



The Gonzales Inquirer

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Kolbe resigns as GEDC executive director



JENNIFER KOLBE

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales Economic Development Corporation executive director Jennifer Kolbe unexpectedly resigned last week from her position with the municipal corporation.

“I love Gonzales. I left my job and the GEDC in much better shape than when I got there,” Kolbe told the Inquirer. “With the support of the board, we were able to settle hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt owed; fund water tower studies; provide Main Street grants; work with Remschel, Snaveley,

Laurel Ridge and Shear Designs; and put in processes and implemented rules and procedures that were not there when I got there that will only make the community better in the future.

“Even though I will not be there to see it, all of these things the GEDC is working on will come to fruition and Gonzales has a bright future.”

She referred further questions about her departure to Gonzales City Manager Tim Crow.

“Jennifer Kolbe is no longer employed by the City of Gonzales. As this is a personnel issue, the City of Gon-

zales will not be providing any public comments about this matter,” Crow said Monday afternoon.

Her resignation is a surprise as it came just days after she led another successful Gonzales ISD Spring Career Fair, in which more than 300 GISD students were introduced to careers and opportunities in various fields available in the Gonzales area.

Kolbe was also working on a number of other projects for the GEDC, including a potential new water tower for the Industrial Park and the national mar-

See **KOLBE**, page 17

Sales tax revenues remain healthy from post-holiday period

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The city of Gonzales saw an increase of more than 7.7 percent in sales tax allocations this month as the post-Christmas economy remained healthy for the county’s largest city, according to Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar’s office.

Hegar announced he will send cities, counties, transit

See **REVENUE**, page 7

NIXON

City Council hears Feather Fest update, discusses mobile home ordinance

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Nixon City Council members discussed how the upcoming Feather Fest is taking wing during their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 7, at City Hall.

Feather Fest was once a major event in Nixon which paid tribute to Holmes Foods and the poultry industry that is prevalent in the community. It was a three-day long festival that included a parade, fireworks, music and more, but it went away in 1989 and did not come back for 25 years until 2014,



Jarrod Birmingham is set to perform at Feather Fest 2023.

See **FEATHER FEST**, page 18

REMEMBERING THE RUNAWAY SCAPE



LEW K. COHN

Tour Gonzales, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Edwards Association and others held the first-ever candlelight vigil for the victims of the Runaway Scape on Saturday, March 11 at Independence Square. The Runaway Scape began in 1836 after Sam Houston ordered Gonzales to be burned down before their escape from Santa Anna and the Mexican Army following the fall of the Alamo. For more photos from the event, see page 18.

Local governments will soon see opioid money in their coffers

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County and its four municipalities will split \$17,102.42 in proceeds from the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund as Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar begins disbursing the first funds from the statewide opioid litigation settlement under Texas Opioid Multi District Litigation, In Re: Texas Opioid Litigation, MDL No. 2018-63587,

in the 152nd District Court of Harris County, Texas.

Hegar announced last week the initial transfer of \$47,088,165 from the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund to cities and counties to help them address “opioid-related harms” in their communities. Future transfers will continue over many years based on the terms of the settlement agreement.

See **OPIOID**, page 7

GONZALES

City approves creation of Beautification Committee

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales City Council met for their regularly scheduled meeting Thursday, March 9 at City Hall, 820 St. Joseph St. One of the big agenda items discussed was ordinance number 2023-7 about the creation of a City of Gonzales

See **BEAUTIFICATION**, page 7

Commissioners can now issue long-term temporary water line permits

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County commissioners on Monday, March 13, approved the creation of a

new long-term permit that can be granted to companies that need to lay temporary water line over or along county roads and rights of way.

Precinct 4 Commissioner

Collie Boatright Jr. said there was a lack of an option that would allow the county to issue a water line permit for a longer amount of time.

“It wasn’t working good with

the temporary permits because it would only be for 90 days and they would have to come back and reapply,” Boatright said. “We were trying to make it a little less paperwork and do

a long-term deal where they would only have to come in once every six months or year and redo the paperwork. We

See **PERMITS**, page 17



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PHOTOS COURTESY ALEXIS CERDA, GEDC ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

More than 300 Gonzales High School students were introduced to 35 regional employers during the annual Gonzales Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) and Gonzales ISD Spring Career Fair on March 8. Students were introduced to careers in agriculture, business, healthcare, manufacturing, transportation and more. The purpose of the event is to showcase diverse career pathways available to students within the region. Among the employers who are pictured are TxDOT, Gonzales Police Department, Gonzales Healthcare Systems, TX FAME, Buc-ee's, City of Gonzales, TSG Architects and Seadrift Coke. Employers are provided an opportunity to tell students what skills and educational requirements are needed to fill open positions within their companies. The annual career fair is a key component in the GEDC's business retention program. Helping existing companies target local talent builds a sustainable community. Students that engaged with the employers the most by filling out a questionnaire were entered into a special drawing to win a Come And Take It mug and Come And Take It flag, furnished by the GEDC.

GBRA hosts Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The annual meeting of the Guadalupe River Basin Steering Committee was held Wednesday, March 15 at the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) River Annex in Seguin. The steering committee was established as part of the Clean Rivers Program to solicit public input on local water quality concerns.

Each year, GBRA convenes the committee meeting to provide direction for Clean Rivers Program activities in the Guadalupe River Basin, as well as develop and monitor the work plan. Through these efforts, citizens and communities gain a greater appreciation for their natural resources and the importance of making water quality protection a part of their daily lives.

The meeting agenda included an overview of the Clean Rivers Program, Watershed Protection Plan updates, and a special presentation from GBRA on Native mussels in the Guadalupe River Basin. Speakers included Elizabeth Edgerton, GBRA, water quality program supervisor; Lee Gudgell, GBRA, aquatic biologist; Sandra Arismendez, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, water quality monitoring coordinator; Phillip Quast, City of New Braunfels, watershed coordinator; AnnaLee Epps, Texas A&M AgriLife Geronimo and Alligator Creeks, watershed coordinator, among others.

One arrested on weapons, theft charges after search warrant executed

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

One person was arrested Friday, March 10, after the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and Texas Rangers Special Operations Group served a search/arrest warrant at a residence on County Road 308.

The warrant was the result of a combined investigation between Sheriff's Office Investigators and ATF agents. The search resulted in numerous firearms and stolen property being recovered. One male, whose identity has not yet been released, was arrested and taken into federal custody.

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RIBBON CUTTING FOR CHICK-FIL-A FOOD TRUCK



LEW K. COHN

The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture helped Chick-fil-A hold a ribbon cutting for its food truck, which made its first stop in Gonzales at Tractor Supply Tuesday, March 14. The truck will return every other week throughout the remainder of the year.

GONZALESINQUIRER.COM

Celebrations

Birthdays








March 16th Ronald Barborak Cleve Handley Cayedance Harkey Krystal Kelley Marilyn Krum Randy Robinson Jackie Rodriguez Ryan Wilkerson	March 18th Jessica Frazier Jim Gracey Gary Haynes Sara Hohensee Lane Jackson Kevin LaFleur	March 20th James Ara Johanna Lamprecht Quinton Parker Kasey Rhodes Sarah Tenberg
March 17th Valorie Daniel Patsy Darilek Patsy DeVries Austin Phillip Meyer	March 19th Felica Camarillo Janice Molnoskey Angel Palmaraz Art Rodriguez	March 21st Tyler Harvey Lillie Heins Brittany Law
		March 22nd Pat Schurig Gerald D. Tieken

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Gonzales Weather

 <p>March 16 83°/54°</p> <p>Mostly cloudy and very warm 9% chance of rain • RealFeel 82</p>
 <p>March 17 64°/47°</p> <p>Mostly sunny and cooler 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 61</p>
 <p>March 18 59°/48°</p> <p>Plenty of sunshine 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 61</p>
 <p>March 19 64°/50°</p> <p>Variable clouds 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 63</p>
 <p>March 20 67°/54°</p> <p>A thick cloud cover 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 65</p>
 <p>March 21 72°/53°</p> <p>Partial sunshine 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 73</p>
 <p>March 22 69°/55°</p> <p>Mostly cloudy 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 70</p>

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

March 18th-19th
Xtreme Team Roping

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Garden Q&A

with
**CALVIN
FINCH**



Q. The trees in our neighborhood are putting on new leaves. The Arizona ash look especially attractive. Why don't arborists and horticulturists recommend them anymore?

A. In Central and South Texas the Arizona ash are short-lived

due to fungal disease and insects. They are also prone to limb breakage. Our best choices for shade trees are usually from the list of live oak, Texas red oak, cedar elm, bur oak, Mexican sycamore, anaqua, Mexican white oak and chinkapin oak.

Q. Our favorite nursery has its supply of roses in for the spring. When I told the manager that roses were too hard to take care of, he said that there was a list of tough modern and old-fashion roses that were easy to care for and

bloomed over a long season. He said they did not need to be sprayed every week like the fancy hybrid teas.

A. He is correct if he is talking about Mrs. Dudley Cross, Belinda's Dream, Martha Gonzales. Grandma's Yellow, Katy Road, and Mutabilis. In addition to being disease and pest resistant they do not require much pruning and will bloom up to 8 months some years.

Q. What is the shrub with purple blooms and the sweet fragrance that is blooming now? Do deer eat it? Is there

anything else as showy now?

A. I believe you are describing the Texas mountain laurel. We usually describe the fragrance as smelling like grape bubble gum or Kool-Aid. It is very drought tolerant, grows in full sun, is evergreen and is not eaten by deer. Mutabilis rose, Mexican plum, and red bud are also blooming now but they are eaten by the deer.

Q How long can we leave full grown carrots in the garden before they decline?

A. They lose some quality after about a month but will

probably last until the end of May with enough quality to continue to harvest them.

Q. I notice zinnias are in the nursery and some even have blooms. Is it too early to plant them? My snapdragons are still blooming!

A. I planted Dreamland zinnias in my cut flower garden right next to the rows of snapdragons. Both species seem to be doing well. I like to plant zinnias as early as possible, they are attractive and a favorite Monarch butterfly nectar source.

Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co.

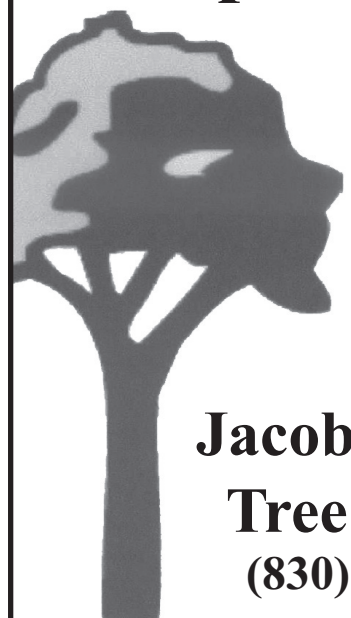
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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Six Gonzales High School seniors were presented with a Lee Baker Memorial Scholarship at the Commercial Heifer Sale on March 3, 2023. Mr. Baker had a strong passion for the cattle industry and enjoyed helping many kids with their commercial heifer stock show projects in Gonzales. A group of his close friends wanted to continue his legacy of helping the youth through scholarships. Recipients are (from left to right): Slone Gibson, Brody Borrer, Savay Sexton, Jason Sanchez, Brendon Mercer, and Hadley Borrer.

