



The Gonzales Inquirer

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Gonzales Chamber honors Scheske, Tucy

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Former Gonzales County Attorney Bob Scheske and Edwards Association President David Tucy were honored Thursday, March 2, for their tireless service to the community by the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture at the annual awards banquet.

Scheske was named the recipient of the David B. Walshak Lifetime

Achievement Award, while Tucy was named the recipient of the Community Service Award.

Scheske said he was grateful to receive an award named for Walshak, a Gonzales banker who twice won what was formerly called the Citizen of the Year award.

“I remember when we were young, Dave was the authority,” Scheske said. “Elgin (Heinemeyer) and I went to see Dave when he was in his last

See **CHAMBER**, page 20

Chamber officials excited to see tourism partnership with city grow

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture celebrated

Texas Independence Day with a red, white and blue Lone Star-spangled awards banquet at the JB Wells Expo Center on Thursday, March 2.

Attendees enjoyed Texas swing music, Texas barbecue and a live and silent auction for Texas-

See **PARTNERSHIP**, page 7

Nixon council approves new contracts for top personnel

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Nixon City Council members approved new employment contracts for City Manager Harold Rice, City Secretary Tanya Torres, City Attorney Eddie Escobedo and Police Chief Miguel Cantu following a lengthy executive session Tuesday, March 7, at City Hall.

Terms and conditions of the contracts approved by the council were

See **CONTRACTS**, page 7

GEDC sets new water tower as a top ‘priority’

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Among the top priorities recently identified by the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation has been the need for a new water tower in the Gonzales Industrial Park area north of town, said GEDC President Ken Morrow.

Morrow told the Inquirer the

See **GEDC**, page 19

GISD approves raises for aides, teachers, nurses

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The teachers, nurses and instructional aides at Gonzales Independent School District will receive raises for the 2023-2024 school

See **GISD**, page 19



HERE'S TO TEXAS
independence



Above, former Gonzales County Judge David Bird, Richard Crozier, Glenda Gordon, Lorell Wright and Nicky McKinney are among those who raised their sweet tea cups to toast Texas Independence Day at Texas Independence Square on Thursday, March 2, as part of a series of community activities designed to pay tribute to Gonzales' role in the Texas Revolution.

VANDY VAN EPPS

At left, Ricky Walker of the Sons of the Republic of Texas lays a yellow rose at the foot of the cenotaph at the Gonzales Memorial Museum on Sunday, March 5, to honor the 41 men from Gonzales who died in the Alamo. His ancestor, James George, was one of the “Immortal 32” who answered the call from William B. Travis to reinforce the Alamo defense, joining nine others already at the Alamo, prior to its fall on March 6, 1835.

LEW K. COHN

2023 Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show begins Friday

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The 2023 Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show kicks off this Friday, March 10, and concludes this Saturday, March 11, at the Nixon Smiley Livestock Show Barn and Arena on East Central in Nixon.

“Our mission is to support our youth who are involved in the farming and ranching way of life so they can learn the importance

of agriculture in our society,” show directors said in a letter last month. “We sincerely appreciate your support in this mission. Thank you very much for your consideration!”

Last year, there were 70 exhibitors at the show who presented nearly 100 projects and the auction raised more than \$207,000 with more than \$39,000 in add-ons, which represented a show record while eclipsing the 2021 marks of \$197,815 and \$26,195.

Participants will check in their projects beginning at 2 p.m. Friday and then judging begins with broilers, roasters, turkeys, market rabbits and fryer rabbits starting at 6 p.m. Friday in the arena and layered cakes, crafts and Ag mechanics in the barn.

Judging continues at 9 a.m. Saturday with market hogs, market lambs, market goats, market steers,

See **LIVESTOCK**, page 7



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Sunday shooting leaves Shiner man clinging to life

BY BOBBY HORECKA
Special to the Inquirer

A Shiner man remained in critical condition midday Monday, March 6 at a San Antonio hospital following an early Sunday shooting, while the Flatonia man who officials say allegedly sent him there was behind bars at the Lavaca County Jail, held on \$100,000 bail on the single charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

It began with a 911 call received at 12:53 a.m. Sunday from the 3400-block of Highway 90 Alternate, a rural residence just east of Shiner, in reference to a gunshot victim,

a 47-year-old white male from Shiner.

“What we’ve been able to ascertain thus far is that the victim was inside his residence, where he was — entertaining a young lady friend — a lady friend who happened to be married to another man,” Sheriff Harmon said on Monday.

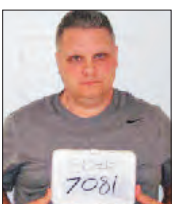
That man, it turned out, Michael Joseph McKim, 44, of Flatonia, was busy trying to locate his betrothed, the sheriff said. To assist in that effort, he’d brought his daughter along to help him track her whereabouts using her cellphone locator.

When they spotted her

vehicle, Harmon says McKim walked up to it, removed a 9 mm handgun from inside it, and then commenced pounding on the front door and demanding entry.

The woman, hearing her spouse outside, ducked out at the back and attempted to leave in her vehicle.

Before she could, however, the owner of the house walked out the front and began shouting back at McKim. The



McKim

altercation escalated quickly then, Harmon said, and it ended with a shot of a gun.

Deputies arrived to find the homeowner and victim unconscious in the yard with a single gunshot wound to the head, Harmon said, with the alleged gunman seated nearby, awaiting their arrival.

McKim, who worked as postmaster at the Flatonia Post office, was detained shortly thereafter without incident.

Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Travis Hill later set his bail.

First responders initially tried to rush him to the hospital aboard a medical helicopter, but that idea was soon nixed

because of a low-lying fog. Instead, they drove the victim to University Hospital by ambulance.

Harmon said the victim, still not named by local authorities when this story was written, barely clung to life as of Monday, which prevented doctors from performing the lifesaving surgery he needed. Should his condition improve, doctors will move forward with the surgery as planned.

Should it deteriorate, however, McKim could face even stiffer charges. Assisting in the sheriff’s department investigation are the Texas Rangers and the Lavaca County Attorney’s office.



GHS One-Act play heads to district contest

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales High School one-act play, “Leading Ladies,” heads to the district contest this Saturday, March 11.

The district competition will be held at the Cuero High School Performing Arts Center. The Apaches hit the stage around 11:45 a.m.

Come out and support these talented students in this farce comedy! Public performances are at the Gonzales Jr. High Auditorium March 26th at 2 p.m. and March 27 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 and found online at www.gonzalesisd.net.

Company members include: Eric Rosas, Chet Gold, River VanKirk, Jeslynn Vigil, Emily Hull, Angel Gallegos, Anahi Meza, Payton Moore, Aubree Tovar, Mariah Rios, Nicholas Gonzales, Isabella Guerra, Bill Greathouse, and Kayleigh Fridrich. Directors are Leslie Buesing, Kristi Gold, and PJ DeLuna.



Chet Gold is Leo, Jeslynn Vigil is Meg and River VanKirk is Jack in the GHS production of “Leading Ladies.”

Waelder to celebrate 110-year anniversary

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The City of Waelder will hold its 110-year anniversary celebration on Saturday, March 25, from 2 p.m. to midnight in downtown Waelder.

Music will be provided by DJ Rockin Ruben, DJ Reyna, DJ Max and DJ Citizen Cane. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lawn chair.

If you are interested in having a food booth at the celebration, contact City Hall at 830-788-7331.

The Gonzales County community at the intersection of US 90 and Texas 97 was founded in 1913.

Ballot order set for May 6 Nixon municipal election

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The ballot order has been set for the upcoming May 6 Nixon municipal election.

Places on the ballot were drawn at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 27, in the City of Nixon Council Chambers. The order candidates will appear on the ballot is:

- Justin B. La Fleur
- Angel De La Cruz

- Patsy Vigil Scherrer
- Shannon Smith
- Michael Martinez
- Adolph Trigo
- Rene Amaya
- J. J. Garza
- Bryan Williams
- Melissa Pompa

Early voting will begin April 24 through May 2 at the Nixon Public Library from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Election day voting will be on May 6 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Nixon Public Library.

Golden Crescent RPC seeks ombudsman volunteers

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is seeking volunteers in Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria counties to serve as advocates for residents living in long-term care

facilities such as nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Advocates provide empowerment for residents in long-term care facilities throughout the Golden Crescent region. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and complete a free, 36-hour training course that includes classroom, self-study, and in-facility training.

No prior experience is required. Hours are flexible and determined by each volunteer. Registration is required.

Volunteer Ombudsmen duties include:

- visiting residents
- identify and investigate complaints; and
- educate residents, families, and facility staff

on protecting the health, safety, welfare, and rights of individuals living in long-term care settings.

Ombudsman services are free and confidential.

Please contact Christina Guajardo, Managing Local Ombudsman, at 361-578-1587, ext. 217, 361-920-1400 or email christinag@gcrpc.org.

Texans impacted by storms urged to report damage

FROM AGENCY REPORT

The Texas Division of Emergency Management urges all Texans impacted by last week’s severe storms to report property damage using TDEM’s iSTAT damage survey.

On March 1, Gov. Greg Abbott directed TDEM to prepare state emergency response resources in advance of potential severe weather impacts to Texas. TDEM continues engaging those state resources in support of local officials across the state as recovery efforts and damage assessments begin.

With damage

assessments ongoing, impacted Texans are encouraged to report damages sustained to homes and businesses during this severe weather event using the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) damage survey.

The iSTAT survey can be filled out in English and Spanish online at damage.tdem.texas.gov, by clicking “Severe Weather March 1st – Ongoing.”

The survey helps officials determine if the state meets federal requirements for various forms of disaster assistance, as well as identify any immediate needs.

Celebrations Birthdays

March 9th Frances Ibarra Devin Polk Robert Weathers	March 11th Dante Cortez Linda Fullilove Jayd Pozzobon Judy Schramm Laura Tivis Wade Zella	Hayden Downs Adolfo Leal
March 10th Patty Clark Jonathan Fullilove Beverly Glaser Emily Kuntschik Deedee Lorton Nathan Withers Tammy Wyrick	March 12th Blaine Frederick Debbie LaFleur	March 14th Ella Rhoades
	March 13th Betty Cohn	March 15th Tamela Baker Suzanne Benes Dr. Terry Eska Garrett Wayne Heiman Linda Koricanek Norvi Mayfield

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Gonzales Weather

 CLOUDY	March 9 84°/54°	Cloudy, a shower; not as hot 56% chance of rain • RealFeel 81
 WINDY	March 10 63°/45°	Mostly sunny and windy 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 59
 SUNNY	March 11 64°/49°	Plenty of sun 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 67
 PARTLY SUNNY	March 12 65°/50°	Partly sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 66
 CLOUDY	March 13 63°/51°	Cloudy 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 58
 SHOWERS	March 14 65°/51°	Cloudy with showers around 55% chance of rain • RealFeel 62
 CLOUDY	March 15 65°/52°	Remaining cloudy 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 72

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

March 9 – South Texas Tour

March 11-12 – Youth Rodeo Assoc.

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Lunch & Learn with the Master Gardeners

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Spring has sprung and our daydreams have started featuring gardens. Lately, we have been hearing about the benefits and beauty of some of our native Texas plants. After all, Texas is home to more than 5,000 native flowering plants. But where to start?

A lunch and learn program on native Texas plants is going to be offered and hosted by the Gonzales Master Gardeners on Thursday, March 16, from noon to 1 p.m.

The program presenter, Gonzales Master Gardener and Texas Master Naturalist Sandi Ward, will discuss how to incorporate Texas native plants into our landscape and gardens.

The program will be held at the Master Gardeners' Building, PACE Plantarium A Center for Exploration, located at 623 N. Fair Street, Gonzales.

This event is free and open to the public. The Gonzales Master Gardeners will share coffee, tea, cookies and knowledge so pack a sack lunch and join them for this informative program. For more information, go to www.gonzalesmastergardeners.org or call 830-672-8531.

Garden Q&A

Q. Are there any vines that the deer do not eat?

A. Among those that I am familiar with are trumpet creeper, star jasmine, Carolina jessamine, wisteria, and butterfly vine-. The butterfly vine is the most desirable in my opinion because of attractive blooms and seed pods plus it is aggressive enough to fill a trellis but it won't take over the neighborhood. The jessamine is a leaner rather than a climbing vine.

