

The **Gonzales Inquirer**

OUR 169TH YEAR SERVING GONZALES COUNTY \$1.00

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CONTRIBUTED/GCSO

Fire departments from Gonzales County and neighboring counties and the Texas A&M Forest Service battled a 35-acre blaze Tuesday, Sept. 12, off County Road 444 near Waelder that started from a welder. The fire was reportedly 100 percent contained as of Tuesday night.

County departments battle 35-acre grass fire near Waelder

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Gonzales County remains under a burn ban due to excessive drought and unsafe fire conditions, as evidenced by a grass fire which burned nearly 35 acres Tuesday, Sept. 12 off County Road 444 north of Thompsonville near Waelder.

What the Texas A&M Forest Service is calling the "Vacate Fire" was first called in to Gonzales County Sheriff's

Office dispatch at about 11:57 a.m. Tuesday with a call of a grass fire. Gonzales Fire Department, Waelder Fire, Ottine Volunteer Fire Department, Delhi VFD and Flaton Fire Department were all called to the scene with GFD assuming incident command.

Due to the size of the blaze, the Texas A&M Forest Service was alerted and they brought with them a D6 dozer,

See **FIRE**, page 18

Commissioners debate potential take-home policy for police patrol vehicles

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

For the second time in two weeks, Gonzales County commissioners discussed the usage of county-owned vehicles by the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office — particularly those that are taken home out of the

county by deputies. Several members of the court — in particular, Precinct 2 Commissioner Donnie Brzozowski — have been especially vocal about not wanting to see county assets being taken out of Gonzales County.

"My thoughts are that

it's hard to track somebody when they take a car out of the county to know when they're on duty and when they're off duty, where they're driving, what time do they have a break," Brzozowski said. "I think the simplest thing is, if you

See **VEHICLES**, page 17

Campus put on lockdown after student brings knife to school

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales Junior High School was briefly placed on lockdown Monday, Sept. 11, after a student allegedly brought a pairing knife

to campus, in violation of the district's Code of Conduct.

When administrators were informed of the incident at 11 a.m. Monday, the campus was "immediately placed on hold status to

ensure the safety of our students," said Veronica Johannsen, district chief of Administration, Communications, and Security.

Gonzales ISD police

See **LOCKDOWN**, page 17

Float Fest sinker: Sales tax allocation sees drop one year after big event

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

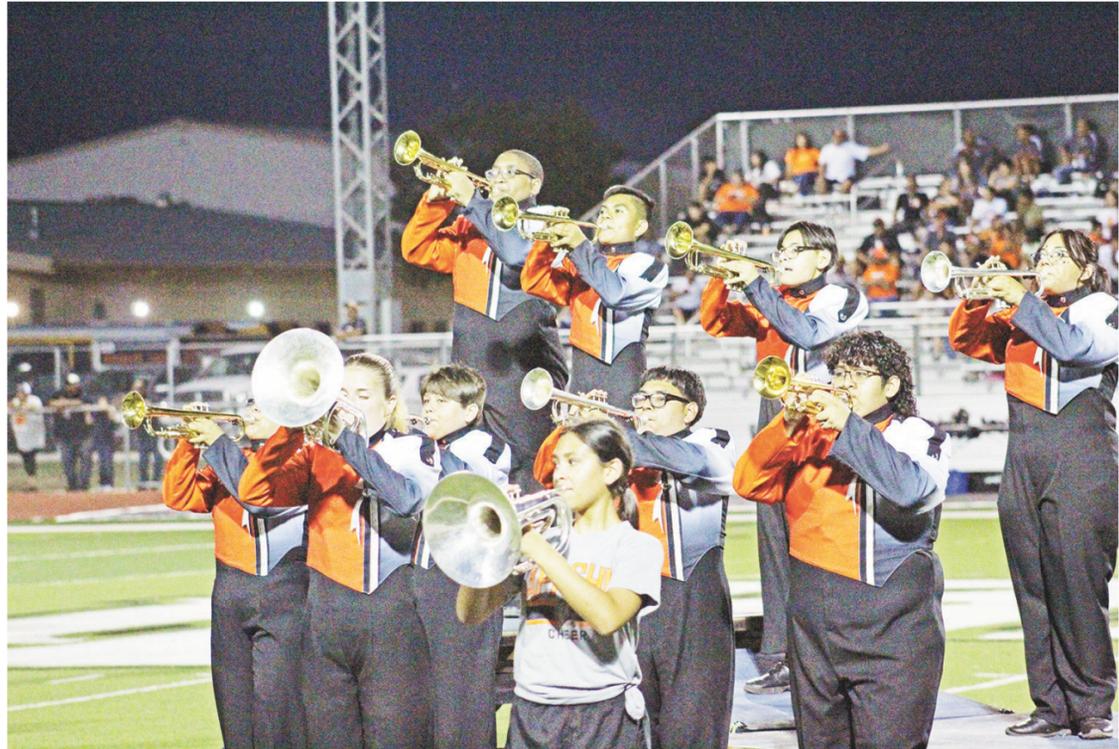
It looks like 2022's Float Fest, which was held in Gonzales last July, did provide a nice bump to local sales taxes after all, according to figures received from Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's office.

Sales tax allocations for Gonzales for September 2023 dropped by more than 4.7 percent below the amount the city received for September 2022 — a decrease of nearly \$12,000.

Nixon also saw its sales tax allocations drop for this month as they took in 15.2 percent less than the previous September. However, Smiley and Waelder both saw significant gains in sales tax allocations as Waelder's sales tax collections crossed the \$100,000 threshold

See **SALES TAX**, page 17

APACHE BAND HITS THE FIELD



VANDY VAN EPPS

The Mighty Gonzales Apaches Band perform their UIL competition show "Bridge to a New Beginning" at halftime in Marion's Veterans Memorial Stadium Friday, Sept. 8.

GISD school board discusses Memorandum of Understanding agreement with Gonzales

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
The Inquirer

The Gonzales ISD school board met for the regular scheduled meeting Monday, Sept. 11 at the district administration building.

One of the items talked about was the discussion of

a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the school district and the city of Gonzales regarding a potential regional drainage detention pond.

A detention pond is a large, contoured depression in an urban landscape that receives and stores stormwater from large drainage area.

GISD Director Operations Gene Kridler said the MOU allows the city to perform necessary surveys, studies and designs for the potential detention pond.

"This pond will be a part of a larger projects intended to reduce the frequency of flooding downstream along Tinsley

Creek. This pond would be designed to accommodate intramural sports fields, practice fields and playgrounds within its boundaries and would be designed to mitigate additional runoff created by the development of any future facilities on the property out there," Kridler said.

Keith Schauer, senior project manager of Doucet Engineers, attended the meeting to answer any questions from the school board.

"Last October, we had a pretty significant rain that flooded Tinsley Creek. It actually crossed over Highway 90A,

See **GISD**, page 18

Prop A for Waelder ISD includes fifth, sixth grade classroom building

BY WAEOLDER ISD
Special to the Inquirer

The Waelder ISD Bond Election will feature four major projects in Proposition "A" and during the past two weeks articles have been written about two of the projects: the Cafetorium and Middle School Improvements.

This week's project to be discussed is the Classroom Building for 5th and 6th Graders.

The school district is currently leasing six temporary buildings that are being used as classrooms for different grade levels at a cost of more than \$76,000 per year. While temporary buildings do not offer the academic environment advantages of a permanent classroom building, the temporary, sometimes called portable buildings, are often used by school districts

See **BOND**, page 18



From patrol car to city manager's desk

Tim Crow's journey began at VC, brought him back 30 years later

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Thirty years after graduating from Victoria College's Law Enforcement Academy, Tim Crow returned to the nest to complete what he started.

"Throughout the years, I had always regretted not finishing my degree," he said. "In 2020, I finally decided I was going to go back and work on it. Victoria College had an opportunity for me at their location right here in Gonzales, so I enrolled."

Crow graduated from VC with an Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice, then went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University-Commerce.

"I was almost 50 years old when I went back to Victoria College, sitting in class with young men and young ladies who were younger than my own kids," he said. "It was humbling, but I focused on my goal and was supportive to whoever I could be supportive to. Inside my ring from Texas A&M University-Commerce, it has the inscription: 'Thirty years late, Tim Crow.'"

Crow graduated from Karnes City High School in 1988. He had always had an interest in law enforcement, so he began doing ride-alongs with police officers in Kenedy, Texas, after dropping out of college.

The police chief at the time asked him if he had thought about going to the Law Enforcement Academy, so he did. Crow became a Kenedy police officer upon graduation.



He worked as a police officer in his hometown for four years before moving to Gonzales to run the DARE Program in 1998. Crow became chief of the Gonzales Police Department in 2003.

"When I started my career, I felt like it was what I was called to do," he said. "Thirty-three years later, I decided I needed some new challenges and moved into city management. I have an opportunity to have a bigger say leading to positive improvements for our community in this role."

"I can also lead and inspire people to do the best that they are able to do and drive themselves to continue to improve. Stepping into city management was a big transition. You don't know something until you've sat in the seat. Once you sit in the seat, it's like, 'Okay. Now I get it.'"

Crow remains a big proponent of VC's Gonzales Center, working closely with its manager, Vince Ortiz, to encourage community

members to enroll in classes.

"I have enjoyed my work with Victoria College here in Gonzales," he said. "I look forward to many years of watching the opportunities there grow with our community."

"I can't emphasize enough to people that if higher education is for you, go for it. Even if you think you're the old guy in the room or the old gal in the room, just do it."

That advice rings especially true for his colleagues who are looking to start or complete an associate degree without leaving the Gonzales city limits.

"Since I started going back to school, I have been in the ears of every officer about different opportunities available to them," he said. "I tell them to enroll."

"I say, 'All you have to do is the work. Don't be afraid of a test, or having to sit in a room with people who are younger than you. Swallow your pride, and move on. They are there trying to improve. You can do the same.'"



GPD seeking driver from HEB gas drive off

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales police are searching for a woman responsible for a gas drive off at the Gonzales HEB on Aug. 21, and again on Sept. 1

Police have been able to determine the same female subject and same vehicle were responsible both

times for the theft of gasoline. The vehicle has an Army sticker on the back window of the driver's side with license plate KJL9897.

Gonzales police are asking for help with identifying the female. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Investigator James Holt at (830) 672-8686.

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OFFICERS PAY TRIBUTE ON 9/11



Gonzales County Sheriff's Office deputy Travis Vega and corrections officer Roland Earp IV participated Monday, Sept. 11, in the 9/11 memorial event at the Tower of the Americas in San Antonio. The two men climbed the 65 floors of the tower twice to pay tribute to the lives lost in the terror attacks.

PHOTOS COURTESY ROLAND EARP IV, GCSO

Gonzales Weather

	September 14 92°/72°	Times of clouds and sun 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 96
	September 15 91°/70°	Sunny 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 96
	September 16 94°/71°	Sunny 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 98
	September 17 94°/71°	Plenty of sunshine 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 95
	September 18 92°/70°	Clouds to start, then sunshine returns 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 95
	September 19 95°/73°	Abundant sunshine and very warm 5% chance of rain • RealFeel 97
	September 20 95°/72°	Mainly cloudy and very warm 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 98

Pilot Club looks to kick off weekend Wright with 5K

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Pilot Club of Gonzales will honor a long-time resident by hosting the Melanie Wright 5K Run/Walk & Deadlift Party at Independence Park this Saturday, Sept. 16, beginning at 7 a.m.

This inaugural event is being held to raise money for scholarships for nursing students in the Gonzales County community. A portion of the funds will also go towards the adaptive playground being built in Gonzales and other club projects. The event will also help the club in raising awareness to kids and adults alike about brain-related matters through the Pilot Club's Brain-minders Program.

Melanie Wright was a proud resident of Gonzales her entire life. She loved supporting local causes including Alzheimer's Walk, Relay for Life, various church events, Chamber board, Pilot Club, Lions Club and high school events. As a nurse for more than 30 years, she donated her time to nursing students who needed tutors and she served on the Board

of Nurses for Victoria College, where she also taught classes. She also led clinicals during her time as director of nursing at Texan Nursing & Rehab.

If you are interested in sponsoring or making a donation, please contact event director Lorrell Wright at lorrell78629@gmail.com or 830-203-0109.

Registration for the 5K Run/Walk is \$50 per

person, while the Kids Run is \$15 per person. A Virtual 5K is being held as well with \$60 entry fee. Registration includes a medal and a shirt.

Late registration and packet pickup is at 7 a.m. Saturday with the 5K Run/Walk and Kids Run beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Registration for the deadlift competition is \$40 per person and the competition begins at 8

a.m. at Independence Park.

On Friday, Sept. 15, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., there will be a fundraiser kickoff party at Fire City Grill, with a portion of the proceeds from the evening being donated to the Melanie Wright Nursing Scholarship Fund. There will be live music from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. by the John Brewer Band with Jack Honey.



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Celebrations

Birthdays

September 14th Justin Cosper Jack Finch Janice Glass Carlo Melchor Tom Robinson Corey Veach	September 17th Judy Gipson Stephanie Perez Krisslyn Sexton John Withers	September 19th Caroline Withers Pilar Casares James Harvick Sherry Hill Robert LaFleur Pam Reif Steve Scott
September 15th Laurie Nesloney Tyler Pfuhl	September 18th Jose Bautista Gay Ann Brown Blake Cox Frances Downs Daniella Gaytan Estella Ivey	September 20th Anna Laura Burger Lisa Gardner Clayton Kelley Lizabeth Molina Lorri Pavliska Barbara Quinney

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September 15th-17th
Region 6 Rodeo

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SBA economic injury disaster loans available

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Small nonfarm businesses in 74 Texas counties are now eligible to apply for low interest federal disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, announced Director Jeffrey Lusk of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West.

These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by drought in the following primary counties that began Aug. 22.

Primary Texas counties: Anderson, Bee, Brazos, Burleson, Cherokee, Crane, Dallas, Dewitt, Grimes, Hood, Houston, Johnson, Karnes, Leon, Live Oak, Madison, McMullen, Reagan, Somervell, Upton, Waller and Ward;

Neighboring Texas counties: Angelina, Atascosa, Austin, Bosque, Collin, Crockett, Denton, Duval, Ector, Ellis, Erath, Fort Bend, Freestone, Frio, Glasscock, Goliad, Gonzales, Harris, Henderson, Hill, Irion, Jim Wells, Kaufman, La Salle, Lavaca, Lee, Limestone, Loving, Midland, Milam, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Palo Pinto, Parker, Pecos, Reeves, Refugio, Robertson, Rockwall, Rusk, San Patricio, Smith, Sterling, Tarrant, Tom

Green, Trinity, Victoria, Walker, Washington, Webb, Wilson and Winkler.