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

March 11
Cattle: 1005
Compared to our last sale:
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold 3.00-4.00 higher.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 270-275; 300-400 lbs., 260-265; 400-500 lbs., 238-240; 500-600 lbs., 210-245; 600-700 lbs., 190-203; 700-800 lbs., 168-182.
Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 80-95.
Stocker-feeder Heifers: Medium and large from No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 255-260; 300-400 lbs., 215-219; 400-500 lbs., 190-210; 500-600 lbs., 175-185; 600-700 lbs., 155-164.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 63-83; Cutters, 92-102; Canners, 32-62; High yielding fat cows, 85-94.
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 117-128; Light weights and medium quality

bulls, 97-112.
Stockers Cows: \$750 to \$1,150.
Pairs: \$850 to \$1,900.

NIXON LIVESTOCK

March 13th
Cattle - 1006
Steers:
200-300 lbs - \$189-260
300-400 lbs - \$205-280
400-500 lbs - \$198-255
500-600 lbs - \$191-243
600-700 lbs - \$168-213
700-800 lbs - \$150-185
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - \$176-235
300-400 lbs - \$171-230
400-500 lbs - \$168-250
500-600 lbs - \$166-315
600-700 lbs - \$149-207
700-800 lbs - \$133-161
Slaughter Cows - \$25-94
Slaughter Bulls - \$90-119
Stocker Cows - \$550-1000
Pairs: \$900-1175

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: March 7
Cattle on hand: 1658
Packer Cows:
Canner and Cutter Cows: \$68-

104
Utility & Fat Cows: \$65-100
Low dressing canner cows: \$50-68
Poor/Weak: \$35-50
Packer Bulls:
Heavyweight Bulls: \$112-124
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$95-110
Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$82-96
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1050-1275
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$825-1050
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1300-1650
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$900-1,250
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$160-240
200-300 lbs.: \$205-290
300-400 lbs.: \$20-270
400-500 lbs.: \$195-257.50
500-600 lbs.: \$185-232.50
600-700 lbs.: \$170-227.50
700-800 lbs.: \$152-190
Number 1 heifer calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$155-230
200-300 lbs.: \$165-240
300-400 lbs.: \$175-230
400-500 lbs.: \$175-222.50
500-600 lbs.: \$170-215
600-700 lbs.: \$152-195
700-800 lbs.: \$143-175
Replacement Heifers:
350-750 lbs.: \$185-300
The calf market was strong again. All weights and classes sold steady to stronger once more. Demand is extremely good. Packer cows & bulls sold steady & strong on a total supply of 325 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

March 8
Quality not as deep but strong demand. Market remains steady all the way through.
Cattle - 854
Sheep & goats - 5726
Medium & large frame #1
Steers:
200-300 lb. .50-1.50-2.66
300-400 lb. .30-1.84-2.82
400-500 lb. .45-1.88-2.56
500-600 lb. .50-1.71-2.35
600-700 lb. .75-1.84-2.12
700-850 lb. .65-1.53-1.85
Medium & large frame #1
Heifers:
200-300 lb. .60-1.54-2.20
300-400 lb. .35-1.63-2.18
400-500 lb. .45-1.58-2.55
500-600 lb. .55-1.59-2.00
600-750 lb. .60-1.56-1.92
Cows:
Utility & commercial - 55-86-105
Cutters - 58-65-71
Canners - 53-57-61

Palpated cow - 500-1150
Cow/Calf Pairs - 1100-1300
Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding - 1.05-1.23
Light & Low Yielding - .70-1.04
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies - 50-420
Kid Goats (Fat) - 3.05-3.52
Wethers - 1.10-3.70
Billies - 1.65-2.70
Dorp. Ewes - 80-250
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.90-3.20
Woolled Ewes - NONE
Woolled Bucks - 1.10-1.54
Lambs - 1.27-2.10
Barb. Bucks - 250-385

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

March 10, 2023
Number of head 1,907
There were 207 cows and 32 bulls. The packer market was steady as demand remains seasonally strong. Top packer cow was at \$101/cwt while the top packer bull was at \$127/cwt !
The calf market was higher by over \$38/head due to heavier weights and a stronger market especially on heavier weights. A very strong and upbeat market on all classes.
Packer bulls: 90.00-127.00
Packer cows:
canners & cutters 85.00-101.00
poor & weak 25.00-50.00
Palpated: 38 bred 90.00-105.00
PAIRS: 3 \$1,200-\$1,425
Steer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 200 lbs. NONE
200-249 lbs. 223.00-246.00
250-299 lbs. 236.00-238.00
300-350 lbs. 227.00-276.00
350-400 lbs. 223.00-276.00
400-450 lbs. 199.00-252.00
450-500 lbs. 206.00-240.00
500-550 lbs. 202.00-231.00
550-600 lbs. 192.00-222.00
600-700 lbs. 180.00-210.00
700-800 lbs. 171.00-196.00
Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 250lbs 183.00-234.00
250-300 lbs. 213.00-292.00
300-350 lbs. 200.00-270.00
350-400 lbs. 214.00-266.00
400-450 lbs. 210.00-252.00
450-500 lbs. 205.00-244.00
500-550 lbs. 195.00-224.00
550-600 lbs. 191.00-218.00
600-700 lbs 177.00-211.00
Over 700 lbs. 158.00-192.00
Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
under 200 lbs. 193.00-225.00
200-250 lbs. 185.00-254.00
250-300 lbs 182.00-230.00
300-350 lbs. 187.00-234.00
350-400 lbs. 184.00-254.00
400-450 lbs. 182.00-244.00
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Resident praises events honoring Texas heroes

Dear Editor,
I would just like to take the time to thank the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce for all the events it held this past week honoring our Texas history and our heroes' legacies. I want to show appreciation to everyone who participated in these wonderful events.

Listening to the descendants of the patriots that fought for Texas Independence was an honor. We must always do our best to remember the sacrifices these brave men and women from all walks of life made and fought for to ensure our Texas Independence. Thank you Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and all the volunteers that made these events possible.

Sincerely,
Thomas Enriquez
Beautiful Gonzales, Texas

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

Uncle Mort and Minnie Pearl...

Minnie Pearl — queen of country humor for a half-century — “country-talked” her way into our hearts, mostly from the stage of Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry.

Nowadays, the \$1.98 price tag dangling from her hat is but a distant memory. A character fabricated by Sarah Ophelia Colley Cannon, who made Minnie’s hometown of Grinder’s Switch and stories of “Uncle Nabob” seem real. (Cannon, with two degrees in theater, did well with her act, appearing largely on Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry, and on radio and television.)

Anyways, it was she who claimed to hate repeating gossip, but she didn’t know what else to do with it....

Uncle Mort, my aged kin down in the thicket, spent many a Saturday night listening to the Opry, his radio turned to highest volume. He feels that Minnie helped him take the high roads in continual searches for the sunny side of life.

“I’m an imagined figure, too,” Mort joked, “figmentary from the ground up.” (I admit unleashing my “uncle” in this column nearly two decades ago.)

Mort figures that if Cannon were still alive, she (Minnie) would have a field day with gossip on social media, where it now has a strong foothold....

Mort still relishes hearing — and repeating — good stories, hopeful of spreading them to amuse, inspire and make others feel better about the human condition.

He’s watchful about goings-on of political figures, particularly those with “funny names.”

One such person is U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken. “Reckon he ever checks with his cousins, Winkin’ and Nod?” muses my uncle, remembering a long-ago children’s poem....

He’s also happy to learn of children’s good deeds. He cites Little Rock’s Kayzen Hunter, 8, who looks forward to his family’s Saturday morning breakfasts at Waffle House.

His favorite waiter, Devonte Gardner, has been on hard times, barely surviving with his family in a rented hovel, and walking several miles to work.

Kayzen mounted a “GoFundMe” drive, raising \$30,000 to buy Gardner a car and secure better housing....

Mort is impressed by the ingenuity of Girl Scouts, who have done well funding projects with cookie sales since 1917. This year, “Raspberry Rally” has been a sales sensation, selling out everywhere.

If you can’t wait to savor this new flavor, worry no more. There is hope.

Raspberry Rally cookies are available on eBay, but the price has increased tenfold. One vendor is selling boxes at \$49.99 each, plus \$12.25 shipping. (The scouts sold them for \$4 box when they were in stock.) Oh, well....

Finally, Mort has found a “feel good” story in Washington, DC, where a two-foot-tall raven was found, hobbling around a used car dealership in Chantilly, VA. (OK, that’s not DC, but just 30 miles away.)

Euthanasia was recommended for the bird, downed by pellets. However, stubborn Catherine Sevchenko intervened, nursing the bird for several months. She dared to pry open its beak to medicate, as well as select favorite foods that seemingly helped him return to joyous living, even if it remained unable to fly.

Ravens are highly intelligent birds, capable of holding grudges, stashing food and using gestures to communicate, and this bird was no exception, Sevchenko said....

The Gonzales Inquirer

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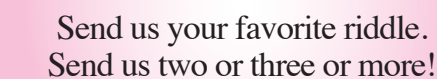
**TRANSPORTATION/
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Standards Link: Math: Add money amounts



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Kolkhorst files legislation to address border security

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

State Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst, (R-Brenham) has filed a sweeping legislative package aimed at the ongoing influx of illegal immigration in Texas. With the filing of Senate Bill (SB) 1620, SB 1621, SB 1622, and SCR 23, the senator seeks to highlight the failure of the federal government to address the ongoing crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border.

“During my travels across Senate District 18, I was repeatedly asked by constituents, ‘What is Texas doing to combat



Kolkhorst

to keep Texas and the United States safe. As a result, Texans are suffering, which is why I have filed legislation to address the horrific fentanyl crisis, enhance offenses for unauthorized immigrants who commit crimes, ensure Texas workers

the absence of a secure border?’ While the federal government is charged with border control, they have failed

are legally authorized to work in the US, and declare to the federal government that Texas has been invaded by foreign drug cartels,” stated Senator Kolkhorst. “Currently the Texas Legislature and Governor Abbott are spending billions of dollars per biennium to secure our border, and these bills are intended to enhance that effort with new tools.”

Senator Kolkhorst’s bills are as follows:

- SB 1620 enhances the state penalties of crimes committed by unauthorized immigrants in the course of unlawfully enter-

ing the United States.

- SB 1621 requires local governments, state contractors, and private employers in Texas to participate in E-Verify, a federal system to ensure workers are legally authorized to work in the United States. Texas state agencies have been required to comply since 2015.
- SB 1622 creates the new offense of the manufacture or delivery of fentanyl to a person who later dies. This offense will be classified as a first degree felony, which is punishable by life or 5 to 99 years in a Texas state prison.

- SCR 23 declares that the State of Texas has been invaded and calls on the federal government to declare foreign drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations and Texas citizens are in danger of irreparable harm.

“I am taking action, because Texas must send a strong message that crime committed by unauthorized immigrants and drug traffickers will not stand. Where the federal government is avoiding its responsibility, Texas will fulfill its constitutional duty to protect our citizens, property, and border,” stated Senator Kolkhorst.

Victoria College announces course leading to Fiber Optics Certifications

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College has entered into a partnership with BDI DataLynk, an internationally recognized fiber optics training firm based in Austin, to offer a new fiber optics course in Victoria.

The first of its kind in South Texas, the course is being offered in response to an emerging need identified by Victoria leaders.

“Over the last three years, broadband internet has become a major priority for the entire state of Texas and for much of the country,” said Darrek Ferrell, Assistant City Manager. “It is vital to the economic and developmental health of our community that our infrastructure keeps up with the demands of those who choose to live, work, and visit Victoria.”

