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The Gonzales Inquirer

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County to work on master plan for courthouse

Gonzales County Courthouse

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County commissioners have authorized architect Tere O'Connell of Austin to begin working on a new master plan for the Gonzales County Courthouse with hopes of applying for preservation funding from the Texas Historical Commission.

At their regular meeting Monday, Nov. 13, commissioners discussed Round XIII of funding for the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP), which provides grants to rehabilitate, restore and maintain historic Texas county courthouses.

In order to take part in the program, the county must first produce a new master plan for the Gonzales County Courthouse since the last one done for Gonzales County was done in 1993 — 30 years ago — when Volz & Associates helped the county perform repairs in two phases (from 1992-1996 and 1996-1998) on the tower, roof and exterior brick and terra cotta with partial funding from a federal ISTEA grant that preceded the Texas Courthouse Preservation Program by several years.

O'Connell, who started her own firm O'Connell Architecture LLC in Austin in 2015, was a part of the Volz team that worked on the Gonzales County Courthouse project.

The 1990s restoration of the courthouse, performed by Perry &

See **COURTHOUSE,** page 18

Gonzales City Council unanimously renews TJHRA agreement

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales City Council met for a regular scheduled meeting Thursday, Nov. 9 at City Hall.

One of the main agenda items from Thursday meeting was regarding the license agreement with the Texas Junior High Rodeo Association (TJHRA) to host the rodeo finals in Gonzales for another five years.

Gonzales has hosted the TJHRA Finals for 17 years since 2005 and has attracted thousands of attendees from around the United States.

The council had discussed this agenda item before in the October meeting regarding what was in the contract.

Several supporters of the rodeo finals came to speak

See **CITY,** page 17

HONORING OUR VETERANS

LEW K. COHN

VFW Post 4817 life member Charles Rochester receives the American flag from Gonzales High School JROTC member Miguel Moreno during a flag folding ceremony at the Veterans Day celebration at JB Wells Expo Center in Gonzales on Friday, Nov. 10. Rochester served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971 in Korea. Veterans and their families stood at attention or saluted when the national anthem was sung by Amanda Frederick. For more photos, see page 6.

GISD tables DPS lease agreement, approves changes to grad honors

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales ISD School Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting Monday, Nov. 13 at the GISD administration building.

Two of the big agenda items that were discussed at the Thursday meeting were the interlocal cooperation contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety and amending policy EIC LOCAL about Local Graduation Honors.

DPS LEASE AGREEMENT

The board was presented with a proposed interalocal contract with DPS to lease the district property at 1711 N Sarah Dewitt Drive, but

See **GISD,** page 17

County will implement new emergency mass notification service beginning Jan. 1

Hyper-Reach's cost difference is negligible, while its features are superior to Code Red

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County will implement a new emergency mass notification service called Hyper-Reach beginning Jan. 1, 2024, after commissioners took action at their regular meeting Monday, Nov. 133.

Hyper-Reach will replace the current Code Red/OnSolve

See **ALERT,** page 17

Gonzales sales tax allocations fall below last year's pace

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

November 2023 sales tax allocations for Gonzales County dropped by $22,546.24 from November 2022, marking the third straight month the county has seen an overall decrease in sales tax receipts when compared to the previous year.

See **SALES TAX,** page 7

1 SECTION
18 PAGES

COMMUNITY TURNS OUT FOR APACHE SENDOFF

Lauren Rivera and Emmiitt Rivera send a special send off to head coach Joey River with a fathead cutout of his head Friday, Nov. 10. Davien Pitts's (3) family send him and the Gonzales Apaches a send off message for their bi-district playoff game against Gatesville Friday, Nov. 10.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Investigators: online threat did not involve Nixon-Smiley

Law enforcement were stationed at district's campuses Nov. 10 as precaution

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Law enforcement was out in force Friday, Nov. 10, at all Nixon-Smiley school campuses after district administrators had been made aware of "a concerning statement circulating on social media" that prompted them to take action.

According to a Facebook post made to families of Nixon-Smiley CISD students, the Nixon

See **THREAT,** page 7

GFD, ICT, State Farm team up to offer free smoke detectors

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT), State Farm, and Gonzales Fire Department have come together to distribute free smoke detectors to households in need across Gonzales in collaboration for community safety. This initiative underscores their shared commitment to reducing the risk of fire-related tragedies and protecting the lives and property of Texas residents.

Free smoke detectors were distributed and installed across the Gonzales community. Fire education materials will also be provided to help the public understand the fire hazards, especially as the holiday season nears.

"Smoke detectors are a critical component of early fire detection, and ensuring that every home has access to these devices is a shared priority," said Rich Johnson, director of communication and public affairs at ICT. "The partnership marks a significant milestone in our combined efforts to promote fire safety in communities throughout the state."

CONTRIBUTED

State Farm, The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) and Gonzales Fire Department joined forces and will distribute free smoke detectors to area families.

The early warning smoke detectors allow occupants precious minutes to evacuate safely in the event of a fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms.

Widespread use of smoke detectors protects individuals and families and contributes to overall community safety.

"At State Farm, our commitment to community safety goes beyond insurance coverage," said Scott Dierlam, State Farm agent in Gonzales. "We are proud to support initiatives that promote fire safety and distribute smoke detectors to those who may not have easy access. We aim to strengthen communities by reducing the risk of fire-related incidents and enhancing our policyholders and neighbors' overall safety and well-being."

The NFPA underscores the life-saving potential of smoke detectors, noting that having working smoke alarms can reduce the risk of death in a home fire by half. As such, ensuring that smoke detectors are installed and adequately maintained in homes and businesses should be a top priority for all Texans.

Gonzales Fire Chief Wade Zella recommends everyone:

- Change the batteries at least once a year and consider using long-life lithium batteries.
- Regularly test your smoke detectors to ensure they are functioning correctly.
- Place detectors in key areas, such as bedrooms, hallways, and the kitchen.

CONTRIBUTED

Pictured from left are Mark Lindeman, Darren Schauer, Dr. Humberto Rivas, Brandon Anzaldua, Sue Ortman, Eddie Calendar, Jess Fullilove, John Owensby and Allen Linebrink.