Small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for economic injury is April 29, 2024.

Garden Q&A

with CALVIN FINCH



Wildflowers, petunias, zinnias among flowers to sow by seed

Q. Which flowers can we plant directly by seed into the garden rather than transplants this winter? How about next spring?

A. This is the time of the year that we plant wildflower seeds but usually in an appropriate bare soil site on top of the ground rather than in the garden. Petunias can be seeded into the garden and sweet peas are among the most spectacular. It is easier to find plants to grow by seed in the summer. Among the easiest are zinnias and marigolds. Moss roses seed in the summer.

Q. What are the usual reasons for crepe myrtles not to bloom? I have several varieties growing for the second year none of which are blooming. Could it be a lack of fertilizer?

A. The most likely cause for all of the selections not to bloom would be too much shade, but with only one full year of growth in a year with severe drought and freeze experiences you should be conservative and give them another year. Is the shade obvious? How about damage from the freeze or the drought? Have they been watered enough to support a full bush of leaves? Fertilizer is not the usual problem.

Q. Why would someone select to

buy the 4.5 inch of containers instead of the 2-inch peat pots? The cost is so much more but at least in my garden the transplants in 2-inch containers do just as well. Is it just a profit motivation?

A. Some gardeners find that using transplants in 4.5-inch containers is very much easier especially when the weather is challenging from heat and or drought. Selling the 2-inch peat pots was profitable but apparently selling transplants in 4.5-inch containers is at least as profitable. In addition to being easier to plant and establish, the larger containers give you more flexibility in the urgency of planting.

Q. Please list again the vegetables we can plant in the winter garden.

A. With transplants plant broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, collards, kale, Swiss chard and Chinese cabbage now. By seed consider lettuce, English peas, radishes, rutabagas, turnips, beets, and mustard. Plant spinach and onion transplants in November. About February 1 plant seed potatoes. Fertilize the bed prior to planting with "winterizer" such as 18-6-12 or a slow-release lawn fertilizer as 19-5-9. Also, side dress with fertilizer every month.

LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

September 9th
Cattle - 1464

Compared to our last sale: Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady except lighter weights were under pressure. Less quality calves and yearlings sold 3-5 cheaper. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold 2-4 higher.

Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 315-320; 300-400 lbs., 280-305; 400-500 lbs., 255-275; 500-600 lbs., 243-250; 600-700 lbs., 219-240; 700-800 lbs., 205-217. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 110-195.

Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 275-277; 300-400 lbs., 265-270; 400-500 lbs., 233-250; 500-600 lbs., 227-230; 600-700 lbs., 191-220.

Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 88-100; Cutters, 104-115; Canners, 64-84; High yielding fat cows, 103-109.

Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 117-120; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 100-115. **Stocker Cows:** \$750 to \$1,700. Pairs: \$1,100 to \$1,975.

NIXON LIVESTOCK

September 11th
Cattle - 1698

Steers: 200-300 lbs - \$239-249-330
300-400 lbs - \$215-225-335
400-500 lbs - \$217-227-320
500-600 lbs - \$215-225-275
600-700 lbs - \$209-219-255
700-800 lbs - \$197-207-227
Heifers: 200-300 lbs - \$194-204-265
300-400 lbs - \$209-219-295
400-500 lbs - \$204-214-300
500-600 lbs - \$203-213-275
600-700 lbs - \$194-204-237
700-800 lbs - \$185-195-207

Slaughter Cows - \$57-106
Slaughter Bulls - \$89-129
Stocker Cows - \$800-1200
Pairs: \$645-1575

HALLETTVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: September 5th
Cattle on hand: 2817

Packer Cows: Canner and Cutter Cows: \$83-110
Utility & Fat Cows: \$81-108
Light Weight Canner Cows: \$55-80
Poor/Weak: \$45-58
Packer Bulls: Heavyweight Bulls: \$118-130
Utility & Cutter Bulls: \$105-120
Lightweight Canner Bulls: \$96-108

Stocker Cows:

Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: NONE
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$975-1325
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1150-1500

Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:

Number 1 steer & bull calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$250-310
200-300 lbs.: \$248-315
300-400 lbs.: \$255-330
400-500 lbs.: \$235-300
500-600 lbs.: \$225-265
600-700 lbs.: \$210-250
700-800 lbs.: \$195-227.50

Replacement Heifers:

350-700 lbs.: \$235-280
The calf market this week was very steady and strong. Demand continues very strong. Best demand remains on the better kinds. Pasture conditions in our area are extremely bad. Packer cows and bulls continue to sell

strong. Supply consisted of approx. 400 hd. total.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

September 6th

Quality not as deep today. All classes steady with a little pressure on plain cattle. Stocker cows & bulls steady. Cattle - 811

Sheep & goats - 581
Medium & large frame #1 Steers: 200-300 lb. .70-1.98-2.95
300-400 lb. .35-2.27-3.00
400-500 lb. .50-2.14-2.70
500-600 lb. .52-2.03-2.50
600-700 lb. .75-2.01-2.44
700-850 lb. .85-1.69-2.21
Medium & large frame #1

Heifers:

200-300 lb. .85-1.87-2.60
300-400 lb. 1.00-2.02-2.68
400-500 lb. .70-1.96-2.48
500-600 lb. .40-1.90-2.36
600-750 lb. .65-1.89-2.38

Cows:

Utility & commercial - .60-.90-1.18
Cutters - .60-.73-.86
Canners - .53-.68-.83
Palpated cows - NONE
Cow/Calf Pairs - 1400-1450

Bulls:

Heavy High Yielding - 1.10-1.29
Light & Low Yielding - .65-1.09
Sheep & Goats: Nannies - 75-200
Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.40-3.35
Wethers - 1.57-3.30
Billies - 1.85-3.35

Dozp. Ewes - 55-155

Dozp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.00-2.60
Woolled Ewes - NONE
Woolled Bucks - 1.02-1.80
Lambs - 1.37-1.67
Barb. Bucks - 360-750

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

September 9, 2023

Number of head 2,114

There were 293 cows and 26 bulls. The packer market was fairly steady with last week. Still seeing larger numbers being forced to market due to dry con-

ditions. The top bull brought \$129/cwt, while the top packer cow was at \$107/cwt.

The calf market was solid and demand remains strong. The lighter weights were higher today, with some classes showing new tops OVER \$25/cwt higher than last week. The quality of calves made all the difference today, even with higher tops, the overall average calf was steady to \$1 lower than last week's market. Packer bulls: 80.00-129.00
Packer cows: 81.00-107.00
poor & weak 30.00-50.00
Palpated: 10 BRED 90.00-110.00
PAIRS: 2
\$1,300-\$1,550

Steer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

Under 200 lbs. one-200.00
200-249 lbs. 223.00-255.00
250-299 lbs. 244.00-280.00
300-350 lbs. 257.00-330.00
350-400 lbs. 254.00-335.00
400-450 lbs. 230.00-315.00
450-500 lbs. 222.00-260.00
500-550 lbs. 224.00-262.00
550-600 lbs. 223.00-264.00
600-700 lbs. 218.00-246.00
700-800 lbs. 205.00-227.00

Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

Under 250lbs 185.00-292.00
250-300 lbs. 232.00-317.50
300-350 lbs. 230.00-345.00
350-400 lbs. 241.00-320.00
400-450 lbs. 225.00-315.00
450-500 lbs. 216.00-270.00
500-550 lbs. 215.00-248.00
550-600 lbs. 207.00-250.00
600-700 lbs. 205.00-242.00
Over 700 lbs. 184.00-224.00

Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

under 200 lbs. 211.00-250.00
200-250 lbs. 187.00-244.00
250-300 lbs. 199.00-260.00
300-350 lbs. 203.00-290.00
350-400 lbs. 209.00-322.00
400-450 lbs. 205.00-268.00
450-500 lbs. 211.00-253.00
500-550 lbs. 210.00-275.00
550-600 lbs. 210.00-260.00
600-700 lbs. 199.00-230.00
Over 700 lbs 170.00-214.00

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
In recent years, there has been growing concern among American citizens about the allocation of their hard-earned tax dollars, particularly when it comes to international aid versus domestic assistance. It's time for us to have an open and honest conversation about the priorities of our government and the accountability of our elected officials.

One glaring example of this disconnect between government spending and American needs is the staggering \$76 billion dollars sent to Ukraine over the past 2-3 years, while American citizens face dire circumstances closer to home. This sizable sum raises serious questions about whether our government is truly putting America first.

Consider the recent devastating fires in Maui, where residents lost everything, including family members. FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, stated that the total amount of federal aid sent to Maui, including food, water, medications, supplies, and a mere \$700 dollars per household, amounts to a paltry \$5 million. The glaring disparity between the aid sent to Ukraine and the assistance offered to our own citizens in times of crisis is deeply troubling.

It's essential to ask: Does this seem right to you, dear reader? Should American citizens, who pay federal and state taxes faithfully, receive less aid than foreigners who do not contribute to our nation's financial stability?

The principle of helping those in need is commendable, and it is vital that the United States continues to be a global leader in providing humanitarian aid. However, this should not come at the expense of our own citizens' well-being and safety. Our elected officials are entrusted with the responsibility of serving the interests and needs of their constituents, not pursuing their personal or geopolitical agendas.

Sincerely,
Anthony Dantoni
Gonzales, Texas

P.S. When our tax dollars aren't being sent to foreign countries, they are sometimes allocated for programs like these:

- **Robotic Squirrel Experiment:** Money has been directed towards creating robotic squirrels to observe snake reactions.

- **Shrimp on a Treadmill:** Research projects have focused on placing shrimp on tiny treadmills to study their exercise habits.

- **Pickle Specifications:** Government agencies have set specific standards for products, like the size and shape of pickles, viewed by many as unnecessary regulation.

- **Injecting 6-month-old beagle puppies with cocaine:** Shockingly, the NIH recently spent \$2.3 million injecting puppies with cocaine for research.

- **Constructing a Gandhi museum:** In Fiscal Year 2022, \$3 million was earmarked for the construction of a new Gandhi museum in Houston.

- **Researching if Thanos could snap his fingers wearing the infinity gauntlet:** Researchers at Georgia Tech recently got a grant for \$118,971 to study whether a real-life Thanos could actually snap his fingers while wearing the Infinity Gauntlet. They concluded that "Thanos could not have snapped because of his metal armored fingers. So, it's probably the Hollywood special effects, rather than actual physics, at play."

Your taxpayer dollars hard at work...

Letters to the Editor

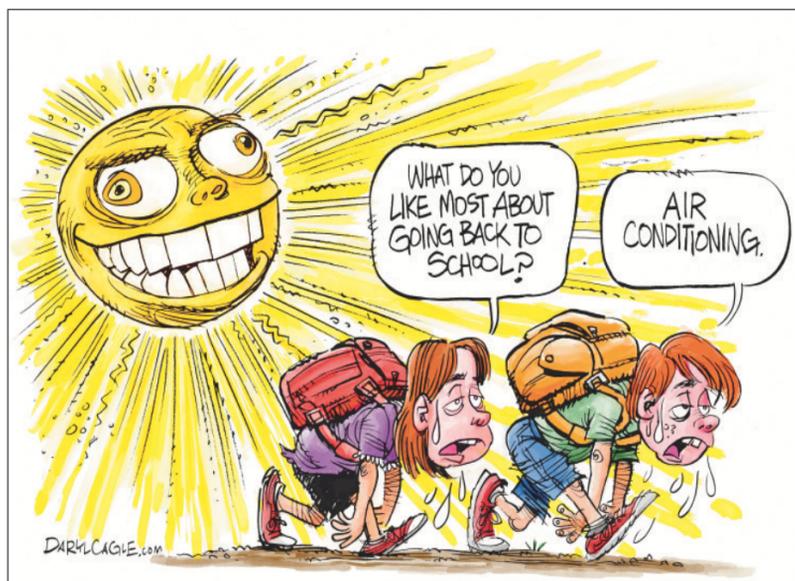
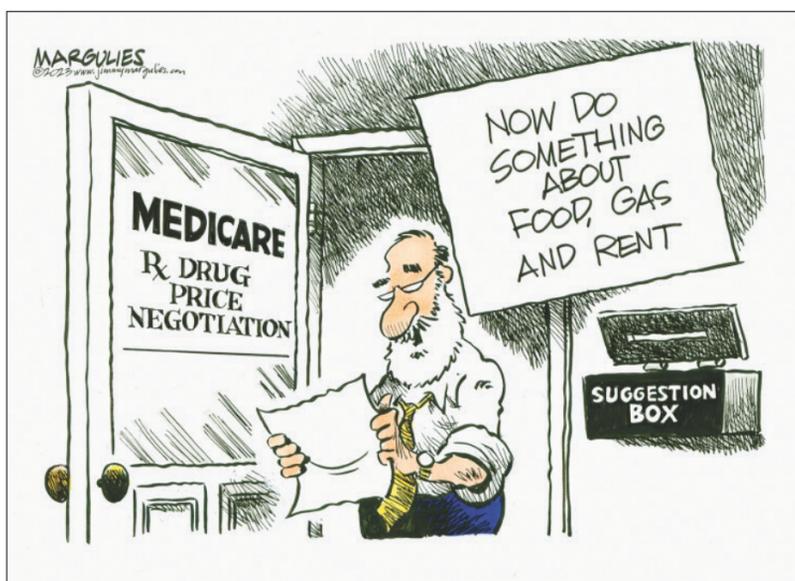
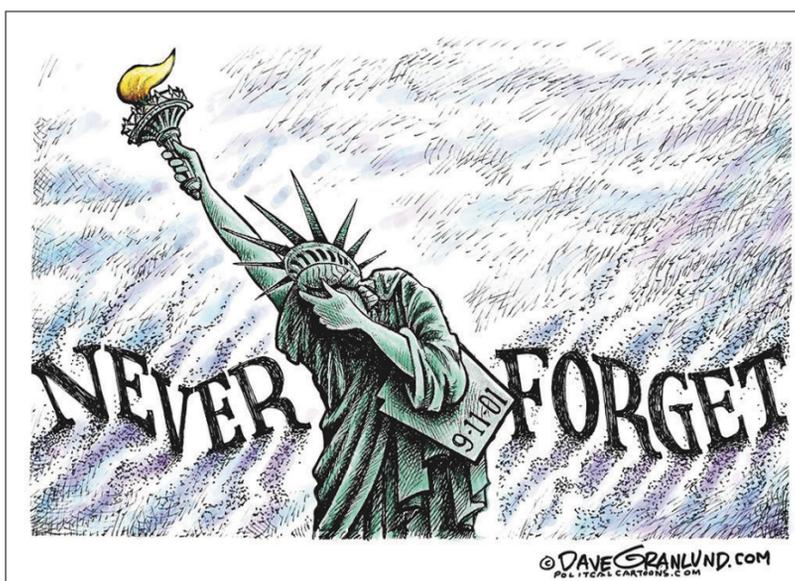
It is the policy of The Inquirer to encourage reader participation on its Opinion page. Diverse and varied opinions are welcomed. Because of space limitations, we must limit all contributors to one letter per person per month. Letters of 400 words or less will be published unless they contain language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

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

When 'tangles' get 'tongled'...