During the pandemic, employees began working from home and students shifted to online instruction, but many households lacked access to fast, reliable internet connections. This led to Congress including legislation in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal of 2021 to ensure all Americans have access to reliable, high-speed internet through a \$65 billion investment in broadband infrastructure deployment.

“During our efforts to recruit broadband providers to Victoria, we learned that there are not enough people trained to meet the rapidly increasing demand for infrastructure expansion,” explained Ferrell.

When Victoria leaders identified fiber installers and technicians as a high-demand occupation – not only for the Golden Crescent region, but across the state and nation – they looked to Victoria College to explore the possibility of offering training to meet the need.

“As a community college, it is our

responsibility to meet the training needs of the region,” said Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President. “Crews are currently being brought in from outside our region to install the fiber needed for telecommunications infrastructure expansion when we have the workforce right here at home. Partnering with BDI DataLynk will allow us to train our own for these good-paying jobs.”

Community leaders believe the new course will have a positive impact on the quality of life for Victoria residents.

“At the City of Victoria, our mission is enhancing livability, and our community partners at Victoria College have facilitated the development of a training program that will give many of our residents an opportunity to enhance their lives, careers, and futures,” said City Manager Jesús Garza.

The one-week fiber optics course is sanctioned by the Fiber-Optics Association (FOA) and recognized by the United States Department of Labor. Students who successfully complete the 40-hour course will earn three FOA certifications, which are included within the course hours and costs:

- Certified Fiber Optics Technician
- Certified Fiber Optics Specialist in Testing & Maintenance
- Certified Fiber Optics Specialist in Splicing

The fiber optics course will be offered from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on July 24-28 and again on Sept. 11-15 at VC’s Emerging Technology Complex.

The cost for the class is \$3,100, and all equipment and supplies will be provided. Financial aid and scholarships are available and may cover the majority of tuition.

For more information, contact VC’s Workforce & Continuing Education Department at (361) 582-2528 or WCE@Victoria-College.edu.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH



LEW K. COHN

Gonzales County Judge Pat Davis and the Gonzales County Commissioners Court approved a proclamation declaring April 2023 to be Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month in Gonzales County. Representatives from nonprofits that work with children impacted by domestic violence were present to observe the proceedings with county officials. More than 300,000 Texas children were victims of abuse and neglect in 2022, with 250 of those residing in Gonzales County.

Preservation Texas announces call for nominations for 2023 awards

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Preservation Texas has announced that nominations for its annual Texas’s Most Endangered Places List and biennial Preservation Texas Honor Awards are now open.

The Texas’s Most Endangered Places list is a signature program of Preservation Texas which has spotlighted imperiled historic places across Texas since 2004. The list is designed to draw statewide attention to Endangered Places so that local advocates can build momentum toward their protection. Preservation Texas can also provide technical assistance and letters of support for sites that have been included on the list.

Preservation Texas welcomes nominations that represent a range of preservation threats. Of particular interest in 2023 are nominations that seek to address threats to:

- Sites associated with indigenous history
- Properties associated with Texas artists and writers
- Brutalist architecture
- Small town cotton gins, mills, or similar industrial sites

- 19th & 20th century sharecropping sites (dwellings, farmsteads, communities)
- Sites associated with Women’s Suffrage in Texas
- Sites in the Big Spring-Midland-Odessa region

To nominate an Endangered Place, visit [PreservationTexas.org/MEP2023](https://www.preservationtexas.org/MEP2023). Nominations are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 14. The final list will be announced on May 11 in Mineral Wells at the North Central Texas Regional Preservation Summit.

In addition, Preservation Texas is now accepting nominations for the 2023 Honor Awards until May 31. Presented every other year, Preservation Texas Honor Awards recognize outstanding efforts to restore, preserve, rehabilitate or reconstruct historic places that have been individually included on the Texas’s Most Endangered Places list or relate to a previous thematic listing. Partially-completed projects are ineligible as well as projects completed more than three years ago.

The thematic categories for which preserved, restored, or rehabilitated properties are eligible for 2023 Honor Awards are:

- Adobes of Presidio

- County
- Barns
 - Boerne Stage Corridor/ Scenic Loop
 - Carpenter Gothic Churches
 - Cemeteries
 - Civil Rights Sites
 - Dallas Public School Buildings
 - Dams
 - Dance Halls
 - Gas Stations
 - Historic Assets of Downtown Austin
 - Historic Buildings of Rio Grande City
 - Historic Resources in City Parks
 - Historic Resources of Dickens County
 - Historic Resources of the Recent Past
 - Historically Segregated Mexican-American Public Schools
 - Iron Bridges
 - Log Buildings
 - Mid-Century Modern Sacred Places
 - Painted Advertising Signs aka “Ghost Signs”
 - Railroad Depots
 - Rural African-American Heritage Sites

- Rural School Buildings
- Small Town Bank Buildings
- Small Town Municipal Buildings
- Small Town Theaters and Opera Houses
- Working Class Neighborhoods

To nominate a project, visit [PreservationTexas.org/HonorAwards](https://www.preservationtexas.org/HonorAwards). Nominations are due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday May 31. Honor Award winners will be announced later this summer.

Founded in 1985, Preservation Texas is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to offering a range of statewide preservation programs. Preservation Texas protects historic places through direct investments, grants, and by empowering people and organizations through advocacy, collaboration and education. Learn more at [PreservationTexas.org](https://www.PreservationTexas.org).



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SALES TAX REVENUES

County	City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gonzales	Gonzales	1.500%	\$244,508.72	\$227,002.50	7.71%	\$807,214.53	\$773,535.25	4.35%
Gonzales	Nixon	1.500%	\$31,317.44	\$24,403.34	28.33%	\$103,001.22	\$89,657.77	14.88%
Gonzales	Smiley	1.000%	\$1,967.82	\$3,027.93	-35.01%	\$9,029.01	\$8,206.32	10.02%
Gonzales	Waelder	1.500%	\$9,544.32	\$6,685.55	42.76%	\$30,887.41	\$19,459.92	58.72%

REVENUES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

systems and special purpose districts \$1 billion in local sales tax allocations for March, 9.9 percent more than in March 2022. These allocations are based on sales made in January by businesses that report tax monthly.

For the month of March 2023, Gonzales County municipalities received a combined \$287,388.30 in sales tax allocations, up \$26,218.98 or 10.04 percent more than the \$261,119.32 received during March 2022.

These are the best numbers recorded for Gonzales County for March in eight years, which is impressive because January is usually the slowest month for retail sales and is one of the lowest spending months,

according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Annual Retail Trade Survey (ARTS). Typically, communities see a drop in retail sales in the first few months of the year, attributable to post-holiday buyers’ remorse when credit card bills for holiday spending come due.

For the year, county municipalities have received \$950,132.178, an increase of \$59,272.91 or 6.65 percent above the \$890,859.26 received through the first three months of 2022.

Sales tax allocations for Gonzales, the largest city in the county which generates the lion’s share of sales tax revenue, were \$244,508.72, up \$17,506.22 or 7.71 percent above the \$227,002.50 received during

March 2022. It is the second-most the city has ever been allocated for the month of March behind only the \$264,565.72 the city received in March 2015.

For the year, the city has received \$807,214.53, up \$33,679.28 or 4.35 percent, above the \$773,535.25 received at this same point in 2022.

Sales tax receipts for Nixon were \$31,317.44, up \$6,914.10, or 28.33 percent, above the \$24,403.34 received in March 2022. For the year, the city has received \$103,001.22, up \$13,343.45, or 14.88 percent, above the 89,657.77 received at this same point last year.

Waelder received a total of \$9,544.32, up \$2,858.77, or 42.76 percent, from the \$6,685.55 the city received in March 2022. That

is the best total ever for sales tax allocations for the month of March for the city of Waelder and the sixth-best month overall for the city. For the year, Waelder has received \$30,887.41, up \$11,427.49, or 58.72 percent, above the \$19,459.92 received at this point in 2022.

Finally, Smiley’s sales tax receipts were just \$1,967.82, down \$1,060.11, or 35.01 percent, from the \$3,027.93 received in March 2022. For the year, the city has received \$9,029.01, up \$822.69 or 10.02 percent above the \$8,206.32 received in the first three months of 2022.

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

BEAUTIFICATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Beautification Committee.

The council approved an ordinance adding Section 9.309 Beautification Committee to the city’s Code of Ordinances and amending Sections 9.400 (Rules of Procedures Decorum and Ethics) and 9.500 (Code of Ethics and Conduct for City Officials and Employees of the City of Gonzales).

The council went over how many people should be on the Beautification Committee. Numbers from different boards were used as an example, from JB Wells to the Airport Board, with seven members brought up by Councilwoman Ronda Miller, who suggested they make the board bigger with more representation.

“We talked about the duties of the board and working as a community partner on behalf of the city. I was thinking, maybe we can make that a bigger number, just a bigger representation and more people to still repre-

sent,” Miller said.

Councilwoman Sherrie Koepp agreed with Miller about making the board bigger due to the “huge undertaking” it will be.

“It’s going to take a group of citizens to make Gonzales even more beautiful than what it already is,” Koepp said.

Gonzales Mayor Steve Sucher said he doesn’t know what the right number is for the board, but suggested to start small and they could always add more.

“It is an important assignment, and to have a smaller group [of the Beautification Committee], sort of reaching consensus quicker,” Sucher said.

Sucher recalled the last time the city had a Beautification Committee, it was a big board with various entities in the community.

“All the gardening clubs, all the art clubs — all of them had a designated representative on that board, and it was a

big board and it didn’t work,” Sucher said.

“What I’m looking for is this is an important assignment. I think this affects our economic development, the sense of pride that we feel as residents of this community, so these are weighty matters,” Sucher said.

Sucher suggested to start with a smaller board, and once the board sets an agenda for what they are going to work on, then the council can add more people.

The council approved the following agenda times:

- approved suspending the April 10, 2023 effective date of the proposal by Texas Gas Service Company, A Division of One Gas, Inc. – Central-Gulf Service Area, to implement interim grip rate adjustments for Gas Utility Investment In 2022.
- approved rejecting the proposals received for the 2022 Street Improvement Projects
- approved authorizing City

Manager Tim Crow to negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Edwards Association for the placement of a monument at Independence Square commemorating the post-Civil-War rise and progress of the African-American people in Gonzales County.

- approved an amended and restated performance agreement by and between the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation and Main Street Inc.

- approved a Budget Amendment to the Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year October 1, 2022 and Ending September 30, 2023.

- approved amending Chapter 12 Traffic and Vehicles of the City of Gonzales Code of Ordinances adding Article 12.2000 Utility Vehicles; All-Terrain Vehicles of Golf Carts on Public Street, Parking Area and/or Traffic Way.

OPIOID

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“I am pleased to announce we are making these important distributions to local governments to assist in their efforts to counter the effects of opioid abuse in their communities,” Hegar said. “As drug cartels funnel dangerous fentanyl across our southern border, the state of Texas and our local communities stand on the front line of this crisis. We are working tirelessly to ensure these dollars are put to use in the most effective way and to provide resources to entities committed to ending the senseless loss of life associated with the opioid epidemic.”

Agency spokesman Kevin Lyons said the Comptroller’s Office hopes to have “this first tranche of monies sent by the end of the month.” These transfers will continue over many years based on the terms of the statewide opioid litigation settlement agreements.