GCHF purchases ventilator for EMS personnel

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Board of Directors of the Gonzales County Health Foundation is pleased to announce the recent donation to the Gonzales County Emergency Services District #1 in the amount of $10,000 for the purchase of a V+ Pro Critical Care Ventilator.

This state-of-the-art ventilator will be used by the EMS when transporting some of the most critical patients from Gonzales Healthcare Systems to acute care facilities in San Antonio, Austin or elsewhere.

The Gonzales County Health Foundation was established in 1983 with the leadership of Dr. Bryan Denman to assist the hospital district in providing quality healthcare to Gonzales County residents.

Dr. Walter A. Sievers contributed several millions of dollars and part of his life estate to the Foundation to ensure that Gonzales County residents had quality healthcare facilities for years to come. A portion of those funds were earmarked for the Sievers Medical Clinic. Walter and Sue Traeger also donated to the Foundation as well.

The Gonzales County Health Foundation Board of Directors manages the assets of the Health Foundation. The Board is comprised of local community leaders: President Sue Ortman, Vice-President John Mohrmann, Treasurer Darren Schauer, Secretary Dr. Terry Eska, and members Ricky Lester, Dr. Humberto Rivas, Greg McLain, Bryan Denman, Mark Lindemann, Tim Markham, Greg Tieken and Brandon Anzaldua.

Off-duty Seguin police officer arrested for DWI

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

An off-duty Seguin police officer was arrested by the New Braunfels Police Department Sunday evening, Nov. 12 for driving while intoxicated.

Jose Ricardo Zapata, a four-year veteran of the department, was arrested at 11:43 pm. Following his arrest, Zapata, 25, was transported and booked into the Comal County Jail.

The Seguin Police Department has placed Officer Zapata on administrative leave pending the outcome of an internal investigation. The department is committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and accountability among its personnel.

"Law enforcement officers are held to a higher standard, and we take this matter seriously. We will cooperate fully with the New Braunfels Police Department investigation, and appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken based on the findings." said Jason Brady, Chief of the Seguin Police Department.

The Seguin Police Department is dedicated to maintaining public trust and ensuring the safety of the community. Incidents of this nature are thoroughly investigated, and the Seguin Police Department remains committed to excellence and transparency with the community.

Noon Lions Club Foundation expanding, announces renovation of Lions Park playground

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Noon Lions Club Foundation is thrilled to announce an exciting project, the expansion and renovation of the Lions Park playground area.

The organization's goal is to establish an ADA-compliant, inclusive playground that can be utilized by all members of the community. They have worked alongside community leaders to design a playground that will welcome all kids and families of all abilities to learn, play, and grow together.

For the last 25 years, the existing Lions Club playground has been loved by the community of Gonzales, as well as residents from Belmont, Cost, Harwood, Nixon, Waelder, Smiley, Shiner, Luling, and Yoakum.

However, it is no longer ADA compliant nor friendly for children with special needs. By replacing the existing playground structures with one large playground, we are providing an inclusive environment and equipping children of all abilities with the skills to play, both together and independently, creating a sense of community among children.

If interested in the project, please call Cindy Rodriguez (830) 263-5502, Garen Reese (830) 857-3114, or Britney Caka (830) 857-6296.

CONTRIBUTED

The Gonzales Elks Lodge #2413 presented the Gonzales Noon Lions Club Foundation with a $3,500 donation. Pictured are Foundation President Cindy Rodriguez and Elks Exalted Ruler Loretta Shirley.

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Celebrations

Birthdays

November 16th
Carson Finch
Sylvania Frasure
Keegan Hall
Margie Malaer
Freddie Menking Jr.
Deane Novosad
Alison Soefje

November 17th
Tracey Catchings
Colby Cox
Jack Fitzpatrick
Stacie Gonzalez
Hannah Lorton

November 18th
June Calendar
Emil Machacek
Alice O'Neal
Mason Robinson
Mercedes Rodriguez
Cody Veach
Mary Vega
Barbara Wiedner
Shanna Wiley
Leona Zella

November 19th
Pam Cripple
Matt Davis
Michael Gurleski
Rita Hendershot
Susan Ward
Sara Wurz

November 20th
Florence Baker
Maria Navejar
Sabrina Roberts

November 21st
Hattie Krueger
Christopher Tate

November 22nd
Walter Brown
Mariah Danielle Hernandez
Tommy Irle Jr.
Jonathan Tharp
Nicole Washichek

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Gonzales Weather

November 16	74°/53°	Partly sunny and pleasant 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 78
November 17	78°/56°	Partly sunny and pleasant 7% chance of rain • RealFeel 79
November 18	74°/53°	Nice with intervals of clouds and sun 6% chance of rain • RealFeel 74
November 19	77°/58°	Nice with intervals of clouds and sunshine 14% chance of rain • RealFeel 76
November 20	76°/46°	Sunny 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 76
November 21	72°/52°	Plenty of sun 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 73
November 22	73°/53°	Increasing cloudiness 0% chance of rain • RealFeel 72

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

November 16th
South Texas Tour

November 18th-19th
South Texas Tour

Proudly brought to you by:
Fehner & Son Grain
830-672-3710
1922 Co. Road 197, Gonzales, TX 78629

Texas Master Naturalist Program celebrates its 25th anniversary

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Over the last 25 years, more than 15,300 Texas Master Naturalist volunteers have made their mark by dedicating their time to helping protect and conserve the state's natural resources.

Their impact spans across more than 256,000 acres of Texas' landscapes from the lush tidal marshes of the Gulf Coast to the arid vistas of the Trans Pecos.

Established in 1998 as a partnership between the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Texas Master Naturalist program is the first naturalist program of its kind in the nation to be implemented on a statewide scale. It has served as the model for other states seeking to harness the power of volunteers for the benefit of their wild things and wild places.

> **"You don't need existing natural resource knowledge to become a Master Naturalist. All you need is the interest to get started."**
>
> *—Michelle Haggerty, TPWD's Texas Master Naturalist coordinator*

"We really pulled together the strengths of both agencies to create this program," said Michelle Haggerty, TPWD's Texas Master Naturalist state coordinator.