We've always heard about how tiny errors can foster various responses, ranging from serious misunderstanding to thigh-slapping laughter.

Hitting the keyboard's "I" instead of the intended "o" caused chuckles recently. Reading an advertisement for funeral home employment, a radio announcer listed requisites for the job.

"Must be able to ease the grieving process for live ones," he said, quickly changing to, "I meant, loved ones..."

Many Texans could complete college degrees in the time it takes to be served at Texas Drivers' License offices.

Even simplest requests require appointments to be made months in advance. The system is broken, and all I have heard suggests that a "fix" is nowhere in sight. Now, the "blame spotlight" is cast on computers.

A while back, I learned that I'd need to make an appointment some three months ahead in order to make a simple change on my driver's license....

To the computer I went, perusing communities that have DPS offices, even if for only a few hours each month.

With a trip to Lubbock upcoming, I checked on Floydada, a small town en route, learning that a DPS representative would be there on the day of my trip. Upon arrival, I was "next up" at the DPS office.

Within 10 minutes, the task was accomplished; my new driver's license came in the mail about 10 days later....

How many among us have chipped nails, broken pencil leads or worn ends of index fingers plumb off listening to recorded messages, urging us to stay on the phone?

"Your call is very important to us. However, due to heavy call volume, you may experience a delay." We often hear such multiple times.

Just once, I'd like to hear another message, like, "Due to reduced call volume, most of our agents aren't busy helping other customers. You will be served immediately..."

It's fun to hear unusual names, particularly in the world of sports.

How about Jonah Bride, who plays professional baseball for the Oakland Athletics?

His name has intrigued sportswriters, one of whom suggested, "...Never a bridesmaid but always a Bride..."

I've never been certain about how to differentiate boats from ships. Until now, that is.

Google claims that a boat must be less than 40 feet long and weigh less than 40 tons. Longer or heavier vessels qualify for designation as ships.

I guess I'm up the creek without a paddle--or sailing down the river on Sunday afternoons--on boats. Too much information, right?...

One last thing about "getting it right." Football coaches today employ some expressions their fathers and grandfathers used.

Here's one: Questioned by reporters on topics they can't immediately answer, coaches lean on this response: "We won't know about that until we see the film."

They haven't "filmed" games for decades. The process is digitized now, and I guess it would sound silly if they answered, "until we see the digits." By the time they get this one right, games will be recorded in some new manner where digits don't come into play, but AI (artificial intelligence) may....

A young father faced frustration in helping his six-year-old son learn how to display his age by holding up his fingers and thumb.

The youngster had mastered the technique in years two through five. He was foggy, though, about also using his other hand. To him, this was advanced math!

Now, Dad is wondering when he should break the news that when he reaches age 11, he'll need to take one shoe off....

Dr. Newbury, a longtime university president, is now a speaker and columnist in the Metroplex. Contact: newbury@speakerdoc.com. 817-447-3872. Facebook: donnewbury.

The Gonzales Inquirer

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Kid Scoop

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Kid Scoop Together: Unscramble it!

Unscramble this list of words. *Hint: They all have something to do with money!*

VESA

RANE

NEPYN

CLINEK

MEDI

LOADRL

VINEST

TONADE

HACS

PEDNS

ROBRWO

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions; Spelling: Use the conventions of spelling.

Kid Scoop-doku™

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

				W
		T		A
				N
W				T

Write On!

I Make a Difference

Tell about how you make a difference in someone's life in your family, at school or in your community.

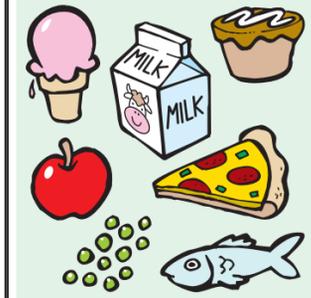
WANTS AND NEEDS

A **need** is something you *must have* in order to survive. You need shelter, clothing, food, water and sometimes medicines.

A **want** is something you would *like to have*, but can live without. A music player, a computer, a television and a bike are wants, not needs.

Sometimes it is hard to decide if something is a need or a want. For example, cake is a food, but it is not a need. It's a want.

Which of these following foods are more wants than needs?



What do you need?

Look at each picture. Put a green N on each picture that shows something you need each day.

Put a red W on each picture that shows something you might want, but not need.

Standards Link: Economics: Know that goods and services can satisfy people's needs and wants.

What do you think?

In today's world, is education a want or a need?

Standards Link: Economics: Differentiate between needs and wants.

Snack Time Puzzler

The school cafeteria is making students think before they buy a snack. The prices are all written in code!

Code: A = 1 B = 2 C = 3 and so forth until you get to Z = 26

To figure out what each snack item costs, you must first find out what number goes with each letter in the word. Then, add the numbers that "spell" each word to get the price.

For example: **C H I P S**
 3¢ + 8¢ + 9¢ + 16¢ + 19¢ = 55¢

JUICE **CHEESE**

BAR **CARROTS** **CRACKERS**

GRANOLA

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums using money.

WANTS and NEEDS Newspaper Search

Look through the newspaper for pictures of things that represent wants and needs. Paste them into the spaces below.

WANTS	NEEDS

Standards Link: Economics: Understand the difference between basic survival needs and nonessential items.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Four students were asked to list their needs. How many did each student list? Use the clues to complete the chart.

- None of the students listed more than five needs.
- No one listed the same number of needs.
- The total number listed was 13.
- Hayley listed three needs.
- Dylan listed fewer needs than Hayley.
- Kayla listed the most needs.

STUDENT	NEEDS
Hayley	
Dylan	
Kayla	
Oscar	
TOTAL	

Standards Link: Algebra: Solve number problems involving addition and subtraction.

Double Double Word Search

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

WANTS
NEEDS
THINK
SNACK
SHELTER
WATER
SURVIVE
MUSIC
VIDEO
BIKE
FOODS
CAKE
PLAYER
PRICES
ITEM

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

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

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

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District 14 Commander Tony Lopez presents the awards to Albert Rodriguez, Adjutant from the American Legion Post #40.

American Legion district commander awards Post 40

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The American Legion Post #40, Gonzales, Texas was presented two awards. Presenting the awards was District #14 Commander Tony Lopez from the American Legion Department of Texas. The presentation was held Sept. 7 at the American Legion Post #40, Gonzales, Texas.

Award #1 - Post Retention Award, was presented to Gonzales Post #40 in Recognition of Achieving 90 percent or higher Retention Year Members for the 2023 Membership Year, from the American Legion Department of Texas.

Award #2 - 2023 Post Membership Retention Award, presented to

Gonzales Post #40 Department of Texas, in Appreciation for Retaining 90 percent and above of your 2022 Membership by the May Target Date, from the American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.

We would like to thank all of the members of Post #40 for their continuous service. We would like to welcome any veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces to join the American Legion.

You can contact Albert Rodriguez at 830-203-0300 or David Tacy at 830-672-3244. David is a member and the Gonzales County Veterans Officer. For God and Country, The American Legion.

Nixon to host Roger Crouch Memorial Bull Riding event

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Crazy J. Rodeo Co. presents the tenth annual Roger Crouch Memorial Bull Riding event on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show Arena in Nixon, Texas.

The event will feature 25-plus bulls and \$2,500 added with buckle to winner. Please call Ashley

Miles at 830-263-2540 to get your name on the books before it fills up.

Mutton busters (ages 3-7) and vendors should contact Paula Crouch at 830-857-2033. Mutton busting equipment will be provided. There will also be calf riding for ages 8-10, but riders must provide their own equipment.

Tickets for this event are \$15 in advance, and \$20 at

the gate with kids under 10 admitted free, with advance tickets available at Texas Cooler, JD Liquor, Pioneer BBQ (Nixon), Brahma Bull Pen (Stockdale), and by contacting Paula Crouch.

Multiple VIP sponsors are responsible for this event. Event sponsors include Bee Trucking LLC, Plains Transportation and SA Shippers.

ODD FELLOWS LODGE HOLDS RAFFLE



The Gonzales International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #38 held their 18th annual raffle drawing on Tuesday, Sept. 5. Pictured from left are Gary Mobbs, Senior Vice President, South Star Bank, Gonzales, Sponsor; Samantha Garcia Vice President, Sage Capital Bank, Gonzales, Sponsor; Ryan E. Spann, Vice President, First National Bank of Shiner, Shiner, Sponsor; and Nathan Neuse, Noble Grand, Gonzales Odd Fellows Lodge #38, I.O.O.F. Spann was the winner of the Grand Prize \$1,000.00 Cabelas Club gift card. Not pictured is Albert Rodriguez, 2nd Grand Prize winner, Bay Fishing Trip for 3 with First Cast Guide Service, Capt. John C. Ashley, Shiner, Texas. Also not pictured is sponsor Schmidt & Sons Inc. Fuels & Lubricants, Gonzales. All other winners have been notified. The Odd Fellows Lodge is located at 1405 Conway St., Gonzales. Proceeds will benefit the building fund and other local projects, including youth programs and the Gonzales County Veterans Memorial.

Luling Foundation, AgriLife host second annual Youth Grill Off

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Everyone had a great time at the second annual Luling Foundation Youth Grill Off on Saturday, Sept. 9. There was a total of 23 teams from Caldwell, Gonzales and Guadalupe counties that competed. There were two age divisions, third grade through 7th grade and eighth through 12th grade. The following teams from Gonzales County placed:

JUNIOR DIVISION

- Grand Champion - Moo Masters - Kayden Cheatham and Sam Irving
- 4th Place - The Grillin Girls - Arriyanna Martinez and Preslee Castro
- 5th Place - The Burger Buds - Alex Hattenbach, Jack Irving, and Jayden Cheatham

SENIOR DIVISION

- 1st Place in Showmanship

- 3rd Place - Beach Bros BBQ Crew - Evan Roehr and Ahren Hattenbach
 - 4th Place - Cow Belles - Abby Irving and Ellie Irving
- Each team walked away with a goodie bag and an Old Smokey Grill. The Grand Champions won a VIP Experience at Gonzales Bistro, where Chef Parind Vora will give a tour of his restaurant and dining experience. Reserve Champions received a gift card to Burnt Bean Co. Barbecue in Seguin that is ranked one of the top 5 barbecue restaurants by Texas Monthly.
- Farm Bureau sponsored a Tractor Pull, for kids of all ages, and games for the families to enjoy. The following youth from Gonzales County placed first in the Tractor Pull:
- 4 year old division - Ian Hattenbach
 - 7 year old division - Rayden Cheatham

- 11 year old division - Kayden Cheatham
- Sponsors included: Texas Gas Services, Texas Farm Bureau from Caldwell and Guadalupe Counties, Texas Beef Council, Bluebonnet Electric, Capital Farm Credit, Mom's Front Porch, Old Smokey Grills provided by Meatra Harrison endowment, The Fairy Godmother embroidery, Luling Fire Department, and Adam's Extract.
- Behind the scenes making sure it was a fun filled, educational day were Michael Kuck and Bonnie Dredla with the Luling Foundation, AgriLife Extension Agents from Caldwell County, Elsie Lacy, Paige Bielamowicz, and Wayne Morse, from Gonzales County Gayle Bludau, and from Guadalupe County Matt Miranda, Dru Benavides and Savannah Harrington, Prairie View Agent.



Youth Grill Off Attendees from Gonzales County.

Attention All Hunters!

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

Proposition Number 1 (HJR 126)

HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."**

Proposition Number 2 (SJR 64)

SJR 64 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also would allow the legislature to define the term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."**

Proposition Number 3 (HJR 132)

HJR 132 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."**

Proposition Number 4 (HJR 2- Second Special Session)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption**

from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."

Proposition Number 5 (HJR 3)

HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state fiscal year. The appropriation amount could not exceed \$100 million for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in subsequent state fiscal years. The proposed amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."**

Proposition Number 6 (SJR 75)

SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) or its successor to assist in financing water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."**

Proposition Number 7 (SJR 93)

SJR 93 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment would require PUC to allocate money from

the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region's load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."**

Proposition Number 8 (HJR 125)

HJR 125 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."**

Proposition Number 9 (HJR 2)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."**

Proposition Number 10 (SJR 87)

SJR 87 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or biomedical manufacturer as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."**

Proposition Number 11 (SJR 32)

SJR 32 proposes a constitutional amendment to expand the authority of the legislature with regard to conservation and

reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."**

Proposition Number 12 (HJR 134)

HJR 134 proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."**

Proposition Number 13 (HJR 107)

HJR 107 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until December 31 of their fourth year in office if they reach the age of 75 years in the first four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."**

Proposition Number 14 (SJR 74)

SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."**

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The Gonzales Inquirer is responsible for the first incorrect insertion of an ad only. Call (830) 672-2861 to notify of a needed correction.

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015 CARD OF THANKS

THE WILLY RAY "Bill" Blundell family would like to humbly thank the Visiting Angels, Angie Thompson and all employees and residents of Shady Oaks Nursing Home, Crown Hospice, and Dr. John Thomas for their loving care. May God bless you all. Juanita Blundell and the girls.

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Kristin Kolzeue: (830) 203-4550

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THE TEXAN IS looking for a **Full time Maintenance Director**. Please apply in person: Texan Nursing and Rehab of Gonzales, 3428 Moulton Rd., Gonzales, Texas 78629. EOE

CAL MAINE FOODS Inc. Happy Hen location is looking for Shipping and Receiving, Palletizer. Benefits include: Vacation, Sick leave, Hosp. Ins., Dental, Vision, 401K, ESOP. Apply in person: Cal-Maine Foods Inc., 1974 CR 283 W, Harwood, Tx 78632. Monday-Friday 7-4.