In the initial disbursement, Gonzales County will receive \$10,431.91, while the city of Gonzales will receive \$4,672.09. Waelder will receive \$1,075.96, while Nixon will get \$716.68 and Smiley will get \$205.78.

Once all monies have been distributed over the course of the settlement, Gonzales Coun-

ty will have received a total of \$33,230, while the city of Gonzales will have received \$14,882. Nixon will receive a total of \$2,283, while Smiley will receive a total of \$655 and Waelder will receive a total of \$3,427 for a grand total of \$54,477.

In addition to the political subdivision distributions, the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund will fund the Opioid Abatement Fund Council’s distributions to hospital districts and grants to entities working to abate the opioid crisis across the state. This includes Gonzales Healthcare Systems, though the amount they will receive has

not been announced.

Meanwhile, Region 4 of the Texas Opioid Council — which includes Aransas, Bee, Brooks, De Witt, Duval, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kenedy, Kleberg, Lavaca, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio and Victoria counties — will receive \$27,047,477 for treatment and prevention of opioid-use disorders within the region.

For more information about the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund, including settlement agreements and other related documents, go to the Comptroller’s website.

KOLBE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

keting of property that GEDC owns off Harwood Road.

“I believe Jennifer Kolbe served the community and the board very well during her employment as the Gonzales EDC director,” said GEDC President Ken Morrow, who confirmed Kolbe’s departure from the position. “Without Jennifer’s leadership, I do not believe we would have purchased the Harwood Road property. This is the property which we are using to bring national business investment attention to Gonzales.”

Kolbe was hired as the Gonzales EDC executive director in November 2020 and served in that position for nearly two and a half years. Her annual salary as GEDC executive director for fiscal year 2023 was budgeted at \$88,200 plus benefits.

Prior to that, she was the business retention manager for the Schertz EDC for four years and the executive director of the La Vernia Municipal Development District for five years. Kolbe also worked for Texas Lutheran University as a research manager and for Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative as an economic development representative, a position she also held for the city of Seguin.

The Gonzales EDC was formed as a Type B economic development corporation on March 11, 1997, to “promote economic development within the city and the state of Texas in order to encourage and enhance employment and the public welfare of, fore, and on behalf of the city” as allowed by Chapter 505 of the Texas Local Government Code. Articles of incorporation were filed with the state three days later.

NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Now restored to a muscular three pounds and “running like the wind,” the raven walks around the Cayuga Nature Center in Ithaca, NY at his pleasure. He has been named “Bertrand,” a name shortened to “Bert” of course.

Sadly, most seriously injured birds don’t make it; this one survives and thrives in his new environment. Trainers and keepers hope he will be open to learning new behaviors — such as perching on command — so they can bring him out of his enclosure when school groups visit. “He’s so smart and so present, and we all enjoy watching him hop around,” one keeper said, describing him to be a “genuine character.”

What a treat awaits visitors, who’ll be privy to seeing one of God’s creatures surviving on caring love....

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




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VC honors 58 Vocational Nursing Program graduates during pinning ceremony

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Fifty-eight graduates of Victoria College's Fall 2022 Vocational Nursing Program were honored with a Pinning Ceremony on Dec. 16 at VC's Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts.

Joy Johnson was named valedictorian of the Fall 2022 class. Jessica Garcia was named salutatorian.

Other graduates included Asia Adams, Litzi Alcantar, Dora Almaguer, Reina Balboa, Summer Boothe, Christian Borel, Joann Bowie, Molli Broadway, Emily Burton, Daisy Cabrera, Vanessa Casso, Michelle Charleston, Wendolyn Cheramie, Susanna DeLaGarza, Miryam DeLeon, Dorothy Escamilla, Olivia Fennig, Kiani Franco, Brienne Garcia, Crystal Garcia, Jessica Garcia, Denise Garza, Megan Garza, Marina Gates, Ashley Gonzales, Erin Heller, Luz Hernandez, Alicia Huerta, Shaleika Jackson, Joy Johnson, Dawn Kemper, Cassie Lerma, Mayra Lopez, Zacquisha Malone, Dulcinea Martinez, Liliana Martinez Chavez, Esmeralda Mata, Citlalli Moreno, Jason Nguyen, Bobby Nunez,



Standing left to right at the Fall 2022 Pinning Ceremony for Victoria College's Vocational Nursing Program are Darla Strother, VC's Dean of Allied Health; Cindy Buchholz, Executive Vice President-Chief Academic Officer; Jessica Garcia, salutatorian; Joy Johnson, valedictorian; and Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President.

Angel Perez, Elizabeth Perez, Zitali Ramos, Serenity Razo, Amanda Rodriguez, Paulette Rodriguez, Charley Rosales, Giovanna Rosas, Kaitlin Rosas, Angelette Siegel, Kristi Thompson, Nadia Tovar, Alexis Valderamos, Danielle Valle, Mallory Vara, Danielle

Wade, Shayla Williams, and Mia Wilson.

Victoria College's Vocational Nursing Program is a 12-month certificate program offered on VC's Main Campus and in Gonzales and Hallettsville. The program is fully approved by the Texas Board of

Nursing. Successful completion enables students to take the National Licensure Exam for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN). Satisfactory achievement on the exam qualifies students for licensure as a vocational nurse.

VC also offers an Associ-

ate Degree Nursing Program, which allows students to gain a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree in nursing.

For more information on VC's nursing programs, call (361) 573-3291 or visit VictoriaCollege.edu/HealthCareers.

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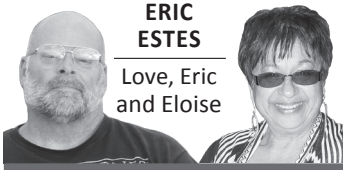
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Magically Delicious

Well hey there y'all, are we pumped up and ready to take on another week? I hope yours will be all rainbows and sunshine, 'cause just like the others before it, it'll be gone before you know it. Being part Irish myself, I'd like to wish everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day, whether your Irish or not.

This particular holiday often flies under the radar, not being understood for it's true significance. Celebrated on the 17th of March every year, it is the anniversary of St. Patrick's death in the 5th century. The Irish have been observing this religious holiday for over a thousand years. St. Patrick was born in Roman Britain, but was kidnapped and brought to Ireland when he was sixteen years old as a slave. After escaping, he eventually returned to Ireland and is credited for bringing Christianity to the Irish people, often referred to as their national apostle. It's believed that he explained the concept of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) using three leaves of their



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

native clover, the shamrock. It's also believed that the first American St. Patrick's day parade was held in what is now St. Augustine, Florida in 1601. Originally organized by the Spanish colony's Irish vicar Ricardo Artur, is still being celebrated today. So, get your Irish on, cause anyone that can bring Christianity to a nation definitely deserves a celebration in my book!

Of course, who can think of the Irish without thinking about Lucky Charms? Who ever thought about putting small marshmallows in cereal covered in sugar deserves a Pulitzer Prize. Giving young lads and lasses everywhere dreams of someday becoming full blown diabetics, while not healthy on a physical level, sure did the trick for our mental and emotional well being.

Oh yeah, magically delicious indeed! Like the leprechaun on the box, I'm still searching for that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow but ironically, when I finally got there, there was just a large basket of eggs. Fortunately, during my last visit to HEB, I noticed the price of eggs have finally started to come down. For a minute there, I thought they had a good shot at replacing gold as the international monetary standard. Being as I'm monitoring my carbohydrate intake, and egg shortages have been mainly caused by an outbreak of the avian bird flu, it's understandable that I'm praying for chicken health the world over.

Not only was Florida home to the first American St. Patrick's day parade, but also home to the first Eric Estes day parade. Yeah, I held it for myself, and while no one else showed up for the festivities, a good time was had by all (me). I was kinda hoping it would take off and be recognized nationally, and while it seems



to have stalled in overall enthusiasm... one can still hope. I fully realize that at times I may seem a half a bubble off plumb, but it's not all my fault. Outstanding genetics, coupled with a high level of pesticide ingestion growing up accounts for most of the genius before you today. As a young boy growing up in southern Florida, it was practically a nightly ritual that the neighborhood kids would come together to run several blocks behind the mosquito truck. Add to that being sprayed by crop dusters

(which my dad flew for a short time before the chemicals started affecting him) every time we left the house; let's just say that DDT (banned in 1972) can be a boy's worst enemy or best friend, cause I can still drop a mosquito at thirty paces and glow in the dark on a moonlit night. Yep, somewhere between my ignorance and stupidity, God's been standing there watching over me, as I should've been dead hundreds of times over. All I can say is...thank you Lord! Love you guys, Eric.

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Gonzales Memorial Hospital Auxiliary holds meeting

BY ELIZABETH BRELSFORD BENNETT
Special to the Inquirer

The Auxiliary of Gonzales Memorial Hospital met Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. at Thrive. President-Betty Neubauer called the meeting to order. First Vice President Sylvia Mercer was in charge of the program.

Freda Smith from the Texan Nursing Home gave a summary of the services available and the activities offered. The Interim CEO of the Hospital spoke of the upcoming changes at the Hospital making all patient rooms private and expanding Orthopedic Surgery. Holly Danz presented the Dueling Piano Gala information to be held April 28, 2023.

Minutes were read and the Treasurer's report given.

Second Vice President Irene Oakes reported: December Volunteer hours, 111; January Volunteer hours 115; February Volunteer hours 130. Irene Oakes and Zilpha Dolezal each received 100 hour bars.

Scholarship chair, Betty Fink, submitted LVN Izaguirre's name for a scholarship recipient to Galen School of Nursing. She will receive her RN in September. There is one

other applicant as well.

Scrapbook Chair Kay Konecky has the book in order and will bring it to the Gift Shop.

Special Projects Chair suggested we give a donation to the Hospital. Holly will make up a list of items the Aux. might wish to donate.

The members were told the Hall Closet was cleaned and the Chapel Closet was also cleaned with new shelving added. All the Auxiliary belongings are now housed in one place: "The Chapel Closet."

April 28 at 7 p.m. at GG's Steak House is the date for the Gala. Mrs. Fink made a motion to "buy" a table for 8 for \$3,000. Irene Oakes seconded the motion. Dress for evening will be cocktail attire. Colors are black, gold and cream. Those wishing to attend are Sylvia, Zilpha, Betty Fink, Linda, Irene, Jo Ann and Betty N.

Linda McGill asked to change her work morning to Tuesday. Betty Fink will work on Wednesday morning. Thank you ladies.

Barbara K. made motion to adjourn. Passed. Next meeting will be March 28, it will be our Salad Luncheon. Some door prizes were won by Irene, Sylvia and Jo Ann.

OBITUARY

HELEN AMELIA SCHNITZ

Helen Amelia Schnitz of Nixon, Texas was called to her eternal home on March 7, 2023 at the age of 85 years. Helen was born on January 24, 1938 in Gonzales, Texas to Leslie Mills and Gladys (Sessions) Mills. Helen married her sweetheart, Wendell Herman Schnitz, Sr. on January 28, 1953 in Gonzales.

Helen is preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Leslie Mills, Jr., and Jackie Holmes Mills; sisters, Gladys Adelle Lawrence, Ruby Hare, and Dottie Ivey; and step-grandson, Johnathon



Robert Henk.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Wendell H. Schnitz, Sr.; sons, Charles Allen Schnitz Sr. (Jennifer),

and Wendell Herman Schnitz, Jr. (Laura); grandchildren, Charles Schnitz Jr. (Delane), Jacob Kyle Sanders (Amanda), Richard "Rickey" Allen Schnitz (fiancée, Megan), Travis Anthony Schnitz (Valorie), and Derek Austin Schnitz; step-granddaughters, Sara Elizabeth Nino, Bridget Vandervort, and Mary Aguilon; 15 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; sisters, Audrey West, Darleen Tabor, Joyce Duell, and Marlin Haygood.