Q. Is it best to grow zinnias from seeds or from transplants?

A. I like both techniques equally well. Using transplants results in quick blooms and seeds are easy to grow and allow you to grow many of the selections that are not usually available as transplants. California Giants are one of the favorite seeded selections. If you plant Dreamland transplants you

Best tasting tomato selections are Ruby Crush and BHN 968

CALVIN FINCH

Gardening Q&A



get access to especially compact and colorful blooms. They are a good variety to allow to drop its own seeds. The resultant plants show considerable differentiation but are a favorite nectar source for pollinators.

Q. Is it worthwhile to collect seedlings from mulberries, hackberries and other species to plant on a vacant lot to produce seeds and berries for the birds and other wildlife?

A. It is usually not necessary to transplant mulberry or hackberry

seedlings. It is true that they produce favorite wildlife food but it is usually more necessary to keep them under control with your pruning tools and Cut Vine and Stump Killer than it is necessary to transplant them.

Q. I am new to gardening in this area which are the best tomatoes to grow for taste?

A. That used to be a tough question because the difference in taste between tomato varieties used to be dependent on factors like timing of harvest and personal preferences, those factors are still important, but I think there is a general consensus that the best tasting tomato selections are Ruby Crush and BHN 968. The 2 varieties taste different, Ruby Crush is sweeter and BHN 968 is more tart but they both rate high through many taste tests.

TEXAS TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS



NEXT LEVEL IMAGES

Lane Hagan and Bob made their way into the history books on Saturday, capturing the final jewel in the elusive Open Triple Crown when she was selected Grand Champion Open Beefmaster Female at the Houston Livestock Show. Earlier this year she won the same title at the Fort Worth and San Antonio stock shows, making it the first time in the Beefmaster breed that a female has achieved this feat on the open show circuit.

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales Livestock Market

March 4
Cattle: 870
Compared to our last sale: Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold higher. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows & bulls sold 3.00-4.00 higher.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 260-265; 300-400 lbs., 260-265; 400-500 lbs., 238-250; 500-600 lbs., 202-245; 600-700 lbs., 188-203; 700-800 lbs., 168-178.
Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 80-95.
Stocker-feeder Heifers: Medium and large from No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 220-222; 300-400 lbs., 215-219; 400-500 lbs., 190-210; 500-600 lbs., 178-185; 600-700 lbs., 155-164.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 63-83; Cutters, 92-103; Canners, 32-62; High yielding fat cows, 85-94.
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 115-123; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 97-110.

Stockers Cows: \$750 to \$1,150.
Pairs: \$850 to \$1,900.

Nixon Livestock
March 6th
Cattle – 923
Steers:
200-300 lbs - \$178-275
300-400 lbs - \$199-285
400-500 lbs - \$205-265
500-600 lbs - \$194-245
600-700 lbs - \$177-224
700-800 lbs - \$158-195
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - \$153-203
300-400 lbs - \$174-216
400-500 lbs - \$171-210
500-600 lbs - \$172-275
600-700 lbs - \$157-300
700-800 lbs - \$142-162
Slaughter Cows - \$41-101
Slaughter Bulls - \$92-122
Stocker Cows – \$650-1100
Pairs: \$890-1010

Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Sale date: February 28
Cattle on hand: 1358
Packer Cows:
Canner and Cutter Cows: \$68-107

Utility & Fat Cows: \$66-100
Low dressing canner cows: \$48-67
Poor/Weak: \$30-48
Packer Bulls:
Heavyweight Bulls: \$112-125
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$95-110
Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$82-96
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1050-1450
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$825-1025
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1300-1600
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1,025-1,275
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$160-245
200-300 lbs.: \$190-260
300-400 lbs.: \$195-260
400-500 lbs.: \$190-255
500-600 lbs.: \$185-245
600-700 lbs.: \$168-205
700-800 lbs.: \$152-180
Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$155-240
200-300 lbs.: \$160-230
300-400 lbs.: \$165-230
400-500 lbs.: \$170-225
500-600 lbs.: \$170-217.50
600-700 lbs.: \$152-185
700-800 lbs.: \$142-175
Replacement Heifers:
350-750 lbs.: \$175-255
The calf market continued with the same strength we've been seeing. All weights and classes sold steady to stronger. Demand is strong and welcomed! Packer cows & bulls sold fully steady and strong on a total supply of 225.

Seguin Cattle Co. Market Report
March 1
Quality of cattle good with market very active. Stocker cattle steady with packer cows & bulls 2-3 better.
Cattle – 850
Sheep & goats – 527
Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. .65-1.32-2.84
300-400 lb. .30-1.60-2.82
400-500 lb. .25-1.76-2.54
500-600 lb. .65-1.67-2.25
600-700 lb. .50-1.63-2.20
700-850 lb. .92-1.20-1.55
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. .35-1.55-2.08
300-400 lb. .35-1.52-2.40
400-500 lb. .10-1.58-2.42
500-600 lb. .60-1.59-2.12
600-750 lb. .70-1.35-1.82
Cows:
Utility & commercial – 66-86-102
Cutters – 59-72-85
Canners – 49-54-60
Palpated cow – 400-1075
Cow/Calf Pairs – 900-1450

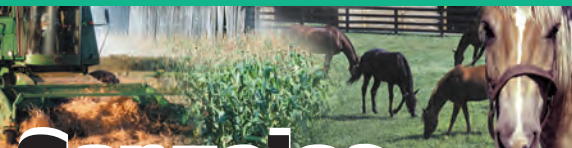
Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding – 1.00-1.20
Light & Low Yielding – 85-99
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies – 75-280
Kid Goats (Fat) – 2.80-3.27
Wethers – 2.00-2.87
Billies – 1.90-2.17
Dorp. Ewes – 65-150
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) – 2.70-3.20
Woolled Ewes – NONE
Woolled Bucks – 1.30-1.80
Lambs – 1.50-2.95
Barb. Bucks – 225-275

Cuero Livestock Market Report on March 3, 2023
Number of head 1,502
There were 238 cows and 21 bulls. The packer market was much higher. Packer cows jumped up \$13/cwt to \$109/cwt while the bulls were \$8/cwt higher at \$130/cwt !!! Demand is exceptionally strong!
The calf market was higher by over \$7/cwt. and once again there were new tops in over 3/4's of the weight/sex categories. A very strong and upbeat market.
Packer bulls: 90.00-130.00
Packer cows:
canners & cutters 85.00-109.00
poor & weak 25.00-50.00
Palpated: 32 bred 90.00-114.00
PAIRS: NONE
Steer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 200 lbs. NONE
200-249 lbs. 145.00-218.00
250-299 lbs. 225.00-258.00
300-350 lbs. 213.00-253.00
350-400 lbs. 209.00-237.00
400-450 lbs. 208.00-254.00
450-500 lbs. 194.00-247.00
500-550 lbs. 196.00-246.00
550-600 lbs. 192.00-225.00
600-700 lbs. 168.00-214.00
700-800 lbs. 143.00-192.00
Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 250lbs 194.00-246.00
250-300 lbs. 202.00-248.00
300-350 lbs. 217.00-260.00
350-400 lbs. 214.00-259.00
400-450 lbs. 212.00-256.00
450-500 lbs. 206.00-252.00
500-550 lbs. 208.00-233.00
550-600 lbs. 187.00-218.00
600-700 lbs. 162.00-209.00
Over 700 lbs. 157.00-190.00
Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
under 200 lbs. 193.00-220.00
200-250 lbs. 195.00-229.00
250-300 lbs. 182.00-235.00
300-350 lbs. 192.00-242.00
350-400 lbs. 188.00-240.00
400-450 lbs. 188.00-219.00
450-500 lbs. 180.00-209.00
500-550 lbs. 176.00-214.00
550-600 lbs. 173.00-200.00
600-700 lbs. 157.00-185.00
Over 700 lbs 140.00-165.00

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Boat ramp in Cost is a forgotten gem that sorely needs attention

BY SHERRY POE
Special to the Inquirer

Two incidents this past week have caused me to write this, although I have thought about doing it many times throughout the years since the dam broke in 2016.

The first one was a homeschool mom, Canadian by birth, Texan by choice, and her son drove all the way from Dallas to Gonzales to film and record historical places for his school project. They drove to the monument down at the “boat ramp” in Cost. As the caretaker of the flags at the monument, I am most interested in visitors to our site and visit with them, and have over the nearly 40 years we have lived here. They were fascinated that I live on the battle site.

Throughout the years we enjoyed the beautiful Ezekiel Williams Slough and Guadalupe river so much. The wildlife and fish and birds made it their haven of rest and breeding grounds. No more, I explained to this delightful pair as they peppered me with questions about the area. To be honest, I felt ashamed to show them the “river” as we walked down the useless “boat ramp” still owned by Texas Parks and Wildlife. But they were gracious and appreciative.

The second incident that occurred this week was the recounting of the fall of the Alamo. As I thought about that pivotal event in Texas history, I remembered the “Immortal 32” on their trek to the Alamo. Our little town and the surrounding area is what some would consider “hallowed ground.” Do you?

I realize there is no money to be received from tourists as they make their way to the battlefield, and I suppose that is a reason why nothing has been done to spruce up the area. I do thank the Texas Highway Department for always keeping the grass mowed here. We have watched them faithfully mow the area where the monument to the Come and Take It battle stands; they always do a great job of maintaining the grassy areas.

I have attached a couple pics of the area I have described as the Ezekiel Williams Slough, named after the farmer whose watermelon patch was the battlefield. As you can see, the water from the river is now backed up into the slough area and it is quite nice.

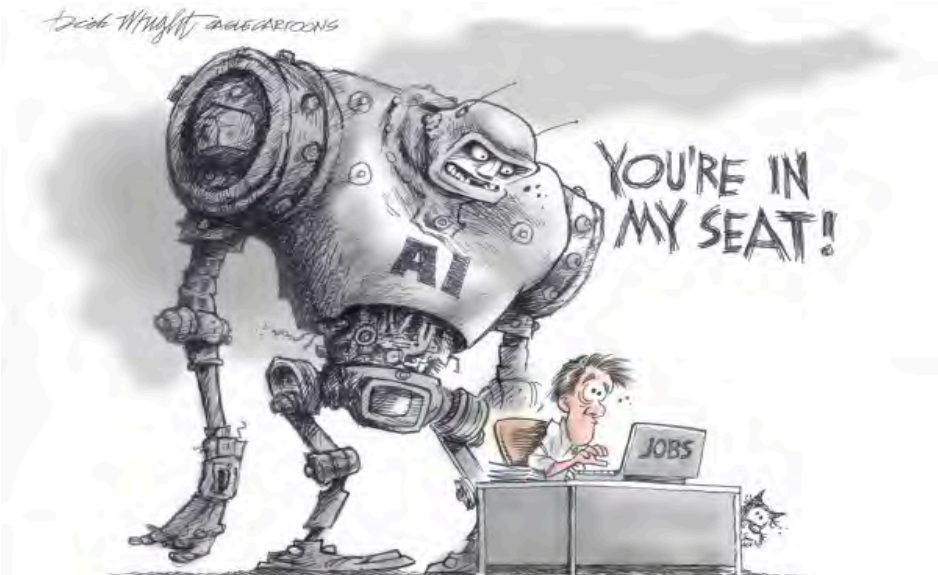
When the H5 dam broke in March 2016, the river level dropped 12 feet, thus draining the slough. But heavy rains and flooding over the past 7 years have dug out the natural gorge of the slough.

My grandfather, Milton Lindemann, swam in that gorge in the early part of the 20th century and declared it to be 20 feet deep. Because the water is there now, we are slowly getting back birds and fish.

Two questions for Gonzales county citizens: 1. Do you believe this area is worth cleaning up? 2. What ideas do you have to get something done?

Over the past 40 years, I have seen thousands of people visit the area to

See **BOAT RAMP**, page 10



Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Inquirer will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information.

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

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

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

Please send Letters to the Editor:

- Email: publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com
- U.S. Mail: The Inquirer, P.O. Box 616, Gonzales, Texas, 78629
- In person: The Inquirer, 622 St. Paul Street, Gonzales, Texas, 78629 (Please bring in a digital format, if possible).

Further questions may be directed to Publisher Lew Cohn, 830-672-2861.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Running Life's Race...

To describe the workouts he directed as “grueling” might be an extreme understatement if the athletes who ran for late track coach J. H. (Cap) Shelton are consulted.

Known as the “dean of Texas track coaches,” he served at Howard Payne University — his alma mater — for 49 years. He worked long hours daily in numerous faculty and administrative posts, but was always best known for coaching.

