies, in relatively good health, and active, for our age. I play golf once a week, and my wife gardens in our yard, plus she belongs to a group of other women who also take pride and effort into their gardens/yards/homes.

My wife, Judy, also takes a local dance lesson once per week, and does strength training twice per week. I can tell you that while I look all of my years, my wife looks at least twenty years younger. My wife thinks her youthful appearance is due to her efforts to take care of her health, weight, and frequent checkups with her medical provider.

This has caused an issue for us, as she believes that my increased weight, loss of energy and increasing health problems are directly related to my lack of taking care of myself and preventative care. I believe this is just natural progression and genetics. Her family genetics appear to be better than mine, period.

Now that I have, recently, been diagnosed with congestive heart failure my wife insists that I increase my visits to my health care provider, and that I lose weight. This is causing arguments, which leads to me telling my wife that her nagging me, and my increased blood pressure from our disagreements is leading to my condition being worsened. This is a circular argument that is

not getting any better as it continues.

Violet, please help me explain to my wife that all men get heavier and have more health problems as they age, this is not due to my lack of effort. I love her, but she is wrong!

Healthy but naturally elderly partner

Dear elderly,

First, I can not tell your wife that she is wrong, because I don't believe that she is, from what you, yourself, have written. First, I do believe that genetics play a big part in how youthful we do or do not look, naturally, and that it also plays a role in how our health progresses/declines, as we become more elderly.

However any medical provider will tell you that regular exercise, especially strength training and flexibility (such as with dance lessons), as well as taking in less calories as we age, lends itself to a healthier condition. This, in turn, leads, often times, to a more youthful look, relatively. In other words what you do is how you appear and feel, more times than not.

Your wife is working very consistently in an effort to have a longer life, and more years to spend with you, which is why she wants the same from you so you remain there with her, other-

See VIOLET, page 6

The Gonzales Inquirer

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DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Hither and yawn...

This is a "catch all" column of items intended for publication during 2022, but somehow didn't make the cut. They are offered now, with few breaths remaining in the old year. So, here goes:

The late Charles Uxer, longtime school superintendent and for several years director of the El Paso Educational Service Center, enjoyed visiting elementary classrooms. That's where he heard the most far-out questions. One long ago day, he visited a second-grade classroom. After introducing him as the superintendent of schools, the teacher asked her students if they had any questions. One girl, eagerly hoisting her arm, asked, "Mr. Uxer, how long do you have to be superintendent before they let you teach?"..

Uncle Mort, a favorite relative for a long time, has more jokes and stories than wife Maude has recipes. Both would require boxcars if they needed to be moved to other digs. Earlier this year, he told me about an East Texas man who had prayed for years that when his time came to go, he wanted to die in his sleep. "His wish came true just before Thanksgiving," Mort said, "But the three passengers riding with him are expected to survive"...

An account of a five-year-old boy's first "stage appearance" is making the rounds, because many of us secretly feel like "there but by the grace of God go I." Really, he barely had a speaking part in his church's Christmas pageant. All he had to utter was, "It is I, be not afraid." He was sure that he wouldn't stumble on six simple words. His palms and other body parts slick with sweat, he blurted out six words, all of which were foreign to the script. "It's me and I'm scared to death," he said....

Palmer McCown, a longtime West Texas friend, remembers the day well. He had completed brief remarks at a graveside funeral. The daughter, a lone survivor, sobbed that she had forgotten her mother's dying wish — that a musician be present to play and sing one verse of "Amazing Grace." Ever thoughtful, Palmer said sympathetically, "I have my guitar in the car, and I am happy to fulfill the request." When he finished, the woman said, "Oh, thank you. Your singing would make the angels cry." He thanked her, but on the way back to Abilene, decided the response he had felt from the daughter was no compliment at all. Her saying "smile" instead of "cry" would have made all the difference....

A friend waxes eloquently in writing jokes, stories and poems. Her pen name is Daisy Jo, and she has provided a thoughtful essay as well as a beautiful poem for this fireplace time of the year.

Here's the essay:

"The Price Is Right!" is an old TV show, one of the few that my parents let me watch faithfully. It is still fun to watch contestants jump up and down at the prospect of winning all-expenses-paid trips to exotic places, or a new car or a pocketful of money.

In this post-pandemic and pre-recessional age, going to the grocery store could be called, "The Price is Wrong". This is no game. No one is jumping up and down, and the prospect of checking out for less than a Benjamin is wishful thinking.

Many people extract magical pieces of plastic and delay payment to a future paycheck. Could that be called faith in the future?

And now, her poem, "A Prayer," is particularly encouraging at Christmas time:

Be my peace and He said, "I am."
Be my hope and He said, "I am."
Be my joy and He said, "I am."
Be my shelter and He said, "I am."
Be my companion and He said, "I am with you."
Be my strength and He said, "I am."
Be my faithful one and He said, "I am."
Be my advocate and He said, "I am."
Be my Lord and He said, "I accept you."

Dr. Newbury is a longtime university president who continues to write and to speak regularly. Contact information: Phone, 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Facebook: Don Newbury.



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Habari Gani?

A Seven Day Celebration

This year, millions of people are expected to celebrate Kwanzaa, a non-religious event honoring African-American culture and community. The holiday is celebrated for seven days, starting on December 26 and ending on January 1.

The holiday was created in 1966 by Maulana Ron Karenga, an African-American scholar. Karenga created this special holiday to honor African-American heritage in a celebration of family and community.

The word **Kwanzaa** means **first fruits** in Swahili, an East African language.

Kwanzaa centers around seven principles:

- Umoja (unity)
- Kujichagulia (self-determination)
- Ujima (collective work and responsibility)
- Ujamaa (cooperative economics)
- Nia (purpose)
- Kuumba (creativity)
- Imani (faith)

Karamu

On the last day of Kwanzaa, friends and relatives gather for a feast. People come to honor ancestors, review the past year and make plans for the new year. There is lots of good food, dancing and music.

How many differences can you find between these two pictures?

Standards Link: Social Studies: Compare the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, traditions, and social practices of varied cultures.

Symbols of Kwanzaa

Christmas symbols are the wreath, tree, holly, and more. Hanukkah symbols include the menorah, latkes and gelt. Follow each of the seven mazes below to find the meaning of the seven Kwanzaa symbols.

The seven candles

The candleholder represents the stalk of corn from which the family grows

An ear of corn for each child represents the child's potential

A straw placemat

Modest gifts to encourage creativity

A variety of fruits represent the harvest

The cup of unity

Standards Link: Physical Education: Eye-hand coordination.

GET THE SCOOP

Read today's *Kid Scoop* page and see if you can find the answer to each of these questions.

- What does Habari Gani mean?
- How many symbols are there for Kwanzaa?
- When was Kwanzaa created?
- The Kwanzaa candleholder is called a
- The tradition in Kwanzaa is to give gifts that encourage what?
- What does the word Kwanzaa mean?

Kid Scoo-doku™


Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word **CARING** in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

C		I			
A		G			
R				A	
I					
N			C		
G				N	

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Each night of Kwanzaa, a candle is lit in the kinara. There are seven candles, one for each night. The candles are called the **mishumaa**. It is said that the kinara holds the light of tomorrow.

Do the math. Color each candle that equals 14 **red**. Color each candle that equals 15 **black**, and each candle that equals 16 **green**.



Black is for Africa, the continent African-Americans came from. **Red** is for blood, not shed in vain. **Green** is for hope and knowledge.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

 **Write On!** 

Holidays at Your House

Which holidays do you celebrate during December? How do you and your family celebrate?

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EDWARDS ASSOCIATION SPREADS CHRISTMAS CHEER



The children gather around Santa Claus for the Edwards Association’s Christmas event in the Edwards High School gym Thursday, Dec. 22.