The program has developed of a corps of well-informed volunteers who provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of Texas' natural resources and natural areas within their local communities. The program comprises 49 chapters serving 213 counties across the state.

"On average, we have 6,000 active Master Naturalists contributing volunteer hours each year," said Mary Pearl Meuth, Texas Master Naturalist assistant state coordinator with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. "Our volunteers help state agencies accomplish goals on a large scale."

In 2022, Texas Master Naturalists logged more than 515,000 volunteer hours, completing projects such as collecting research data, tagging monarch butterflies, leading guided hikes, developing educational curriculums, providing small-acreage land management consultations and more.

To obtain the skills and knowledge needed to tackle these diverse projects, Master Naturalist trainees must successfully complete an approved training program through a Texas Master Naturalist chapter using the state-approved curriculum. This includes at least 40 hours of combined field and classroom instruction.

Chapters hold training sessions during the spring or fall of each year, and no existing ecological knowledge or outdoor experience is required to get involved.

"You don't need existing natural resource knowledge to become a Master Naturalist," Haggerty said. "All you need is the interest to get started."

To date, the Texas Master Naturalist program has reached more than 6 million people through educational programming, constructed more than 3,000 miles of trails and clocked 6.787 million service hours with an economic impact totaling over $215 million.

Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH

Q. How do we know if we should leave our leaves on the lawn or remove them?

A. There are a couple of reasons that would motivate you to remove them. If you find the leaves unattractive it could motivate you to rake them up and use them for mulch or in the compost pile. If you have tall trees growing on good soil, they may drop so many leaves that they can't decompose in time for spring lawn growth. That would be unusual in Central or South Texas with our limited moisture and poor soil. Our climate makes it one constant compost pile that decomposes everything quickly. If you want to speed up the decomposition, mow the leaves on the lawn into smaller pieces. It is generally best to leave the leaves on the lawn.

Q. Our bluebonnet seedlings are coming up in wildflower area. Should we thin them out to every 10 inches like in a garden row?

A. No, it is best to let them come up as they are inclined. You could transplant a few to fill some available empty space but it is usually best to let them grow as they germinate.

Q. Which winter vegetables are the most attractive and productive to grow in containers? I have limited sun and space.

A." Bright Lights Swiss chard", kale, and leaf lettuce are available in the most colors at the nursery. With two 10-gallon plastic or wood containers would be able to produce harvests of several weekly salads or dishes of greens.

Q. I received a cyclamen from my daughter for a hospital stay. What can I do with it when I go home to my apartment? It is so beautiful, but I don't have any garden space.

A. Cyclamen grows well in the house if you have an East facing window where you can set it.

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET
NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE

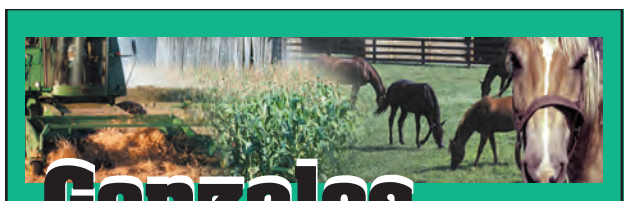
NIXON LIVESTOCK
November 13TH
Cattle – 516
Steers:
200-300 lbs - $194-204-320
300-400 lbs - $254-264-345
400-500 lbs - $226-236-315
500-600 lbs - $212-222-258
600-700 lbs - $178-188-227
700-800 lbs - $176-186-205
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - $219-229-300
300-400 lbs - $215-225-295
400-500 lbs - $212-222-280
500-600 lbs - $198-208-234
600-700 lbs - $191-201-210
700-800 lbs -
Slaughter Cows - $60-100
Slaughter Bulls - $86-123
Stocker Cows – $650-800
Pairs: NONE

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.
Sale date: November 7th
Cattle on hand: 2063
Packer Cows:
Canner and Cutter Cows: $80-102
Utility & Fat Cows: $78-100
Light Weight Canner Cows: $52-76
Poor/Weak: $35-52
Packer Bulls:
Heavyweight Bulls: $112-126
Utility & Cutter Bulls: $100-112
Lightweight Canner Bulls: $88-100
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: $2000 – 2 HEAD
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: $1050-1525
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: $1200-1500
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves:
Under 200 lbs.: $210-300
200-300 lbs.: $235-335
300-400 lbs.: $245-335
400-500 lbs.: $235-295
500-600 lbs.: $225-270
600-700 lbs.: $205-255
700-800 lbs.: $200-232.50
Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs: $190-250
200-300 lbs.: $220-285
300-400 lbs.: $240-315
400-500 lbs.: $230-295
500-600 lbs.: $210-260
600-700 lbs.: $200-226
700-800 lbs: $180-217
Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: $220-275
The calf market was stronger this week. Heavier weight classes sold steady to $3 higher. Light weights sold $10 to $20 higher. Grazing demand starting to appear. Packer cows & bulls sold steady & strong on a total supply of 320 head. There will be no sale November 21, 2023.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.
November 8TH
Market Remains steady on all classes. Packer cows and bulls still steady..
CLOSED NOV. 22, 2023
Cattle – 624
Sheep & goats – 964
Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. .85-2.35-3.10
300-400 lb. .65-2.45-3.25
400-500 lb. 1.00- 2.43-2.98
500-600 lb. .60-2.10-2.79
600-700 lb. .85-2.06-2.30
700-850 lb. 1.10-1.90-2.11
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. .30-1.65-2.55
300-400 lb. .65-2.28-2.75
400-500 lb. .65-2.08-3.00
500-600 lb. 1.10-1.98-2.49
600-750 lb. .90-1.73-2.20
Cows:
Utility & commercial – 55-85-100
Cutters – 60-70-80
Canners – 56-65-74
Palpated cows – 750-1400
Cow/Calf Pairs – 1250-1600
Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding – 105-120
Light & Low Yielding – 87-104
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies – 85-250
Kid Goats (Fat) – 2.80-3.60-4.60
Wethers -2.70-3.10
Billies – 1.30-2.10-3.50
Dorp. Ewes - 50-115
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) – 2.80-3.20
Wooled Ewes – NONE
Wooled Bucks – 1.00-1.50
Lambs – 1.60-1.68
Barb. Bucks – 300-360

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
November 10, 2023
Number of head 1488
There were 197 cows and 23 bulls. The packer market was steady to higher this week.The top packer bull was at $129/cwt, while the top cow was $100/cwt. The calf market settled back this week, due to another drop in the futures market earlier this week. The market was active and demand remained strong, just at a lower level.