Pushing himself in a “can-‘til-can’t” approach to life perhaps explains his preference for distance runners. Not all track stars run fast, but he quickly identified the ones determined to run the longer races. His teams won 14 championships in the old Texas Conference, three in Lone Star and one national cross country championship....

One who “soaked up” his mentoring was Glenn Petty, former Athletic Director at Abilene Public Schools who died February 2 at the age of 82.



Glenn Petty
1940-2023

Like “Cap,” he taught life first and sports second.

He, too, was a lifelong educator, as have been dozens of others who were track and field athletes at HPU....

Petty, a track star at Odessa High School, spent 42 years in education, including 26 in Abilene ISD, where he was Athletic Director for the last five years of his career.

Deeply admired at his points of service along the way — El Paso, Odessa, Big Spring, Odessa and Abilene ISDs — he was head track coach at Abilene Cooper, then HPU, before returning to Abilene as principal of Mann Middle School. He was twice named Texas Regional Middle School Principal of the Year and was a member of the HPU Sports Hall of Fame.

Cheering him on were Sandie, his wife of 60 years, and children Glenda, Glenn Jr. and Christi, as well as four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren....

Probably the determination for which Glenn is remembered was noted during his freshman year.

Running on the HPU cross country team at the national championship race in Omaha, he and more than 130 other runners faced sub-freezing temperature and falling snow.

“We were about a mile into the four-mile race, and a runner next to Glenn somehow grazed Glenn’s shoe, and it went flying,” said Willie Myers, a senior teammate running slightly ahead....

He asked, “What do I do now?” Myers remembers. “I told him to stop, find the shoe and put it back on, but he would have none of it.”

Sure enough, Glenn kept running, miraculously completing the hilly course, despite pain inflicted by acorns and other objects in the snow on his shoeless foot.

“I never saw a limb more swollen the next day, doubled in size,” Myers recalls. The backstory headline captured the essence: “Snow Flies, Shoe Flies, He flies!”....

He ran when races were measured by yards rather than meters, a U.S. change in the 1970s to conform with the rest of the world.

In 1960, Glenn ran the 880-yard event in 1:54.5, winning at the LSC track meet and becoming the first HPU athlete to win a conference running event as a freshman.

David Noble, himself an HPU alumnus and former track coach at HPU and Angelo State University, still considers the “change to meters” as a mistake which has set the sport back here....

Glenn loved students. He also had interests all over the board. He enjoyed golf, woodworking, reading and spending time with family and friends.

A conversationalist who knew about much, he’d look up (okay, Google) what he didn’t know, then

See **NEWBURY**, page 10

The Gonzales Inquirer

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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY

History of Women in Sports

Today, we know that exercise is good for everyone's health — boys and girls, men and women.

Today, girls and women can play sports for fun. They also can compete and become professional athletes. But that was not always the case.

Imagine being told that you can't do something you love to do. Or that you are forced to wear clothing that makes it difficult to do what you love to do. Or that you can't find anyone to play a sport with you. Or that you aren't allowed on a golf course, a tennis court or other sporting fields.

How would all of that make you feel? Frustrated? Lonely?

That is how girls and women who enjoyed sports felt before the year 1972, a year of important change.

Standards Link: Read informational text in history.

Would you want to play tennis dressed like this?

In the early 1900s, women wore long, heavy skirts that made it hard to run after a tennis ball.

It wasn't just the skirts that were a problem, they also wore **corsets** and blouses made with long sleeves and stiff collars. They were expected to wear jackets, heavy shoes, and even broad-brimmed hats.

What's a corset?
A corset is a tight-fitting undergarment worn under a blouse.

Women's Sports Moments

Use the code to discover when each of these important moments happened.

● = 0	● = 2	● = 4	● = 7
● = 1	★ = 3	● = 5	● = 9

Two women, Mrs. Edwards and Miss Kussin, boxed each other and showed women can throw punches.

Billie Jean King beats the No. 1-ranked men's tennis player, Bobby Riggs, showing women can compete with men.

Aileen Riggins became the first female Olympian to win medals in two different sports at the same Olympic Games. She medaled in both swimming and diving. Some say she was the first athlete, male or female, to win two medals in the same Olympic Games.

Before and After Title IX

Before 1972, less than 300,000 girls participated in school sports in the United States. Write down the numbers on the correct path through the maze to discover how many girls participate in school sports today!

More than _____ girls participate in school sports today!

Roman Numerals

Extra! Extra!

Title IX uses the Roman numerals IX to show the word **nine**. Look through the newspaper for five numbers and rewrite each one as a Roman numeral.

Standards Link: Math: Understand the use and system of Roman numerals.



The Amazing Babe Didrikson Zaharias

Babe Didrikson Zaharias is considered one of the greatest athletes of the last century. Few, if any, have matched her achievements in sports.

Babe was born on June 26, 1911. When she was young, most girls did not participate in sports. Babe loved sports. In her lifetime, she was an Olympic gold medalist in track and field, an All-American basketball player, a champion golfer and an extraordinary baseball player, swimmer, bowler, diver and tennis player.

A Running Start

When the news of the 1928 Olympic Games filled the newspapers, Babe decided to begin her own training. She practiced hurdles by soaring over seven hedges in her neighborhood. When one of the hedges was a bit too high, she asked the people who lived there to cut it down to the right size, and they did!



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?



How many differences can you find between these two pictures?

Golfing Great


Babe was an excellent golfer. From 1946-47, Babe won 13 tournaments in a row. Babe would go on to win 113 golf tournaments.



Standards Link: Read biographical text.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Picture Puzzles

A rebus is a puzzle that uses pictures to reveal a word or phrase. Can you solve this rebus puzzle?

SHE  A

Standards Link: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Double Double Word Search

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

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

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

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PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Left: Jaxon Beck feeds his pig water as he preps for the Gonzales County Youth Show Association's Livestock show. Above: One of the ear-tagged steers is ready to be part of the Gonzales County Youth Show Association Livestock show Friday, March 3.

YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW RETURNS



Augustus Sexton with his pig Thursday, March 2, as he prepares for the Livestock show on Friday, March 3.



Children watch as their pigs are made ready for their big moment at the Livestock show Friday, March 3.



Two steers in the JB Wells Arena are checked in for the Livestock show Thursday, March 2. The Gonzales Inquirer will have results in a special section celebrating all three county shows on Thursday, March 30.

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Email Brandy.Low@gonzalesisd.net or Jennifer.Ervin@gonzalesisd.net if you have questions or need assistance in creating your ad.

LIVESTOCK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

local bred steers and 4-H Clover bucket calves.

The buyers’ buffet and registration then begins at 4 p.m. Saturday, followed by the auction at 5 p.m. Joey Tomlinson will once again serve as auctioneer, hoping to make sure each exhibitor gets top dollar from their projects.

All participants then are required to take part in the mandatory clean-up of the arena and show barn at 8 a.m. Sunday, March 12.

Anyone who cannot attend the show in person can show

their support through the Buyers’ Pool. Contact either Harold Rice (830-534-6682) or Clint Martin (830-660-6398) for details and information about how to contribute to the Buyers’ Pool. Add-ons are another way to contribute, which are dollars that are added-on above the actual sale price of the projects and go directly to exhibitors. For add-on information, please contact Jaci Wheat (830-203-0238).

Buyers’ Pool donations and add-ons can be mailed to Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show,

PO Box 554, Nixon, TX 78140.

Anyone interested in being a vendor at the show can contact Laura Swenson (830-203-9901) or Jessica Garcia (830-534-9561) for vendor information.

Judges for the 2023 show include:

- Anthony Netardus: Sift
- Benny Conn: Ag Mech
- Wayne Bender: Rabbits
- Jeff Hanselka: Poultry
- Elsie Lacy: Cakes/Crafts
- Micah Walker: Livestock

In order to take part in the Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show, an exhibitor must be a full-time

student in grades 3-12 and not have graduated or completed a GED program. They must either be in home school or in school at Nixon-Smiley CISD and either reside in the Nixon-Smiley CISD or attend school there.

Exhibitors must be a member in good standing of at least one of the following clubs: Nixon 4-H Club, Smiley 4-H Club, Leesville 4-H Club, Nixon-Smiley FFA and/or Nixon-Smiley FCCLA and cannot be expelled, suspended or enrolled in alternative school

any time after Jan. 1 in the calendar year of the show.

Also, each exhibitor must volunteer four hours of community service at the show grounds prior to the livestock show check-in and they are required to write hand-written thank you notes to each buyer of his/her project or to any add-on buyer the exhibitor receives. Any exhibitor awarded a medal, buckle, vest or rosette also is required to write a hand-written thank you note to each donor of the award.



LEW K. COHN

Amanda Frederick sung the national anthem and the Young Texians performed the piece “Land, Land” during the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture banquet on Thursday, March 2. Outgoing president Carolyn Morrow and incoming president Wayne Baker both spoke about the partnership between the city and Chamber for promoting tourism, including the addition of new tourism coordinator position held by Alise Mullins.

PARTNERSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

themed items in addition to feting the Lifetime Achievement and Community Service Award winners.

During remarks, outgoing Chamber President Carolyn Morrow spoke about the challenges faced by the Chamber from when she first started on the board in 2020, when COVID-19 caused shutdowns and event cancellations.

“It’s a nonprofit and your goal is to raise money to provide services and support. How do you do that in a year where you can’t leave your house? Right?” Morrow asked. “It’s pretty challenging but we got through it.

“We got through a lot of overcoming obstacles and then 2022 was a great year. Looking over the past 12 months, we just really want to thank you guys for everything that you’ve done to keep coming to events like this.”

She praised new Chamber executive director Melissa Henderson and new tourism coordinator Alise Mullins, whose position is funded through a partnership between the Chamber and the city of Gonzales, which Morrow called “a win for you guys in our community because it’s strategically the right thing to do.”

“We’ve got a great staff, we’ve got great board members, new incoming board members with fresh ideas, and we’re very, very excited, so we’re going to continue to promote business and advocate for you as members for the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce,” Morrow said.

Morrow closed her remarks by speaking about Gonzales’ role as the starting point of the Texas Revolution.

“This is where we stood our ground and we said we are not going to give up easily. We said ‘Come and take it,’” Morrow said. “I believe that same spirit, that entrepreneurial spirit, that spirit of fortitude and passion, exists

in all of you. It’s in our hospitals. It’s in our school districts. It’s in every small business that’s trying to succeed. And so I say that together, we will support you as your Chamber, but we together can be a fabulous community. Let’s do it together. Let’s come and take it!”

Incoming President Wayne Baker told the audience that “without ya’ll’s participation and being here, none of this is possible.” Baker said one goal this year is to continue working on improvements to the Chamber building at 304 Saint Louis after the organization moved there in 2022.

“I don’t know if you’ve been by there, but it’s a lot bigger than what we had before (in the old Gonzales County Jail),” Baker said. “I’d like to thank (former executive director) Daisy (Scheske Freeman) for all her hard work that she put into getting us in that building, as well as (former executive director) Brad (Cox).”

Like Morrow, Baker believes tourism “is a goal for the Chamber to benefit everybody in this room.”

“We want to get as many people to Gonzales as we can, and staying in our hotels, coming to our events. We look forward to working with Main Street and just kind of get everybody working together to make Gonzales as good a place to be as possible. And I think working together we can do that,” Baker said.

Retiring board members honored include Morrow, Cindy Maldonado, Eddie Escobar and Suzanne Zaitz, while new incoming directors Sherri Schellenberg, Trey Lester, Noel Reese, Lawren Kridler and Jeff Natho were recognized. Other board members include Doug Durham, Naomi Brown, Sherry Hill, Brie Irons, Rafe Jackson, Manny Patel, Donna Trammell, Lisa Goss and Robert Butler.

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Advertising Sales Representative

The Gonzales Inquirer is seeking a motivated individual to assist with advertising sales across our print, digital and social media platforms.

We are an award-winning weekly community newspaper in Gonzales County, where the fight for Texas Independence began. We are also one of the oldest continually published newspapers in the state with editions dating back to 1860. We publish daily online and have a weekly print newspaper as well as a variety of magazine and special promotional products.

While we are very proud of our newspaper's history, not to mention the history of our community - we ARE where the phrase, 'Come & Take It' originated - we are also proud of our future and want the right person to help us take our newspaper to the next level.