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670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

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

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CAL - MAINE FOODS INC. is hiring for Plant Palletizers & Cleanup positions. Benefits include: Vacation, Sick Leave, Hosp. Ins., Dental, Vision, 401K, ESOP. Apply in person. Cal-Maine Foods Inc. 1680 CR 431 Waelder, TX 78959. Mon-Fri 7-4. 830-540-4205 or 830-540-4684.

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Part-time ITV/WebEx Proctors needed to teach at Victoria College's Gonzales Center. For more information and to apply go to www.victoriacollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC. Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

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The Division of Allied Health is hiring part-time Adjunct Instructors for the for the clinical setting of the ADN and VN Nursing Programs. Adjunct Instructors are needed at our Victoria campus as well as in the Gonzales, Cuero, and Hallettsville locations. For more information and to apply go to www.victoriacollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC.

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Donna Michelle Gillis, Deceased, were issued on September 6, 2023 in Cause No. PW23-0290, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: Clinton Michael Gillis.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o Mitchell B. Crane
Crane Law Firm
5508 W Hwy 290, Suite 225
Austin, Texas 78735

DATED the 6th day of September, 2023.

Mitchell B. Crane
State Bar No. 24099004
5508 W Hwy 290, Suite 225
Austin, Texas 78735
(512) 469-9444
Fax: (877) 469-9439
Attorney for Clinton Michael Gillis

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

CLASSIFIEDS

950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCE NO. O-2011-10-17 CITY OF NIXON, TEXAS

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NIXON, TEXAS, PROHIBITING THRU-TRUCK COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00) FOR EACH OFFENSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 311.002, Tex. Transp. Code, the City of Nixon Texas (the "City") has exclusive authority over the highways, streets, and alleys of the City, including the power to regulate a street, and

WHEREAS, the City is further authorized by Section 621.303, Tex. Transp. Code, to regulate movement and operation on the public roads of the City, other than a state highway in the territory of the City, of an overweight, oversize, or over length commodity that cannot be reasonably dismantled, and super heavy or oversize, or over length commodity that cannot be reasonably dismantled; and

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the City Council of the City of Nixon, Texas that it is necessary and reasonable for the City to include an amendment to a previously ordained regulation pursuant to ordinance number O-2011-10-17 concerning commercial thru-truck traffic within the City and that the present and future uses of City streets are such that it is reasonably necessary for the existing regulations to be revised by including an amendment to said regulations in order to promote and preserve the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NIXON, TEXAS:

1. FINDINGS OF FACT

The foregoing recitals are incorporated into this Ordinance by reference as findings of fact as if expressly set forth herein.

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RICHARD M. FORESTER, JR., Deceased, were issued on August 22, 2023, in Cause No. PW23-0286, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: RICHARD M. FORESTER, III and STEPHEN K. FORESTER.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

RICHARD M. FORESTER, III
STEPHEN K. FORESTER
c/o Norman L. Burns
Attorney at Law
1606 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive
Gonzales, TX 78629

Dated the 8th day of September, 2023.



NORMAN L. BURNS
Attorney for Richard M. Forester, III
& Stephen K. Forester
State Bar No.: 03448500
P.O. Box 827
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-9511
Facsimile: (830) 672-7638
E-mail: nburns@munsonburns.com

September 7

Puzzle Answers

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

E	S	P					S	E	P						
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I	L	A	M	A							E	X	E	C	
T	O	R	I	C							E	G	O		
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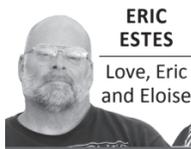
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Why fake it?

Howdy folks. As we move into fall, I hope you're enjoying the cooler temperatures. Yep, we've dropped from 106 degrees to an almost frigid 100 degrees. To folks living up north this may not sound like much, but hey, it's Texas and we'll take whatever relief we can get. Who knows, maybe Santa will show up this year sporting a tan, plaid golf shorts and a Hawaiian shirt.

As a public service message, and as we move into fall, don't forget that it is the beginning of the cold and flu season, not to mention new variants of covid and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus). I feel that I'd be remiss in my duty as a public servant if I didn't at least warn you about the new variant of RSV starting to wreak havoc in major cities across the globe, expected to peak during the holiday season. It's touted as one of the most hideous and disruptive strains the medical industry has had to face recently, and as of yet, no cure's been found. Even masks, social distancing and vaccinations have had little to no effect on it, and is feared to spread rapidly in the coming months. Leading Virologists have officially named it RSV, and once infected will decrease your chances of getting reservations at trendy restau-



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

rants and nightspots worldwide, so please take precautions! Today's title begs the question, why fake it? My reply is...why not? While some people don't agree with the concept of "fake it till you make it", I've use this concept with (arguably) a fair amount of success over the years. This shouldn't be confused with simply faking it. While we are all actors in our own documentary to some degree, simply faking who we are (known as posing) is not only deceptive, but downright shady to boot. Most of us have met, or even dated people who downright lied about who they really are, becoming con men/women and scammers extraordinaire. However, redirecting our speech and mannerisms in hope of developing better versions of ourselves along the way, is simply the utmost in honorable intensions, and should be practiced daily.

According to an article in Cognition Today, we can fire up neurons just by thinking about something, like driving a car, even if we don't own a car. I know this works because when I think about Eloise, my neurons are definitely firing on all cylinders (still missing you, honey). Both mental imagery and actual reality share common neural circuits, but have different fir-

ing mechanisms. Imagination is a very real and useful tool to affect positive longterm change within ourselves on all fronts; physically, mentally, emotionally, and even spiritually, creating a new narrative for ourselves from the inside out. Most of us are probably familiar with the saying "What ever your mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve." Apparently there's not only science, but empirical evidence to back this up. Arnold Schwarzenegger once said that as he worked his biceps he would envision them as mountains, and after winning the Mr. Olympia title seven times with an arm circumference of 22", it seems like it worked. Even though I only envisioned golf balls, and Eloise repeatedly beat me at arm wrestling, I'm still pretty stoked with the results!

Remembering back to when I first asked Christ into my life, I did it many times, not sure it would stick because I felt that I wasn't good enough to even ask. In the book of Ephesians it reminds us that salvation is not a reward for the good we've done, but that we're saved by God's grace, and is his gift to us for believing through faith, and nothing more. What a relief, if I lived another thousand years, I'm pretty sure I'd still be one big imperfect mess. Yep, believing is achieving... thank you Lord!

Until next time, Love you guys, Eric.

St. Mary's Catholic Church Fall Festival set

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

St. Mary's Catholic Church will hold their annual Fall Festival on Sunday, Sept. 24, at the church, 1201 W. Saint Mary's St., Stockdale.

Homemade turkey and dressing plates will be sold for \$12 starting at 10:30 a.m. You can come inside and dine at the church or pick them up in the to-go line. The Altar Society will be hosting a homemade baked goods sale and there will be tamales and a concession stand.

Fun for all ages is promised with young children performing with handbells at 11:30 a.m., a live auction at 1 p.m., plus cash bingo, kids games, a silent auction, raffle prizes and a country store. Proceeds will go towards the St. Mary's Building Fund.

CARAWAY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Caraway Cemetery Association will be held on Oct. 14. The date has been changed from the third Saturday in September because of the hot weather and other circumstances.

The meeting is at the Cemetery and will begin at 10 a.m. This will be their first meeting since 2019 and your attendance and input is appreciated. For further information, call Mary Caraway, 830-203-0855.

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BAPTIST Clark Baptist Church FM 794, Gonzales	St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont.
Country Baptist Church Highway 87, Smiley	St. Paul Baptist Church SE 2nd Street, Waelder
Eastside Baptist Church Seydler Street, Gonzales	Shiner Baptist Church
Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley	Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales
Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115 Waelder, TX, 78959	Union Valley Baptist Church FM 1681, NW of Nixon
First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales	CATHOLIC St. James Catholic Church 417 N. College, Gonzales
First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon	Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales
First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley	St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon
First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder	St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder
Greater Palestine Baptist Church S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)	St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley
Greater Rising Star Baptist Church	CHRISTIAN First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling
Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office, Harwood	CHURCHES OF CHRIST Church of Christ 1323 Seydler St., Gonzales
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon
Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon
Leesville Baptist Church E. of Highway 80 on CR 121	Church of Christ, Belmont
Memorial Heights Baptist Church 1330 N. College, Gonzales	CHURCHES OF GOD Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church 100 Capes, Gonzales	Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales
Oak Valley Baptist Church Highway 97, Bebe	New Beginnings 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales
Old Moulton Baptist Church 1121 N. College, Gonzales	Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, Gonzales
EVANGELICAL La Vos del Evangelio, Mision Capilla del Pueblo W. Central at Hwy. 87, Nixon	Cowboy Church of Gonzales County J.B. Wells Show Barn
FULL GOSPEL Camp Valley Full Gospel Hwy 80, 7 mi. north of Nixon	El Centro Cristiano "Agua Viva" 403 Highway 90 W, Waelder
Full Gospel Church 1426 Fisher, Gonzales	Emmanuel Fellowship 1817 St. Lawrence, Gonzales
JEWISH Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul HashemYeshua1 @yahoo.com	Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship Highway 80, Leesville
LUTHERAN First Evangelical Lutheran 1206 St. Joseph, Gonzales	Lighthouse Church of Our Lord 1805 Weimar, Gonzales
Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales	New Life Temple for Jesus Christ 16214 US 90 W, Harwood
METHODIST Belmont United Methodist Highway 90A, Belmont	River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley
Dewville United Methodist West of FM 1117 on CR 121	Thompsonville Community Church CR 423, Thompsonville Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
First Methodist 426 St. Paul, Gonzales	Two Rivers Bible Church 1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales
First United Methodist 410 N. Franklin, Nixon	INTER-DENOMINATIONAL Faith Family Church 1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales
Flatonia United Methodist	Living Waters Fellowship 306 St. Paul, Gonzales
Harris Chapel United Methodist S. Liberty St., Nixon	PENTECOSTAL Faith Temple Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon
Harwood Methodist Church Harwood	Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2 1515 Dallas, Gonzales
Henson Chapel United Methodist 1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales	Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia 893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling
Monthalia United Methodist CR 112 off Highway 97	Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales
Smiley United Methodist 1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley	Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236
Webster Chapel A.M.E. 1027 Church St., Gonzales	PRESBYTERIAN Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116
NON-DENOMINATIONAL Agape Ministries 512 St. James, Gonzales Bread of Life Ministries 613 St. Joseph, Gonzales	Presbyterian Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero
Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	

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OBITUARIES

EVERETT DESCHNER



Everett Deschner was born on July 7, 1940, in Bebe, Texas. He was the fourth son of Henry and Hannah Siepmann Deschner. The family soon moved "to town" and settled in Gonzales. He never forgot his Gonzales roots. It is there he met the love of his life, Carolyn Tinsley, although they did not begin dating until college.

Everett considered the most significant accomplishment of his life to be convincing Carolyn to marry him. They married on September 1, 1963, and had two daughters, Elizabeth Ann and Katherine.

Everett felt he had three fulfilling and meaningful careers in his life. He completed his master's degree at The University of Texas at Austin in Petroleum Engineering and began a long career in the oil and gas industry.

In his over forty years of active engineering, he authored or participated in well over thirty technical papers, reports, talks and proposals. His projects included studies in some of the largest oil and gas fields in the world, and he retired as Vice President of International Production for Santa Fe Energy Resources. In retirement he continued his love of learning, completing certification to identify and appraise diamonds and gemstones, museum docent training, Comal County Citizen's Sheriff Academy, Texas Master Naturalist training, and many others.

His second career began when he and Carolyn built their dream home and retired to the shore of Canyon Lake, just down the road from a small museum. They volunteered at The Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country, where he helped acquire and preserve the remaining portions of a world-class site of dinosaur tracks on the museum

property. He made innumerable presentations on the analysis of dinosaur track sites, invertebrate paleontology and earth science to groups as varied as preschoolers, elementary and middle schoolers, teachers, university classes, museum visitors, corporate and professional groups, and professional societies. He worked with some of the world's leading paleontologists, ichnologists, and geologists, publishing papers with several of them.

His third career he considered the most important, and a privilege, to walk with Carolyn through her last years of illness to give her the dignity and respect she deserved. He stood by her, making her comfort and peace a priority, so she could live out her days at the house they built together on the lake.

Being much younger than his three brothers, he considered them mentors and treasured their advice and examples. He took their love for him and paid it forward to their children, taking an interest in their lives, their families, and their achievements. He hoped to give back to them some of what his brothers gave to him throughout his life.

In his last few years, Everett enjoyed the company of Sara Norton, with whom he found new love, great conversation, and a new life after grief and loneliness. Her family welcomed him in, and he

enjoyed being a part of all of their lives.

Everett was a Renaissance man, as were his father and his brothers, constantly learning and developing new interests. He will be remembered for his generosity, his professionalism, his humor, his wisdom, and his love for family. He shared his love of travel with his children and grandchildren, and he and Carolyn took them each on trips in the US and abroad. Recently he had hoped to gather a large family trip to Germany to connect younger generations. He was a beloved Daddy, Granddaddy, Papi, Uncle Everett, role model and patriarch.

Everett died on September 9, 2023, in Round Rock, Texas.

Everett was preceded in death by his parents Henry and Hannah Siepmann Deschner, his brothers Hank, Flip and Arlye Deschner, his daughter Katherine Deschner, and his wife of 58 years Carolyn Tinsley Deschner. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law Elizabeth and Randy Nettles; grandsons Doug Nettles and wife Matraca, and John Nettles and wife Emma; granddaughter Kate Nettles; great-grandsons Paxton Everett and Eli Nettles; and many, many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at Gonzales Masonic Cemetery on Sunday, September 17, at 2:00 p.m. Flowers may be sent to Seydler-Hill Funeral Home in Gonzales. Donations may be made in Everett's memory to The Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country in Sattler, or the charity of your choice.

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

WILLY RAY "BILL" BLUNDELL



Willy Ray "Bill" Blundell, our beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at the age of 88. Willy was born March 7, 1935 at the family home in the rural area of Thompsonville to Leslie Ervin Blundell and Florinda Bishop Blundell.

Most of his life was spent in Gonzales County. As a young boy he liked to work and make his own money. He worked for neighbors harvesting tomatoes, corn, watermelon, cantaloupe, and other vegetables. One of his fondest memories was working cattle with his dad. A neighbor gave him a colt that he named "Trigger". He and that horse spent many hours helping his dad work cattle.

He attended elementary school in Harwood, and later went to Waelder High School where he graduated in 1953. During his high school years, he worked cattle with his older brothers. In 1954 he married his high school sweetheart, Clara Juanita "Nita" Harris. They had three lovely daughters, Carolyn, Connie and Phyllis, and an infant son, Kenneth Wade who was stillborn, so Bill never got to raise a boy.