Thirteen bikes and toys were donated and distributed to children from the Gonzales area for the Edwards Association’s Christmas event.



Miracle Smith and Prince Clark receive brand new bikes from Santa Claus Thursday, Dec. 22, for the Edwards Association’s Christmas bike and toy give away.



The children sit in front of Santa Claus as he hands out toys to the good boys and girls in the Edwards High School gym.

STEAK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The JB Wells Expo Center doors will open at 4:30 p.m., with tickets required to attend this anticipated event to encourage and assist local youth. The “Steak Night” portion of this event is set to include delicious rib-eye steaks, with all the trimmings (and what is sure to be an unforgettable and mouth watering dessert).

Service is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. promptly, with a live auction to follow at 7:15 p.m. A separate silent auction will follow approximately 15 minutes after the end of the live auction.

There will be live music and dancing following both auctions, with a performance by “Can’t Hardly Play Boys” to set the beat, and the mood as the evening progresses.

This exciting event will be B.Y.O.B. with tickets available for \$50 per person. Corporate tables are still available at \$50 per person, with an eight ticket minimum for the premium tables. All 2023 corporate table purchases will be entered to win a FREE corporate table at next year’s GCACT Steak Night event (2024).

The organization reminds community that not only do these tickets benefit the youth of our area, but that they are also limited. There is an additional reminder that these event tickets are by pre-sale only, with availability from all GCACT committeemen.

For further information regarding tickets, or the event in general, call GCACT Ambassador Brett Kuntschik at 830-857-3601.

All proceeds from this GCACT Steak Night event will go towards providing scholarships to Gonzales County youth who plan to attend Texas universities and/or trade schools.

Gonzales County Area Go Texan is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo through ticket sales and show participation allowing the organization to awards scholarships to qualified students who reside in Gonzales County.

VIOLET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

wise what’s the point? If she did not love you so deeply she might just say well, when he is gone, I shall replace him, c’est la vie (that’s life).

Your wife is working very hard, and probably even turning down chocolate and wine (say it isn’t so Judy!) to ensure she is healthy in order to be there to share a life with you, whom she loves. If you want to be there with your wife, to enjoy a life not only extended in years, but filled with the best health possible, please consider listening to your wife. She appears to have your best interest at heart.

In hopes for your health,

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.



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The Gonzales Inquirer



DISCOVER Gonzales County

Visitors’ Guide

Discover Gonzales County is a full-color, glossy publication featuring county-wide dining, lodging and shopping guides; things to do and places to go within Gonzales County; and a calendar of yearly events.

Back Cover - Full Page Premium
(8.375" x 10.875") - \$800

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Full Page (7.875" x 10") - \$600

1/2 Page (7.875" x 4.916") - \$350

1/4 Page (3.868" x 4.916") - \$225

1/8 Page (3.868"x2.375") - \$150

Ad deadline: Friday, Jan. 13
Publishes: Thursday, Feb. 23

<p>HOW TO PLACE AN AD You can place ads online at www.gonzalesinquirer.com or call (830) 672-2861 and/or email ads@gonzalesinquirer.com All rates are net cash with order until credit is approved. We accept Mastercard, VISA, American Express and Discover or payment can be made in person with cash or check. 622 St. Paul or PO Box 616, Gonzales, TX 78629 (830)672-2861 • (800)210-5909 • Fax (830)217-8924 www.gonzalesinquirer.com</p>	<p>CLASSIFIED WORD AD RATES \$10 PER RUN UP TO 20 WORDS Pre-paid, private party ads. 40¢ for each additional word. 4 runs for \$30 DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR CONSECUTIVE RUNS \$15.00 Garage Sale Packages</p>	<p>CLASSIFIED DEADLINES The deadline to place an ad in the paper is Tuesday by Noon. ERRORS The Gonzales Inquirer is responsible for the first incorrect insertion of an ad only. Call (830) 672-2861 to notify of a needed correction. CALL TODAY 830-672-2861</p>
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**850
HELP WANTED**

TEXAN NURSING AND Rehab of Gonzales is now hiring for the following position: Full Time: C.N.A., all shifts; LVN, all shifts, full-time, with a \$1000 Sign On and Referral Bonus. Individual should be multi-task oriented, self-motivated, and must enjoy working around the elderly. Please apply in person: Texan Nursing and Rehab of Gonzales, 3428 Moulton Rd., Gonzales, Texas 78629. EOE

GENERAL FARM LABOR. Benefits include: Vacation, Sick leave, Hosp. Ins., Dental, Vision, 401K, ESOP. Apply in person: Cal-Maine Foods Inc., 1680 CR 431, Waelder, TX 78959. Monday-Friday 7-4.

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The logo features a stylized mushroom with a thick stem and a rounded cap, set against a semi-circular background with radiating lines. Below this graphic is a dark rectangular banner with the words "KITCHEN PRIDE" in a serif font and "MUSHROOM FARMS" in a smaller sans-serif font below it.

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The logo for Victoria College is located in the top left corner. It features a large, stylized 'VC' monogram in a dark blue color. To the right of the monogram, the words 'VICTORIA' and 'COLLEGE' are stacked vertically in a bold, serif font. Below the college name, the text 'Est. 1925' is written in a smaller, italicized serif font. A horizontal line separates the college name from the establishment year.



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<h2 style="text-align: center;">Notice of Application for Oil & Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit</h2> <p>DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION CO., LP, 333 W SHERIDAN AVE., OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject natural gas into the EAGLE FORD formation, utilizing existing horizontal wells, ZGABAY A Lease, Well Nos. 1H, 8H, 9H, 11H, 12H, and 13H. The existing wells are located 6.85 miles NORTHEAST of WESTHOFF, in the EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-2) FIELD, in DEWITT AND GONZALES COUNTIES, TEXAS. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 11,741 to 12,144 feet, True Vertical Depth (TVD).</p> <p>LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to Technical Permitting, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).</p>		

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Notice of Application for Oil & Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION CO., LP, 333 W SHERIDAN AVE., OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject natural gas into the EAGLE FORD formation, utilizing existing horizontal wells, ZGABAY A Lease, Well Nos. 1H, 8H, 9H, 11H, 12H, and 13H. The existing wells are located 6.85 miles NORTHEAST of WESTHOFF, in the EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-2) FIELD, in DEWITT AND GONZALES COUNTIES, TEXAS. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 11,741 to 12,144 feet, True Vertical Depth (TVD).

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to Technical Permitting, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. will conduct a prescribed burn between January 23rd, 2023 and April 24th, 2023 on the Neasloney WMA. For additional information, Call 830-203-0896 or go to: http://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/wildland_fire_management/

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO DISCUSS WAELDER ISD's
Texas Academic Performance
Reports (TAPR)

Waelder ISD will hold a PUBLIC HEARING - T.A.P.R. Report - at 6:00 p.m. on January 16, 2023, in the Cafeteria, 109 N. Ave. C., Waelder, TX.

Notice of Application for Oil & Gas
Waste Disposal Well Permit

DEVON ENERGY PRODUCTION CO., LP, 333 W SHERIDAN AVE., OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject natural gas into the EAGLE FORD formation, utilizing existing horizontal wells, ZGABAY A Lease, Well Nos. 2H, 3H, 4H, 5H, and 6H. The existing wells are located 6.85 miles NORTHEAST of WESTHOFF, in the EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-2) FIELD, in DEWITT AND GONZALES COUNTIES, TEXAS. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 11,605 to 12,162 feet, True Vertical Depth (TVD).

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to Technical Permitting, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Gonzales

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: “You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you.”