We are looking for the right person to sell advertising for us in a full-time position. We offer a competitive performance-based compensation plan, including base pay plus commissions. Successful candidates have good earning potential, plus we also offer top-notch benefits, including health insurance.

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- Contact businesses via phone and email
- Provide excellent customer service
- Collaborate with fellow team members both in-person and virtually
- Process paperwork
- Accomplish project and monthly sales goals
- Build and nurture relationships with customers and potential customers

QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong verbal, phone and written communication skills
- Reliable transportation
- Computer-literate
- Self-motivated, competitive attitude
- Experience with Microsoft Office software, in particular Outlook, Word and Excel
- Comfortable making phone calls to prospective customers
- Ability to thrive, multi-task and be flexible in a fast-paced, deadline-oriented environment

NICE TO HAVE

- Business to business sales experience — a plus, but can train the right candidate
- Use of various social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Waelder ISD March Board Meeting has been moved from March 22nd to March 27th at 6pm in the Cafeteria.



NOTICE TO PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATE OF RANDY GAY SQUYRES, DECEASED

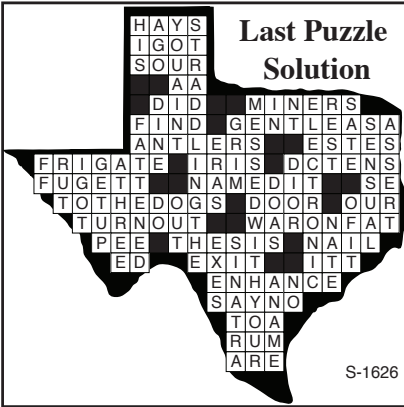
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary were issued to MELVIN R. SQUYRES on the Estate of RANDY GAY SQUYRES, Deceased, on March 1, 2023, in Cause No. PW23-0248 of the Probate Docket of Gonzales County, Texas, which is still pending, and that such person now holds such letters. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same within the time prescribed by law to such person. Such claims shall be addressed in care of James K. Crain, III, CRAIN & SHEPPARD, at the address of P. O. Box 427, Cuero, Texas 77954.

Melvin R. Squyres, Independent Executor of Estate of Randy Gay Squyres, Deceased

March 2

Puzzle Answers

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



Last Puzzle Solution

S-1626

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Want to lease an area (small acreage) to find Indian arrowheads in the sand dunes of West Texas. I will pay up to five figures for the right property. Call 979-218-3351.

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Public Notice Gonzales Economic Development Corporation

In accordance with the Development Corporation Act, Section 505.160 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, a Type B economic development corporation, is publishing this notice of the following project: provide economic development assistance to Irons Properties, LLC, for improvements to 305 St. George in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Four Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$104,000.00).

Gonzales Economic Development Corporation

In accordance with the Development Corporation Act, Section 505.160 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, a Type B economic development corporation, is publishing this notice of the following project: provide economic development assistance to Gonzales Main Street, Inc., a Texas non-profit corporation, in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand forty and No/100 Dollars (\$336,040.00) for fiscal year 2022-2023.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION – TRC 109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS: Cause No. 28,473
Homer Williams, Janet Antwine, Et al IN THE DISTRICT COURT
V 25TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Rachel Barfield, Et al GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: Rachel Barfield also known as Rachel Barefield, Deceased; Willie Goodpasture Steen, Deceased; Louisa Mikes, Deceased; Eugene Steen, Deceased; Novella Jones, Deceased; Rate Steen, Deceased; Oz Steen, Deceased; Sylvester Steen, Deceased; Katie Mae Blackwell, Deceased; Lawyer Steen, Deceased; Lillian Steen, Deceased; Harroslis Steen, Deceased; Joseph Steen, Deceased; Birdo Steen, Deceased; Edman Steen, Deceased; Ruby L.S. Mosley, Deceased; Kenneth Coleman; Sylvester Steen, Jr., Deceased; Johnnie E. Steen, Deceased; Birdo Steen, Jr., Deceased; Burnie Williams, Deceased; Joseph Steen, Deceased; Martha L. Steen, Deceased; Willie Steen, Deceased; Lilian Simmons; Rosemary Steen, Deceased; Grace L. Heck; Lionel Rogers; Nathan K. Rogers, Deceased; Stanley E. Rogers; William J. Shropshire; Michael W. Steen; Julia C. McAfee; Martha K.T. Maddox; Marsha T. Pickens; Ethel T. Shelton; Bobby Joe Thompson, Deceased; Michelle Thompson; Steven Thompson, Deceased; Bobbie Steen; Johnnie Steen; Laura Steen; Berda J. Williams; Wanda Thompson; Edna Lee Steen, Deceased; Billy Jo Neal; Marilyn Steen; Sallie C. Steen, Deceased; Shawn Dean Thompson; Corey D. Brooks; Monique Thompson; Nicole Thompson; Deloris Y. Thompson; Larkin Goodpasture, Deceased; Henrietta Goodpasture also known as Henrietta Collins and Heinrietta Johnson, Deceased; Julius Johnson, also known as Julius Johnson, Deceased; Mattie L. Johnson, Deceased and their respective heirs, Defendant's.

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."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition for Sale Pursuant to Chapter 23A Texas Property Code at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable District Court of Gonzales County, at the Courthouse in said County in Gonzales, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Original Petition for Sale Pursuant to Chapter 23A Texas Property Code was filed in said court on the 01/30/2023 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Original Petition for Sale Pursuant to Chapter 23A Texas Property Code on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Gonzales Texas this 8th day of February, 2023.

Attorney for Plaintiff or Plaintiff:
Christie Ortman Fullilove
403 St. George
Gonzales, TX 78629
830-672-8651

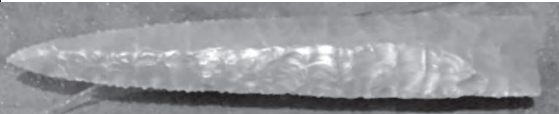


Clerk of the Court
Janice Sutton
414 St. Joseph St., Ste. 300
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By K. Alarcon Deputy

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Lawmen hunting for another escaped convict

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Escaped inmate Brandon Hogan remains at-large and has been added to the Texas Top 10 Most Wanted list.

Coryell County Sheriff's Office Deputies and Investigators continue to follow up tips and information on Hogan's whereabouts.

Please continue to call in any viable or credible information to the Sheriff's Office at (254) 865-7201 ext. 0 or the Texas Crime Stoppers Tip Line at 1-800-252-TIPS (8477).

The public is reminded that Hogan should be considered armed and



Brandon Hogan

dangerous. Do not attempt to make any contact with him, but call local law enforcement immediately if he is seen.

Callers to the Crime Stoppers can remain anonymous, and still qualify for hundreds in reward money.

Readers no doubt recall last summer's horrible discovery after police shot and killed 46-year-old Gonzalo Lopez following a standoff with the man in South Texas.

He escaped May 12, 2022, by attacking prison officials aboard a medical transport bus. On and over the next couple of weeks Lopez made it all the way from just outside Centerville, located on I-45 at about the midpoint between Dallas and Houston, afoot and wearing nothing but prison stripes, to the South Texas town of Jourdan in Atascosa County, about 40 miles south of

San Antonio, on June 2, 2022.

That's some 250 miles in all, and means he likely passed through the local area at some point.

Following the shootout in Jourdan, officers discovered five bodies — a grandfather and his four young grandchildren — all apparent Lopez victims before police could put him down. They were identified by authorities as members of a Tomball family: brothers Waylon Collins, 18, Carson Collins, 16, and Hudson Collins, 11; their cousin, Bryson Collins, 11; and their grandfather, Mark Collins, 66.

NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

continue conversations. (One friend said he talked at 300 words a minute, with gusts to 350!)

He looked forward to overnight outings with college track buddies and spouses. They met annually — lately in Fredericksburg — for about the past 30 years....

His heart weakening, he remained an encourager to the end. I received his email a few days before his death. It urged me to "keep on keeping on."

Glenn contributed much and finished well. This friend will be greatly missed.....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker and former university president who has written weekly since 2003. Phone: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Facebook: Don Newbury.

BOAT RAMP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

boat, fish, kayak, hunt duck, and have spoken to many of them. They came from all over the state and elsewhere. We have a beautiful little town and have never really capitalized on the waterfront and river areas in the county.

People love water and are drawn to it. Water is life. The river is being assaulted by many these days who desire to capitalize monetarily on it. How can we make our area on the battlefield more appealing to visitors?

I know the Chamber of Commerce is interested. In 2018 I testified before the House and Senate committees about this very area I am speaking of. Nothing became of it. Nothing was done. No one really seemed that interested in this historical site. I believe it is special and needs attention. What kind of impression do we want to leave with the people who visit?

Shiner Gaslight Theatre Presents 'Dear Jack, Dear Louise'

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Rehearsals are in full swing for "Dear Jack, Dear Louise," the 2023 spring production at the Shiner Gaslight Dinner Theatre.

Josh Kaspar directs this joyous, heart-warming play about two strangers, Jack, a soldier, and Louise, a beautiful young actress, who meet by letter during World War II and a love story begins.

Tony Award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig was inspired to write this play by the WWII courtship of his parents. Gabe Adamek and Jodi Adamek, both veteran actors on the Gaslight stage and recipients of many Gaslight awards, will bring the story to life as Jack and Louise.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday performances are April 14-16, 21-23, 28-30. A Wednesday per-

formance will be April 19. All are in the evening except for Sunday matinees. A meal is served before the play.

General tickets go on sale beginning Monday, March 20. Please call 361-594-2079 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays to reserve. All tickets must be reserved in advance. For more information log onto www.shinergaslight.org.

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Oh, Snarkleflark!

Hey there y'all, are we enjoying this weather or what? Well, I know I certainly am. If you're not, you need to move to Chicago for twelve years, then tell me how you feel when you get back. It seems we shouldn't be mowing in late February/early March, but I'm not complaining. I enthusiastically jumped on the mower a couple of weeks ago and had barely warmed up before breaking a belt. I wasn't particularly looking forward to replacing it, as it required removing the deck from the mower to get the new one on. No big deal really, while lumber and drywall are more my thing, I just don't enjoy mechanic work at all. Romans 12:12 reminds us to "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer". I do my best, what can I say? So, when patience is running thin, instead of using profanity, I like to exclaim in a loud voice, oh...Snarkleflark! It seems to satisfy the craving, leaving me (arguably), still as



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

pure as the driven snow. With short/fat fingers that any Vienna sausage would be jealous of, I'm guaranteed to loose at least a few of every small nut, bolt, washer, or screw I come in contact with. Ahh, so that must be what they mean when they say I must have a screw loose? By the time I got the new one on, the stinging nettle in my yard was over two feet tall. I personally love it and would miss not being stung 100+ times a year, as after so many years of it, it kinda feels like home. But for y'all that are unfamiliar with it, it feels like you're standing atop of a giant fire ant mound, with a residual tingling that feels like your foot is waking up after falling asleep, for up to 24 hours. However, it's a great plant, rich in vitamin A, B2,

C and K, potassium, calcium, folate, iron and antioxidants. Many people cook with it, as heat removes the sting, but we mostly use it for tea, just wear gloves when handling it. When new to country life, I once had someone convince me it was wild mint, encouraging me to grab some and smell it. I did appreciate the prank, and once my face quit wobbling like a jelly filled donut, thought it was pretty funny myself. I left off of my dad's story last week with him almost shooting himself in the foot. Seeing as how he was destined to become a pilot, much of our time together revolved around planes. Living in Florida at the time, a friend of his once flew us to a small landing strip somewhere deep in the Everglades. Though young, I remember it feeling kinda spooky. We climbed up into a fire lookout tower, but decided to cut our time there short after hearing panthers fighting in the forest. Another

time we went on an airboat ride through the Everglades, seeing many gators along the way. For anyone who's never been out in the glades, it's a very isolated and eerie experience, like nowhere I've been before, nothing like what I saw on the TV show "Gentle Ben". On another outing we visited a bay that housed a seaplane company, watching them take off and land for hours, while we played with the horseshoe crabs along the beach. Although our time together didn't last as long as I would've liked, due to marital separation and military duty, the memories I have are pretty awesome, and I'll be sharing more soon, so stay tuned. It's kind of a shame that so much of our life is spent working, and not nearly enough spent on living it and building memories. So, remember to spend it wisely, as we'll all only get one shot at it. Love you guys, Eric.