Packer bulls:	90.00-129.00
Packer cows:	
canners & cutters	74.00-100.00
poor & weak	35.00-50.00
Palpated:	
4 BRED	82.00-112.00
PAIRS: 1	$1250.00
Steer Calves:	(AVG-HIGH)
Under 200 lbs.	one-250.00
200-249 lbs.	none
250-299 lbs.	275.00-300.00
300-350 lbs.	255.00-325.00
350-400 lbs.	259.00-325.00
400-450 lbs.	255.00-300.00
450-500 lbs.	234.00-270.00
500-550 lbs.	227.00-250.00
550-600 lbs.	228.00-248.00
600-700 lbs.	209.00-241.00
700-800 lbs.	191.00-209.00
Bull Calves:	(AVG-HIGH)
Under 250lbs	231.00-280.00
250-300 lbs.	254.00-287.50
300-350 lbs.	243.00-280.00
350-400 lbs.	233.00-312.00
400-450 lbs.	229.00-285.00
450-500 lbs.	220.00-252.00
500-550 lbs.	223.00-244.00
550-600 lbs.	216.00-240.00
600-700 lbs	209.00-232.00
Over 700 lbs.	181.00-205.00
Heifer Calves:	(AVG-HIGH)
under 200 lbs.	213.00-250.00
200-250 lbs.	204.00-250.00
250-300 lbs	216.00-300.00
300-350 lbs.	223.00-295.00
350-400 lbs.	217.00-290.00
400-450 lbs.	211.00-280.00
450-500 lbs.	204.00-250.00
500-550 lbs	200.00-244.00
550-600 lbs.	202.00-241.00
600-700 lbs.	186.00-230.00
Over 700 lbs	173.00-195.00



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Mike Brzozowski
830-857-3900

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Gary Butler 830-857-4330
Rodney Butler 361-645-5002

The Heights of Gonzales invites you to come out and join the fun of helping us create our

2023
CHRISTMAS TREE FOREST

It's a great marketing tool for your organization or business but most important...enjoyment for our Residents and Visitors!!

We will have "Best Over All" winner to add to the fun! Families, businesses and organizations are invited to bring your own tree and decorate it with your personal creative theme. We have a fun filled month in December with many different activities that makes our Christmas Tree Forest joyous for our entire Community!!

Decorating begins November 24th – December 10, 2023

Trees should be removed by January 6th, 2024

For more information or to reserve your spot contact:
Baby Mares, Admissions/Marketing Coordinator
Or
Margaret Casarez, Director of Activities
830-672-4530

Let's be thankful for Thanksgiving before jumping into Christmas

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The city of Gonzales is already decked out for Christmas with lights and bows strewn across power lines throughout downtown.

Some local businesses have also gotten into the holiday spirit by setting up Christmas decorations and ornaments on their properties as well.

This is well and good, but … don't we have another holiday to go before Christmas? What about Thanksgiving, the first "American" holiday?

Doesn't it deserve to have its time to shine, uninterrupted by those who wish to expedite the Christmas season and gloss over this special time of year, where we thank providence (God and nature) for the blessings of a bountiful harvest? Can't we be thankful for a little bit for Thanksgiving?

Well before Labor Day, the Fourth of July or Memorial Day was ever established, the "First Thanksgiving" allegedly took place in 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts, when Pilgrims celebrated a great harvest with the neighboring tribes the Wampanoags and Patuxet, who had helped them survive a bitter winter of scarcity in exchange for an alliance and protection against the Narangansett tribe. This is the tale that is told to most grade-school children in the United States.

However, Thanksgiving celebrations date back even earlier than that. The colonists who landed in Virginia aboard the ship Margaret on Dec. 4, 1619, held a religious celebration and declared, by charter, that the day of their ship's arrival would be "perpetually kept as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God."

The first nationwide Thanksgiving was proclaimed by President George Washington, who declared Nov. 26, 1789, would be "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God."

Modern Thanksgiving was established by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 when he proclaimed the final Thursday of November would be set as the date for celebration of the bounties of harvest and a time to pray for the healing of the wounds of the nation. Lincoln would be assassinated and it would take the completion of Reconstruction before Thanksgiving celebrations became an annual occurrence beginning in the mid-1870s.

In October 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a proclamation changing the date of Thanksgiving to the "next to last" Thursday in November in an effort to boost the Depression-era economy and to create an extra seven days of Christmas shopping for retailers.

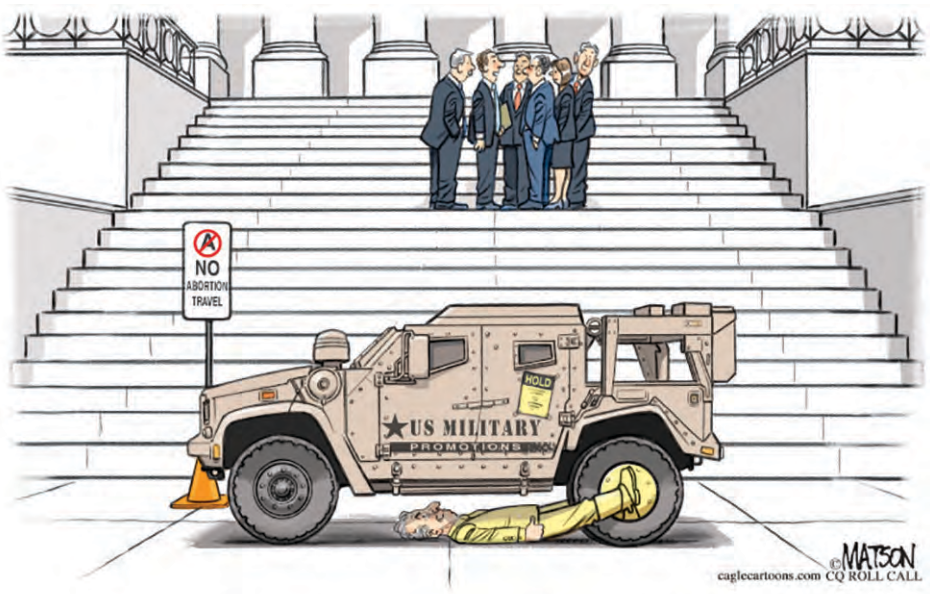
The state of Texas actually celebrated two Thanksgiving dates (the original final Thursday and the new "next to last Thursday" date) until 1942 after Roosevelt signed a joint resolution of Congress on Dec. 26, 1941, changing the official national Thanksgiving Day to be the fourth Thursday in November regardless of whether the month had four or five Thursdays depending on the year.