To: HEIRS AT LAW OF MILTON RAY LACKEY, DECEASED

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the 2nd 25th Judicial District Court of Gonzales County, Texas in the Courthouse in the City of Gonzales, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday, the 30th day of January, 2023 being the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after this citation is issued,, and you are hereby required then and there to appear and file written answer to the Petition, filed in said Court on August 5, 2022, in suit numbered 28,325 on the docket of said court, wherein The Veterans Land Board of the State of Texas, Plaintiff, v. Milton Ray Lackey and the Heirs at Law of Milton Ray Lackey, Deceased, Defendants.

The Petition seeks an order to foreclose the lien on the property and assert a claim to the property located at 1434 Saint Andrew Street, Gonzales, TX 78629 and legally described as: Being All That Certain Tract Of 0.228 Acres of Land, More Or Less, Lying And Being All Situated In Gonzales County, Texas, Being Part Of Lot No. 7, Tier No. 2, East Of Water Street, In The Original Outer Town Of Gonzales, And More Particularly Being Part Of That Certain Tract Described In Warranty Deed Dated November 6, 1961. Executed By Elizabeth L. Lewis Et. Al. To Arnold Jones Recorded In Volume 327, Page 414, Of The Gonzales County Deed Records, And The Particular Portion There Of Hereby Intended To Be Conveyed Is Described By Metes And Bounds As Follows To Wit:

Beginning At A 5/8 Inch Iron Rod Found At The Northeast Corner Of That Certain Tract Described To Warranty Deed Dated June 11, 1990, Executed By Vivian Jones Hunt to A.B. Allen, Jr., Recorded In Volume 654, Page 343, Of The Official Records Of Gonzales County, Texas, And In The South Line Of The Abandoned Southern Pacific Railroad Tract, And In The North Line Of Said Jones Tract For The Northwest Corner Of This Tract Or Parcel Of Land Hereby Intended To Be Described:
Thence North 88° 39’ 24” East 95.67 Feet With The South Line of Said Abandoned Southern Pacific Tract, And The North Line Of Said Jones Tract To A 5/8 Inch Iron Rod Found In The South Line Of Said Abandoned Southern Pacific Railroad Tract, And In The West Line Of Clark Street, And At The Northeast Corner Of Said Jones Tract For The Northeast Corner Of This Tract Or Parcel Of Land Hereby Intended To Be Described:

Thence South 20° 00’ 00” East 91.73 Feet With The Cast Line Of Said Jones Tract, And The West Line Of Said Clark Street To A 6/8 Inch Iron Rod Found In Said Lines, And At The Northeast Corner Of That Certain Tract Described In Warranty Deed Dated January 3, 2002. Executed By Arnold Guerra Et Us., To Sergio Leon Et. Al, Recorded In Volume 860, Page 519, Of The Official Records Of Gonzales County. For The Southeast Corner Of This Tract Or Parcel Of Land Hereby Intended To Be Described:


Thence South 71° 45’ 36” West 96.42 Feet And Entering Said Jones Tract With The North Line Of Said Leon Tract To A 5/8 Inch Iron Rod Found At The Northwest Corner Of Said Leon Tract, And In The Cast Line Of Said Allen Tract For The Southwest Corner Of This Tract Or Parcel Of Land Hereby Intended To Be Described:


Thence North 17° 15’ 00” West 119.51 Feet With The East Line Of Said Allen Tract To The Place Of Beginning, Containing Within Said Bounds 0.228 Of An Acre Of Land, More Or Less.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Gonzales, Texas this 16th day of December, 2022:

Issued at the request of: Gina R. Boul
Address: 13105 Northwest Freeway, Suite 960, Houston, TX 77040

Janice Sutton, District Clerk
Gonzales County, Texas
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DISTRICT 01
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 19, 2022
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 9, 2023
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. 0337971
Status/Permit No. 885774

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TIDAL PETROLEUM, INC., [RRC Operator No. 859240] 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 distance requirement because the Applicant is less than the required Rule 37 lease line distance to an unleased or non-pooled interest within the subject unit.

Applicant also seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement because the location is less than the required Rule 37 distance to an external lease line for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec., Bk., HUMPHREY, J Survey, A-266, EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-2) and EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-1) Fields, GONZALES County, being 7.2 miles SE direction from SMILEY, 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 **Jan 9, 2023 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-2)

Lease/Unit Name : RED CREST 4H
Lease/Unit Well No. : 4H
Lease/Unit Acres : 811.71
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : null
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 200.0

Lease Lines : 249.0 F NW L, 784.0 F NE L
Survey Lines : 750.0 F NE L, 6965.0 F NW L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral : TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 36.0 F NW L, 888.0 F NE L

Terminus Location
Lease Lines: 652.0 F SE L, 771.0 F NE L
Survey Lines: 771.0 F NE L, 1534.0 F SE L

FIELD: EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-1)

Lease/Unit Name : RED CREST 4H
Lease/Unit Well No. : 4H
Lease/Unit Acres : 811.71
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : null
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 200.0

Lease Lines : 249.0 F NW L, 784.0 F NE L
Survey Lines : 750.0 F NE L, 6965.0 F NW L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral : TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 36.0 F NW L, 888.0 F NE L

Terminus Location
Lease Lines: 652.0 F SE L, 771.0 F NE L
Survey Lines: 771.0 F NE L, 1534.0 F SE L

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

EAGLEVILLE (EAGLE FORD-2) :

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

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 12000 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Weldon Waters, at (512)478-3456.

December 22 Puzzle Answers

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

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Shiner Chamber names new leadership

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The board of directors of the Shiner Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously last week to name longtime board member and regular event emcee Egon Barthels as its new president beginning in 2023.

A Shiner city councilman and Lavaca County's emergency management coordinator, Barthels has many years of experience with the Shiner Chamber, serving on its board of directors and as a regular volunteer and committee member. He was elected Thursday, Dec. 15, to a three-term as president.

He replaces Allison Mozisek-Motal who served 10 years as a Chamber board director the last two as its president. She announced she'd be stepping down from her Chamber roles following the 2022 Half Moon Holidays so that she could spend more time with her family.

Although no longer holding a directorship, Motal remains a Chamber

business member with her Allison Mozisek Insurance Agency.

Also stepping back from board service this year is Chamber vice president David Patek, who has held almost every role possible during his long tenure on the Chamber's board of directors. He, too, relinquishes his board directorship but remains a business member with his Ace Service & Supply.

Fellow board members expressed their sincere gratitude to both Motal and Patek for their many years of dedicated service.

Stepping up as the new Chamber vice president will be Christine Siegel, who has served on the board of directors since 2019, including terms as treasurer and committee chair of the Business Expo. Beyond her Chamber roles, she is also vice president at Peoples State Bank.

Other changes to the Chamber board of directors for 2023 include:

- Kate Bowman with Pesek Properties was named 2023 board treasurer.



Egon Barthels



Kate Bowman



Hali Kaspar



Allison Mozisek-Motal



David Patek



Christine Presley



Michelle Price



Christine Siegel

- Hali Kaspar was named 2023 board secretary.

- Michelle Price with Smile Time Photography and our very own Lavaca

County newspapers was named as a 2023 board director.

- Christine Presley with GVEC was named as a 2023 board director.

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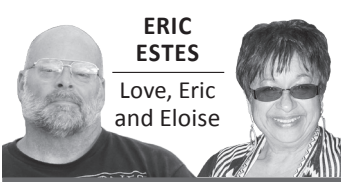
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There's No Time Like The Present

Hey there y'all. I hope your Christmas was merry, and that your New Years celebration will be happy and safe. I guess it's time once again, for those seemingly impossible to accomplish New Year's resolutions. While I was able to accomplish most of the things I shot for this past year, I completely missed the target on others. I think that most of us fall into this category somewhere. I love this quote from Sarah Ban Breathnach "Success in life is not how well we execute Plan A, it's how smoothly we cope with Plan B." ... ain't that the truth. You've also probably heard that life's a marathon, not a sprint. I apparently didn't get the memo until late in the game, spending too much of mine trying to sprint a marathon, resulting in leaving me somewhat tired and wobbly in my new found residence in senior citizenville. Pickleball, or nap? Shuffleboard, or simply shuffling? Oatmeal, or Jello? Yep, variety surely is the spice of life!