CHURCH BRIEFS



PRESBYTERIAN EASTER SERVICES

Please make plans to join The Presbyterian Church of Gonzales for the following services:

- Palm Sunday, April 2, worship at 11 a.m.;
- Maundy Thursday, April 6, 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall; and
- Easter Sunday, April 9. On Easter Sunday we will have breakfast at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall to be followed by Easter worship at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome!

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Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115 Waelder, TX, 78959	Union Valley Baptist Church FM 1681, NW of Nixon	Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales	River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley
First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales	CATHOLIC St. James Catholic Church 417 N. College, Gonzales	METHODIST Belmont United Methodist Highway 90A, Belmont	Thompsonville Community Church CR 423, Thompsonville Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon	Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales	Dewville United Methodist West of FM 1117 on CR 121	Two Rivers Bible Church 1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales
First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley	St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon	First United Methodist 426 St. Paul, Gonzales	INTER-DENOMINATIONAL Faith Family Church 1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales
First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder	St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder	First United Methodist 410 N. Franklin, Nixon	Living Waters Fellowship 306 St. Paul, Gonzales
Greater Palestine Baptist Church S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)	St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley	Flatonia United Methodist	PENTECOSTAL Faith Temple Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon
Greater Rising Star Baptist Church	CHRISTIAN First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling	Harris Chapel United Methodist S. Liberty St., Nixon	Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2 1515 Dallas, Gonzales
Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office, Harwood	CHURCHES OF CHRIST Church of Christ 1323 Seydler St., Gonzales	Harwood Methodist Church Harwood	Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia 893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon	Henson Chapel United Methodist 1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales	Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales
Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon	Monthalia United Methodist CR 112 off Highway 97	Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236
Leesville Baptist Church E. of Highway 80 on CR 121	Church of Christ, Belmont	Smiley United Methodist 1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley	PRESBYTERIAN Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116
Memorial Heights Baptist Church 1330 N. College, Gonzales	CHURCHES OF GOD Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales	Webster Chapel A.M.E. 1027 Church St., Gonzales	Presbyterian Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church 100 Capes, Gonzales	Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales	NON-DENOMINATIONAL Agape Ministries 512 St. James, Gonzales Bread of Life Ministries 613 St. Joseph, Gonzales	Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero
Oak Valley Baptist Church Highway 97, Bebe	New Beginnings 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	
Old Moulton Baptist Church 1121 N. College, Gonzales	Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, Gonzales		

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OBITUARIES

SYLVIA SOLIZ FERNANDEZ

Sylvia Soliz Fernandez, 66, of Gonzales, Texas, passed away on Saturday, March 4, 2023. She was born on August 29, 1956, in Gonzales, Texas, to Alejandro Soliz, Sr. and Ruperta Villarreal Soliz. She was the youngest of 10 children.

Sylvia loved to laugh and carry on with friends and family. Her grandkids have special memories of playing Loteria for snacks and Yahtzee for change with her. As her health slowly deteriorated over the last couple of years, she enjoyed spending her time watching TV game shows and sports while working on sudoku puzzles.

Sylvia is survived by her children Christie



Neco (Robert), Charla Clayborne, Lucy Martinez (Ariel), and Jesse Campa; grandchildren Kayla Soliz, Hope Soliz, Robert Soliz, Makayla Clayborne, Whitley Bonilla, Alexzavier Martinez, and Arriyanna Martinez; great grandchildren Peace Trevino, Wyatt Aguayo, Jace Hammond, Jonathan Fulilove Jr., and Tayvian

Taylor; sisters Dominga Gonzalez, Julie Mendez and brother Alejandro Soliz, Jr.

She was preceded in death by her loving parents; brother Nestor Soliz; sisters Guadalupe Rodriguez, Enriqueta Valdez, Elena Alvarado, San Juanie Valdez and Yolanda Banda; husband Jose Francisco Vera; great granddaughter Everly Hammond.

The family is following her wishes of a direct cremation with no memorial service and would like to thank everyone for their condolences and prayers.

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

BRUCE BAKER



were his pride and joy. As grandchildren came along, they were proudly included in the family circle. His great grandchildren number 27, but Bruce's heart was large enough to find a place for each of them. The strength of their family ties is exemplified by the inclusion of many members in the business.

The legacy Bruce left for his family, however, is one of faith and love for God. He made a commitment to God at the age of 14 and was faithful to that commitment the rest of his life. In his younger years, Bruce attended Wrightsboro Baptist Church and First Baptist Church in Gonzales. Later, he attended Tree of Life Church in New Braunfels, Emmanuel Fellowship in Gonzales and, for the past 17 years, has been a faithful member of Faith Family church. His commitment to conduct himself as a Christian touched every area of his life, and his faith carried him through many difficult times. But he also touched the lives of many others who look upon Bruce and Elaine as spiritual parents. If there is anything he would want for his extended family, it would be that they all find, and walk, in the same faith he exhibited all his life.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Elaine, his help-mate, best friend, prayer partner, and love of his life

for the past 62 years; his daughters, Linda Denise Falks and husband John, of Gonzales, Deborah Jetton Baker of Bastrop, and Crystal Gay Baker of Gonzales; his sisters, Janice Menking and Patsy Stamport, his brother, Sherman Baker and wife, DeNessa, all of Gonzales; nine grandchildren, Jonathan Falks and wife Rebecca, Troy Dykes, Joshua Falks and wife Angel, Heather Drury and husband James, Stephanie Puska and husband, Garet, Brittany Moran, Jesse Falks and wife, KayLauni, Kendra Dykes, and Delaine Dykes; and 27 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sons, Jarrett and Dean, and a grandson, Jarrett Blaine Falks.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 pm Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held 10 am Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at Faith Family Church with Revs: Forrest Hamilton, Hollas Hoffman and Lynn Wilson officiating. Interment will follow in Hermann Sons Cemetery. Pallbearers: Jonathan, Joshua and Jesse Falks, Troy and Nathan Dykes, James Drury, Garet Pustka and Jacob Rogers. Honorary pallbearers: Scott Humphrey, Glenn Montgomery, Barry Kremling and Carlos Oliveres-Perez. Memorials may be made to Faith Family Church, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, or South Texas Hospice of Victoria. 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.

CHARLOTTE LOUISE (BENES) TIEKEN

Charlotte Louise (Benes) Tieken went to join the Lord on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. She was born April 21, 1936, in Gonzales to her parents, Louis and Gussie Benes. She grew up and attended school in Gonzales and graduated from Gonzales High School in May of 1954. She started working at Citizens National Bank after graduation, later known as Wells Fargo Bank, and made a career as a bank teller, as well as many other positions within the bank, that would span over 60 years. She received a proclamation from Mayor Robert Logan on August 11, 2014, which was formally announced as "Charlotte Tieken Day" in Gonzales, Texas. Her lifelong career was wonderfully acknowledged, and she was honored with this recognition of her work in the financial services industry.

Charlotte married Gerald Tieken on August 18, 1958. They were blessed to share 62 years together. Charlotte loved her family very much and made many wonderful memories with them. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. They were a precious gift to her, and she cherished them more than anything. She was well known for her baked goods, especially her sugar



cookies. She would often make them for family, friends, and neighbors. Charlotte was a member of the First Lutheran Church of Gonzales. Charlotte leaves behind a legacy of not only serving her community, but also loving and caring deeply for her family and friends. She impacted many and will be missed greatly by those who knew her.

Charlotte is survived by her son Gerald Duane Tieken, her granddaughter, Megan Benson and her husband, Jason from Dripping Springs, her step grandchildren, Karen Krnavek (Charlie) from La Grange, Michael Machala (Kara) from Westpoint, her great grandchild, Jackson Benson, and her step great grandchildren, Joshua Krnavek and Chase Krnavek, sister Margaret Koenning of Victoria, brother Billy Benes of Gonzales, sister in laws, Jeannie Koenning of St. Hedwig, Lisetta Tharp (Larry) of Gonzales, Patsy Tieken of McKinney, brother in laws, Harold Tieken (Betty), Donald

Tieken (Annie) of Gonzales, Dale Tieken (Martha) of Floresville and Charles Bolton of Luling. She was also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Louis and Gussie Benes, husband Gerald and daughter in law Barbara Tieken.

A visitation will take place on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. A funeral service will take place on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at Seydler - Hill Funeral Home at 10:00am, and interment will follow at Gonzales Memorial Park Cemetery. Pallbearers include Gerald Duane Tieken, Jason Benson, Bruce Tieken, Gene Tieken, Duane Tieken and Dale Schelenberg. Memorials may be made to First Lutheran Church or charity of one's choice.

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

PRACTICE OF GARY GAGE, O.D. CLOSING

Thanks to all the loyal patients who have chosen me for their eye care over the last 43 years. I had planned to hand over the practice to a worthy successor, but after several years of effort could not find one. We're closing March 31st. Records will be available for transfer with a signed written request sent to PO Box 1598, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

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6 Austin MFM	7 Dr Echols	8 Dr Quebedeaux Dr. Twitero	9 Dr Ryan Dr Echols	10 Amy Trost
13 Austin MFM Dr Malik Dr Desai	14 Dr Echols Dr Quintero	15 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Miller	16 Dr Ryan Dr Malik Dr Echols	17 Dr Bui
20 Austin MFM	21 Dr Echols	22 Dr Quebedeaux	23 Dr Ryan Dr Kirchner Dr Echols	24
27 Austin MFM	28 Dr Echols	29 Dr Quebedeaux Dr Miller	30 Dr Ryan Dr Echols	31

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Luling Watermelon Thump Past Queens hold purse bingo fundraiser

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Luling Past Queen's Association would like to thank everyone who sponsored, volunteered and came out and supported their inaugural Ladies Luxury Purse Bingo.

They sent out a special thank you to Rosemary Heller for the beautiful flower arrangements and to Tammy Renee with Small Town Creations for the beautiful backdrop.

"We had a blast!" association leaders said. "If you missed it this year mark your calendar next year for March 2, 2024.

The event supports the current Watermelon Thump Queen and her court. Each candidate will receive a scholarship from the proceeds as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

If you would like to sponsor a table next year, please send me your name, phone number, address



and email and we will put you on the mailing list. Congratulations to all the winners!

"Again, thank you for all who made this possible," they said.

WINNERS WERE:

- Coach with wallet- Brittany Sammons
- Michael Kors with wallet- Imelda Hernandez
- Tory Burch with wallet-

Jennifer Otto Zumwalt

- Consuela- Veronica Gonzales
- Tory Burch with wallet- Norma Reyes Castillo
- Kate Spade- Brittany Sammons
- Brahmin-Lisa Jones
- Coach with wallet- Dimi Poulos
- Valentino- Vanessa Gutierrez
- Coach- Michelle George
- Valentino- Lauren

Pedraza

- Kate Spade- Mayor C.J. Watts
- Versace- Vanessa Reyes Lara
- Michael Kors with wallet- DeLacy Watts
- Burberry- Janet Gonzales
- Kate Spade- Bonnie Merz Dredla
- Consuela- Natalia Almquist
- Kate Spade- Izzy Hodge
- Tory Burch- Valerie Moore
- Gucci- Rosa Villanueva
- Raffle winner - Louis Viitton- Jennifer Sullivan

RAFFLE DOOR PRIZE WINNERS:

- Prize #1 - Manell Martin
- Prize #2- Veronica Powell
- Prize #3- Bethany Haynes
- Prize #4- Karissa Ellis
- Prize #5- Manell Martin
- Prize #6- Kai Hendricks

Schnautz

- \$25.00. - Gift card - Amy Wells Horne

• \$100.00- Cash - Rosine Carter

- \$25.00 - Gift card - Kathleen Velasquez

Kolkhorst lays out SB147 before Senate State Affairs

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Thursday, March 2, Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) offered a committee substitute for Senate Bill SB 147. Senator Kolkhorst has received support from Texans across the state regarding the importance of food security, energy security and national security.

"I have been amazed by the bi-partisan support this bill has received from across our state," said Kolkhorst. "Despite the narrative portrayed by some in the media, the feedback has been extremely positive. But, I have listened to concerns and because of that, the committee substitute will make it crystal clear that dual citizens and legal permanent residents are able to purchase property. In fact, anyone



Kolkhorst

fleeing these authoritarian regimes will be able to purchase a home."