Technically, however, Thanksgiving was celebrated in the Americas even before the Virginia or Massachusetts dates. Historians in Texas site a religious service of thanksgiving by Spanish explorers at the mission in San Elizario, Texas, in 1598, while Florida historians claim the first thanksgiving took place in what is current-day St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565, the same year the oldest continuously inhabited European-established settlement was founded.

St. Augustine was officially founded on Sept. 8, 1565, and was named for the Feast Day of St. Augustine, which occurred 11 days earlier, for it was on that day that Spanish sailors first spotted land on the coast of Florida. The first Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated on the new colony site the day it was founded, making this the very first holiday documented to have been celebrated on what today is the continental United States.

Thanksgiving is about more than turkey or college or pro football or parades or pageantry. It is about recognizing, in the face of abundance and prosperity, that we owe our fortune to more than just ourselves, but also to the favor we have received from some higher power, and it is a time to humbly give thanks and show appreciation.

Because of this alone, I wish we could dial back Christmas celebrations and paraphernalia until at least the day after Thanksgiving so this "American" holiday can get the recognition and attention it rightfully deserves.



"HAS ANYONE SEEN SENATOR TUBERVILLE?"

Kingdom Rescue offers 'best solution' for continuing cat shelter

BY JUDITH TOR
Special to the Inquirer

I am a founder of Friends of Gonzales Animal Shelter (FOGAS) and have served as its treasurer and tax preparer since its inception. I attended the council meeting on Thursday and want to share these comments.

Fiscal responsibility is a priority taxpayers appreciate. This letter will point out how FOGAS has been an integral part of keeping costs down on behalf of the City while providing excellent care and rehoming of unwanted pets in this community.

FOGAS could not have operated the cat shelter as it did with ONLY the funding provided by the City. FOGAS received funding from contributions from many individuals and charitable foundations. In addition, FOGAS received a generous bequest from the Estate of Bim Miller which provided an additional backup for many years.

FOGAS has given up cat shelter management but still will be operating in the community with the same intent to benefit all animals. Thanks to Mary Anne MacLean, FOGAS has received grants totaling over $500,000 in past years.

Most of this money has gone for the "free" spay and neuter programs for the cats and dogs of Gonzales. (This year all the slots were filled within three hours of opening the signup.) This money is NOT income to FOGAS. It is out and in; we pay, DSHS reimburses. In other words, taxpayers benefit, not FOGAS. The amount these grants save the City is enormous in labor and money, but impossible to quantify. These grants will not be available unless the City can maintain our no-kill status.

See **FOGAS,** page 10

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

In response to Mr. Ramirez's letter to editor about the status of Gonzales County Veterans Memorial, the Gonzales County Veterans Memorial Association is still actively pursuing the funding and construction of the memorial.

We are currently in process of getting permits approved with the City of Gonzales. Next on list will be to inform contractors and work out details of a start date.

Now is a very good time for those that have been waiting to order bricks to do so. The project is still in need of funds to be able to complete the total project.

Thank you to all who have purchased bricks, and we apologize for the length of time it has taken to raise funds. There is a new design to the memorial, which has enabled us to be able to start the building process. Thank you, Veterans!

Larry J. Mercer
President
Gonzales County Veterans Memorial Association

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DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

The Moon and Back…

The comparison isn't nearly as far-fetched as it may seem at first blush. In many ways, though, the Texas Rangers' unlikely mastery of the 2023 baseball World Series resembles the Apollo 11 Space Mission.

Huh?

We who are long of tooth, gray of hair or bald of head remember the late 1960s. Many Americans viewed our nation's plan for astronauts to reach the moon and tromp around its scraggy landscape to be sheer balderdash. About the same time, residents of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex thought chances of ever securing a bona fide major league baseball team were roughly the same as reaching the moon….

*****

Think about it. Arlington's 26-year Mayor Tom Vandergriff spent many years trying to get a major league baseball team to the Metroplex. He was unrelenting. Some were critical with prolonged laughter; thankfully, a few believed.

After all, Houston Judge Roy Hofheinz, a political juggernaut himself, convinced Major League Baseball moguls that only one major league team was needed in the Southwest, specifically Houston. His stance was beyond cocky after his "Colt 45s" were invited in 1962.

Judge Hofheinz was doggedly determined to thwart Vandergriff--who also would later serve as county judge. But Vandergriff kept pushing, finally working his magic to move the Washington Senators to Arlington in 1972. Granted, it was a rag-tag outfit, barely meeting major league standards, but that's another story….

*****

Now, back to the space angle. In 1969, then President Lyndon B. Johnson championed our young space program that would send astronauts for a moon walk.

Many doubted that the mission would succeed. I don't remember the odds projected for the program's success, but it was rife with naysayers.

Odds for success surely were better than the Rangers' probability of winning the 2023 World Series. Before the season's first pitch, Las Vegas oddsmakers said odds were 50-1 against the Rangers….

*****

Let us hearken back to a 1969 summer news conference, held in the Davis Mountains in far southwest Texas. The astronauts, seated around a big table, were completing final "mock-ups" for the big space shot.