After graduation he took a job as ranch foreman, and they moved to Muldoon. This job lasted three years as the ranch was sold. He then took a truck driving job with Alamo Fuel. He was persuaded to go into the charcoal business with 1/3 interest located at Cistern. After several months he sold his home and interest and moved to Waelder. He became a construction partner with Nick Miller. They spent about 20 years building and repairing homes. In 1966 he went into the turkey business. He was raising cattle and doing custom hay hauling adding several high school boys to his team. Several of these boys told him how influential he had been in their lives. He loved all his help and treated them like they were his own children.

In the mid 80's he took a job as foreman of a loading crew with Plantation Foods. He also was managing his turkey business and taking care of the ranch and cattle. Willy was a "Jack of all Trades" and could do anything. His family never had to worry about finances. He always made sure they had what they needed; he was a great provider.

While living in Waelder he was very active in the community. He served as trustee for the Waelder School Board for 8 years and was an active volunteer fireman. In September of 1969, the family moved to Gonzales. He continued doing carpenter work as well as raising turkeys and cattle with the help of his family. After 30 years his turkey contract was dropped, but Willy was ready to retire. However, he remained very active with the ranch.

Willy was a member of the First Methodist Church in Gonzales, past member of the Elks Lodge and Fire Department. He loved to play dominoes, and seldom missed the Monday Night Church Group. He and Juanita were members of the 50-year supper club until it disbanded. They traveled for 12 years with the XYZ travel group to numerous states and made many friends along the way.

Willy loved the ranch and cattle and kept it well maintained. He wore out two bulldozers clearing land and planting grass on all but 40 acres. He left that for his beloved grandsons to hunt deer, hogs, and turkeys.

Willy was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He was always willing to help his neighbors with whatever they needed done. He was so proud of his girls. They were always taught to do their best with work, family, and community. He stayed

busy on the ranch caring for the cattle, mowing weeds, building fences, and burning brush. He stayed active on the ranch until age 85. He had decided it was more than he could handle, so he leased all but 100 acres. This was enough to keep him busy without over-whelming himself with maintenance. At 86 he fell and fractured a hip forcing him to retire. He still enjoyed trips to the ranch and offering his advice.

Willy is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, daughters, Carolyn Cain (Morgan Mills) of Gonzales, Phyllis Snoga (Glenn) of Seguin, grandchildren, Renee Pizario (Alex) of Gonzales, Wendy O'Rear (Jack) of Frisco, Kristin Matias (David) of Gonzales, Ben Snoga (Sara) of New Braunfels, Blaine Snoga (Tatum) of Seguin, and Dustin Logan, 5 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren, his beloved cat Tootles, and numerous nephews and one niece. He was preceded in death by his parents, son, daughter, Connie Riley, brothers, Nolan and Leslie Nile, sister, Hazel Bean and nephew, Ray Bean.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 pm Sunday, September 10, 2023 in Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Funeral service will be held at 10 am Monday, September 11, 2023 in the First Methodist Church. Interment will follow in the Thompsonville Cemetery. Pallbearers: Ben and Blain Snoga, Glen, Wayne and Garland Blundell and Cody Kincaid. Honorary pallbearers: Paul Coffin, Garland Tenberg, Jene Dreyer, Ramie Harris, Bill DeBerry, Herb Karnau, Felepe Mendez, and members of the Methodist Domino Club. Memorials may be made to the First Methodist Church of Gonzales, Thompsonville Cemetery Association, or charity of one's choice. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.

CARD OF THANKS

The Willy Ray "Bill" Blundell family would like to humbly thank the Visiting Angels, Angie Thompson and all employees and residents of Shady Oaks Nursing Home, Crown Hospice, and Dr. John Thomas for their loving care. May God bless you all. Juanita Blundell and the girls.

FOR ADDITIONAL OBITUARIES, PLEASE SEE PAGE 12

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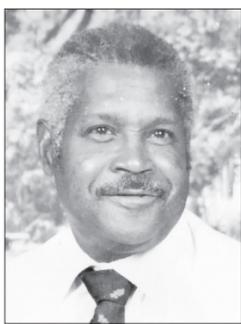
The 65th annual Kaiser/Thiele Family Reunion will be held on Sunday, Oct. 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Turner Hall, six miles west of Yoakum on State Hwy 111W. A BBQ lunch will be provided and we ask each family to bring a side dish and/or a dessert. Meat, bread, drinks, and paper goods will be provided. Remember to bring your silent auction items and come join us for a fun filled day with family!

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OBITUARIES

LAWRENCE WINSTON FRYER, SR.



Lawrence Winston Fryer, Sr. was born on December 25, 1931, in Gonzales, Texas (Lone Oak Community). He was one of eight children born to Bessie Hopkins Fryer and Brack Fryer, Sr. He confessed to Christ at an early age and was a member of Lone Oak Methodist Church, later transitioning to Henson Chapel United Methodist Church. He learned early the value of Christianity, family, education, and hard work.

Winston ("Wince" to family and childhood friends) graduated from Edwards High School in the Class of 1950. He attended Prairie View A&M University where he earned two Bachelor of Science degrees in Agricultural Education and in Poultry Science. Fryer was then commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army as an Infantry Officer. He later completed a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Education followed by a year as an Assistant Professor at PVA&M.

Winston was united in holy matrimony to Clara Mathis Fryer, for 49 years. Into this union three children were born: Dr. Lawrence Fryer, Jr. LtCol USMC Ret. (Cheryl); Major André Fryer, US Army Infantry Airborne Ranger (Pamela); and Iberia Fryer Smith (Benny).

After completing military service, he was employed as a Vocational Agriculture teacher for 41 years, 17 in Van Vleck (Herman and Van Vleck high schools) and 24 at Waelder ISD.

While his children were instilled with the value of hard work and accountability in their younger years, we had excellent vacations sometimes traveling great distances: Pikes Peak (Colorado), Indian Reservations (Oklahoma), Tuskegee Institute (Alabama), Hampton University (Virginia), the Carolinas, and even to NFL Super Bowl games twice. Though commonplace now, he was one of the first to "tailgate" at PVA&M Homecoming football games. His fellow Ag Teachers, friends, and family knew to meet at the tree where Fryer was set up for a good meal and fellowship.

Other than a deep love for family, he loved being in the country caring for his animals. The primary undertaking for several years was expanding our Swine operation (5F Farms), eventually becoming one of the largest in Gonzales County. The quality livestock were shown locally and at major livestock shows (San Antonio and Houston) every year. Later he transitioned to ranching by raising cattle for the remainder of his life. His greatest joy was taking his grandchildren, nieces and nephews out to the country to make sure they were exposed to our way of life.

Mr. Fryer was highly regarded as a leader who was able to visualize what was needed, beyond that,

as the project progressed and paid out of his pocket for meals to feed the work crews every day. A special event was held to celebrate this project's completion, attended by the Mayor and other dignitaries, where it was proclaimed that the new fellowship hall was to be named in honor of L. W. Fryer.

As noted in a February 1, 2012, Gonzales Inquirer feature article designating Mr. Fryer as a Hometown Hero, it was pointed out how he met with the City Council to establish the annual MLK Day Walk and Celebration. Other activities initiated as the Edwards Association president spanning 17 years were: hayrides and treats for Halloween, Santa at Christmas, Easter egg hunts, Professional Wrestling, Come and

Take It food booths and being the point of contact for events such as Quinceanera, basketball leagues, and other celebrations. He personally made sure the facility was clean and ready, ensured deposits were paid, made sure the customers were satisfied, and followed up to inspect before reimbursing deposits. This required being available when events were held and having late nights going to lockup. If he was not home or in the country, we knew he'd be at Edwards.

Personal recognition: United Methodist Man of the Year (Crossroads District), National Award as American Farmer (Kansas City), Edwards Association service award, Masonic Lodge - Most Worshipful Master, and serving on numerous local Boards and Commissions.

Lawrence, Sr. went home to be with the Lord on September 11, 2023, at the age of 91. He was preceded in death by his wife (Clara); parents.

(Bessie and Brack); sister (Joyce); brothers (Brack Jr., James Elmo, Lacy, and Frank); sisters-in-law (Florence Fryer, Franner (Sugar) Brasfield, Carolyn Fryer, Dorothy Mathis, Lawanda Mathis, Bessie Randle, Josie Stevens, Reene Mathis, and Gracie Mathis; brothers-in-law (Joseph Ruffin, Floyd Lott, Walter Mathis, Ross Mathis, Edward (Son) Mathis, Elias (Koochie) Mathis, Topsy (Bubba) Mathis, and Dr. Norman Dyer.

He leaves to cherish his memory: sons - Lawrence, Jr. and Andre; Daughter - Iberia; grandchildren - Adrienne Latrice Steen, Tomeka Fryer, Benny Smith, Jr., Winston Brack Fryer, Andrew Lawrence Smith, Lawrence W. Fryer, III, and Clara Ariana Fryer, Esquire; step grandsons Marcus and Julian Waddell; great-grandchildren - Ayson, Bailey, Benny Smith III; sisters - Cloteal Lott and Bobbie Courett; sisters-in-law Willie Mae Dyer and Magalene Mathis; brothers-in-law William Brasfield, Sr. and Manzola Courette; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

he used his abilities to see all projects through to completion with professional level results. A perfect example is the Edwards Senior Living Apartments on Robertson St. He negotiated for the land purchase, coordinated with the Architect for design, kept the members informed as the project progressed, and coordinated with the Mayor's office for the grand opening.

Even in retirement, his former students were his boys. All have stories about how firm but fair he was while having high expectations and holding them accountable for results.

One student who became a multi-millionaire recalled that "Mr. Fryer was the first adult person who trusted him" and that is what drove him to become successful in life. Another former student completing his PhD at the University of Texas said, "when he was unsure of himself, Mr. Fryer said you're going to be a leader and taught him everything he knows to have become a successful leader." Yet another former student who had not planned to attend college said, "Mr. Fryer drove him to the University to get him enrolled, tracked his progress, and was the first person there to meet and congratulate him as he walked down the stairs at graduation."

Mr. Fryer was a charter member and President of the Waelder Lions Club. A really big deal initiative is the Annual Big Bang fireworks every 4th of July as a major community, County-wide event with the proceeds every year going to a designated charity.

Recognizing a need, Fryer and his students built a livestock show barn for the annual FFA and 4H livestock show. Since this undertaking went well beyond his responsibilities, the Superintendent's recommendation to name the facility the "L. W. Fryer Show Barn" was unanimously approved by the Waelder ISD School Board.

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church, established in 1882, was in a state of disrepair and internal funding was limited. Under Winston's leadership, not only was the entire church remodeled top-to-bottom, he updated information technology, and expanded the fellowship hall along with kitchen and restroom upgrades. This was a hands-on project encompassing over two years of his dedicated personal attention. He obtained volunteer labor and financial contributions

LUCILLE JONES HARVEY



Lucille Jones Harvey departed this life September 8, 2023, in the privacy of her family. She was born in May.

20, 1935 to the late Elmer Jones Sr. and Cornelia Lindsay Jones in Gonzales, Texas. Mrs. Harvey was the fourth oldest sibling of the Late Elmer Jones and Cornelia Jones. She met her first husband Roland Walker, Sr. in high school Gonzales. She later married and to this union four children were born.

Jacqueline Walker, Jereline Walker, Roland Walker Jr. Sylvia Slater. She later married Mitchell Harvey.

She was a graduate of Edwards high school in Gonzales Tx. While in school she was a track star and Basketball star, many championships were won by the 1953-55 team at Edwards high school.

Her work experience started when she was employed at the Carl's store downtown San Antonio Tx.

She worked as an auditor for many years and later moved to the State Chest Hospital for 32 years as a nurse where she retired. She was active member of the St. Peter

Baptist Church in San Antonio where her brother Rev. Hugh Jones was the pastor until she relocated to Houston Texas to live with her daughter.

She was gifted with a beautiful singing voice, was an active member of the choir and worked in the church wherever she was needed. Mrs. Harvey was often described as a calm, peaceful, organized generous, and dependable and friendly person who loved the Lord. She often thanked the Lord for

Her children and grandchildren who took excellent care of her until the end all were helpful.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, Jereline Walker, five brothers, James Jones, Walter Jones, Rev. Hugh

Jones, Harold Jones, and Edward Jones.

She leaves to cherish her memory one son Roland Walker jr. Houston, Tx two daughters Jacqueline Walker San Antonio, Tx Sylvia Slater of Eagle Lake, Tx nine grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren one, sister Ella Harris (George) of Gonzales, Tx, Elmer Jones Jr. (Dotson) of Austin Tx. Her dear friend Mary Mallory, Dora Espinoza, School mates, all her friends' nieces and nephews from San Antonio Tx, Luling Tx, Houston Tx, San Antonio Tx and all over Texas.

She lived a full blessed life. Her greatest blessing was her children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. Special thanks to Melanie, Sylvia, Charles, Liz, Catherine and Ronnie Pittman.

She loved them all and fondly spoke of them. She fought a good fight; she kept the faith, and we know there is a crown waiting for her. 2 Timothy 4:7 NKJV

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RIBBON CUTTING



CONTRIBUTED/GONZALES CHAMBER

The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture held a ribbon cutting on Friday, Sept. 8, for Onyx Creations LLC, 415 Saint James, Gonzales. The company performs granite, quartz sales, fabrication and installation, full kitchen/bathroom remodels, roofing and flooring, sheetrock tape and float, painting and additions. They are licensed and fully insured.

Gonzales Memorial Hospital Auxiliary reports meetings

BY ELIZABETH BRELSFORD BENNETT

The Auxiliary met at Thrive July 25, 2024, at 2 p.m. There were 9 members present. First Vice President Sylvia Mercer was in charge of the program. John Tinsley was guest speaker and spoke on Alcohol addictions. It was a most informative presentation.

President Betty Neubauer called the meeting to order. June meeting minutes were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read.

Volunteer hours for the month were 114.

Scholarship chair Betty Fink reported Stephanie Perez applied for scholarship for her last semester at College. This

was approved. President Neubauer asked members to be more careful in filing out daily worksheets.

Someone will check with the Print Shop on getting new plates made for the Auxiliary membership plaques in the hall.

A motion was made by Sylvia Mercer and 2nd by Dyna DuBose to make Kennon Brunkenhoefer an Honorary Member. She is unable to work any longer, she has worked in the Auxiliary for many, many years. Motion passed.