Navigating our way through this life successfully, handling the necessities while making time to enjoy the pleasantries, and still trying to schedule in room for rest and recuperation is more than a full time job. Couple in the fact that most of us are probably under nourished and sleep deprived, trying to run through life like we're powered by rocket fuel, it's no wonder we occasionally burn out upon reentry, striving for a



ERIC ESTES

Love, Eric and Eloise

somewhat balanced lifestyle here on earth. That's why it's so important to, as they say, pick your battles carefully. Most of us tend to believe we can spread ourselves too thin, and still come out on top somehow. Even though "all things are possible through Christ who strengthens us," doesn't mean success upon demand. Being as life is a journey that will require many small, and some large course corrections along the way, it's important to be alert, and as The Doors sang: keep your eyes on the road, and your hands upon the wheel. You don't want to end up like Chevy Chase (Clark Griswold) in National Lampoon's Vacation movie (1983) where, while en route to Walley World theme park, Clark spies Christie Brinkley driving a red Ferrari and runs off the road, almost killing the whole family. It's all too easy for small distractions to derail big plans!

When making "resolutions" or decisions in the past that didn't quite work out the way I'd hoped, I had to remind myself of Ecclesiastes 3:1 often, "There is a time for everything,

and a season for every activity under the sun." Sometimes we try to force changes through circumstances that are out of our control. That doesn't mean that they are unattainable, it may just be that there are other priorities that need our attention, and our timing may be slightly off. Sometimes, we may just be biting off more than we can chew at any given time. And maybe, even though our intentions are honorable, we may not presently possess the discipline or commitment level we need to carry them out. It's also extremely important to realize that just because something hasn't worked out in the past, doesn't mean it can't or won't work out this time around. The important thing is that we keep on trying, as success is generally born of failure. Relaxing and remembering that any worthwhile change is a process and doesn't happen overnight will help keep us focused on the task at hand. Small efforts over a period of time can add up to even more than we realize. So, as the saying goes, there's no time like the present to get started on changing yourself, or your circumstances for the better. Just start slowly, allowing momentum to build, and before you know it, you'll be on your way!

Until next time, have a very Happy New Year. Love you guys, Eric.

First Presbyterian Church of Cuero Host Tri-Church Worship Service

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

First Presbyterian Church of Cuero's Chapel Without Walls will be the host location for the quarterly "Tri-Church Worship Service" at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 22, weather permitting.

The Tri-Church worship service is a partnership of three churches, including Grace Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church of Cuero and First United Methodist Church.

"We invite you to join us as our three churches gather outside on Sunday, Jan. 22 for our community worship service," said First Presbyterian Church of Cuero's Pastor, Rev. Stanley Larson. "All are welcome to attend and join us in worship and prayer," said Rev. Larson.

He explained that the three churches have partnered together to provide this unique outdoor worship experience since the Church Without Walls, located at 302 N. McLeod in downtown Cuero, was constructed.

"Together, our three downtown church families, as well as newcomers, are invited to experience God's love and fellowship outside in a peaceful setting. It's special to worship outside, listening to the birds and nature, while praising God," said Rev. Larson. Rev. Larson said attendees are encouraged to dress in warm clothing and enjoy this relaxed setting.

Tri-Worship services are held each quarter at The Chapel Without Walls, located at 302 N. McLeod in Cuero. For more information on upcoming events, visit First Presbyterian Church of Cuero on their Facebook Page to stay connected or their website: <https://cueroipc.org/>

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Gonzales senior guard Angel Martinez (4) drives the ball in front of an Aussies player in the second game of the Schulenburg Tournament.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Apaches finish tourney season at Schulenburg

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches got back to work in their final tournament of the season in Schulenburg on Tuesday, Dec. 27 and Wednesday, Dec. 28.

The Apaches dropped the first game against the Schulenburg Shorthorns, 60-34, after leading, 26-13, at the half.

Apaches head basketball coach Matthew Hart tipped his hat to Schulenburg for making a comeback and said their head coach, who has been there for a long time, did a great job making adjustments against Gonzales.

“We couldn’t figure things out. In the third quarter, we came out a little flat, and we knew that they’re going to come out and make their run, just like everybody makes a run. But again, we’re just trying to weather the storm,” Hart said.

The Apaches once again were short-handed on their bench with a couple of players out, and Hart said his players understand that they still can win these games

“ We played some pretty good teams, and I think it’s going to help us, because they’re getting experience playing against teams that know what they’re doing. And that’s what we want to get towards.”

—Matthew Hart, Apaches head coach

without the missing players. “We’re in these games. We should win these games and we’ve got to be able to finish these games,” Hart said. The Apaches also would fall to Aussies, 81-36, but Hart knows facing these tough teams will get them prepared for the district opener against La Vernia. “We played some pretty good teams, and I think it’s going to help us, because they’re getting experience playing against teams that know what they’re doing. And that’s what we want to get towards,” Hart said. On Wednesday, Dec. 28, the Apaches defeated Burton, 54-39, and then played Snook at 12:45 p.m. Results from the Snook

game were not available at press time. Gonzales will host the La Vernia Bears for the district opener and Hart will begin preparations for that match on Thursday, the day after the tournament ends. Hart said he hopes the teams they’ve faced in non-district gives his team an idea that they can compete with other good teams. “We’re definitely going to be prepared, because I’m going to make sure we are prepared. And we’re going to be ready to go. We’re going to hopefully shock some people in the district,” Hart added. The Apaches tip off district play against La Vernia this Friday, Dec. 30 at 1:30 p.m.



Above: Senior Luke Avant (35) shoots a jumper near Schulenburg’s basket in the first game of the tournament. Left: Senior guard Chrisean White (5) puts up a shot for the Gonzales Apaches against Schulenburg.



Left: Apaches junior forward Ryder McGehee (13) steals the ball from one of the Aussies players in the Schulenburg Tournament Tuesday, Dec. 27. Above: Apaches senior guard Chrisean White (5) dribbles the ball down the court against a Sharks player for the second game of the Schulenburg Tournament.

Lady Apaches fall to YWLA in district opener

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches returned to action in San Antonio as they faced YWLA in their district opener Wednesday, Dec. 21. The first district game of the season

ended with The Lady Apaches falling to YWLA, 63-31. Sophomore Bella Aguerro led the Lady Apaches with nine points with senior Maddy York finishing second with eight points and leading with eight rebounds. Senior Carlee Ramos

led the team with three steals and sophomore Kilee Schwausch and Ramos led the team with three assists. Gonzales will host San Antonio Fox Tech Thursday, Dec. 29 for its second district game, with tip off set for 11:30 a.m.

--VS YWLA STATS--

- Bella Aguerro: 9 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 deflection and 2 steals
- Sydney McCray: 2 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 deflections and 1 steal
- Haley Cantu: 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 deflection and 1 steal
- Kilee Schwausch: 2 points 6 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals
- Maddy York: 8 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, and 3 deflections
- Abbie Villanueva: 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, and 2 deflections
- Isabella Ikard: 2 points and 1 steal
- Carlee Ramos: 5 rebounds, 3 assists, and 3 steals
- Haley Bairrington: 4 points and 2 rebounds.