All the "biggies" from TV networks, newspapers, radio stations and other media gathered to fire questions. One who wasn't a "biggie" nationally was big in Brewster County.

Representing the weekly Alpine Avalanche was the irrepressible Hallie Stillwell, a legendary ranch woman who was boot-leather tough and tack-sharp. She also was a Justice of the Peace, and not to be trifled with. Readers looked forward to her weekly no-nonsense columns in the Avalanche….

*****

After the national media reps had posed questions on the minds of millions of Americans, Hallie waved her hand, eager to be heard.

With her Big Chief tablet and a well-sharpened #2 pencil at the ready, she blurted something like this: "You fellers don't really think you are going to walk on the moon, do you?"

Okay, maybe not her exact words, but mighty close. And she was serious….

*****

I'm sure Vandergriff faced similar questions.

Thankfully, he never gave up. Fifty-two years after their arrival here, the old Senators--now the beloved Texas Rangers--didn't know they couldn't, so they did.

Surely Bruce Bochy, the renowned manager who now has won four World Series crowns, has the same vision and confidence as Vandergriff. Sure, team owners ponied up money to sign major talent, but make no mistake about it: Bochy was the difference….

*****

See **NEWBURY,** page 10

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COMPOSTING IS AWESOME

Do the Rot Thing!

Composting turns food scraps into good dirt that is healthy for plants.

Food scraps and other compostable trash make up the largest category of waste in our landfills. When you stop sending food scraps to the landfill, it helps to slow down the filling of the landfill. The compost facility turns it into soil that's healthy for plants.

What goes in a compost bin?

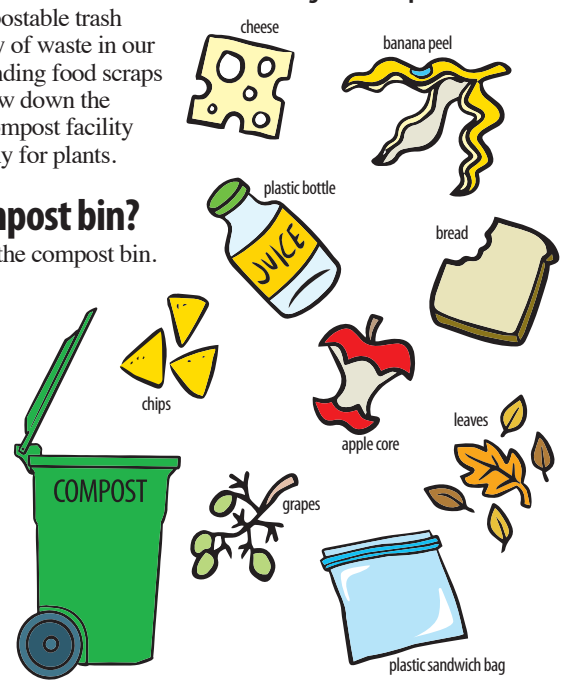
Anything organic can go in the compost bin.

Organic: Things that were once alive. For example, paper made from trees is organic because trees were alive.

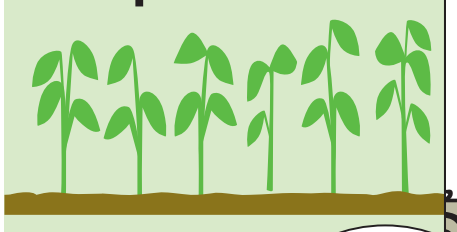
Inorganic: Things that are made of things that are not from animals or plants, living or dead. For example, diamonds, table salt, and silver are inorganic.

Standards Link: Life Science: Understand that matter can be organic or inorganic.

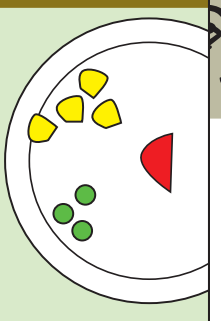
Use a green crayon to circle all the things that belong in the compost bin.



Composting: An Action That Helps the Planet



1. Composting starts with food that is left uneaten, or "food scraps."
2. Put the food scraps into the compost or "green" bin to be sure it goes to a composting facility.
3. At the composting facility, your organic waste is mixed with things like woodchips, branches and shredded newspaper. This slowly rots and turns into healthy soil.



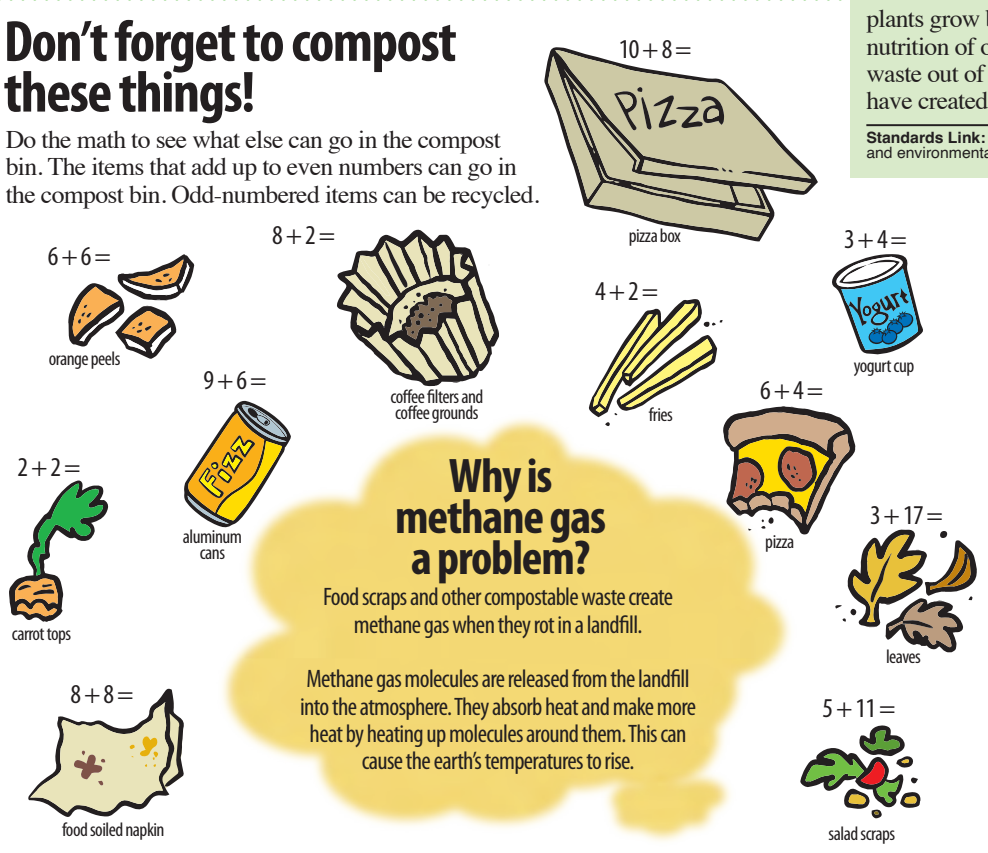
Composting Is Good for Us!