Because members have until July 31, 2023 to pay their dues, the yearbook will be made ready at the August meeting.

Caution is being advised on securing the locks on the doors to the Vending Machines and Storage Room.

A motion to adjourn was made by Betty Fink, seconded by Zilpha Dolezal.

The next meeting will be on August 29. Door prizes were won by Dyna DuBose, Zilpha Dolezal and Jo Ann Hajovsky.

Sorry to be late with report – illness and broken bones can delay the action.

August 29, 2023 minutes The Memorial Hospital Auxiliary met at Thrive on August 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. First Vice President, Sylvia Mercer was in charge of the program. Doreen Fink was the guest speaker. She is a former scholarship recipient of our Auxiliary and she told of all her different jobs before and during her education in becoming a nurse.

Pres. Betty Neubauer called the meeting to order. July minutes were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was given. Volunteer hours for the month were 132. Sylvia Mercer received a service bar for serving 100 volunteer hours. I believe she has 10, one hundred bars!

Scholarship chair, Betty Fink gave the Investment account up to date.

Gift Shop hours were discussed and was decided to be open for business only in the mornings, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. And serving fresh PERKED coffee.

There will be volunteers there bright and early each morning. Thank you ladies.

The PINK OUT gathering was discussed. It will be held Oct. 12 at Thrive. Motioned passed made by Betty Fink to donate

\$1,000.00 for a table of 8. Seconded by Zilpha Dolezal. Nine volunteers will be attending.

The September meeting is a Luncheon to be held at La Bella Tavola on Sept. 26 at 11:30. Barbara K. made the motion, seconded by Sylvia Mercer. She will also set up things.

A motion to adjourn was made by Betty Fink, seconded by Barbara K. Motion passed.

Door prizes were won by Barbara K, Cynthia and Irene. It's become a very, long very HOT summer. Thanks to all the Volunteers who so faithfully held the position to help make the hospital great for so many. So many have had to give it up like me a total of 30 years, in 2 different hospitals. Times change things unexpectedly. C'est La Vie!

SHINER HERITAGE QUILTERS MEET



Sarah Collins (left) and Carolyn Janak display a quilt that Sarah used in her talk about chenille, a type of fabric with a soft, fuzzy surface, at the Sept. 5 meeting of the Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild. Members discussed plans for the "Spring into Quilting" show scheduled for March 8-9, 2024. Many showed items they had made for the guild boutique. Volunteers offered to finish several quilt tops to donate to Norma's House. Christmas block kits were given to members to complete and submit for a drawing at the Christmas meeting on Dec. 5. Refreshments and door prize gifts were provided by the hostesses: Carolyn Janak, Theresa Belicek and Suzanne Sestak. The next meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 3 at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Visitors and new members are always welcome! www.shinerheritagequilters.org, info@shinerheritagequilters.org.

CONTRIBUTED

Museum begins fall Stormont Lecture Series

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College's Fall 2023 John W. Stormont Lecture Series will begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21 with archaeologist Doug Boyd. He will discuss the archaeological and historical investigations of the Tom Cook Blacksmith Shop and implications for ongoing research.

The series will continue on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 5:30 p.m. with Tim Seiter, a doctoral candidate from Southern Methodist University, as he discusses his doctoral studies in "The Persistence of the Karankawas."

Jeff Goodwin, Director of the Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management at Texas A&M University, will conclude the lecture series on Thursday, Nov. 9 with a discussion about the latest research on soil health and grazing land sustainability with his lecture titled "Digging Deeper: The Role of Soil Health and Grazingland Regeneration in a Climate Smart Future."

The lectures are free and open to the public.

The Museum of the Coastal Bend is located on VC'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@VictoriaCollege.edu or call (361) 582-2511.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office
08/27/23 – 09/02/23

08/27/23
• Defendall, Brendan Avery, 04/2001, Waelder: Warrantless/On-View – Traffic Offense; Released
• Hernandez, Sonia, 03/1975, San Antonio: Local Warrant – Proh Substance/Item in Correctional Facility, Requires \$25,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

08/30/23
• Reininger, Victoria Lynn, 12/2001, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Poss CS PG 1/1-B<1G; Released

08/31/23
• Hernandez, Jimmy, JR, 06/1962,

Pandora: Commitment/Sentence – Man Del CS PG 1>=4G<200G; Remains in Custody
• Ogg, Dustin Blaine, 05/1994, La Grange: Local Warrant – Man Del CS PG 1<1G, Local Warrant – Man Del CS PG 1 >=1G<4G; Remains in Custody

09/01/23
• Selio, Geronimo JR, 08/1966, Temple: Local Warrant – Poss CG PG 1>=1G<4G, Requires \$75,000 Bond; Remains in Custody
• McGlothline, Dennis Ryan, 11/1987, Leesville: Commitment/Sentence – Man Del CS PG 1>=1G<4G; Remains in Custody
• Moreno, Cesar, 06/1990, New Braunfels: Other Agency Hold – Interfer w/Emergency Req for

Assistance; Remains in Custody

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processing's:	
GCSO	08
DPS	00
GPD	04
WPD	01
NPD	07
GISD	02
SMO	01
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	23

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Type of crayon
- Fashion accessory
- Most cerebral
- Incline from vertical
- Dependent on
- Broken in
- Strongly desires
- Mounted soldier
- Ad ___: when necessary
- Cattle
- Ottoman military commanders
- ___ student, learns healing
- Composed in poetic meter
- Promotional material
- Where people live
- Sodium
- Embarrassing
- Medical man
- Mother of Hermes
- One who saves the day
- Tooth caregiver
- Not clothed
- Slope covered with loose stones
- Used to cook

CLUES DOWN

- Living quarters
- Horizontal passage
- Attacks
- Vietnamese offensive
- Midway between east and southeast
- Confined (abbr.)
- Book of Esther antagonist
- Port in Yemen
- CNN's founder
- Type of bulb
- Prepare
- Promoted
- Dinner jackets
- Partner to cheese
- Nebraska city
- Human gene
- Pays no attention to
- Lowland South American plain

- Praises enthusiastically
- Rooney is a famous one
- Beekeeper
- Pigpen
- Potato chip brand
- Blood group
- Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano
- Atomic #37
- Unit of electrical resistance
- Jeweled crowns
- Nastiest
- Traditional cars need it
- Bowler hat
- Robust
- Not straight
- Stony waste matter
- Have an interest in
- Jacob ___, journalist
- Maintains possession of
- Swiss river
- Average cost of market goods
- Spanish soldier: El ___

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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

Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

Apaches roll past Bulldogs, improve to 2-1



BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches got back on the winning track with a 28-14 road victory over the Marion Bulldogs Friday, Sept. 8.

The Apaches started strong on defense with David Clack III and Rocky Gallegos picking off Marion's Kade Pape early in the game.

Clack, Gallegos, and Travis Malveaux III got the offense rolling for the Apaches; Malveaux put Gonzales on the scoreboard first with an 82-yard pass connection to Clack to close out the first quarter.

"We just have that play in our playbook, and I knew it was going to work because none of the defense could stop it at practice. So I was ready to run that play in the game and it worked," Clack said.

The Apaches battled through adversity — including penalties and miscues — against Bulldogs, but did not let it deter them.

"Overall, we did good both sides of the ball. There were some ups and downs ... little bumps in the road but we were able to overcome them and we got the win," Gallegos said.

Head coach Joey Rivera was proud of how his team did against Marion and how they battled through adversity.

"The kids did a great job of overcoming self-inflicted adversity and adversity that they couldn't control against a decent team over there that was at home and playing well and fighting in front of their home crowd," Rivera said. "We had every chance to fold and the guys really came together and pulled it out on both sides of the football."

The Apache defense recorded three interceptions and multiple turnovers on downs in the win over Marion, and Rivera said they did a great job with some exceptions on third-down situations that extended the game.

"That's what happens on Friday nights; you've got teams that are fighting tooth and claw to get out a win and we did a good job," Rivera said.

The Apaches will be heading back on the road with a matchup against the Pleasanton Eagles and Rivera said that Marion was a great example of dealing with a hostile environment.

"It's going to be the same thing over there in Pleasanton and Coach Liska will have them rolling. I know they'll be excited to win a game and try to get after us," Rivera said. "But we'll just continue focusing on ourselves and continue to get better because we know after tonight's game, there's a lot of room for improvement. And we know we can be a pretty good team if we can figure all those things out."

Gonzales travels to Pleasanton Friday, Sept. 15.

Kick off is set for 7 p.m.

Senior Blake Wright (22) and junior Jermane Upshaw (0) tackles a Marion player together on the road Friday, Sept. 8.

PHOTO BY VANDY VAN EPPS



Above: The Gonzales Apaches run out the tunnel for the kickoff of the Marion game at Veterans Memorial Stadium Friday, Sept. 8. Right: Apaches senior running back Rocky Gallegos (21) takes the ball from sophomore quarterback Travis Malveaux III (12) on the road against Marion. Left: Junior defensive end Jermane Upshaw (0) seals the win for the Apaches against Marion Friday, Sept. 8.



SCORES & STANDINGS

4A Division II: District 12 football scores

Cuero Gobblers (3-0 [0-0])
*Gonzales Apaches (2-1 [0-0])
Smithville Tigers (1-2 [0-0])
Giddings Buffaloes (1-2 [0-0])
Caldwell Hornets (0-3 [0-0])
La Grange Leopards (0-3 [0-0])
-[0-0]: District records.

SCORES

*Gonzales 28, Marion 14
Caldwell 21, Jarrell 28
Giddings 12, Lago Vista 31
La Grange 0, La Vernia 45
Cuero 41, Yoakum 34
Smithville 13, Geronimo-Navarro 33

3A Division II: District 15 scores

Poth Pirates (2-1 [0-0])
Dilley Wolves (2-1[0-0])
South SA West Cougars (1-2 [0-0])
Karnes City Badgers (0-3 [0-0])
*Nixon-Smile Mustangs (0-3 [0-0])
Comfort Bobcats (0-3 [0-0])
Natalia Mustangs (0-3 [0-0])
-[0-0]: District

SCORES

*Nixon-Smile 14, Flaton 21
South San Antonio West 0, Lytle 33
Natalia 14, Devine 49
Dilley 14, Cotulla 28
Karnes City 7, Kenedy 37
Comfort 21, Blanco 39
Poth 31, Shiner 7

LOCAL AREA SCORES

Shiner 7, Poth 31
Luling 47, Austin Eastside
Shiner St. Paul 48, DasCHE 30
Yoakum 34, Cuero 41

Lady Apaches earn first district win over SA Fox Tech

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches broke into the win column in district play with a three-set sweep (25-11, 25-22, 25-19) of the San Antonio Fox Tech Lady Buffaloes Tuesday, Sept. 12 on the road.

The Lady Apaches started off the match strong with senior Macy Sample recording three aces in the first four serves; in the first set, the Lady Apaches combined for seven aces.

Gonzales battled through the next two sets with Fox Tech cutting the Lady Apaches' lead as low as one point.

"First set was a lot better we had a lot more momentum. The last two were not as good but we just had a lot more momentum at the beginning and just need to follow through with that next time to win by more [points]," Sample said.

Lady Apaches head volleyball coach Jillian Gonzales made some adjustments heading into the second and third sets and gave some players the opportunity to try new positions.

"I just wanted to kind of switch some things around,



VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Apaches' senior Tara Lester (11) jumps in the air and spikes the ball for a kill for Gonzales against Fox Tech Tuesday, Sept. 12.

try some try some different things. Try Aubrey [Lindemann] as a setter and she doesn't normally go in as a setter, but she she did a good job out there tonight," Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches didn't back down in the last two sets. Senior Tara Lester contribut-

ed multiple kills in the second set to help her team get past Fox Tech.

"We just knew that we needed to keep moving our feet and keep working together and at the end of the day, we had to get the job done and we did," Lester said.

Gonzales earned its first

district win of the 2023 season, and Lester said she is very excited to continue winning and making more moves with hopes of making the playoffs.

Coach Gonzales said it was great feeling to get back on

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page 15

La Vernia sweeps Lady Apaches in district opener

STAFF REPORT

District play has arrived for many volleyball teams across the state of Texas, including the Gonzales Lady Apaches, who began conference with a Friday, Sept. 8 match against the La Vernia Bears.

The Lady Apaches fell to the Bears in three sets (11-25, 16-25, 15-25) in the first district game of

the season.

Sophomore Isabella Ikard and senior Tara Lester led the team with four kills each; Macy Sample finished second with three kills, and three Lady Apaches recorded two kills.

The Lady Apaches recorded three aces; senior Mallory Clack scored two aces in the La Vernia loss and junior Dakota Schmidt recorded

one ace.

Seniors Hannah Avant and Clack combined with two blocks.

Sample led the team with seven digs; senior Kelly Breitschopf and Avant recorded five digs; and Schmidt recorded four digs.

The Lady Apaches traveled to San Antonio Tuesday, Sept. 12 for their second district game against Fox Tech.

—GONZALES vs LA VERNIA—

KILLS:

I. Ikard and T. Lester: four kills
M. Sample: three kills
Samantha Baker, H. Avant, and K. Breitschopf: two kills

ACES:

M. Clack: two aces
D. Schmidt: one ace

BLOCK:

H. Avant and M. Clack: one block

DIGS:

M. Sample: seven digs

K. Breitschopf and H. Avant: five

digs

D. Schmidt: four digs

Aubrey Lindemann: two digs

S. Baker and Alaina Valle: one dig

ASSISTS:

M. Sample: six assists

H. Avant: four assists

D. Schmidt: two assists

A. Valle, I. Ikard, and K. Breitschopf: one assist

Bulldogs stun Mustangs with come-from-behind win

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs lost their third straight game of the 2023 season, 21-14, to Flatonia Friday, Sept. 8.

The Mustangs actually led the Bulldogs, 14-7, after the first half, but Flatonia scored the final two scores in the second half.

Running backs Garek Gonzales and John Garza scored the Mustangs' only two touchdowns in the first half.

The Mustangs rushing attack combined for 63 yards on 30 carries.

Nixon-Smiley's defense recorded 104 total tackles against the Bulldogs; sophomore Davian Ramos led the team with 15 total tackles, 12 solo tackles and one sack; and senior Jesus Espino led the team with five assisted tackles.

The Mustangs will host the Brazos Cougars Friday, Sept. 15 for their last non-district game of the season.



PHOTOS BY MELANIE BERGER, COURTESY OF THE FLATONIA ARGUS

No. 14 Garek Gonzales tackles No. 16 Kenyon Guyton with 5:06 left in the second quarter.