The committee substitute will include these clarifications/additions:

- Makes clear that the prohibitions do not apply to United States citizens and lawful permanent residents, including dual citizens.
- Prohibitions for real estate holdings will not include a residence that is homesteaded. This addresses concerns of those who have fled the authoritarian regimes to live the American dream and seek a home in Texas.
- Clarifies the definition of real estate as: land; an improvement; a mine or quarry; a mineral in place; or standing timber. This makes it clear that the bill ensures food, energy and national security are protected.
- Specifies that majority

control of an entity means 50% or more voting control.

- Clarifies the enforcement mechanism. The Attorney General is given authority to investigate potential violations and then bring a divestment proceeding before a court of law. Once a judge finds the entity in violation, the court orders the real estate into receivership with existing receivership procedures under Chapter 64, Civil Practices and Civil Remedies being applied.

SB 147 addresses a national security issue and will preserve our cherished private property rights and constitutional freedoms. The proposed legislation builds upon SB 2116 which passed the Texas Legislature unanimously in 2021. That bill protected critical infrastructure against contracts or doing business with Russia, North Korea, China, and Iran or its citizens because of national

security issues. Those four countries are also named in the Director of National Intelligence's Annual Threat Assessment. Mirroring that legislation and the Annual Threat Assessment, SB 147 also names the same four countries and prohibits them from future purchases of Texas lands.

"I am honored to have SB 147 heard by the Senate Committee on State Affairs on Texas Independence Day. The goal of this bill is to legislate common sense safeguards against Russian, North Korean, Chinese, and Iranian authoritarian regimes. It will not apply to those fleeing the tyranny of those governments who seek freedom in Texas," said Kolkhorst. "The committee substitute makes important clarifications, so the law targets agents of these adversarial regimes while not harming innocent Texans in pursuit of the American dream."

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office
02/26/23 – 03/04/23

02/26/23

- Adams, Kristin Michelle, 10/1988, Houston: Driving while Intoxicated, Released on \$3,000 Bond

03/01/23

- Cannon, Scotty, 09/1975, Floyd, NM: Commitment/Sentence – Assault Peace Officer/Judge, Remains in Custody

03/02/23

- Gonzales, Santana, 02/1983, Luling: Criminal Trespass, Released on \$800 Bond
- Pugh, Gary Bradley, 04/1981, Rio Grande: Local Warrant – Publish/Threat to Publish Intimate Visual Material, Requires \$25,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

03/03/23

- Solis, James Elis, 11/1976, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 <1G, Released – Weekender
- Martinez, Dominic Angel, 03/2001, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Manufacture Deliver Controlled Substance PG 1 >4G <200G, Released – Weekender
- Acosta, Joseph Christopher, 01/1983, Lockhart: Commitment/Sentence – Possession Controlled Substance PG 1 >1G <4G, Released – Work Release

03/04/23

- Hilt, John Adam, 03/1980, Nixon: Local Warrant – Assault Family/Household Member w/ Previous Conviction; Local Warrant – Assault Family/Household Member w/Previous Conviction; Remains in Custody

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processing's:	
GCSO	08
DPS	00
GPD	11
WPD	00
NPD	01
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	20

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ACROSS

1 TXism: “___ winder” (exciting)

5 in 1910, TX Johnson knocked out the “great white ___”

6 Greek given name

7 TXism: “bunched up like ___ at a trough”

8 birth month for TX “Dandy Don” Meredith (abbr.)

9 with 36-across, cartoon animals named by Bill “Tex” Henson

16 actress Patricia of TX-based “Hud”

18 American Airlines Center to the Dallas Mavericks (2 wds.)

21 sch. exercise (abbr.)

22 drug addict

23 TX “alligator” or “spotted” fish

24 ground-huggin’ cloud? (2 wds.)

30 boot repairs (2 wds.)

34 private San Antonio univer. (abbr.)

35 gas at \$2.50 per gallon these days? (2 wds.)

36 last name in 9-across cartoon

37 Texas among other states?

39 TXism for “vulnerable” (3 wds.)

43 murders

44 San _____, TX

45 TX “Cowpokes” artist Reid (init.)

46 TXism: “mean as a bulldog on a gunpowder ___”

47 TXism: “_____ bunkhouse chili”

49 restaurant reminder: “_____ server”

52 Texas peak: “___ Capitan”

53 Love or Hobby guess

54 ethanol scopolamine, e.g. “truth _____”

55 most slippery

58 showy cup-shaped flower

59 TX George W. to George H.W.

60 Cowboy Dalton Schultz position

61 _____ Rio, TX

DOWN

1 this “Happy” made “Alamo Village”

2 TXism: “takes a big loop _____ him”

3 Springtown newspaper

4 “Don’t _____ With Texas”

9 this Hilton started his hotel chain in Texas (init.)

10 TXism: “fat as a boarding_____”

11 TX B.J. sang “___ Lonesome I Could Cry”

12 orange’s skin

13 TXism: “up _ _____ without a paddle”

14 TXism: “leave _____ stone unturned”

15 TXism: “he _____ his own grave”

17 wooly critters at the front? (2 wds.)

19 snake in Texas

20 most factual

24 _____ Porte, TX

25 female eggs

26 TXism: “if he _____ dog he wouldn’t wag his own tail” (lazy)

27 “Alibates _____ Quarries National Monument” in Texas

28 TX Willie: “Turn _____ lights, the party’s over”

29 what you’d better do when the dipstick is dry (2 wds.)

31 young British man

32 viral infection, e.g.

33 “my feet _____ from under me”

38 big pelvis bone

40 corporation abbr.

41 “Swoosh” sneaker

42 German Christmas market in Texas, if spelled with a “K”:

43 “_____markt”

48 TXism: “_____ some away” (save)

50 sneak a look

51 TX Willie has lived 89 of these (abbr.)

56 “_____ to love her but it’s all over now”

57 it cost \$ 31,000 to _____ famed Texas longhorn “Starlight”

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1627

SUDOKU

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

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.

SPORTS

POWERLIFTING

Lady Apaches finish strong in regionals

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches competed in the regional powerlifting meet in Robstown Thursday, March 2. Madison Sampleton medaled in third place with 750 total pounds in the 220 weight class. Haley Bairrington finished the regional meet with 710 total pounds in the 259 weight class. Denise Navarro finished the regional meet with 560 total pounds in the 105 weight class. Shelby Borjon closed out the 165 weight class with 665 total pounds.

Lady Mustangs claim sixth place in Seguin Tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs traveled to Seguin for their second tournament of the season Thursday, March 2. The Lady Mustangs finished sixth out of 25 teams and a 4-2 record. Nixon-Smiley improves to 10-4 for the year. The Lady Mustangs hosted Goliad Tuesday, March 7 at home. Nixon-Smiley will compete in its final tournament in San Marcos Thursday, March 9.

STATS:

Mady Velasquez 6-11; 7 R; 2 RBI; 5 BB; 1 SB
Hailee Houseton 3-12; 4 R; 2 RBI; 2 HBP; 2 SB
Kendall Amaya 6-11; 7 R; 5 RBI; 1 HR
Mary Kate Garcia 4-14; 4 R; 5 RBI; 1 HR
Emily Granados 1 R; 2 RBI; 2 BB
Nichole Ivey 1 R; 2 BB
Cecilia Villasana 1-4
Tyra Ortiz 1 RBI; 1 BB
Coralie Barillet 1-1; 1 R; 2 RBI
Dina Leal 2-3; 1 RBI
Sadie walden 1 BB
Brooke Crisp 3 R; 1 BB

Pitching

Velasquez 2-1; 18 K; 5 BB; 11 H
Amaya 2-1; 9 K; 9 BB; 10 H



Senior Amaya Rodriguez at bat for the Lady Apaches. Rodriguez contributed one hit in the bottom of the second. PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Apaches' bats fly by Smithville, 6-5

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches varsity softball squad earned their first home victory, 6-5, over the Smithville Lady Tigers Tuesday, March 7. The Lady Apaches batters got the show going in the bottom of the second with a home run by junior catcher Sydney McCray and had eight of the last ten batters take the bases and score four RBIs with two outs. “The fact that Sydney got her first hit of the season, that was awesome. Just phenomenal to see her upper class leadership really pay off with that and all that hard work,” Head softball coach Michelle Uribe said. “She just started a fire and

everybody was like ‘Alright, my turn. I want to get some’ and so it was just a good mood,” Uribe added. McCray got on base three times in the win over Smithville; a home run, a hit by pitch and a walk. “We were making contact on the ball and we just weren’t getting around and I think that home run kind of set everybody off,” McCray said. Smithville nearly forced extra innings in the top of the seventh, scoring two runs to make it 6-5 game. Uribe switched out pitchers from Kamrynn Zella to Kylee Watson then back to Zella; Watson started the top of the seventh with two hits and got out two batters. Smithville got the bases loaded, but sophomore



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Above left: senior first baseman Haley Bairrington catches the ball and attempts to get the Smithville batter out. Above right: Senior pitcher and first baseman Kylee Watson warms up her pitching in the top of the seventh inning. At bat Watson recorded an RBI double in the bottom of the second.

third baseman Peyton Springfield got the game-sealing out to close out the game. “I was already confident because I just felt good coming into the game. So it just everyone was talking and it just made me feel better,” Springfield said. Despite the close call in the seventh, defense played very well against Smithville, allowing only three runs and seven hits in the first six innings. The Lady Apaches kept their cool after sealing the win, and the dugout had to do with that. “I think the dugout was a really big part of it, like

cheering and talking and everyone just kind of like coming together and not going down after the runs,” Springfield. Gonzales will travel to New Braunfels Friday, March 10 against the Lady Unicorns, and Uribe is very familiar with that team as she formerly was a coach at Steele. “I’m familiar with them from last year they were in my old district. My good friends at Steele play them tonight, so I’m going to ask them for a little bit of a scouting report and see what we can do.” Uribe said. First pitch at New Braunfels begins at 7 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs powerlifting team all finished in the Top 10 and five medaled in the Regional powerlifting meet.

Lady Mustangs finish strong in regional powerlifting

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smile Lady Mustangs brought home medals from their regional powerlifting meet in Robstown Friday, March 3. All nine Lady Mustangs powerlifters all finished in the top ten in their respective weight classes; and five of them medaled. “We are beyond proud of our girls’ team’s success and growth this year and look

forward to making stronger Lady Mustang student-athletes next year. Huge shoutout to the athletes that worked hard all season to qualify to be able to lift this past weekend,” Nixon-Smiley head powerlifting coach Paul Kirby said. “We appreciate all of the support and I am hoping our team continues to grow and get stronger for next season.” Kirby added. 6th Place Gabriella Villalobos with a 710 lbs total (PR; +60)

REGIONAL POWERLIFT RESULTS		
97 LBS WEIGHT CLASS 5th Place (medalist) Syriana Pantoja with a 305 lbs total (PR; +10)	132 LBS WEIGHT CLASS 8th Place Katelyn Fernandez with a 655 lbs total (PR; +40)	165 LBS WEIGHT CLASS 3rd Place (medalist) Janaelyn White with a 780 lbs total
123 LBS WEIGHT CLASS 5th Place (medalist) Cecilia Villasana with a 585 lbs total (PR; +80) 7th Place Kaylie Morin with a 555 lbs total (PR; +30)	148 LBS WEIGHT CLASS 5th Place (medalist) Zulema Rodriguez with a 720 lbs total (PR; +10) 6th Place Janice White with a 685 lbs total (PR; +55)	181 LBS WEIGHT CLASS 3rd Place (medalist) Haven Davis with a 780 lbs total

Apaches' late rally thwarted by Smithville

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches varsity baseball team fell to the Smithville Tigers, 5-2, Tuesday, March 7 at home. The Apaches, with their never-give-up spirit, tried to rally against the Tigers, cutting their lead to 4-2, scoring two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. Weston Ruddock got on base five times for the Apaches and recorded a triple. Smithville would score an insurance run in the top of the seventh and protect the win in the bottom of the seventh.

The Apaches will travel to Bastrop for their final tournament of the season Thursday, March 9 to Saturday, March 11.

STATS:

AT BAT:

Hits: W. Ruddock (3) and Brandon Dubose, Jarren Johnson, Joe Canales Jr, Kason Tieken, and Kameron Leal (1)
RBI: B. Dubose (1)
Walk: J. Canales Jr. (1)
Double: J. Johnson and K. Leal (1)
Triple: W. Ruddock (1)
Pitching:
J. Canales: Hits: 8, Runs: 4, Errors: 4, Walks: 1 and strike outs: 3
J. Johnson: Runs: 1 and Walks: 1



VANDY VAN EPPS

Nixon-Smiley vs Gonzales: Senior Bradyn Martinez steals home for the Mustangs against the Gonzales Apaches Saturday, March 4.