A visitation will be held on Friday, March

10, 2023, 5:00pm-8:00pm at Finch Funeral Chapel in Nixon, Texas. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2023, 10:00am, at Finch Funeral Chapel. A burial will follow at Nixon Cemetery. The Reverend Michael Cowey will be officiant of the services.

If desired, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org. You are welcome to sign the online guestbook at www.finchfuneralchapels.com. Services in care of Finch Funeral Chapels, Nixon, Texas.



Pictured from left are Diana Hawes, RWOYA President; Cheryl Wilson, RWOYA Caring for America Chair; and Cherry Bell, STCH representative.

Call to action produces immediate results

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A call to action provided instant results by Republican Women of Yoakum Area (RWOYA). In its March 5 newsletter, RWOYA Caring for America Chair Cheryl

Wilson asked for various personal hygiene and cleaning products for STCH Ministries (originally South Texas Children's Home) to be brought to the March 8 monthly meeting. STCH Ministries is a faith-based, nonprofit organiza-

tion that has been caring for children and families since 1952. It took only three days for members and associate members to gather an abundance of the requested items (shown below) for pick-up by STCH Ministries.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office
03/05/23 – 03/11/23

03/05/23
• McCook, Courtney Ann Michelle, 09/1989, Waelder: Aggravated Assault Date/Family/ Household Member w/ Weapon; Released on \$15,000 Bond

03/07/23
• Dunn, Jazmyne Atosha, 10/2003, San Marcos: Local Warrant – Theft from Person; Remains in Custody

03/10/23
• Gamez, Juan Manuel, 05/1970, Raymondville: Local Warrant – Driving while Intoxicated 3rd or More; Remains in Custody
• Martinez, Dominic Angel, 03/2001, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Manufacture Deliver Controlled Substance PG 1 >4G <200G; Released – Weekender

03/11/23	
• Amaro, Adrian Martinez, 09/1993, Gonzales: Public Intoxication, Immigration Detainer; Picked up by ICE	
Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processing's:	
GCSO	05
DPS	00
GPD	10
WPD	02
NPD	01
GISD	00
SMO	03
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	21

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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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Obstetrics
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(830) 379-3937

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(830) 303-0005
Charles White, D.P.M
(830) 303-0005

Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine
(512) 821-2540



Shiner Heritage Quilters hold work session, meeting

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild held a work session and meeting on March 7.

At the meeting, Annette Meyer explained the process of foundation piecing to make accurately pieced quilt blocks. She showed examples and gave a paper-pieced pattern to each member.

Debbie Novasad announced that the 2024 “Spring into Quilting” donation quilt will be quilted soon. Members displayed their quilt blocks made with the “Block of the Month” patterns, took bags to decorate for the summer Youth Quilting Class, and participated in Show and Tell.

Hostesses Annette Meyer, Nola Bohuslav, Sarah Collins, Carolyn Hilscher and Carol Daniel distributed door prizes.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 4 at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For information email info@shiner-heritagequilters.org or log on to shinerheritagequilters.org.



Shiner Heritage Quilters Janet Zabransky, Nola Bohuslav and Janet Ferguson are busy sorting fabric to use in making donation quilts for area nursing homes and Norma’s House. The work session was held prior to the guild meeting on March 7.

COURTESY/GENE CERNY

Museum features Western expert for lecture, ranching artifact round-up

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College’s Spring 2023 John W. Stormont Lecture Series continues at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23 with “Chasing Billy The Kid” presented by Kurt House at the Museum of the Coastal Bend.

Kurt House is a historian, Western collector, director of the Wild West History Association, and noted author of several books on Western America. His recently published book, Chasing Billy the Kid, focuses on the chase and capture of Billy the Kid in 1880. A book signing will immediately follow the lecture.

Community members are invited to participate in a Ranching Artifact Roundup with Mr. House beginning at 3 p.m. March 23. Mr. House will meet one-on-one with local collectors to identify items used in livestock management and everyday life on the ranch, for potential inclusion in the museum’s upcoming exhibit, Where



CONTRIBUTED

Victoria College’s Spring 2023 John W. Stormont Lecture Series continues March 23 at 5:30 p.m. with “Chasing Billy The Kid” presented by Kurt House at the Museum of the Coastal Bend.

Texas Ranching Began. Space is limited. Roundup participants are encouraged to register in advance by contacting Heather Para at (361) 572-6468.

The lecture and artifact roundup are free and open to the public. This presentation is made possible in part with funding from the Anne Kouba Memorial Fund at MCB.

The Museum of the Coastal Bend is located

on Victoria College’s Main Campus at 2200 E. Red River Street in Victoria. The museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is “pay-what-you-want.”

For more information on the Museum of the Coastal Bend and its upcoming events, visit MuseumOfTheCoastalBend.org, email Museum@Victoria-College.edu or call (361) 582-2511.

South Texas Home and Garden Show set March 25 in Floresville

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Get some great ideas for your garden and home at the 16th annual South Texas Home and Garden Show on Saturday, March 25, in Floresville.

This free family-friendly event celebrates the benefits of gardening, while showcasing local farmers and artisans with more than 80 vendor booths and displays.

Classes and workshops featuring beekeeping, spring gardening, native prairies, and backyard poultry will be scheduled in two classroom areas outside the main showroom. There will be hourly drawings for seven stupendous door prizes, each valued at more than \$100.

A wide selection of bedding and other plants — including some from the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners — will be featured. Concessions by the Floresville Chamber of commerce and three food trucks will be available throughout the day.

High-energy performances by Rusty Duncan’s Martial Arts are

scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the stage in the showroom.

New this year are additional outdoor booths set up around the majestic oak tree and on the patio, with special demonstrations by Hill Country Tractor and Bill’s Tractor.

Children of all ages will enjoy the petting area with Black Barn Alpacas. This will make a great photo-op for parents!

The show is sponsored by the Wilson County News and Floresville Economic Development Corp., and they hope this year’s event will meet or exceed last year’s crowd of approximately 1,500 attendees!

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Floresville Event Center, 600 S.H. 97 W. in Floresville. Admission and parking are free.

Visit South Texas Home and Garden Show’s Facebook page or <https://www.southtexashomeandgarden.com> for updates and times of workshops.

For more information, call 830-216-4519.



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ACROSS

1 TX Kris film: “Alice Doesn’t Live Anymore” (1974)

5 gem found in TX

6 “San Jacinto Battleground State Historic _____”

7 state tech. college system (abbr.)

8 Mitchell County seat

17 TX Benson film: “____ to Billy Joe”

18 TXism: “he blazes _____” (big man)

21 TX Janis sang “____ and Bobby McGee”

22 chunk of dirt

23 some East TX areas

24 Iraqi dictator Hussein who was caught in 2003

29 this was to be channel 19 in Nacogdoches

30 TXism: “his axles _____ hot” (active)

31 Commemorative Air Force Texas founder, Nolen (init.)

32 TXism: “he couldn’t drive _____ snow bank” (incompetent)

34 snakes or scarves

35 TX Jimmy Dean’s “Big _____ John”

36 plow pullers

37 TX Tommy Lee Jones film: “Eyes of Laura _____” (1978)

38 “Cinco de _____” is celebrated in Texas

39 TXism: “lost everything _____ under my fingernails” (broke)

41 this Sophia was in “Houseboat” with TX Martha Hyer

42 TXism: “let sleeping dogs _____”

43 Abilene’s Dyess Air Force _____

44 removed an apple skin

45 filmed in Galveston: “Capricorn _____”

46 “_____ Houston” was sunk in WWII

47 “mister” in Mexico

48 Alamo book: “_____ Days to Glory”

50 this Frances was in “War Games” with TX Dabney

51 hair products

52 Texas Blue Bell _____ cream

53 noted TX sculptor Elisabet

DOWN

1 Houston group for 1992 Republican convention (2 wds.)

2 a story in TX Eva Longoria’s “Desperate Housewives”

3 Texas snake sound

4 “the echo” in Mexico (2 wds.)

9 this TX English sang for Lawrence Welk

10 soldier no-no (abbr.)

11 “I _____ It My Way”

12 TX Janis died of this (abbr.)

13 jai alai wickers

14 TXism: “if _____ any better the sheriff wouldn’t allow it”

15 Luby’s transport

16 sweet tater

19 TX Byron’s “How _____ the Game”

20 “L” of TX LBJ

22 TXism: “_____ no cigar”

24 “Alamo City” letters

25 fire or red insect

26 natl. patriot org.

27 in Texas: “Sierra _____ Mountains”

28 _____ School in Dallas

29 Houston AM

30 TXism: “_____ of” (kinda)

33 TXism: “likely as _____”

34 TXism: “nekkid”

35 more “nekkid”

37 TX rancher Chuck Norris 1984 film: “_____ Action”

38 brainless

40 short, quick race

41 former Speaker of Texas House, Pete

44 skins an orange

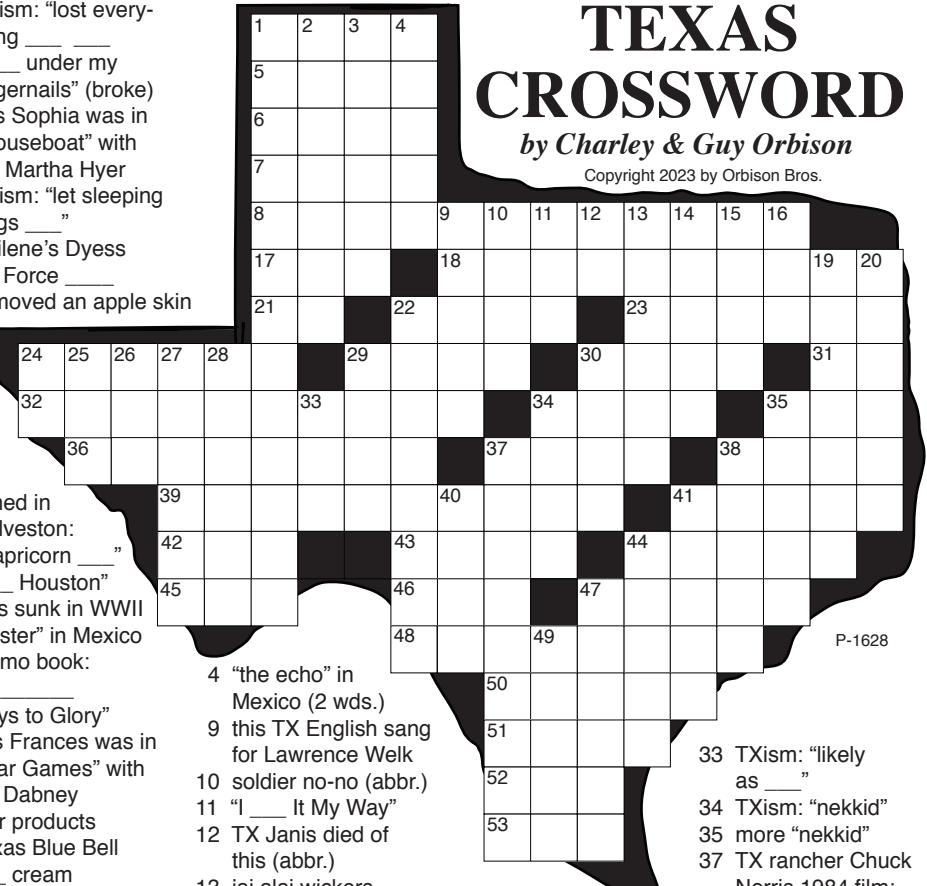
47 Joan of “Gunpoint” with TX Audie

49 TX Beasley, an NFL defensive back

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1628

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment your 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



Gonzales' Clemente Govea (16) battles with a Fox Tech player for control of the ball in their second district match in San Antonio Wednesday, March 8.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Apaches FC's Alan Orduna (3) takes control of the ball on the sideline against the San Antonio Fox Tech Buffaloes on the road Wednesday, March 8.