No. 3 Aiden Flores carries the ball a few yards in the second quarter before being met by Flatonia Bulldog No. 55 Phillip "Rambo" Ramirez.



With 6:56 left in the third quarter, No. 3 Aiden Flores intercepts a pass intended for Flatonia.

NIXON-SMILEY vs FLATONIA STATS

—OFFENSE—

PASSING:
Luke Moses: 1/2 completions for 23 yards
Timothy McGlothin: 1/1 completions for six yards

RUSHING:
G. Gonzales: six carries for 33 yards and one touchdown
Ryan Paez: three carries for 16 yards
J. Garza: eight carries for 15 yards and one touchdown

RECEIVING:
Adrian Zamora: two receptions for 29 yards

—DEFENSE—

TOTAL TACKLES:
D. Ramos: 15 total tackles
J. Espino: 13 total tackles
G. Gonzales: 12 tackles
Carl White and Jaylun Rodriguez: 10 total tackles

ASSISTED TACKLES:

J. Espino: five assisted tackles
J. Garza: four assisted tackles
D. Ramos, C. White, J. Rodriguez, G. Gonzales, Eric Rodriguez and Noah Jenks: three assisted tackles

SOLO TACKLES:

D. Ramos: 12 solo tackles
G. Gonzales: nine solo tackles
J. Espino: eight solo tackles
J. Rodriguez and C. White: seven solo tackles

SACKS:

D. Ramos: one sack

FUMBLE RECOVER:

N. Jenks and Aiden Flores: one fumble recover

CAUSE FUMBLES:

D. Ramos: two cause fumbles
N. Jenks and J. Rodriguez: one cause fumbles.



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Junior Dakota Schmidt (20) records a dig for the Gonzales Lady Apaches in the second district game against the Fox Tech Lady Buffaloes Tuesday, Sept. 12.

VOLLEYBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

the winning track after the La Vernia match last Friday.

"Our goal is to beat all the San Antonio teams in our district. Well, our goal is to beat all the teams in our district. But we really want to close out these teams so that we can establish our spot in district," Gonzales said.

The Lady Apaches will go back on the road to San Antonio again Friday, Sept. 15 as they take on Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA), and Sample and Lester know what to expect from that team.

"They play a lot faster than this team, so we just need to play faster and just work hard at practice this week," Sample said.

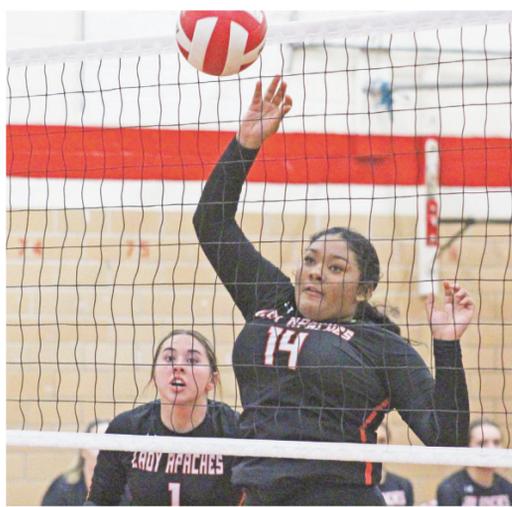
"I think having the motivation for winning this game is gonna help us be even more hyped for this game on Friday," Lester said.

Coach Gonzales said the win was very motivating and her team is ready to be back at practice and prepare for YWLA this Friday.

The YWLA game kicks off at 6:30 p.m.

The Lady Apaches will return home Tuesday, Sept. 19 to host San Antonio Memorial.

The SA Memorial game kicks off at 6:30 p.m.



Above: Lady Apaches' sophomore Aubrey Lindemann serves for Gonzales against Fox Tech Tuesday, Sept. 12. Left: Lady Apaches senior Malory Clack records a block for Gonzales in the district match against Fox Tech Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Lady Mustangs fall to Marion's Lady Bulldogs in district opener

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs kicked district play off on the road Friday, Sept. 8 against the Marion Lady Bulldogs.

The Lady Mustangs fell in three sets against Lady Bulldogs (14-25, 12-25, 15-25).

Nixon-Smiley extends its losing streak against Marion to three matches; the last time the

Lady Mustangs beat Marion was 2021, when they swept them for the season.

The Lady Mustangs traveled to San Antonio Tuesday, Sept. 12 to take on the Cole Lady Cougars.

Nixon-Smiley will play its third district match at home against Monte Vista Friday, Sept. 15, and will host its last non-district match against Prairie Lea Tuesday, Sept. 19 at home.

Lady Comanches sweep Lady Mustangs

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs closed out their second-to-last non-district match with a loss to the Shiner Lady Comanches in the three sets (17-25, 11-25, 19-25) on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

The Lady Mustangs now have a stoppage in their non-district season with a four-game losing streak; and after Sept. 5 had a 6-10 record as posted on MaxPreps.

Nixon-Smiley faced

the Marion Bulldogs for its district opener on the road Friday, Sept. 8.

The Lady Mustang returned to the road again Tuesday, Sept. 12 for a match against the Cole Lady Cougars.

The Lady Mustangs will have back-to-back home games against Great Hearts Monte Vista (district) Friday, Sept. 15 and Prairie Lea (non-district) Tuesday, Sept. 19.

TIMES:

Monte Vista: 6 p.m.
Prairie Lea: 6 p.m.

Lady Mustangs lose five-set heartbreaker to Cole's Lady Cougars

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs lost a tough battle on the road against the Cole Lady Cougars Tuesday, Sept. 12.

The Lady Mustangs fell to Cole in five sets (11-25, 25-22, 25-16, 24-26, 12-15) to earn their second district loss in a row.

Nixon-Smiley took a commanding 2-1 set lead

over the Lady Cougars, but Cole forced a fifth set in extra points in set four (26-24).

The Lady Mustangs extend their losing streak to six losses in a row.

Nixon-Smiley will play its third district match at home against Monte Vista Friday, Sept. 15, and will host its last non-district match against Prairie Lea Tuesday, Sept. 19 at home.

GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The winning team from the Sept. 6 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Kyle Ethridge, Mason Richter, Colby Richter, Kyle Holmes, Cameron Mileham and Larry Gomez.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The second-place team from the Sept. 6 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Gary Schroeder, David Hernandez, Ricky Walker, Billy Hyman and Spencer Breitschopf.

Come and Take It Memorial Golf Tournament is Oct. 7

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales High School Class of 1964 and the Community Foundation of the Gonzales Area (CFGA), a 501(c) (3) organization, are quickly moving forward with their plans for the fifth annual golf tournament to be held on Oct. 7.

Final plans are being made and teams are being signed up. Sponsor forms and entry forms are available from Dee Schieberle at dsch@gvtc.com.

The Memorial Golf Tournament continues to grow each year. It was originally established to raise funds for the Tommy Chenault Scholarship

which honors a classmate of the GHS Class of 1964 who was killed during the Vietnam War.

The following year, the tournament expanded to recognize the "Fallen but not Forgotten" soldiers from the Gonzales area and the scholarship recipients also included students from the Gonzales area. This year another

veteran, Kenny McGinty was added to the list of honorees.

Organizers and supporters of the annual golf tournament appreciate your continued help in making this year's event even more worthwhile, more fun, and more successful than ever.

For questions regarding participation in the golf tour-

namment, to contribute to the program, or to offer any form of support, contact either Bill McCaskill (830-620-8767) at bill@bmccaskill.com or Dee Schieberle (830-857-0278) at dsch@gvtc.com.

Financial support can be mailed to CFGA, PO Box 75, Gonzales, TX 78629.



STOCK PHOTO

Feral hogs cause millions of dollars in agricultural and property damages each year and negatively impact Texas ecosystems, including native plant and animal species.

AgriLife Extension Service study shows toxicant effective in reducing feral hog populations

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A warfarin-based toxicant has been shown to be an effective option for landowners in the control of feral hog numbers and damage on their property, according to a study by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The two-year study was conducted by Department of Range-land, Wildlife and Fisheries Management associate professor and AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist John Tomecek, Ph.D., and Michael Bodenchuk, director of Texas Wildlife Services. The evaluation took place on 23 sites in 10 counties across the various regions of the state. Tomecek said his and Bodenchuk's team were able to effectively and efficiently reduce feral hog numbers effectively and efficiently with diligent application of the product.

"Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service was tasked with evaluating the product's ability to reduce feral hog numbers and damage in regions across the state and seasons of the year," Tomecek said. "We found that it can be highly effective when utilized correctly and saw no access to the toxicant by non-target species when all feeder devices functioned properly."

John Sharp, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System said the study is an important step in the fight to curb the economic and environmental impact of feral hogs in Texas and across the nation.

There are more than 3 million feral hogs that cause more than \$500 million in damage to agricul-

ture and private property throughout Texas each year, according to the most recent economic estimates. Feral hogs are a burden on native wildlife and responsible for widespread disturbances within native ecosystems.

"Texas A&M AgriLife experts are the leading authorities on feral hog control in the nation, and we are the first to test this in a real-world application and to show that this warfarin-based toxicant can be effective for reducing these pests," Sharp said. "Unabated feral hog populations threaten our natural resources, our livelihoods and our quality of life, and our goal, as a land-grant institution, is to provide safe, effective, science-backed solutions for all Texans."

Evaluating toxicant as a tool The goals of the study were to conduct field evaluations of a low-dose warfarin-based toxicant to determine its efficacy in various regions of the state and to assess the product's ability to help landowners prevent property damage and economic harm from feral hogs.

The team of AgriLife Extension specialists worked with private landowners on recommended application methodologies to provide real-world testing conditions for the product and the suggested best practices.

Bait that included warfarin was placed in specially designed dispensers that prevent access by non-target species, Tomecek said. Feral hogs were conditioned to access the bait before the product was applied. Once the product was applied, feral hogs consumed

lethal doses within five days of consistent access to the bait.

The product is not considered acutely toxic to non-target animals in the event some might gain limited access to the bait nor is it found at lethal levels within the tissue of deceased feral hogs, Tomecek said.

Correctly and consistently are the key words for effective use of warfarin, Tomecek said.

After a trial period of close supervision and instruction, landowners in the study applied and managed the bait themselves. During the project, the Texas A&M AgriLife team made several discoveries that will help increase efficacy of the product when applied.

Landowners who checked the feeder for mechanical issues and replaced bait consistently as part of their regular maintenance schedule reported sharp declines in feral hog numbers and damage levels over the seasons of the year. Landowners who did not adhere to instruction reported mixed to low success in curbing feral hog numbers on their property. These results were true, regardless of the season of the year or the region of the state where the trial was being conducted.

Rick Avery, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension director, said AgriLife Extension is dedicated to providing effective, science-backed tools and information to Texas landowners dealing with feral hogs. "This toxicant is a new tool to have in the toolbox as we deal with feral hog populations across the state," Avery said.

Teal season kicked off in Texas Sept. 9

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Opening day of teal hunting season began Saturday, Sept. 9, and despite dry conditions throughout much of the state, Texas hunters will still have opportunities to harvest birds.

Although habitat conditions across much of the state are currently very poor due to record heat and a lack of precipitation, bright spots include portions of the Texas Panhandle, where some areas received record rainfall earlier this summer. Precipitation provides critical shallow freshwater habitat on the landscape for incoming birds.

Many playa basins are still holding water going into the season and birds should find these areas of the state very favorable as well. Deep south Texas and portions of the lower Gulf Coast also hold some promise thanks to much-needed rainfall from the recent tropical storm.

"Overall, this September I'm expecting a below-average teal season this September for much of the state due to dry conditions," said Kevin Kraai, Waterfowl Program Leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "Things can and often do change quickly, and if precipitation does finally come, migrating teal will most certainly take advantage of any new surface water that may appear. It would instantly improve prospects for hunters."

Blue-winged teal breeding populations declined 19 percent from the previous year's estimate, but the good news is the current estimate of 5.2 million remains above their long-term average. This current estimate is above the 4.7 million bird threshold required to have a 16-day teal season for 2023-24, resulting in no changes to the season length or bag limits for both this season and 2024.

The 16-day statewide 2023 early teal season in Texas will run Sept. 9 through 24. The daily bag limit on teal is six, with a possession limit of 18.

Blue-winged teal are

the second most abundant duck in North America and by far the most prevalent duck found in Texas during the special early teal season. They primarily breed in the Prairie Pothole Regions of North Dakota, South Dakota, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

As for conditions and prospects for teal season around the state, TPWD waterfowl biologists report:

- Water restrictions, due to excessive drought in Central Texas, will play a significant role in the availability of waterfowl habitat this fall and winter. Most of the rice prairies will not have access to canal water and will have to rely on rainfall to fill wetlands and fallow rice fields.

- Landowners and managers that have access to irrigation water/groundwater are sitting in the best position. Birds will concentrate heavily in these areas and reports are already very good, with teal arriving daily to these locations. These areas should expect an excellent teal season.

Kraai said migratory bird hunters need to make sure they are Harvest Information Program (HIP) certified and confirm the HIP questions are answered correctly. HIP surveys allow biologists to get an accurate sample of hunters so the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can deliver harvest surveys to a subsample of hunters later in the year.

Hunters should purchase their 2023-24 Texas hunting license prior to hitting the field. Teal/waterfowl hunters will also need a migratory game bird endorsement, federal duck stamp and HIP certification. It's also required by law that hunters have proof of their completion of a hunter education course.

Teal season dates, along with regulations, bag limits and more, can be found in this year's Outdoor Annual. Hunters can also access digital copies of their licenses via the Outdoor Annual and My Texas Hunt Harvest apps.

VEHICLES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

work for the Sheriff's Department or you work for Emergency Services and you're driving a car, as long as you're in the county, I don't have a problem with it.

"If you're working here and live in Nixon or you're working here and live in Waelder or you live in Harwood, as long as they're in the county, I don't have a problem with that, because they're in their service area."

Commissioners had asked Sheriff Keith Schmidt to compile a list of what policies neighboring counties use regarding their patrol vehicles.

"Pretty much, in all the counties, it's at the sheriff's discretion, but it looks like Karnes County is the only one that doesn't let them take them outside of an adjacent county," Schmidt said. "In Karnes County, they don't leave the county, but with all of the others, they can go to an adjacent county."

Brzozowski argued that the court had received "a list of people that showed taking a lot of cars out of the county, like 10."

"If you work in the county and live in the county, you keep the car in the county. If you live out of the county, you get the car and when you're done, you park it and you go back home," Brzozowski said. "Not everyone gets a car furnished to drive home. Those people living out of the county, chances are when they get something closer to home, they're going to move on anyway."