Apaches FC roll past rival Yoakum, 4-1

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches FC claimed a 4-1 win over the Yoakum Bulldogs Friday, March 3 at home.

The Apaches FC took command of the match, scoring four goals on the Bulldogs; two goals from Emiliano Lopez and one goal each from Jose Velasquez and Clemente Govea.

“We had to start off strong and start off getting the first goal in the game and get us motivated and keep us in the game. But most importantly, we had to get the win to stay in the playoffs,” Lopez said.

The game was huge in keeping the Apaches FC playoff hopes alive; Gonzales sits in fourth place with a 2-3-2 district record with a higher winning percentage than San Antonio Fox Tech, who are in fifth.

Apaches FC head soccer coach Shea Seip was proud of his team for their performance against the Bulldogs, compared to their tie early in the season.

“We put them away. We took the same amount of shots on goal and we put them away,” Seip said.

The defense allowed one goal against Yoakum, but Seip said his team turned the page and

made no further mistakes and went out and got the win.

Apaches FC goal keeper Andres Govea said his team practiced perfectly for preparation for the Yoakum match and added the communication was there in the game.

It was senior night for eight seniors (Ezequiel Reyna, Jose Velasquez, Michael Gonzalez, Miguel Ramos, Sebastian Matamoros, Enrique Reyna, Clemente Govea, and Juan Govea).

Clemente Govea scored the fourth goal for Gonzales and was happy to get the win during senior night.

“It feels great. It feels really good to win when you know this is your last year to play. It feels good to win on your night,” Govea said.

The Apaches FC faced San Antonio Fox Tech on the road Wednesday, March 8. See the Gonzales Inquirer Facebook page for scores and stats.

Gonzales will take on the La Vernia Bears on the road Friday, March 10.

Seip said he hopes the Yoakum game will help them get “motivated” for the La Vernia match and, remembering what they did to them in the last meeting, will plan on “sending it right back.”

The La Vernia match kicks off at 7 p.m.



Above, left to right: Seniors Ezequiel Reyna, Jose Velasquez, Michael Gonzalez, Miguel Ramos, Sebastian Matamoros, Enrique Reyna, Clemente Govea, and Juan Govea were honored by the Gonzales soccer program against Yoakum Friday, March 3. Left: Apaches FC goalkeeper Andres Govea kicks the ball to the Yoakum side of the field.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



Senior Maria Vasquez kicks a penalty goal attempt against Yoakum Friday, March 3.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Apaches FC tie Yoakum in scoreless affair

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC kept their playoff hopes up in a 0-0 tie against the Yoakum Lady Bulldogs Friday, March 3.

The Lady Apaches haven’t lost a game since their district opener against the JFK Rockets.

Gonzales’ defense prevented the Lady Bulldogs from scoring all night and got key saves from senior goal keeper Carlee Ramos.

“I think our defense fought so incredibly hard. We knew coming into the Yoakum game that one of their biggest strategies is really trying to catch the other teams and offside traps. And we worked on that through practice and we were able to break their defensive line a lot,” Lady Apaches FC soccer coach Shantael Trimm said.

Gonzales had a lot missed opportunities for scoring that would have won them the game.

Trimm said there was a lot hesitation from not getting called for offside and trying to cover the back post against Yoakum.

“We did break through a couple times. We just couldn’t unfortunately get one in the back of the net,” Trimm said.

The Lady Apaches honored seven of the seniors (Belen Leon, Nancy Nino, Lucero Govea, Maria Velasquez, Brenda Gonzales, Ashley Rosas, and Carlee Ramos).



Seniors Ashley Rosas, Brenda Gonzales, Belen Leon, Carlee Ramos, Maria Vasquez, Nancy Nino, and Lucero Govea were honored by the Gonzales soccer program before the start of the Yoakum game.

Ramos was proud and honored that the seniors of the team had a night for them.

“It always feels really good being honored as a senior as I’ve put in a lot of hard work and we all have as a team honestly, and it feels really heartfelt whenever people that you’ve played with, people you have bled with, sweat with, and to just be together and have this one game that is for us to be together,” Ramos said.

Trimm, in her first year, was impressed with this group of seniors and they

really helped to get to know the team.

“I will never forget them. They helped introduce me to the other girls. They invited me into the family that we have here. And I think that they set the tone and set the legacy that we’ve got to hold up for them after they graduate. I’m extremely proud of them,” Trimm said.

The Lady Apaches played San Antonio Fox Tech on the road Wednesday, March 8. See the Gonzales Inquirer Facebook page for scores and highlights.

Gonzales will hit the road

Friday, March 10 against the La Vernia Lady Bears, who they tied, 1-1, in the first match of the season.

Trimm knows how big this opportunity is this Friday, especially since playoff seeding is on the line.

“This is an opportunity for us to actually gain some ground. And then of course, the season’s not over for these other teams too. So there’s some big games that we’re going to be watching down the road that that might affect our standing as well,” Trimm said.

The La Vernia game kicks off at 5 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Apaches, Mustangs receive all-district recognition

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches and Nixon-Smiley Mustangs varsity basketball teams revealed their all-district teams early this week.

For the Apaches, senior Angel Martinez received first team all-district from District 28-4A; and Gavin Lekgega, Weston Ruddock and Jermane Upshaw received honorable mentions.

In District 26-3A, the Mustangs received multiple all-district honors.

Senior Bradyn Martinez was named offensive MVP for District 26-3A.

Seniors Dustin Mejia and Braxton Regalado were named to first team all-district; junior Carl White and sophomore Tristen Mikesch were named second team all-district; and Holden Canion, Luke Moses and Kade Dixon were named all-district honorable mentions.

Angel Martinez, Luke Avant and Weston Ruddock were named to the District 28-4A all-academic team, and Holden Canion, Kade Dixon and Luke Moses were named to the all-academic team for District 26-3A.



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GONZALES CHAMBER HOLDS BANQUET



PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN
It was a Texas Independence Ball at the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture banquet on Thursday, March 2. Participants, which also included GISD employees, enjoyed Texas barbecue and Texas music in addition to seeing Bob Scheske and David Tacy awarded the David B. Walshak Lifetime Achievement Award and Community Service Award, respectively.

LAYING ROSES FOR THE IMMORTAL 32



PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN
The Sons of the Republic of Texas, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, City of Gonzales, Gonzales County Historical Commission, Crystal Theatre and Tour Gonzales held a ceremony to commemorate the Immortal 32 on Sunday, March 5, at the Gonzales Memorial Museum. A roll call was read of the nine men from Gonzales already at the Alamo and the 32 who joined them prior to its fall on March 6, 1835. Yellow roses were laid by the cenotaph by descendants of the fallen and the Young Texans recited Travis' letter requesting aid as well as sung a song about "The Immortal 32."

A TOAST TO TEXAS INDEPENDENCE



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Residents and city officials gathered at Texas Independence Square on Thursday, March 2 to make a sweet tea toast to Texas Independence, as well as the reading of the Texas Declaration of Independence and the playing of Taps by the Gonzales Naval JROTC for the 2023 Commemoration.



COME & GRIND IT

Come and Grind It returned Saturday, Feb. 25 to Gonzales County in Leesville, Texas, as hundreds of cyclists from Texas and around the world competed in the 62-mile course.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



BASEBALL

Mustangs beats Apaches in tournament championship

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs and Gonzales Apaches baseball teams squared off for the tournament championship game in the Nixon-Smiley tournament Saturday, March 4.

This is the first time since 2015 these two cross-county teams faced each other; Gonzales won the 2015 meet, 6-5.

Gonzales head coach Garry Beveridge, despite the 7-3 loss to the Mustangs, said he was proud of his team of how they

fought to stay in the game.

"I've loved this team to death, we got a lot of fight in us. And I'm telling you, we've been dealing this week, I never, I absolutely never want to make any excuses. But we've been dealing with a lot of adversity," Beveridge said.

The Apaches dealt with illness, different roster lineups, and the stock show happening the same week.

"What I'm most proud of is our kids, they just keep showing up and keep fighting. And I think that's going to take us a long way this whole

season," Beveridge added.

Beveridge and Mustangs head coach Jordan VanAuken praised each other's teams and how great they played against each other in the tournament championship.

"I'll tell you that the best part about it is how quality of a team they are and, I was like, I'd love to make this a rivalry because they're going to give us a battle every time they step on the field. And I look for really big things out," Beveridge said.

"I'm so glad that they came to this tournament. I think they're really good baseball team. I

think they're going to be a really good baseball team the rest of the year," VanAuken said.

The Mustangs took home the tournament championship at their home tournament, and VanAuken was proud of how his team overcame tough competition, especially prepping for district play and facing good pitching.

VanAuken said they faced good pitching from Shiner, Yorktown, Gonzales and Sacred Heart.

"So seeing good pitching, knowing Marion and (other teams) have good pitchers.

And then the second thing is, if you can play small ball against good teams, I mean, it shows that it works. So they just need to see it and believe it," VanAuken said.

The Gonzales Apaches faced Smithville Tuesday, March 7 and will travel to Bastrop for their final tournament of the season Thursday, March 9 through Saturday, March 11.

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs faced Scared Heart Tuesday, March 7 on the road, and travel to Stockdale for non-district contest against the Brahmas Friday, March 10.



GISD students show off their ‘Top Chef’ culinary skills

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

GISD students were eager to satisfy their food cravings after channeling their inner “Top Chef.” Apaches spent time refining their kitchen skills while creating palatable snacks and dishes. Students were drawn to the kitchen to work with food connoisseur and chef Steve Crisler. Chef Crisler is a certified executive chef who works directly with the Gonzales ISD food services department.

In a series of food experiences, students were able to get hands-on while also gaining valuable knowledge in the kitchen. Students learned how to read a recipe, properly portion ingredients, mix ingredients, learn knife-cutting skills, and have proper sanitation.

Students were active and engaged. Director of food services Edward Wayner shared student participation details and added that the best part “was sampling the finished recipes.”

Some must-try dishes were fideo pronto, buffalo ranch chex mix, honey yogurt veggie dip, and light banana ambrosia salad recipes.



Comptroller seeks broadband projects for grant proposals

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar recently announced his agency’s intent to solicit initial round grant applications totaling \$120 million for broadband infrastructure projects as part of the Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas program.

The BOOT program will support broadband infrastructure projects in eligible areas that bring reliable, affordable internet service to communities in need.

“This is an important step that my agency is taking to fulfill our legislative directive to connect every Texan to broadband service,” Hegar said. “Nearly 7 million Texans don’t have access to broadband services. That’s 7 million Texans who can’t access job postings, telemedicine appointments, work or educational opportunities from home. This grant process is a big start in bridging that digital divide.”

The Comptroller’s office posted a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on Monday, March 6, and applicants have until just March 17 to submit questions on the NOFA and allow this agency to make any necessary corrections to the solicitation through the addendum process.

Applicants for the BOOT program can begin submitting their proposals Monday, April 3.

The NOFA was published on the TXSmartBuy website. Applicants also can visit the Comptroller’s Broadband Development Office (BDO) website for more information about the application process and guidance materials and to sign up for updates about future broadband initiatives.

Eligible broadband infrastructure projects must be designed to deliver, upon completion, broadband service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical speeds of 100 megabits per second (Mbps). Awarded applicants must also provide a universally available low-cost option for locations being served by the project and participate in a federal broadband subsidy program.

The BDO was established by the state Legislature in 2021 and housed within the Texas Comptroller’s office to help close the digital divide in Texas. The BOOT program is the state’s first competitive broadband grant program focused on last mile connectivity: connecting end users to high-speed internet.

Through the BDO, the state of Texas has been allocated \$363.8 million through the federal Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund to carry out critical infrastructure projects related to expanding access to high-speed internet.

In January, the BDO published the Texas Broadband Development Map to identify eligible areas of the state for funding projects. Applications must only include unserved and underserved broadband serviceable locations in these eligible areas.

Heritage Quilters discuss foundation paper-piecing

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Foundation paper-piecing was the topic at the Tuesday, March 7 Shiner Heritage Quilters meeting at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Members started gathering around 5 p.m. for socializing and began the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Guild member, Annette Meyer, presented a program on this unique paper-piecing method that produces quilt blocks that are all the same size, each with precise, sharp points and perfectly matched seams. It is a great technique to use when working with unusual or awkward shapes while achieving crisp, clean lines.