Apaches FC's Youahi Huerta (5) moves the ball to San Antonio Memorial's side of the field in the regular season finale at home Tuesday, March 14.

Apaches FC ends season on 3-game losing streak

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches FC varsity soccer's streak of making the playoffs came to an end Tuesday, March 14 in a 8-3 loss to the San Antonio Minutemen.

The Apaches FC closed out their season on a three-game losing streak with losses to La Vernia and San Antonio Fox Tech as well.

The Apaches cut the Minutemen's lead to 3-2, but in the second half, San Antonio Memorial took control, scoring five straight unanswered goals.

Despite the loss, head coach Shea Seip was proud of the way his team performed this season.

"I'm proud of the way they came back. You never want to lose three in a row, but we learned a lot of things and we'll take that to next year," Seip said.

Seip added that a lot of things are going to happen in Gonzales that'll help the team next season. That includes starting up club soccer.

"They're going to get maybe two weeks off, and they're going to be back on the field, so we can compete with those San Antonio schools and keep up with the progress of what soccer and what we need to do," Seip said.

Seip is looking forward for next year's teams, especially the young players he'll have.

"I've got a lot of guys returning. We're a young team. And we are going to play with a lot more confidence and a lot of things that happened this year aren't going to happen next year," Seip said.

The Gonzales Apaches FC closed out their season with 10-12-3 record and 2-6-2 district record.

The Apaches FC will return in winter 2023.



Gonzales' Gavin Lekgega (2) fights for control of the ball in the air against the La Vernia Bears Friday, March 10 on the road.

Bulldogs shut out Lady Apaches FC

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC were handed their second defeat in district this season in a 3-0 loss to the La Vernia Lady Bulldogs Friday, March 10 on the road.

The last time the Lady Apaches FC lost a game was in the district opener against San Antonio JFK.

The Lady Apaches held La Vernia to one goal entering the 20th minute of the second half, but the Lady Bears took control of the rest of the match and scored the next two goals.

Lady Apaches FC head soccer coach Shantael Trimm was proud of her team's defensive performance for the first sixty minutes of the game.

"What we were telling the girls is just to go out there with the same intensity they went in the first half with, if not more, be super aggressive and body up on the ball," Trimm said.

"La Vernia is always a tough opponent for us; it always been that way, but we shut them down the first meeting and they got lucky on this one," Trimm added.

La Vernia snapped the Lady Apaches FC's win and tie streaks, but Trimm knows this loss is not going to stop her



Senior Maria Vasquez (2) moves the ball down the field against the La Vernia Lady Bears Friday, March 10 in La Vernia.

team.

"Our girls are great at bouncing back. We have had ups and downs throughout the season. Our early tournaments were really rough. We were up against schools that were in higher districts in us. And we didn't let that stop us," Trimm said.

"We went into our district games super confident and on a roll and we had that one loss against Kennedy. We came back and we beat them our second round, which gave La Vernia their first place spot. So even with that,

we did some good work this season so far," Trimm concluded.

Gonzales secures third place in the district despite the loss to La Vernia and is projected to play Pleasanton in the first round of the 4A UIL Women's Soccer playoffs.

The Lady Apaches FC played Pleasanton in the Wimberly Tournament early in the season and beat them, and Trimm said her players are confident entering the matchup about repeating the same performance.

Lady Apaches FC beat Fox Tech, YWLA to clinch third

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC varsity team added two more wins to their district record with road wins over the Fox Tech Lady Buffaloes and the YWLA Lady Cardinals.

On Monday, March 6, the Lady Apaches FC beat Fox Tech, 1-0, improving to 5-1-2 on the season in district and clinching a playoff berth.

Gonzales traveled to La Vernia for a big district match against the first-place Lady Bears, but ultimately lost, 3-0. See separate story on this page.

After the La Vernia game, the Lady Apaches FC traveled back to San Antonio for their third road game against YWLA.

Gonzales shut out the Lady Cardinals, 1-0, improved to 6-2-2 and securing the team's third place spot in District 27-4A.

The Lady Apaches closed out their regular season at home Wednesday, March 15 at home against the San Memorial Minutewomen.

For highlights of the San Antonio Memorial game, please go to Facebook and follow the game thread.



Nixon-Smiley pitcher Tyler Barillet (5) throws a pitch against the Poth Pirates Tuesday, March 14.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Errors hurt Mustangs in Poth loss

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs varsity baseball team hosted the Poth Pirates in one of two of their last non-district matches Tuesday, March 14.

The Mustangs fell to the Pirates, 8-0, after struggling with errors in the bottom of the second, giving Poth a 5-0 lead.

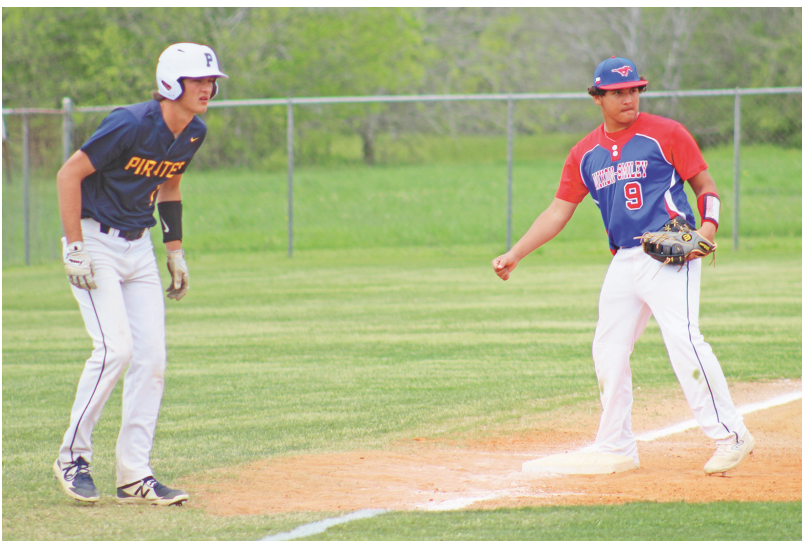
Nixon-Smiley head baseball coach Jordan VanAuken told his team after the loss that all teams are going to make errors.

VanAuken understands that really good teams will not make many errors, but 90 percent of the other teams will make errors.

“We kind of let it snowball in the second inning where we had an error and then another error. They’re a good baseball team [Poth], so now they’re going to capitalize on those errors, kind of like we’ve been doing previously. But, I mean, give credit to them, after we made those errors, they hit the ball hard,” VanAuken said.

The Mustangs snapped a hitless streak in the bottom of the fourth with freshman Julian Amaya got on base from a single and an error by Poth.

Poth struck out 11 Mustangs batters in seven innings and



Mustangs freshman third baseman Julian Amaya (9) focuses on defense with a Poth runner on third base Tuesday, March 14.

VanAuken knew entering the game his team had to hit the ball hard against a really good pitcher.

“Our thought process throughout the whole game, really even in the last inning, was the same thing. It was just hit the ball hard and make him make plays. If we’re gonna go down, we’re gonna go down with him making plays,” VanAuken said.

Nixon-Smiley will host Greenwood Christian Thursday, March 16 for its final non-district game of season before

the district opener on the road against Randolph Tuesday, March 21.

“They’re going to be able to hit the baseball, and they’re going to make plays. So we’re playing teams that are playoff caliber team, in hopes that when we play Randolph on the following Tuesday it’s not shocking that we’re in battles,” VanAuken said.

“I want to win battles they’re going to be good, but we’re pretty good baseball team when we’re doing things right.”

Apaches finish strong in Bastrop tournament

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches varsity baseball closed out the Bastrop tournament with a 4-1 record Saturday, March 11.

The Apaches kicked off the tournament with a bang, getting wins against the Cedar Creek Eagles, 9-3, and the Killeen Chaparrals, 16-3.

Pitchers Nathan Castillo and Kason Tieken recorded wins and Jarren Johnson recorded a gram slam.

On the second day, the Apaches went 1-1,

beating Killeen, 10-9, and losing to Bastrop, 7-6.

The Apaches capped off the final day of the tournament with a come-from-behind win over Pflugerville; Mason Navejar’s shot lined between first and second with the bases loaded helped secure the 7-5 win.

Gonzales will travel to San Antonio Friday, March 17 to take on the Cole Cougars for the final non-district game before the home district opener against the Navarro Panthers.

Lady Mustangs win two, lose two in tournament at San Marcos

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs varsity softball team traveled to San Marcos Thursday, March 9 through Saturday, March 11.

The Lady Mustangs faced tough competition in the tournament, facing five teams; four 4A schools and one 6A school.

Nixon-Smiley beat San Marcos, a 6A school, 2-1, and Lindale, a 4A school, 4-1, to secure two wins in the San Mar-

cos tournament.

The Lady Mustangs fell to Lufkin Hudson, 9-5; Antonia Prep, 11-9; and Houston Christian, 5-4; and finished the tournament with a 2-3 record.

Nixon-Smiley will wrap up non-district play against the Navarro Lady Panthers Friday, March 17 on the road in Seguin.

District play kicks off for the Lady Mustangs on the road against the Randolph Lady Ro-Hawks Tuesday, March 21.

Lady Apaches clip Lady Eagles’ wings in five-inning victory



The Gonzales Lady Apaches varsity softball team line up for the playing of the national anthem Monday, March 13, in Luling.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches varsity softball team earned a 12-2 victory over the Luling Lady Eagles in five innings Monday, March 13 on the road.

The Lady Apaches batters took control of the game in the top of the third, with Luling walking seven of nine batters, earning four RBIs, two singles and a double, taking a 11-1 lead over Luling.

“It took us a little while to make some adjustments but finally they got discipline at the plate. And when we started doing the little things right, good things start to happen,” head softball coach Michelle Uribe said.

Uribe was proud of how the offense took flight against Luling and took advantage when seven batters were walked.

“I know that it’s really hard to take a walk because everybody gets in there and wants to hit so for them to be disciplined enough to watch the ball and only swing it good pitches. I’m really proud of them for making that adjustment because I think we were swinging at some not so great pitches early on,” Uribe said.

The Lady Apaches’ pitching and fielders did their job holding Luling, allowing three hits, two runs and recording a double play in the bottom of the fourth.

“I think the highlight was probably that beautiful double play that they turn. So we’ve been telling them they cut down on the errors, good things are gonna happen. And today was a perfect example of that,” Uribe said.

The Lady Apaches will have one more non-district game against the Steele Knights Thursday, March 16 before kicking off district against La Vernia on the road Tuesday, March 21.

Uribe is excited to square off against her former team and played well against them in the scrimmage they had early in the season.

“They’re gonna put the ball in play. They’re gonna make us make some adjustments on the fly. And we’re getting so much better at that, that I’m really excited about the progress and that kind of improvement that we’ve made,” Uribe said.