When healthy compost from composting facilities is mixed with soil, it makes plants grow better and improves the nutrition of our food. And it keeps food waste out of the landfill where it would have created methane gas.

Standards Link: Life Science: Understand the health and environmental benefits of composting.

Don't forget to compost these things!

Do the math to see what else can go in the compost bin. The items that add up to even numbers can go in the compost bin. Odd-numbered items can be recycled.



ANSWERS: Things that **DO** go in the compost bin are the apple core, bread, banana peel, carrot tops, cheese, chips, coffee filters and coffee grounds, fries, food soiled napkin, grapes, leaves, pizza, pizza box, napkin, orange peels, and salad scraps.

Things that **DO NOT** go in the compost bin are the aluminum can, plastic bag, plastic bottle, and yogurt container.

Why is methane gas a problem?

Food scraps and other compostable waste create methane gas when they rot in a landfill.

Methane gas molecules are released from the landfill into the atmosphere. They absorb heat and make more heat by heating up molecules around them. This can cause the earth's temperatures to rise.

Standards Link: Life Science: Understand the environmental benefits of recycling and composting waste.

Extra! Extra!

Organic or Inorganic?

Look through the newspaper and circle organic things (things that can be composted) in **green**. Circle inorganic things that cannot be composted in **purple**.

Standards Link: Science: Matter can be organic or inorganic.

Kid Scoop Together

Landfill Problems

A landfill is a place where garbage is taken and buried. Over time landfills start to fill up and then more land needs to be found. Recycling and composting reduce the waste sent to landfills. That way they are usable for a longer period of time.

Send Less to the Landfill

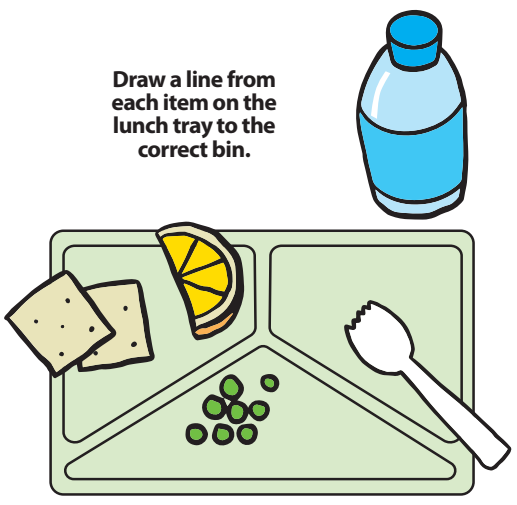
What is the number one thing that people throw away that ends up in a landfill?

Circle every other letter below to find out.

(F)COLOBDA

F ___ ___ ___ ___

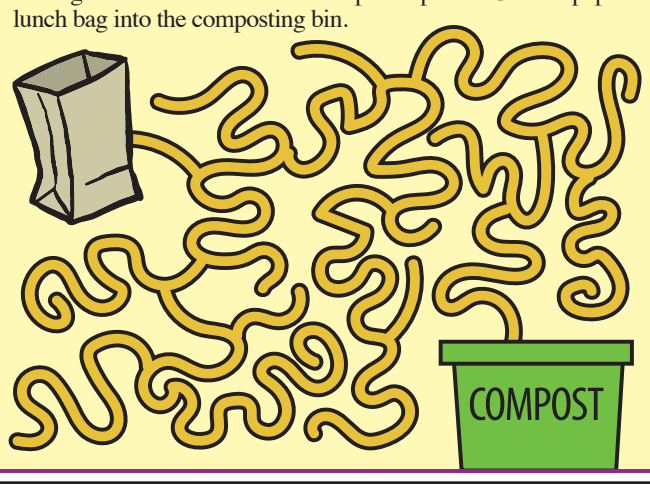
Draw a line from each item on the lunch tray to the correct bin.



Kid Scoop® Puzzler

Avoid the Landfill

Putting less waste in the landfill helps our planet. Get this paper lunch bag into the composting bin.



Double Double Word Search

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

ABSORB
BIN
COMPOST
FOOD
GAS
GREEN
GROW
HEAT
LANDFILL
METHANE
PAPER
PLANTS
SALT
SOIL
WASTE

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

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

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GONZALESINQUIRER

HONORING OUR LOCAL

Veterans

Gonzales Healthcare Systems, the City of Gonzales, Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, GVEC and the Noon Lions Club held a Veterans Day program at JB Wells Expo Center on Friday, Nov. 10 to show their appreciation to those who served in the armed forces. The event included the national anthem being sung by Amanda Frederick and a flag folding ceremony by the Gonzales High School JROTC. A lunch by Baker Boys BBQ was served and gift bags from H-E-B were presented to those in attendance.

PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN

THREAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Police Department, Gonzales County Sheriff's Office and Texas Rangers were called in to investigate the statement, although it did not directly identify Nixon-Smiley CISD as an intended target for violence. The content of the statement was not made public due to the investigation.

It was determined later that the threat was not directed towards Nixon-Smiley CISD, but administrators still took it seriously enough to seek assistance.

"In an abundance of caution, the Nixon Police Department, the Smiley Marshal, the Gonzales County Sheriff's Department, and the Texas Department of Public Safety will be on the campuses throughout the day, on Friday, Nov. 10," the district announced.