Brzozowski made a motion to only allow deputies who live in the county to take their cars home, but it died for lack of a second.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Kevin La Fleur said his only issue is that some places in neighboring counties can actually be closer to Gonzales than cities that are in Gonzales County. For example, it is only 19 miles from Gonzales to Shiner and 21 miles from

TAKE-HOME VEHICLE POLICIES

Information obtained by Gonzales County Sheriff Keith Schmidt

Bastrop County per Capt. Sherman: Deputies are allowed a take-home vehicle not to exceed 20 miles unless grandfathered up to 25 miles. (Sheriff's discretion)

Caldwell County: Deputies are allowed a take home vehicle to the distance of adjoining counties, but not past the adjoining county. (Policy)

Fayette County: Deputies are allowed a take home vehicle only to extend 10 miles into the adjoining county. (Policy). Sheriff's discretion and has one deputy that drives their patrol vehicle to Sealy.

Guadalupe County: Supervisors are allowed take home vehicles in a 25-mile radius of GCSO. (Policy). Captain Koch did state that the take-home vehicle policy is currently being updated and all line deputies (patrol) get a take-home vehicle at this time, despite what the policy reads. Special Units and Admin take their vehicles further than 25 miles at the Sheriff's discretion.

Karnes County: No take home vehicles outside of the county.

Lavaca County per Lt. Beasley: Nothing in policy, but deputies are allowed to have take-home vehicles outside of the county at the Sheriff's discretion.

Wilson County per Chief Deputy Garza: Deputies are allowed a take home vehicle to the distance of adjoining counties, but not past the adjoining county. (Sheriff's Discretion)

DeWitt County's policy was not included in this information.

Gonzales to Moulton, but it is 28 miles from Gonzales to Nixon.

"Some of them can be living in the county and take a car home and be driving further than those who live out of the county," La Fleur said. "I know, as a group, everyone thinks it's getting out of control. I'd like to leave it up to the sheriff, but let's get a rein on this and we can address it later on if we need to instead of making a rule right now. Let the sheriff address it and we'll check back on it later and if things haven't gotten better we can do something."

Both La Fleur and Precinct 1 Commissioner Dell Whiddon said they like Caldwell County's policy of allowing vehicles to be driven into the adjoining county like how Caldwell County does things.

"Once cars leave the county, you don't know how far they're driving," Brzozowski said. "Why not make the rule now and

then see how it works, and if it doesn't work, then change it? Because this way, we haven't accomplished anything.

"You still have people driving cars out of the county, so we shouldn't even talk about it, we should just let it run like it is? Why did we have all this discussion and waste our time? We've got to make a decision one way or another. This is business. We can't have cars driving out of the county.

"We have 10 cars driving out of the county going as far as San Antonio and New Braunfels and one heading to Woodsboro and I know how far it is to drive to Woodsboro because I drive there every week for 20-something years. The taxpayers shouldn't have to be footing that tab," he added.

Schmidt denied anyone is driving to Woodsboro and said a list provided to commissioners of deputies who live out of county likely included home mailing addresses.

"I hired a deputy who used to live in and work for Refugio County, but he lives between Flatonia and Moulton today and he's never driven the car to Woodsboro," Schmidt said. "The one who lives between Marion and New Braunfels lives closer than the sheriff's office in Guadalupe County or he would leave it there. His home is closer than that sheriff's office, so we let him take it home."

Schmidt said he has, at a maximum, "seven to eight" of his 24 deputies driving cars out of the county on a regular basis — just a little over a third of those on duty. He also pointed out that an opinion by the Texas Attorney General supports his having the final say over how he uses his assets.

"I am the Gonzales County Sheriff, elected to protect the citizens of Gonzales County and the state of Texas. I have to be able to do my job," Schmidt said. "Y'all have given me deputies to work with and you have given me vehicles to work with and I am proud of both. We've got good employees and we've got good vehicles.

"Ultimately, in my opinion, and according to the state attorney general, it is my decision alone. You can make a ruling if you want and maybe there's another ruling, but it's gonna be mine because I have to report to the people of Gonzales about protecting them."

"How are they going to protect anyone in New Braunfels, sheriff?" Brzozowski retorted. "By the time they get here from New Braunfels or San Antonio, it's all going to be over with. The chicken killing is going to be done."

"It could be, but he'll get here a lot quicker in his county-owned vehicle with his lights and siren and vest and his gun," Schmidt replied.

"I agree after Attorney General opinion that you are able to do what you want to with your fleet," said County

Judge Pat Davis, a former DPS trooper. "However, the way I read it is that as long as it is a purpose that protects the citizens of the Gonzales County or to that effect. Driving the vehicle home and then coming back, I think it can be argued whether that protects the citizens of Gonzales County. That's just my interpretation of it."

Precinct 4 Commissioner Collie Boatright said he believes the sheriff should have a policy that either allows "to the neighboring county or it must be within 25 or 30 miles — something that's definite that we can determine."

Schmidt said there are advantages to having deputies being able to have their vehicles at a moment's notice.

"Anytime anything happens, we're calling them and saying, 'Hey, you need to come in and work,'" Schmidt said. "They can respond directly from their house or wherever and they can go right to work. They have all their tools with them and they don't have to come into town to get something."

Questioned by Davis, Schmidt said the deputies are off duty when they cross the county line and are not back on duty until they cross back over into the county, even though they may be in a county-owned vehicle. Davis responded that the use of vehicles when "off-duty" could be considered a "big perk" for those particular employees that could be viewed negatively by others.

Eventually, La Fleur made a motion to table the matter to give the court "more time to study" the legalities involved in creating a policy and to revisit it at a later date. That motion was approved by the court.

"We're fortunate," Schmidt said. "Gentlemen, y'all know me. We've been able to hire people that live here. We'd love to have an agency full of good employees that all live here. But until I get there.

County	City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gonzales	Gonzales	1.500%	\$242,538.77	\$254,527.36	-4.71%	\$2,397,854.94	\$2,356,053.44	1.77%
Gonzales	Nixon	1.500%	\$30,329.06	\$35,769.20	-15.20%	\$301,421.28	\$275,326.40	9.47%
Gonzales	Smiley	1.000%	\$3,859.26	\$2,351.31	64.13%	\$29,431.73	\$25,947.51	13.42%
Gonzales	Waelder	1.500%	\$13,281.61	\$6,182.81	114.81%	\$105,435.25	\$57,364.38	83.79%

SALES TAX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for the first-time ever.

Hegar announced he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.1 billion in local sales tax allocations for September, 3.4 percent more than in September 2022.

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

For the month of August 2023, Gonzales County municipalities received a combined \$290,008.70 in sales tax allocations, down some \$8,821.98 or 2.95 percent below the \$298,830.68 received during September 2022.

For the year, county municipalities have received \$2,834,143.20, up \$119,451.47 or 4.4 percent, above the \$2,714,691.73 received through the first nine 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 \$242,538.77, down \$11,988.59 or 4.71 percent below the \$254,527/36 received during September 2022.

For the year, the city has received \$2,397,854.94, up \$41,801.50 or 1.77 percent, above the \$2,356,053.44 received at this same point in

2022.

Waelder received a total of \$13,281.61, up 114.81 percent or \$7,098.80, above the \$6,182.81 received in September 2022. For the year, Waelder has received \$105,435.25, up \$48,070.87, or 83.79 percent, above the \$57,364.38 received at this point in 2022. The city has smashed the record \$84,776.57 it received in all of 2022 and still has allocations coming in October, November and December.

Sales tax receipts for Nixon were \$30,329.06, down \$5,440.14, or 15.2 percent, below the \$35,769.20 received in September 2022. For the

year, the city has received \$301,421.28, up \$26,094.88, or 9.47 percent, above the \$275,326.40 received at this same point last year.

Finally, Smiley's sales tax receipts were \$3,859.26, up \$1,507.95, or 64.13 percent, from the \$2,351.31 received in September 2022. For the year, the city has received \$29,431.73, up \$3,484.22 or 13.42 percent above the \$25,947.51 received in the first nine 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.

LOCKDOWN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

officers and campus administrators immediately responded and located the student. The Gonzales Junior High halls were cleared and students were told to remain in their classrooms until the student was escorted off campus with their parent, Johannsen said.

"We want to thank our GISD officers for their quick response," she said. "We are grateful to our staff members for remaining vigilant and for reporting the incident. It is important to remind our students to report suspicious or concerning behavior to an adult."

Under Texas Penal Code Section 46.02 (a), a person commits an offense of unlawful carrying of a weapon — location-restricted knife if the person:

- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carries on or about his or her person a location-restricted knife;
- Is younger than 18 years of age at the time; and
- Is not on the person's own premises or premises under the person's control; inside of or directly en route to a motor vehicle that is owned by the person or under the person's control; or under the direct supervision of a parent or legal guardian of the person.

According to Board Policy FNCG, a student shall be expelled from school if the student engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of unlawfully carrying weapons under Penal Code Section 46.02, or elements of an offense relating to prohibited weapons under Section 46.05, on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property.



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MOULTON CHURCH PICNIC



Sunday, September 17, 2023
St. Joseph's Social Center
Mass 10:00 a.m., St. Joseph's Church

The Fender Bender Band
1-5 pm

Ken Brothers
10 am-1 pm

FRIED CHICKEN & STEW DINNER
\$14.00 Per Plate
Dine-in — Drive-thru plates-to-go — Meat-to-go available
10:30 a.m. until Sold Out

Train Ride, Ball Throw, Fish Pond, Ring Toss
Hamburgers, Sno-cones, Popcorn, and more ...
Cake Walk, Plant Walk, Country Store

AUCTION
1:00 p.m.
Livestock, Quilts,
Hand-made Items

DRAWING
Grand Prize
\$5,000 gift certificate

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Moulton, Texas
Picnic Always Third Sunday of September

GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

actually cut it off where we couldn't pass over 90A. Of course, it blew out the fence at Lions Park and caused a lot of damage there," Schauer said. "So what this would do, this pond would actually reduce the flow rate at 90A by about 30 to 40 percent in the two year and 100 year storms."

This was not an action item, but will be a future agenda item.

In other business the board approved the following agenda items:

- approved to adopt updates to the GISD Student code of conduct for 2023-24.

- approved the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) members for the 2023-24 school year.

- approved the deadlines for responding to PIA Request as per HB3033.

BOND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

when permanent facilities are not available.

Temporary buildings are not as safe as permanent buildings as each temporary building has an entrance door that is accessed from outside and is therefore more difficult to monitor and restrict individuals that do not have business on campus. Temporary buildings are not equipped with intercom systems, monitored fire alarm systems, and sprinkler systems. The absence of these safety systems in temporary buildings currently being used means that today's building codes are not being met. Student travel from temporary buildings to other buildings on campus requires students to be outside, in some cases even to use the restroom in another building.

Temporary buildings are not energy efficient and HVAC systems for temporary buildings are usually noisier than traditional classroom buildings. The additional noise inhibits classroom teaching and learning, limiting the types of learning activities that a teacher may prefer to use.

Proposition "A" includes constructing a six-classroom building that would provide permanent classrooms for 5th and 6th graders. Restrooms would be included in the project and teachers would have access to a workroom in the building. Benefits associated with this project include:

1. A better teaching/learning environment that would benefit teachers and students.
2. Operation budget savings of more than \$76 thousand each year
3. Greater building safety for teachers and students by providing an interior hallway and by having fewer entrances to monitor.
4. A workroom for teachers and restrooms in the building.
5. Permanent classroom building will include an intercom system, monitored fire alarm system, and sprinkler system that will increase safety for teachers and students.

The total estimated cost for the permanent classroom building for 5th and 6th graders is \$1.723 million and includes construction costs, equipment, and all professional fees.

The bond election is Nov. 7 and additional information may be obtained on the school district website; waelderisd.org.

San Antonio Charros to hold charreada in Gonzales

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Asociacion de Charros San Antonio (San Antonio Charros) will hold a charreada event at JB Wells Arena in Gonzales during Come and Take It Weekend, on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Charrería is a traditional Mexican practice of livestock herding found in many small communities. It was initially used to help herders managing

livestock from different estates better coexist. Techniques were then passed on to younger generations within families.

These days, purpose-built charrería associations and schools assist in continuing transmission of the tradition, also considered a sport, by training members of the community, including up to competition level. Various categories of charrería performed in front of an audience are called

charreadas. Charreadas give spectators an opportunity to see livestock herding skills, for example roping and reining using wild mares and bulls. Trained herders demonstrate their abilities on foot or horseback while dressed in traditional costume that features a wide-brimmed hat for a charro (male herder) and a colorful shawl for a charra (female herder).

The outfits, as well as equipment required for the practice,

like saddles and spurs, are designed and produced by local artisans, forming additional components of the traditional practice.

Charrería is considered an important aspect of the identity of bearer communities and their cultural heritage. Practitioners also see the tradition as a way of transferring to younger generations important social values, such as respect and equality for people in the community.

FIRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

UTV, fire engine and personnel to help battle the blaze.

Gonzales County Emergency Service District No. 1 provided hydration and medical assistance, if needed, to those on the scene, while Gonzales County Fire Marshal Jimmy Harless was monitoring the scene with a drone.

As of 8:10 p.m., the fire was reported to still be active, though 100 percent contained. No structures are listed as having been burned and there are no reported injuries.

"The CR 444 Fire started with welding and we have had a few of those recently, just not as big. It was about 35 acres," Harless said. "We are still very dry, so the burn ban remains in effect. We do have some potential moisture in the forecast, but in my opinion, it just won't be enough. I do hope I'm wrong."

Harless said his big concern



CONTRIBUTED/GCSO

The Texas A&M Forest Service brought a D6 dozer to help fight the "Vacate Fire" off County Road 444 near Waelder on Tuesday, Sept. 12. Drought conditions and excessive heat have made the fire danger for Gonzales County rise with little sign of improving anytime soon.

is that "when we get a little moisture, folks tend to think it's okay to burn, but that is not a good thing during this drought."

"We would need much

more moisture before I would recommend the lifting of the burn ban. Of course, that's up to the Judge and Commissioners," Harless

“When we get a little moisture, folks tend to think it's okay to burn, but that is not a good thing during this drought. We are still very dry, so the burn ban remains in effect. We do have some potential moisture in the forecast, but in my opinion, it just won't be enough. I do hope I'm wrong.”

—Jimmy Harless, Gonzales County Fire Marshal

said. "I certainly think it will continue for at least several weeks, but Mother Nature has her own plans, so we just never know."

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