Gonzales junior outfielder Kelly Breitschopf at bat for the Lady Apaches against Luling Monday, March 14.



Lady Apaches sophomore pitcher Sarah Padilla pitches in the fifth inning against the Luling Lady Eagles.

POWERLIFTING

Apaches finish strong; Barr headed to state meet

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches Powerlifting Team competed in the regional meet at West Hardin High School Thursday, March 9.

The Apaches finished strong with three of their lifters finishing in the top five and one clinching a spot in the state powerlifting meet.

Jessiah Barr punched his state ticket with a second place finish with 1,340 total pounds in the 148 pound class.

Landon Holub finished fifth with 1,460 total pounds in the 275-pound class and Omar Borjon finished fourth in the 308-pound class with 1,350 pounds.

Barr will travel to Taylor County to compete in the State Powerlifting Meet March 24 at the Expo Center.

REGIONAL RESULTS:

- Jessiah Barr: 148 class, second place, 1340 total pounds (State Bound)
- Kaden Deleon: 165 class, 1165 total pounds
- Layne Thiele: 220 class, 1390 total pounds
- Joshua Esparza: 220 class, 885 total pounds (bombed out)
- Landon Holub: 275 class, fifth place, total 1460 pounds
- Omar Borjon: 308 class, fourth place, 1350 total pounds
- Gustavo Rodriguez: SHW class, 1160 total pounds

Mustangs finish third in regionals, send three to state meet

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs powerlifting team finished strong at the regional meet at West Hardin High School and will send three lifters to the state meet in Abilene Friday, March 24.

“As the head coach for the second year in a row, I cannot commend our lifters enough on the amount of personal and athletic growth they have had. We grew in the number of lifters at regionals, the number of medals we brought home and how many boys are going to the state meet. It is a privilege to coach such hard-working students. I am looking forward to the state meet and I hope we are able to set personal records and bring more hardware back to Nixon,” Nixon-Smiley head powerlifting coach Paul Kirby said.

Cesar Vazquez finished first place in the 114 weight class with 795 total pounds; and Oscar Acosta and Kevin Zavala finished second in their respective weight classes.

Vasquez, Acosta and Zavala earned a spot in the state meet in Abilene.

REGIONAL RESULTS:

- 114 LBS WEIGHT CLASS**
- Cesar Vazquez, Regional Champion, with a total of 795 (PR; +30) *state qualifier
 - Andrew Meza-Vazquez, 4th Place with a total of 770 lbs (PR; +70)
- 123 LBS WEIGHT CLASS**
- Aiden Flores, 6th Place with a total of 825 lbs
 - Eduardo Betancourt, 10th Place with a total of 635 lbs
- 132 LBS WEIGHT CLASS**
- Tyler Barrientez, 3rd Place with a total of 1060 lbs
 - Jose Olvera, 8th Place with a total of 900 lbs
- 148 LBS WEIGHT CLASS**
- Oscar Acosta, 2nd Place with a total of 1250 lbs *state qualifier
- 181 LBS WEIGHT CLASS**
- Jesus Espino, 6th Place with a total of 1295 lbs (PR; +30)
 - Omar Morales Navarro, 6th Place with a total of 1260 lbs
- 275 LBS WEIGHT CLASS**
- Kevin Zavala, 2nd Place with a total of 1495 lbs (PR; +70)



Contributed Photo: Faith Lester and Coy LaBuhn with Gonzales Shooting Team coach Benny Conn after they won their respective divisions and \$10,000 scholarships at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo Junior Shoot-Out.

Gonzales Shooting Team hits target at San Antonio shoot-out

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Shooting Team made their presence known once again at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Junior Shootout held in February.

Many team members shot their personal best and the

following members made it to the sporting clays finals: Faith Lester, Corben Wolff, Brayden Davis, Dalton Pape, Cooper LaBuhn, and Coy LaBuhn. Faith Lester also made it to Female’s FFA trap finals.

Overall, not one, but two, Apaches earned division champion titles and each

coveted a \$10,000 SALE Scholarships at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo Junior Shoot-Out.

Faith Lester earned Champion FFA Female in the Trap Division, and Coy LaBuhn earned Champion FFA Male in the Sporting Clays Division.

CARDINALS SIGN FOR COLLEGE



Contributed Photo: Shiner St. Paul Cardinal Fisher Davis is heading to college as he signs with the Texas A&M- Kingsville Javelinas to play baseball. Left to right: Tristin Davis, Jennifer Davis, Fisher Davis, Garrick Davis and Kathleen Howard.

Zavala signs with Roadrunners’ powerlifting

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

Nixon-Smiley’s Kevin Zavala is taking his powerlifting talents to the Alamo City.

Zavala, a member of the Mustangs’ powerlifting team, signed to continue powerlifting with the UTSA Roadrunners Tuesday, March 10.

Zavala joined the Mustangs’ powerlifting team in his junior year and said he wasn’t as strong as the other, so he joined them.

“I decided to get into lifting in the mornings with my coach. And Coach [Paul] Kirby is the one that brought me into powerlifting, and without Coach Kirby, I wouldn’t be in this sport today,” Zavala said.

When picking a school,

there were colleges at the powerlifting meets. At all of the meets Zavala went to, UTSA was there as well, he said.

“So I looked at it and I looked into information, because also they’re really a good school. So I decided to take my talents to the UTSA powerlifting organization,” Zavala said.

Zavala is looking forward to competing in the college ranks at UTSA. He said the school has a great powerlifting program, coaches and have won nationals a few times, he said.

Powerlifting is different from many of the other sports Zavala has competed in. He said there is more passion, courage, more attention to it

because there’s something to work hard for.

“It’s something that you put in the work for and there is more emotion to it. When you see people squatting 600, 700 pounds, the reaction is priceless,” Zavala said.

Zavala is looking forward to being close to home with UTSA and Nixon only an hour from each other and he’ll be looking forward to the experience at college.

“I’m more looking for the experience. I’m staying with two baseball teammates over there in the dorms. And the fact that I’m closer to home means I can come home more often see my family,” Zavala said.

Zavala will major in psychology at UTSA.



Contributed Photo: Senior Kevin Zavala (right) celebrates with his powerlifting coach Paul Kirby (left) as he signs to join the UTSA Roadrunners powerlifting team.

GONZALES JR. HIGH TRACK GIRLS RESULTS

BASTROP - MARCH 9TH

8th Grade - 2nd Place

- 2400m:** 1st Jordyn Gonzales, 6th Eileen Castillo
- 4x100m:** 2nd (Alaina Valle, Gabby Torres, Tarcaria Sylvester, Kaylen Gonzales)
- 800m:** 1st Jordyn Gonzales
- 100m:** 2nd Kaylen Gonzales
- 4x200m:** 4th (Mylea Pena, Kea’Anna White, Kendal Mcdow, Dixie Lester)
- 400m:** 6th Mylea Pena
- 300m Hurdles:** 2nd Alaina Valle, 5th Tarcaria Sylvester
- 200m:** 2nd Kaylen Gonzales, 5th Gabby Torres
- 1600m:** 1st Jordyn Gonzales
- 4x400m:** 4th (Samarah Olmedo, Alaina Valle, Mylea Pena, Jazzlyn)
- Long Jump:** 4th Kaylen Gonzales, 5th Alaina Valle, 6th Gabby Torres
- Triple Jump:** 1st Alaina Valle
- High Jump:** Tie for 2nd Gabby Torres & Kaylen Gonzales
- Shot Put:** 1st Keiryah Greathouse, 2nd Kea’Anna White, 3rd Ahyanah Browne
- Discus:** 1st Kea’Anna White, 4th Keiryah Greenhouse, 5th Ahyanah Browne

BASTROP - MARCH 9TH

7th Grade - 1st Place

- 2400m:** 2nd Sophia Castro, 3rd Mardenis Suarez
- 4x100m:** 1st (Viviana Barrientos, Carsyn Carrizales, Lainey Witzkoske, Jonalyn Hunt)
- 800m:** 3rd Jazlynn Steemer, 4th Gabby Cobler,
- 100m Hurdles:** 6th Parker Petras
- 100m:** 1st Jonalyn Hunt, 4th Joslyn Hayward
- 4x200m:** 1st Place (Joslyn Hayward, Jayla Dixon, Mariah Ramos, Brianna Canales)
- 400m:** 1st Jazlynn Steemer, 6th Melanie Soto
- 300m Hurdles:** 1st Carsyn Carrizales, 3rd Viviana Barrientos, 6th Gabby Cobler
- 200m:** 2nd Lainey Witzkoske
- 1600m:** 1st Sophia Castro, 2nd Mardenis Suarez
- 4x400m:** 2nd (Carsyn Carrizales, Gabby Cobler, Jazlynn Steemer, Viviana Barrientos)
- Long Jump:** 2nd Jonalyn Hunt, 5th Lainey Witzkoske
- Shot Put:** 6th Bailey Nichols
- Discus:** 2nd Mari-lynn Ramirez

Kolkhorst’s SB 458 addressing nursing education gets committee hearing

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Prompted by events in Victoria last year, Senator Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) presented Senate Bill 458 in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. As Chair of the committee, Kolkhorst said she filed the legislation in response to what began as a local issue, but could have far-reaching implications across the state of Texas.

Last year, a for-profit college announced plans to start a nursing program in Victoria, which many feared would ultimately reduce the clinical training spaces for the local nursing students at Victoria College, which has a branch in Gonzales, and at University of Houston-Victoria.

Prompted by the agreement between the school and a national hospital system, SB 458 was written to protect the nursing clinical training spaces of students attending state colleges and universities from being replaced entirely by for-profit institutions.

The senator said the legislation aims to ensure that college and university students still have access to the training necessary to achieve their dreams.

During the hearing, Kolkhorst shared with the Committee the impact agreements such as these could have on Victoria College and other students. She also spoke to the involvement of local officials and community members to question the for-profit institution’s plans and explained how the Texas Board of Nursing currently has no true regula-

“Senate Bill 458 will allow the Board of Nursing to gain information about clinical training spaces in a community before approving a new nursing program.”

—State Sen. Lois W. Kolkhorst

tory oversight over these programs.

“Senate Bill 458 will allow the Board of Nursing to gain information about clinical training spaces in a community before approving a new nursing program,” Kolkhorst told the committee. “At the heart of this bill are all of our state colleges and universities and our students who attend those schools.” Kolkhorst also shared with the committee the significant difference in tuition costs between for-profit schools and Texas’s public colleges and universities. The for-profit that intended to open in Victoria has a tuition cost of about \$47,000; whereas, Victoria College offers to education the same student for about \$12,500.

Victoria College President Dr. Jennifer Kent traveled to Austin to testify before the committee on SB 458.

“I was pleased to be given the opportunity to speak today before the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on behalf of Victoria College and the Texas Association of Community Colleges in sup-

port of Senate Bill 458,” said Dr. Jennifer Kent, who is also a Legislative Committee member for the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC).

“The 48 institutional members of TACC unanimously voted to make protection of clinical spots for our community college nursing programs a legislative priority. We appreciate Senator Kolkhorst carrying this bill, and we look forward to seeing legislation passed to ensure our graduates can remain and work here in Texas, in their local communities.”

Senator Kolkhorst made clear to the committee that the bill does not prohibit or restrict for-profit institutions from operating in Texas. If a for-profit institution can demonstrate to the Texas Board of Nursing that their nursing program will not displace the clinical training spaces of a local public college or university, they could receive approval.