VARSITY SOCCER

APACHES

Date	Time	Opponent	Location	Special Notes
Dec 9	7:00 PM	@ La Grange	La Grange High School	
Dec 16	7:00 PM	vs Alumni		
Jan 3	4:00 PM	vs Victoria West		
Jan 5	9:00 AM	@ La Grange	La Grange High School	La Grange Tournament
Jan 5	3:00 PM	@ Sealy	La Grange High School	La Grange Tournament
Jan 6	11:00 AM	@ Manor New Tech	La Grange High School	La Grange Tournament
Jan 6	3:00 PM	@ CC London	La Grange High School	La Grange Tournament
Jan 7	1:00 PM	@ Bandera	La Grange High School	La Grange Tournament
Jan 10	6:00 PM	@ Smithville	Smithville High School	
Jan 13	11:00 AM	@ Calhoun	Pleasanton High School	Pleasanton Tournament
Jan 13	7:00 PM	@ Floresville	Pleasanton High School	Pleasanton Tournament
Jan 14	TBA	@ TBA	Pleasanton High School	Pleasanton Tournament
Jan 17	7:00 PM	@ Lockhart	Lockhart Lions Stadium	
Jan 19	TBA	@ Canyon Lake	Canyon Lake High School	Canyon Lake Tournament
Jan 20	TBA	@ TBA	Canyon Lake High School	Canyon Lake Tournament
Jan 21	TBA	@ TBA	Canyon Lake High School	Canyon Lake Tournament
Jan 27	7:00 PM	vs Pleasanton		
Feb 3	7:00 PM	@ SA Kennedy		
Feb 7	7:00 PM	@ Yoakum	Yoakum High School	
Feb 10	7:00 PM	vs SA Fox Tech		
Feb 14	7:00 PM	vs La Vernia		
Feb 21	7:00 PM	@ SA Memorial		

VARSITY SOCCER

LADY APACHES

Date	Time	Opponent	Location	Special Notes
Dec 13	6:30 PM	@ Somerset		
Jan 3	11:00 AM	vs Victoria East		Apache Field
Jan 5	12:00 PM	@ East Central		SCUC Shootout Tournament
Jan 6	12:00 PM	@ Pieper		SCUC Shootout Tournament
Jan 7	12:00 PM	@ Gregory Portland		SCUC Shootout Tournament
Jan 12	1:00 PM	@ Pleasanton		Wimberly Lady Texan Showcase
Jan 13	11:00 AM	@ Lehman		Wimberly Lady Texan Showcase
Jan 14	11:00 AM	@ Godley		Wimberly Lady Texan Showcase
Jan 27	7:00 PM	@ Clemens		SCUCISD Scrimmage Lenhoff Stadium
Feb 3	5:00 PM	vs Kennedy		5pm-Varsity. 7pmJV
Feb 7	5:00 PM	@ Yoakum		Varsity Only
Feb 10	5:00 PM	vs Fox Tech		Varsity Only
Feb 14	5:00 PM	vs La Vernia		Varsity Only
Feb 17	7:00 PM	vs SAYWL		7pmVarsity and 5pmJV
Feb 21	5:00 PM	@ Memorial		Veterans Stadium
Feb 27	5:00 PM	@ Kennedy		5pmVarsity and 7pmJV
Mar 3	5:00 PM	vs Yoakum		Varsity Only
Mar 6	5:30 PM	@ Fox Tech		Alamo Stadium/Varsity Only
Mar 10	5:00 PM	@ La Vernia		Varsity Only
Mar 13	10:45 AM	@ SAYWL		Alamo Stadium
Mar 15	2:00 PM	vs Memorial		2pmVarsity and 12JV

17 Mustangs

named to All-District teams

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs achieved quite a lot this season, from finishing second in district (behind state-finalist Poth), clinching a bi-district title, and finishing as area finalist. In line with these accomplishments, the Mustangs are pleased to reveal their All-District team for District 15-3A, Division II, as follows:

NIXON-SMILEY ALL-DISTRICT PLAYERS

- Senior Bradyn Martinez (first team running back and defensive back)
- Senior George Rodriguez (first team running back and linebacker)
- Senior Holden Canion (first team tight end, second team defensive end, and second team All-State Academic)
- Senior Sebastian Ortiz (first team linebacker and first team All-State Academic)
- Senior Fernando Mejia (first team offensive line and honorable mention All-State Academic)
- Senior Kevin Zavala (second team offensive line and defensive line)
- Senior Orlando Flores (second team defensive back)
- Senior Jose Flores (honorable mention All-State Academic)

- Junior Jesus Espino (first team offensive line and defensive line)
- Junior Kade Dixon (first team defensive back and honorable mention all-district tight end)
- Junior Luke Moses (first team quarterback)
- Junior Carl White (second team defensive)
- Junior Dakota O'Neal (second team offensive line)
- Sophomore John Garza (first team linebacker)
- Sophomore Timothy McGlothline (second team linebacker)
- Sophomore Ryan Paez (second team offensive line)
- Freshman Julian Amaya (second team running back)

ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT

- Bradyn Martinez
Holden Canion
Sebastian Ortiz
Fernando Mejia
Kevin Zavala
Orlando Flores
Jose Perez
Jesus Espino
Kade Dixon
Luke Moses
Carl White
Derek Maldonado
Gracen Martin
Omar Morales
Miguel Valero
John Garza
Tristen Mikesh



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2023

Happy New Year!

Our thanks and best wishes to all of you!

The Gonzales Inquirer
OUR 165TH YEAR SERVING GONZALES COUNTY

We will be closed Monday, January 2

OBITUARIES

TRINCIA MAE BEENE

Trincia Mae Beene, 52, of Gonzales, passed away Monday, December 19, 2022. Trincia was born July 12, 1970 in Gonzales to Roger Dale Beene, Sr, and Maxine Yates Beene. Trincia attended school in Gonzales and graduated from bartending school in Houston. She loved to work with her hands creating or repairing pieces of furniture and she was quite talented in this regard.

Trincia loved to dance, fish for catfish, play at the beach and lake, and work in gardens and lawn. She had a huge loving heart, and she adored her boys and her grandchildren. She loved them unconditionally and did her best



to show them the good in the world. With her passing, the world will miss her infectious laugh and beautiful smile.

Trincia is survived by her loving sons, Clegg Tolbert Beene “Brittany Baker”, Coy Edward Hill, and Mikahl Avery Medeiros all of Gonzales,

grandchildren, River Kai Beene and Ashton Joyce Beene, brothers, Roger Beene, Jr., and Judge Roy Beene, and Michael Smith. She was preceded in death by her parents, and sister, Tyre Yates.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 pm Thursday, December 22, 2022 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to assist the family in paying for her funeral services or contribute to the American Cancer Society. 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.

WAYNE ARNOLD SIEPMANN

Wayne Arnold Siepmann, 77, of Cost, Texas, passed away Saturday, December 24, 2022. Wayne was born July 25, 1945 in Gonzales to Theodore and Elsie Haug Siepmann. He married Carol Ann Ludwig on May 20, 1967 in Sinton, Texas. Wayne was a lifetime member of Monthalia Methodist Church where he had held many leadership positions. He was also an active member of Portland United Methodist Church for many years. He was an award-winning member of the Gonzales Young Farmers, and the Gonzales Farm Bureau where he has served as a board member. Wayne had honorably served in the Army National Guard from 1966 to 1972. He was very proud of his Texas heritage and love for his country.

Wayne grew up on the family ranch near Cost. He loved hunting, fishing, working cattle, tending to improvements of the land, and driving around the ranch, taking in the beauty of God’s creation and his hard work. He loved to build a warm fire at home or at the camp



house and enjoy meals with friends and family.

Wayne was a patient, honest, loyal, faithful, and humble man. He was frugal and very handy in repairing most anything. He worked as an instrument mechanic for Reynolds Metals and then ALCOA for many, many, years and was extremely resourceful in finding ways to mend broken mechanisms. Though he was a man of many talents and gifts, Wayne put most of his energy into family. He adored his wife, children, grandchildren, and his dogs. He was completely devoted to them and cherished each and every memory they had created as a family unit through the years.