Plans for the 2024 “Spring into Quilting” show and the summer Youth Quilting Classes were discussed. Block of the Month and Show and Tell are activities that are always enjoyed at the meeting.

Members come

from Shiner and the surrounding towns and are very eager to welcome visitors and new members.

For more information log onto www.shinerheritagequilters.org or email info@shinerheritagequilters.org.

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GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year from a newly approved compensation plan.

The GISD school board met for the regularly scheduled meeting Monday, March 6, and voted unanimously, 7-0, to approve the 2023-2024 compensation plan to give teachers and staff raises.

“In accordance with policy DEA, the recommended raises of two percent for teachers and nurses and a 10% increase for instructional aides are being presented with the 23-24 compensation plan,” GISD Human Resource Officer Haley Ratliff said.

The raises for the positions

mentioned will take effect in the next fiscal year.

Last year, the school board gave raises to the district as a whole, and Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda gave kudos to the board for doing that and distributing the raises to the “various groups.”

“Every position in this district is important. Every position is interrelated. Every position has a part to play. But this is not my opinion. This is research that the most impactful position in any school district is the teacher,” Avellaneda said.

The board also voted

unanimously to approve the 2023-24 compensation plan for substitutes and retired teachers.

“As we struggle to find substitutes in our classroom, I bring you this one to help with that. If we could add certified retired teachers substitute pay in the amount of a daily rate of \$130, with no minimum day requirement work, we believe that we will help with the shortage that we currently have,” Ratliff said.

In other board business, the board swore in former Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Strozier to fill the District 6 seat

vacated by the resignation of Sue Gottwald; Strozier will remain on the board until a new school board representative is elected in the Saturday, May 6 election.

The board approved to cancel the election for District 5 as current school board President Ross Hendershot III, the District 5 trustee, is unopposed.

The board approved the following agenda items:

- approved term life Insurance for full-time employees starting in the 2023-2024 school year.
- approved, 6-1, the 2023-2024 GISD district improvement plan goals.

- approved a contract with the Texas Health Science Center of San Antonio.
- approved the Teacher Incentive Allotment Application Spending Plan for GISD.
- approved the 2023-2024 school calendar.
- approved a lease agreement for copiers and an associated budget amendment.
- approved the purchase of Chromebooks to complete the yearly “one to one” replacement cycle.
- approved a memorandum of understanding with Victoria College.

GEDC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

economic organization has paid for a pressure plane survey, which determines the elevation of areas within the city limits and what is necessary to provide adequate water pressure to customers in different elevations.

High pressure planes are usually found in lower elevations of a city, while low pressure planes are found in higher elevations. The Industrial Park is in a relatively low pressure plane, making clear the need for a new elevated storage tank, Morrow said.

“The survey basically yielded the result that we need more water pressure in Industrial Park,” Morrow said. “In simple terms, they studied the whole city, they looked at the water pressure and where water was. And the hope is to, in the future, build a new water tower in Industrial Park. That takes industrial Park, Walmart, H-E-B, BYK and the (Gonzales) high school and puts them in their own plane.

“So this water tower is really, really key right now, because we want Adams (Extract & Spice) to expand and we want other people to come in there and we want to proactively have enough water for the whole community,” Morrow added.

Morrow said GEDC is especially focused on developing the Industrial Park, as well as the property it bought in 2021 at 2212 Harwood Road. GEDC has done a professional plat of the area and has been doing national marketing of those locations as well.

“GEDC is really focused right now on the Industrial Park and helping develop the Industrial Park, but GEDC is also trying to market the property they bought off the Harwood Road,” Morrow

said. “It is subdivided into lots and it’s being rezoned and all of that. Even when we bought the property, the intention was not only to bring business to town, but to give a great way to market the town on a national basis.

“(GEDC executive director Jennifer Kolbe) even told us in buying this, her experience in Schertz was that they did something similar. They marketed the property, and then everything else existing actually sold before, so some of the extra empty buildings up there in the Harwood Road area may actually move before ours. Someone may come and buy an old building in the Industrial Park area because we attracted them to the community. We may actually benefit Gonzales secondhand by buying this property and marketing it.”

Morrow said the GEDC board is also looking to put more money into funding the Gonzales Main Street program, to the tune of as much as an additional \$100,000 to \$150,000. As the owner of a downtown building himself, Morrow would like to see investment into creating living spaces in the commercial properties downtown and perhaps that is something Main Street can help spearhead.

“I don’t have the finances, but a personal passion that all of the upstairs in these downtown buildings should be filled with living quarters, you know, where applicable, and then there would be a thriving downtown,” Morrow said. “It was a personal theory that if we got people living in the upstairs of vacant buildings, it would benefit the downtown. We’ve since gotten some information that’s actually been proven — there’s data behind it.

We can prove if we get people living downtown, believe it or not, it’s actually better for tourism because it just creates an energy and a vibe.

“It’s a strategy that we’re trying to push forward. So, hopefully, we make good headlines with a board approval, city council approval of increased funding in Main Street to promote that concept in the near future,” Morrow added.

Morrow said the three newest board members — Dr. Elmer Avellaneda, Melissa Cowey and Ryan Lee — have been extremely passionate about increasing signage around the community “welcoming everybody to Gonzales.”

“To try to get a quick hit, we partnered with the Chamber of Commerce on a billboard to advertise Gonzales and we’re going to look for more opportunities like that,” Morrow said. “I’m excited that we have three new leaders that have an agenda that they all three agree on, that we’re going to try to march forward.”

Morrow said GEDC is also looking at building “something out of rock and metal, with an arch, like ‘Welcome to Gonzales’ that would involve TxDOT. It would involve a lot of people and have a kind of industrial steel look that would remind you of the Oak Creek Bridge.”

“We’ve also asked, ‘What if we paid somebody to put a little arch over those existing welcome signs in town — something that’s classy, that has some metal, maybe even has some lighting in it. And it essentially highlights those signs and makes them bigger, more attractive and lit. That would be a win-win for the community.”

CONTRACTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

not immediately available from the city as of press time; however, during the meeting, Escobedo said the council would not be making any adjustments.

“There’s no change to any of that stuff,” Escobedo said. “If you’re asking if there is an upward adjustment to salary, we can’t do any of those things. All of that stuff has already been budgeted; this is just ratifying what has already been done.”

During discussion earlier in the evening, one citizen asked why the need to discuss the four contracts at all and why it couldn’t be done without going into an executive session.

“I’m just trying to figure out what is going on with contracts,” said Briana Dominguez. “I know, like many others, when you are hired by an entity, you are given a contract right then. Why are we waiting until this day to sign a contract and why are we not being (forthright) with the community?”

“We are your constituents. We elect all of you. We pay for salaries, so let’s discuss it out in public. Let’s not leave into executive session which, knowing how long executive session will last tonight, people have to get home and get ready for the next day’s work. Our voices need to be heard and all of you need to be honest with us and tell us what is going on, why are we signing contracts in the middle of the year?”

“Shouldn’t you be signing contracts when budget is done, that way we know what our salaries are going to be? It seems like something is being hidden; it doesn’t seem right. I’m just asking for transparency from the council,” Briana Dominguez added.

“There’s nowhere in history that we ever had any contracts with anyone,” Mayor Pro Tem Justin LaFleur answered. “The chief of police wanted one a year and a half, two years ago, and it fell by the wayside. We never did it so to protect the city on liability — for any reason, someone might want to get inspired to sue us — that’s the reason. They never had any before. It didn’t exist.

“The problem is when you talk personnel, there’s privacy laws that we can’t talk about. It’s not that we’re trying to hide it.”

Council discussed the contracts in an 86-minute executive session, along with other items regarding rules and regulations for on-site sewage facilities for both Gonzales and Wilson counties in the areas outside existing city limits that are annexed into the city, including the possibility of providing septic systems to a development in Wilson County, as well as potential changes to the city’s mobile home ordinance.

When the council returned from executive session, Councilwoman Ellie Dominguez moved that the council table the items until next month so she could have “the full time allowed to review the contracts.” Councilwoman Maggie Gaytan seconded the motion and both voted in favor of tabling.

LaFleur and Councilman Rene Amaya voted against the motion and Mayor Dorothy Riojas broke the tie by voting against the motion as well, saying “I do not want to table.”

Then, LaFleur made the motion to approve the employment contracts of all four positions, which Amaya seconded. The motion passed, 3-1, with LaFleur, Amaya and Gaytan voting in favor, and Councilwoman Dominguez made sure her colleagues knew of her opposition.

“I did not have ample time to look at these. I was handed the city attorney’s (contract) as we got here. I fully disagree with this,” she said.

2023 Gonzales County Livestock Show
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Including photos, names of grand champions and reserve grand champions from Gonzales, Nixon & Waelder



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PILGRIM OPRY

Saturday, March 11th

Doors open at 6, Band starts at 7

Refreshments provided, Tickets \$5 at the door

The New Pilgrim Heirs Band

Featuring Dennis Ivey and Priscilla Speed

Pilgrim Community Center, 12809 FM 1116, Pilgrim

Sponsored by:



At top left, flanked by his daughters Daisy Scheske Freeman and Mary Scheske, Bob Scheske expresses his gratitude after being named the David Walshak Lifetime Achievement Award winner by the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture at the Thursday, March 2 banquet. Scheske praised Walshak's service to the community and called him a mentor. At top right, Chamber executive director Melissa Henderson, left, applauds Edwards Association president David Tucy, who stands after being named the Community Service Award winner. Tucy quoted MLK in describing how anyone can be called to service.



LEW K. COHN

CHAMBER

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days and he still took time to help us with what we were working on and helped us make it work. And that's the thing about Dave Walshak was that he made things work. He put people together. He understood our community.

"Dave was a catalyst. He made things work in Gonzales, and you don't recognize them because they don't have his name on them, but when you go through life in Gonzales, so many things you come across, Dave Walshak was the beginning, so I am greatly honored and humbled to accept this award and to be associated with one of my mentors and a great leader in our community.

"I'm greatly honored to accept this award and I truly trust that you know I could never have succeeded in anything without the uncompromising love and support of my family and my friends right here in Gonzales, Texas," he added.

Scheske spoke about one of his favorite movies, "The Gallant Hours," in which James Cagney portrays Navy Admiral "Bull" Halsey. He summarized the epilogue of the movie by noting "there are no great people. There are only great challenges that ordinary people are forced by circumstance to address."

"Look around this room. Take a second right now and look around this room, because these are the faces of the ordinary people who come from our community who will face the great challenges of the future," Scheske said. "We've never failed before. We won't fail in the future. This room is full of good people. Our community is full of good people — people that go beyond the call of duty and serve their city, their county, their state, and our nation."

In addition to serving as county attorney for 28 years, Scheske has been a member of the Gonzales Noon Lions Club for more than 46 years and a member of the Gonzales Area Development Corporation since its inception in the 1970s. Scheske also has served as commander of the American Legion and wrote the articles of incorporation for Pioneer Village.

One of his proudest endeavors is helping create the Gonzales Community Foundation's Come and Take It Golf Tournament, which was created in the memory of his best friend, the late Tommy Chenault, who was killed in active duty in Vietnam. They now award \$5,000 in scholarships to students

who attend schools in Gonzales County in Chenault's memory.

Tucy, who also is the county's veteran services officer, was recognized for having "a passion to serve his community through community involvement, board and committee membership and a tireless approach for change," emcee Egon Barthels told the audience.

The first African-

American elected to the Gonzales ISD Board of Trustees, Tucy led the efforts to restore and revitalize the former Edwards School, his alma mater, into the Edwards School African-American Museum. He also successfully lobbied Gonzales City council to rename what had commonly been called "Confederate Square" as "Independence Square" while also pushing for the

placement of interpretive panels there that depict the accomplishments of African-Americans in the community.

Tucy said he thought he would spend his retirement from the Army and then service on the school board by "waking up late in the morning and maybe going to McDonald's and having that hot cup of morning coffee."


"That was not meant

to be for me, because I have discovered another rewarding career in community service and volunteering," Tucy said. "I had never given much thought to either, but now that I am involved in community service and volunteering, I take ownership of it. It has become a part of me. My life has taken on a whole new meaning.

"To me, community service and volunteering

means that I am now committed to helping this community in which I live to be a better place for all of us to live. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said that everyone can be great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verbs agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love."


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