She said SB 458 will ensure Texas colleges and universities retain the clinical spaces needed to continue educating and training the nursing workforce.

“I am proud to file this legislation to protect our nursing students at community colleges and public universities,” said Kolkhorst. “By keeping clinical spaces available for our state’s higher education programs, our future nursing students will be able to complete their clinical education and enter the workforce. That means we will help to curb the staff shortages we are seeing today and keep nursing education affordable.”



Victoria College to hold informational sessions for 2023 bond election

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The community will have an opportunity to learn more about Victoria College’s May 6 bond election at Bond Informational Sessions scheduled for March 23 and April 18.

The first session will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 23 at the Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts located at 214 N. Main Street.

The second session will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18 at the Student Center on VC’s Main Campus located 2200 E. Red River Street.

At a special meeting on Feb. 13, VC’s Board of Trustees unanimously voted in support of the \$10 million bond election for construction of a Student Success Center. The estimated cost is \$36.5 million for a three-story expansion and renovation of the current facility and related infrastructure enhancements.

VC has committed \$26.6 million – or nearly three-fourths of the total project

cost – in grants, gifts, and institutional funds. VC’s Board of Trustees is asking voters to consider the \$10 bond issue to fund 27 percent of the project.

The proposed bond would result in a tax rate increase of 0.21 cents per \$100 of valuation for three years, bringing the property tax rate to 3.41 cents for the debt service portion used to pay bonds. The tax rate would then decrease 0.58 cents to 2.62 cents in 2027 due to voter-approved bond debt that will be paid off. For a homeowner with residential property valued at \$100,000, this would translate to an increase of \$2.10 per year for three years and then a decrease of \$5.80 in 2027.

The bond election will be held Saturday, May 6. Early voting will begin on April 24 and run through May 2. The last day to register to vote in the election is April 6. For information on how to register to vote, visit VoteTexas.gov.

For more information on the bond election, visit VictoriaCollege.edu/Bond23 or email Bond23@VictoriaCollege.edu.

PERMITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

don’t have very many of them, but there are just a few places where they do use a little bit of county right of way.”

Boatright confirmed to County Judge Pat Davis that the charge is similar for the permit as it is a \$1,000 permit fee per 90 days for up to a mile of county right of way, plus \$500 for each additional mile or portion of a mile. However, if a company fails to get a permit and installs any portion of a proposed temporary waterline on county right of way without an approved permit, they will be charged \$6,000 plus \$500 for each additional mile or portion of a mile.

A six-month permit would cost \$2,000 plus \$1,000 per additional mile, while a nine-month permit would be \$3,000 plus \$1,500 per additional

mile and a year-long permit would be \$4,000 plus \$2,000 per additional mile. However, while a 90-day temporary permit can be renewed repeatedly by just paying an additional \$1,000 plus \$500 per mile, a long-term permit cannot be renewed; a new application would be necessary at the end of the effective permit date.

“Dollarwise, it’s the same, it’s just two different permits where it saves paperwork,” Boatright said.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Donnie Brzozowski said he had concerns about how the permits were going to be enforced.

“The only thing I hate about long-term water line permits is we might go back where we used to be and they’ll send us

some money, but at least when we had a shorter term, they were having to come in and renew it,” Brzozowski said. “Who is going to go and check on those? I don’t want to go back to where we were, when we’ve got these water lines running down the side of the road and about half the time they are out in the road. They’re driving the stakes and we’ve got safety issues with the school buses running down the road. Who’s going to check on these, plus we’ve got to mow these right of ways and keep them clean.”

County Permitting Officer Jimmy Harless said he understood that, as a condition of the permit, the permittee had to help maintain the right of way, though often some of the permittees fail to behave

as expected.

“I think that y’all and your employees drive your county roads way more than I do,” Harless said. “I mean, if I happen to be there on a permit, or on a complaint, that’s different. I don’t mind if there’s a concern for you to call me and I’ll go out and look at it. I’ve done it for Commissioner Brzozowski a couple of times.”

Harless noted, however, he lacks enforcement power to make the company maintain the right of way or be good neighbors, but Davis said the permit can always be brought back before the court, at which time it can be discussed and possibly revoked “if they are not handling their obligation.”

Brzozowski asked what would happen if he told a company he was not willing to issue a permit for longer than 90 days at a time.

“It’s up to each commissioner and at his total discretion within his pre-

cinct of what he allows. You can allow whatever you want them to do or not do,” Boatright replied. “It’s up to you what you allow on your county roads.”

“It still leaves you the same discretion; we’ll do a short term or long term; it’s not making you do anything you don’t want to have to do.”

In other action, Sheriff Keith Schmidt asked commissioners to approve a resolution to apply for a \$55,000 grant for overtime pay as part of the Local Border Security Program Grant for Fiscal Year 2024. GCSO deputies take part in coordinated border security operations in an effort to deter and interdict criminal activity.

The department is part of the Coastal Bend Joint Operations and Intelligence Centers (JOIC) Region, which includes Aransas County, Bee County, Calhoun County, Dewitt County, Fayette County, Goliad County,

Gonzales County, Guadalupe County, Jackson County, Jim Wells County, Karnes County, Kleberg County, Lavaca County, Live Oak County, Matagorda County, McMullen County, Nueces County, Refugio County, San Patricio County, Victoria County and Wharton County.

During public comments, County Attorney Paul Watkins told commissioners he had a second assistant attorney resign from his office and “I’m sad to tell you it’s money that’s the problem.”

“We’ve had one application at the salary we have now. We cannot continue to function effectively two attorneys short,” Watkins said. “We’ve tried another method. We’re going to some of the schools and just trying to recruit them straight out of school. If we don’t have any luck, I’ll probably be coming back to you to talk about some money.”

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The Conjunto Cats from Seguin are slated to perform at this year's Feather Fest.

FEATHER FEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

when it was resurrected for two years before again being canceled in 2016.

Grammy-winning singer and musician David Farias will headline the reincarnated festival on Friday, May 5 for Cinco de Mayo, with opening act Conjunto Cats, a band from Seguin who are playing this year's Tejano Music Awards Fan Fair at Market Square in San Antonio.

Farias, an accordionist and vocalist known for his stints with La Tropa F and Los Texmaniacs, released his debut album with his band El Maestro De La Acordeon on Freddie Records in 2021 and is expected to drop another album sometime this year after suffering a health scare in 2022.

Conjunto Cats will replace Gonzales County native Max Castillo, who will not be able to perform with a band this year but will still provide sound for the festival that evening as DJ Max.

On Saturday, May 6, former professional bull rider turned country musician Jarrod Birmingham of Victoria will be the headliner with Fools of the Trade, a five-piece band from Seguin, opening up for him. Birmingham, who has been compared to Hank Williams Jr. and Waylon Jennings, has himself opened recently for artists like Mark Chestnutt, Kevin Fowler, Cody Morrow and Tracy Lawrence. Lonnie Erskine of Nixon will DJ throughout the day on Saturday as well, City Manager Harold Rice said.

Rice also said there will be a pageant held to crown a Mister and Miss Nixon as well as a Little Mister and Little Miss Nixon. His wife, Loyce Rice, is working to put the pageant together.

"We're going to need workers. I don't know how many people we had the very first meeting, but the second meeting, we didn't have that many," Rice said. "We haven't gotten to the point where we're asking for volunteers to work yet, but we're going to need workers for sure on the day of the festival."

Some members of the audience asked how they could be a part of the committee or volunteer, telling Rice and the council they need to publicize meeting dates and times so more people can be informed about what is going on with the festival. They were invited to take part in the next meeting that was scheduled for this week.

Rice said he has reached out to civic organizations and other communities about the possibility of holding a parade, but has had no response so far. He said he would like to see the city eventually hold a parade as well as have a professionally made float of its own "so our Mister and Miss Nixon can go to other cities and represent



David Farias will headline the reincarnated festival on Friday, May 5 for Cinco de Mayo.

Nixon."

Nixon Fire Chief Mark Mendez said his department will not be running the beer booth, however, because the volunteer fire department is still working on straightening out its 501(c)(3) non-profit status and they did not want to be involved in any drama that would distract from the festival.

Council members approved the closure of East Second Street from North Nixon to North Roosevelt on May 5-6 for the festival. Rice said the area will be temporarily fenced off to provide space for bands to load and unload and as an area where the Feather Fest Cook-off could be held as well. Homeowners along that area who are impacted by the street closure will still be given ingress and egress as well as free tickets to the event, Rice said.

The council went into executive session to discuss the mobile home ordinance 0-09-07, citing Section 555.071 of the Texas Government Code, the exception to the Texas Open Meetings Act which allows an executive session for consultation with attorney regarding contemplated or pending litigation, a settlement offer or administrative hearing).

After the executive session, however, the council took no action on making amendments to the ordinance, opting to keep it as it is for now.

Council members also used the executive session to discuss the rules and regulations from both Gonzales and Wilson counties for on-site sewage facilities (septic systems) and infrastructure for property located outside the Nixon city limits, but subject to annexation by the city, as well as the possibility of the city using septic systems for sewage for half-acre and larger lots for a mobile home development in Wilson County just outside Nixon city limits, citing Section 555.086, deliberations regarding a municipally owned utility.

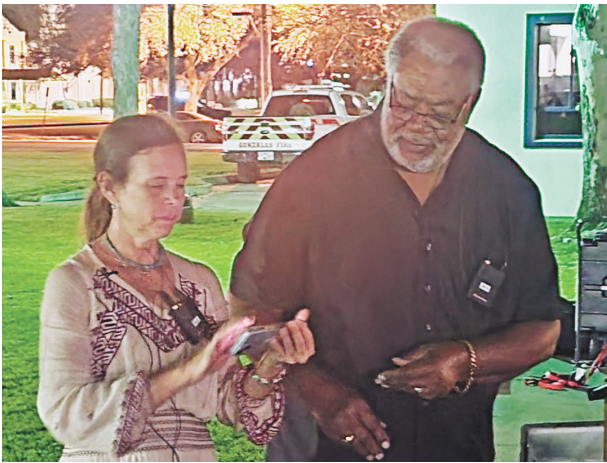
After executive session, the council agreed to adopt the Wilson County and Gonzales County rules and regulations for septic systems and to use that option to provide sewage to mobile homes that go into the mobile home development in Wilson County rather than installing wastewater lines, which would be much more costly to the city.

REMEMBERING THE RUNAWAY SCRAPE



LEW K. COHN

A candlelight vigil was held by Tour Gonzales to observe the victims of the Runaway Scrape and the Texans affected by the Battle of the Alamo. Mayor Steve Sucher and his wife, Linda Kay Sucher, lit a remembrance candle. The Young Texans from the Crystal Theatre performed "The Alamo has fallen!" while Marge Kacir of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas spoke about the women, families and widows of Gonzales. Thomas Enriquez spoke about the rescue of Mary Millsaps and Tejanos in the Runaway Scrape, while David Tacy spoke about African-Americans and the fight for the Alamo. There was a moment of silence, after which Josefina Jimenez read the Oracion de San Francisco (Prayer of Saint Francis) in Spanish, followed by Cynthia Green in English.



2023 Gonzales County Livestock Show Champions Keepsake Edition

Including photos, names of grand champions and reserve grand champions from Gonzales, Nixon & Waelder



Previous Winners



Don't miss this opportunity to congratulate all of the participants for their hard work at the 2023 Livestock Show.

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