Wayne is survived by

his daughters and their spouses, Kimberly Marie Siepmann Fall (Kevin) of Buda, Tara Ann Siepmann Herren (Douglas) of Cibolo, sister, Elizabeth Fink of Cost, and 5 grandchildren, Dylan Fall (Aubrey), Blake Fall, Lauren Herren Renteria (Cameron), Riley Fall, and Kendra Herren. He is preceded in death by his wife and parents.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 pm Thursday, December 29, 2022 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 pm Friday, December 30, 2022 in the Monthalia Methodist Church with Pastor Paul Smith officiating. Interment will follow in the Monthalia Methodist Cemetery. Pallbearers: Dylan Fall, Blake Fall, Riley Fall, Kevin Fall, Doug Herren, Tel Lindemann, George Fink, and Ronnie Menking. Honorary pallbearers: Lauren Renteria, Kendra Herren, Bill Carson, and Billy Schieberle. Friends may leave their condolences to the family visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

A grateful nephew remembers. A World War II veteran was laid to rest at Guadalupe Cemetery in Hochheim, Texas on October 19, 2021 at the age of 98. Joe Rivera was a member of “the greatest generation” in American history. Having survived the Great Depression, World War II and the Polio epidemic, he was the Fourth of 4 brothers who answered the call after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. He was 19 years old when he entered service in the United States Navy. His other three brothers, Audelio, Patricio and Luis Rivera were already serving in the United States Army in Europe and the Pacific Theater. All of them were South Texas farm boys living a normal farm and ranching life with their family. By God’s grace, and to my grandmother’s answered prayers, all of them returned home honorably without injury. When they returned home from their tour of war, each was happy they survived the horrific conflict. Joe Rivera, “Uncle Joe,” was no different than his brothers who went before him. While I am sure that Uncle Joe had many stories to tell of his experience in the war, he carried his battle scars with him his entire life, never wanting to discuss his experience in the war. Joe Rivera served on the USS President Polk in the Pacific Theater of Operations. The USS President Polk was a transport ship for U.S. Marines and cargo and also as a standby emergency hospital ship. Joe Rivera manned his position on that ship and did his duty from the time it left port in California through the end of the war with the Japanese surrender.

Uncle Joe’s first taste of battle would come on November 20, 1943 at the start of the battle for Tarawa, Gilbert Islands. The USS President Polk was to transport approximately 1000 U.S. Marines, from the 2nd Marine Division with supplies and ammunition. As the U.S. war ships entered the Tarawa Lagoon, “General Quarters” (Battle Stations) was announced over the PA system. Everyone prepared to do their respective duty. In the predawn hours, the USS President Polk appeared along with 17 transport vessels which would deliver 18,000 Marines and 5 escort carriers, 3 battleships, 4 cruisers, 22 destroyers and 2 mine-sweepers. The Japanese opened fire with their 8 inch guns on the American ships and at 0610 the main 16 inch batteries of the USS Battleship Colorado and USS Maryland returned fire along with the destroyers and cruisers silencing

JOE RIVERA



the Japanese artillery. Once the bombardment of Tarawa ended, U.S. Marines began climbing down cargo nets from the USS President Polk and other transport vessels onto the Higgins boats which would ferry them and their weapons onto the assault beaches. The U.S. Marines encountered problems almost immediately. As Higgins boats began to stall in the shallow water the U.S. Marines had to jump overboard and wade to shore some 200 to 300 yards, all the while being shot at by the Japanese Infantrymen on the island. As casualties mounted, the Higgins boats began to ferry the injured back to the USS Polk, which stood by and waited during the battle as a casualty receiving ship. Uncle Joe and every available sailor on the USS Polk had to become stretcher bearers and get the injured and dying U.S. Marines below deck for the Doctors and corpsmen and then run back up top and receive more injured U.S. Marines for hours. His first sight of the dead and dying young U.S. Marines, some agonizing in pain no older than he was, must have been a shocking and sobering sight to Uncle Joe. He did not flinch from his duties, ferrying the injured U.S. Marines to the medical personnel who were becoming overwhelmed by the large amount of casualties coming onto the ship. When the battle ended, 1,009 U.S. Marines were killed and 2,101 wounded. There would be more battles to fight and the USS President Polk got underway on January 22, 1944 to carry U.S. Marines and cargo to the Battle of Kwajalein. There, the U.S. 7th Infantry Division lost 144 men, 845 wounded and 190 U.S. Marines lost their lives with 617 wounded, many of which ended up in the USS President Polk which carried the wounded from the battle to San Francisco where Uncle Joe assumed his duties thereon. Next in late July, 1944, carrying troops and cargo to New Caledonia then to Guam where there were over 6 000 wounded and 1,783 U.S. servicemen killed. The USS President Polk took on the large number of dying and wounded U.S. Marines sailing East at best possible speed to Pearl Harbor then

to California with wounded servicemen. On August 11, 1944, the USS President Polk received Orders to sail to New Guinea with U.S. servicemen and cargo. She then took on U.S. Marines and carried them to the Battle of Leyte and the invasion of Luzon arriving at the Lingayen assault beaches on January 11, 1945. Again, witnessing the bombardment of the beaches for the U.S. troops to assault then receiving wounded and dying U.S. Marines as a standby Hospital ship. There was no rest for Uncle Joe and the sailors aboard the USS President Polk, receiving orders to sail to Iwo Jima to pick up hundreds of wounded U.S. Marines and take them to Hawaii. The USS President Polk then received Orders to ferry U.S. Marines and cargo to Okinawa on July 24, 1945. By this time, Uncle Joe had spent almost all of his time picking up and dropping off fresh U.S. Marines and taking on the dying and wounded which had just disembarked on cargo nets only hours earlier. I can’t imagine what was going on in Uncle Joe’s mind as he made friends with the fresh recruits before and after the Battles. Some alive and wounded, others dying on the stretchers. It must have been heart-breaking to say the least and to have endured time and again while doing his duty. Uncle Joe spent many days performing his duties, spending much of his time with the wounded and dying men on his ship during his tenure aboard the USS President Polk. The USS President Polk was awarded 6 battle stars for her service in World War II. I did not meet Uncle Joe for many years after the war, as I was not born until 1961. I will always remember his incredible smile and infectious laughter which could light up a room. Uncle Joe loved life and appreciated every day he had on this Earth. He never showed his emotional wounds. I like to think that the world was a better place because of Joe Rivera and his three brothers who answered the call. Uncle Joe returned from the war and married my Aunt Sylvia Rivera, together they raised 6 wonderful children in Yoakum, Texas. Uncle Joe will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. I have a special place in my heart for my Uncle Joe. God bless him. He embodied all that was good and decent in a man and we all learned by his example. May he Rest in Eternal Peace. We must never forget all those who fought in that horrible conflict, many paid the ultimate price for their duty and many came home wounded and emotionally scarred for life.

VC FOUNDATION PRESENTS GRANT FUNDS



The Victoria College Foundation recently awarded nearly \$15,000 in grant funding to five Victoria College departments. VC’s Workforce & Continuing Education Department and the VC Gonzales Center received a \$537 grant to purchase an iPad for onsite NCCER Core Skills testing at the Intermediate Sanction Facility in Gonzales. Pictured from left are Melissa Robinson, VC Gonzales Center Assistant Manager, and Dwayne Maly, VC’s Director of Industrial Programs. The VC Foundation has awarded more than \$340,000 in funding to VC employees since 1998.

CONTRIBUTED

Gonzales Healthcare Systems
DECEMBER 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1 Dr Ryan	2 Dr Echols
5 Austin MFM	6 Dr Echols	7 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Sharp Dr Miller	8 Dr Ryan	9 Dr Echols Dr White Amy Trost
12 Austin MFM Dr Desai Dr Malik	13 Dr Echols Dr Quintero	14 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Twitero	15 Dr Ryan Dr Malik	16 Dr Echols Dr Bui
19 Austin MFM	20 Dr Echols	21 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Miller	22 Dr Ryan Dr Kirchner	23 Dr Echols
26 Closed Christmas Day	27 Dr Echols	28 Dr Quebedeaux	29 Dr Ryan	30 Dr Echols

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Outpatient Clinic

Audiology
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Dermatology
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*Dr Desai
(713) 864-2659*

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George Osuchukwu, MD
(361)576-0011
Yong Du, MD
(361)576-0011

Obstetrics
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Pain Management
Eric Miller, M.D.
(830) 272-7746

Urology
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Ophthalmology
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Moulton ISD ups hourly rate for campus cop

BY BOBBY HORECKA
Special to the Inquirer

Moulton ISD trustees voted Wednesday, Dec. 14, to increase the hourly rate they offered to school resource officers at their campuses, matching the amount paid by Hallettsville schools of \$50 per hour.

Readers of the Moulton Eagle probably recall a like amount approved earlier in the year when uniformed officers on campus were first discussed by the board, but that amount paid for just eight hours each week, divvied up however the department felt most useful in securing students throughout the school week.

When school officials learned last month that they, like most schools of their size across Texas, would be receiving about a quarter million in state grants to help fund such practices, they

tried to square a deal with the city to bring on a fulltime officer who would serve as dedicated SRO at the school.

Those talks fell short but will resume as soon as budget planning takes place for both entities.

The lapse of a full-time position option, however, made it difficult to staff a regular officer at the school, school board president and interim police chief Daniel Beyer said, which was the school's intent.

Upping the hourly rate, now available eight hours per day versus the previous weekly limit was sought as a solution.

One that seems to be working, Beyer reported. "We approved it just Wednesday night, and I've almost got the whole schedule filled up already," he said in phone interview, just four days after the Wednesday board meeting.

Yoakum Community Hospital names new CEO

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Yoakum Community Hospital's board of trustees named Tiffany Miller as its new chief executive of the tax district-supported hospital on Thursday, Dec. 8.

Miller has nearly 10 years of executive health care experience leading teams to financial, operational and clinical accolades. She succeeds retired CEO Karen Barber, who served the hospital for 30 years, according to a hospital news release.

"The Board is excited for Tiffany to lead our hospital — its strategic plan and all aspects of our growth — into our second century of serving Yoakum and surrounding communities," hospital board chairman

Ronnie Leck said in the news release. "She promotes an environment of excellence, inspires teams and supports a patient-centric focus through the delivery of quality care."

Miller will begin her role at the hospital on Jan. 23 as she transitions from her current role as CEO of Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Humble, a 90-bed inpatient rehabilitation facility.

Miller holds a business administration doctorate from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio and a Master of Science in health care administration from Trinity University in San Antonio. She earned a bachelor's degree in management from Texas Lutheran University.



Miller



CONTRIBUTED

Pictured from left are Jose' Troncoso, Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent (WSGC) Chair; Mike Milson, WSGC; Shawn Wehmeyer, Formosa Plastics Corporation; Mike Wall, Board Vice-Chair; and Tiffany Johnson, Victoria College Adult Education and Literacy

Formosa Plastics wins award at Texas Workforce conference

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent (WSGC) is proud to recognize Formosa Plastics Corporation, Texas as the region's 2022 Local Employer of Excellence.

Formosa Plastics Corporation, Texas accepted the award at the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) 25th Annual Texas Workforce Conference held Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2022, in Dallas, Texas. The award honors private-sector employers that are actively involved with Texas Workforce Solutions and make a positive impact on workers, the community, and the state.

Formosa Plastics Corporation, Texas (FPC TX) is a growing, vertically-integrated supplier of plastic resins and petrochemicals. The Point Comfort site consists of 20 production units and five divisions with a variety of support facilities at its nearly 2,500-acre petrochemical complex.

The site's initial plant went online in 1983 and with an additional investment of \$1.7 billion in 1994, added several more operating units, a \$1.6 billion expansion in 2002 increasing capacity by 60 percent and a recent \$5 billion dollar expansion to further increase productivity.

FPC TX supports the employment of approximately 2,500 full time employees and 1,000 contractors, aligning with Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent's initiative to attract,

develop, and retain a highly qualified, well-trained workforce for our region.

Formosa Plastics is a strong proponent of developing a highly skilled future workforce and is currently working with Apprenticeship Texas to develop a DOL-Registered Apprenticeship Program, supporting the Texas workforce system's goal of ensuring that employers have a sustainable talent pipeline of workers with the resources and skills needed to remain competitive in the global market. Since their founding, FPC TX has worked with Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent to meet their hiring and customized training needs.

"Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent is honored to recognize Formosa Plastics Corporation, Texas as our 2022 Local Employer of Excellence and to the privilege of maintaining a long lasting, mutually-beneficial, relationship," said WSGC Executive Director Henry Guajardo.

"The Local Employer of Excellence Award highlights the importance of partnerships between Workforce Solutions and Texas employers," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "These employers exemplify innovation and commitment to their communities by expanding opportunities to the local workforce as they grow their businesses."

"More people than ever are working in Texas, thanks to businesses like this Employer of

Excellence, supported by Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. "From apprenticeships to using job training resources, Workforce Solutions provides exemplary services for individuals looking to turn a job into a career so Texas employers and employees can succeed."

"The Lone Star State is big, and Texas employers like Formosa Plastics Corporation, Texas keep building it with career opportunities that keep Texas and Texans in the fast lane for growth," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Aaron Demerson. "With many excellent employers making Texas home, this Employer of Excellence Award speaks to Formosa Plastics Corporation monumental contributions to Texas and their local community."

Victoria College Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) was also recognized for an Adult Education and Literacy Co-Enrollment Award. The award recognizes partners who demonstrate exemplary performance and outstanding AEL service delivery in partnership with employers, community colleges, and Workforce Boards.

Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent is among 28 local Texas Workforce Development Boards located throughout the state. The Board serves Calhoun, De Witt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria counties.



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ACROSS

1 TX bib over ____

5 TXism: "that ____ won't float"

6 TXism: "a day late ____ dollar short"

7 TX-based "Fridays" restaurant (abbr.)

8 newspaper in Kyle, Texas (3 wds.)

17 ____ Fresno, TX

18 TXism: "it'll ____ in the wash"

21 "Giant" actress (init.)

22 this drink goes well with warm cookies

23 TXism: "chief cook and ____ washer"

24 Presidio La Bahia has a ____ of a six-toed angel

29 TX Clint Black's wife

30 honky tonks

31 Davy Crockett's home state (abbr.)

32 where you rent a mail box (2 wds.)

34 TX Gene Tierney film "Son of ____"

35 Texans fly to this at Denver (abbr.)

36 TXism: "was ____ a silver spoon in his mouth"

37 TXism: "he couldn't ____ an egg under a sitting hen" (dumb)

38 explosive device

39 TXism: "____ cement" (permanent)

40 a Texan flew scout plane for atomic bomber ____ Gay

DOWN

1 TXism: "he'd be unarmed in ____" (dumb)

2 TX-born Judith Ivey 1985 TV film: "The ____ Summer"

3 "L" of LPGA

4 walking stick

9 TXism: "____ cane" (celebrate)

10 TX "Babe": Mildred ____ Didrikson

11 moose-like deer

12 computer (abbr.)

42 lacking in originality

43 Johnson of "Laugh In" with TX Larry Hovis

44 Bell ____, Texas

45 lively and cheerful

46 DART is ____ transit in Dallas

47 TXism: "woke ____ bear" (caused trouble)

48 daredevil jump

49 historic Panhandle spread (2 wds.)

51 "T" of NAFTA

52 point a rifle

53 TX King Vidor autobiography: "A Tree ____ Tree"

54 ex-Ranger pitcher, Robb

13 late Texas billionaire Howard ____ Hughes, Jr.

14 Rains County seat

15 stage constructions at a Texas theater

16 drunkard

19 best of its kind

20 defensibly

22 this Larry was a forward on famous 1983 UH BB team

24 this Fess was Davy in "The Alamo" (init.)

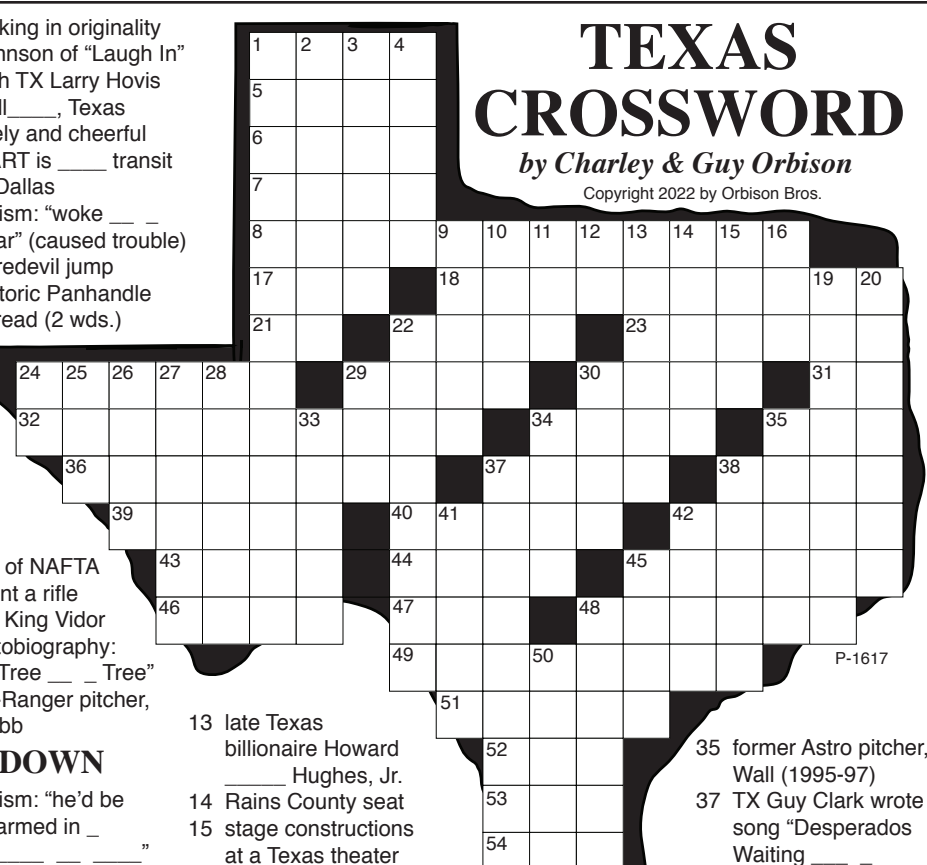
25 steal from

26 "those" south of the border creek

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1617

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

Here's How It Works:

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.

TOWN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Robbins wrote.

“Gonzales has a charming downtown area positioned around a central square. Decked out for the holidays with lights and other festive accouterments, Gonzales is a fun place to browse local boutiques

and soak in the atmosphere.”

Robbins touted two main things in her article that endear Gonzales to Yuletide travelers. The first is the annual Main Street Winterfest celebration, which includes the lighted Christmas parade, the chili

cookoff, live music, arts and crafts vendors and the historic homes tour.

She also called the Pioneer Village Living History Center a “fantastic place to go to get into the holiday spirit in Gonzales.”

“This open-air museum

has a collection of historic structures that illustrate what life was like for settlers in the mid-to-late 1800s. Their ‘Stars in the Village’ Christmas event includes activities such as popping corn over an open fire, ornament making,

musical entertainment, and of course, a visit from Santa,” Robbins wrote. “If you’re not able to make it out during their holiday event, Pioneer Village is still a don’t-miss and is fun to explore during daylight hours.”



CLAYTON KELLEY

Members of the Smiley City Council show off the swag bags they received from Republic Services at the Wednesday, Dec. 21, council meeting. The city voted to continue their contract for waste management with Republic Services and announced residents could see a \$10 increase in monthly utility bills due to higher costs.

SMILEY

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“We did have another bid; for one trash can (it’s) \$19.75 per household, any additional trash cans were \$9.50,” Smiley Mayor Lisa Benavidez said. “Republic gave us a much better deal and I think with them working with us through the past, it would only be right for us to stay with Republic.”

Over the past three years, the City of Smiley has been paying an extra \$2 fee for each resident. The city’s goal, now, with the increased rate, is to pay back the

debt and break even, according to Benavidez. The decision was met with only one opposition from council member Diane Moreno.

Republic Service representative Terry Gawlic implied that Republic Services has provided Smiley with additional services free of charge. Also, there will be no change in service schedule for the New Year weekend.

Smiley City Marshal Lawrence Robles announced at this same meeting that he would be resign-

ing, effective Jan. 16. Robles has served as marshal of Smiley for three years, having been originally offered the position, according to him, in December 2019.

“I accepted the position without question, not knowing what all responsibilities came with such a position,” Robles said. “It’s sad for me to have to say this. This decision has been made by me. I wish nothing but success for the new City Marshal and their career.”

JOBS

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according to state Labor Market Information (LMI) figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

For the entire Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area, the unemployment rate for November 2022 was 3.6 percent, slightly lower to the state average of 3.7 percent. This represented a total of 3,219 residents in Gonzales, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties seeking employment out of a total workforce of 90,329 people.

The county reporting in lower than Gonzales County is Dewitt County, with the lowest unemployment rate at 2.9 percent, followed by Gonzales at 3.1 percent, Lavaca, Jackson and Calhoun Counties at 3.2 percent, Victoria was at 4.0 percent and Goliad County at 4.4 percent.

For November 2022, there were 287 individuals in Gonzales County seeking employment out of a workforce of 9,342 with 9,055 reported as employed. In October 2022, there were 291 people seeking work in Gonzales County out of

an employment force of 9,359 for a total unemployment rate of 3.1 percent.

In November 2021, Gonzales County had an unemployment rate of 3.5 percent. The 2.6 percent unadjusted unemployment rate for April 2022 was the lowest seen in Gonzales County since it was just 2.7 percent in March 2022.

Unemployment rates since September 2020 for Gonzales County are:

- Nov. 2020, 5.7 percent.
- Dec. 2020, 5.2 percent.
- Jan. 2021, 5.6 percent.
- Feb. 2021, 5.7 percent.
- March 2021, 5.4 percent.
- April 2021, 4.7 percent.
- May 2021, 4.5 percent.
- June 2021, 5.1 percent.
- July 2021, 4.3 percent.
- Aug. 2021, 3.9 percent.
- Sept. 2021, 3.8 percent.
- Oct. 2021, 3.6 percent.
- Nov. 2021, 3.5 percent.
- Dec. 2021, 3.2 percent.
- Jan. 2022, 3.6 percent.
- Feb. 2022, 3.4 percent.
- March 2022, 2.7 percent.
- April 2022, 2.6 percent.
- May 2022, 2.9 percent.
- June 2022, 3.5 percent.
- July 2022, 3.2 percent.
- Aug. 2022, 3.2 percent.
- Sept. 2022, 3.1 percent.
- Oct. 2022, 3.1 percent.
- Nov. 2022, 3.1 percent

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Happy Holidays

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