"Please know the district takes these situations seriously and investigates them fully. If the district believes there is a legitimate threat to our campuses at any point, we will immediately communicate with parents via phone calls, texts, and social media postings. There is nothing more important to us than the safety of our students and staff."

Sheriff Keith Schmidt told county commissioners on Monday, Nov. 13, that his department had "gotten intel that Thursday night around 10 o'clock or so and continued to work it through the night."

"On Friday morning, our office, the constables' offices, Nixon PD and DPS went down there and had a large presence around all of those schools," Schmidt said. "We just set up down there and made sure those kids were all safe.

"We did have a little bit of a deal that's happened since and we picked up some intel out of the jail and so, we're pushing that back to DPS as well. I'm not sure that there was really anything to that one down there, but you never take those lightly."

County Judge Pat Davis, a retired DPS trooper himself, also was at the campuses to provide backup and commented on the situation.

"I just want to personally thank all the law enforcement and the first responders that were all there," Davis said. "Anytime an incident like that takes place, it's just amazing that our locals and the state and everybody comes together and how well it works."

County	City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gonzales	Gonzales	1.500%	$259,299.26	$285,241.95	-9.09%	$2,922,383.71	$2,927,035.99	-0.15%
Gonzales	Nixon	1.500%	$34,263.18	$33,329.64	2.80%	$366,089.36	$342,519.68	6.88%
Gonzales	Smiley	1.000%	$2,964.75	$3,796.71	-21.91%	$34,597.53	$32,010.11	8.08%
Gonzales	Waelder	1.500%	$10,368.58	$7,073.71	46.57%	$126,100.71	$75,672.14	66.64%

SALES TAX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The shift in economic fortune for the county has been somewhat puzzling as it comes during a period of job growth within the area, but may be reflective of residents curtailing their spending and being frugal with turmoil occurring throughout the world.

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced he has sent cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts $1.2 billion in local sales tax allocations for November, 1.9 percent more than in November 2022.

These allocations are based on sales made in September by businesses that report tax monthly and on sales made in July, August and September by quarterly filers.

For the month of November 2023, Gonzales County municipalities received a combined $306,895.77 in sales tax allocations, down some $22,546.24 or 6.84 percent below the $329,442.01 received during November 2022.

For the year, county municipalities have received $3,449,171.31, up $71,933.39 or 2.13 percent, above the $3,377,237.92 received through this time in 2022.

Sales tax allocations for Gonzales, the largest city in the county which generates the lion's share of sales tax revenue, were $259,299.26, down $25,942.69 or 9.09 percent below the $285,241.95 received during November 2022.

For the year, the city has received $2,922,383.71, down $4, 652.28 or 0.15 percent, below the $2,927,035.99 received at this same point in 2022. However, the amount paid to Gonzales in 2023 is still the second-highest amount the city has ever collected up to this point in a year behind 2022's allocation.

Waelder received a total of $10,368.58, up a whopping 46.57 percent or $3,294.87, above the $7,073.71 received in November 2022. For the year, Waelder has received $126,100.71, up $50,428.57, or 66.64 percent, above the $75,672.14 received at this point in 2022. The city has shattered the record $84,776.57 it received in all of 2022 and still has allocations coming in December in what has been a banner year for Waelder when it comes to retail sales and use tax.

Sales tax receipts for Nixon were $34,263.18, up $933.54, or 2.80 percent, above the $33,329.64 received in November 2022. For the year, the city has received $366,089.36, up $23,569.68, or 6.88 percent, above the $342,519.68 received at this same point last year.

Finally, Smiley's sales tax receipts were $2,964.75, down $831.96, or 21.91 percent, from the $3,796.71 received in November 2022. For the year, the city has received $34,597.53, up $2,587.42 or 8.08 percent above the $32,010.11 received at this point in 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.

GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chief Financial Officer Amanda Smith recommend the board to table this agenda item.

"We have been working with Texas DPS to reach all of the fine-tuned language on a lease agreement. And unfortunately, with two state agencies working together, there's a lot of legal requirements that we have to work through and come to mutual understanding and agreement on," Smith said.

Smith added the district and the DPS had certain legal requirements in order to find a way to live in harmony.

"And to date, we are still working out the utility billing. That's the only piece of the lease agreement that we still haven't quite found a way for both entities to be in requirements with their legal necessities," Smith said.

Smith added the district is in support of this lease agreement contract. The board approved 4-0 to table the agenda item.

EIC LOCAL, Local Graduation Honors

In other board business, the board went over policy EIC LOCAL, Local Graduation Honors at the last meeting. The board tabled this item to discuss the changes.

"Two proposals that were put in front of us last time, just to remind everybody, in regards to this action item was to calculate GPA in the fall semester, or up to the third nine weeks. We decided to table it to discuss other options and that's why we're bringing it back to you," GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda said.

Avellaneda added the district did not want to mess with the top 10 percent banquet at the end of the school year and how it is important for the staff, students and community.

Avellaneda suggested that the board go with the third nine weeks so the top 10 percent distinction is as close to accurate as possible.

Gonzales High School Principal Jonathan Basha spoke to the board about this agenda item and he said that this year's top 10 percent is going to be a close race and mentioned how they'll handle that at graduation.

The board approved, 4-0, for the top 10 percent grades to be determined at the end of the third quarter and the valedictorian and salutatorian determined by the final grades.

The board approved the following agenda items:

• approved the resale bid for suit 7236 property R15946

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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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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.

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

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.

850 HELP WANTED

VICTORIA COLLEGE Est. 1925

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.

The Gonzales Inquirer

Part-time Delivery Driver

Driver needed to distribute papers to Post Offices and Vendors.

Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

Must be able to lift 25 lbs.

Must have good driving record.

Call 830-672-2861 for more information.

VICTORIA COLLEGE Est. 1925

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.

Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

850 HELP WANTED

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Victoria College's Workforce & Continuing Education Department is hiring for the following part-time positions:

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Welding Instructor

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850 HELP WANTED

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Victoria College is recruiting for full-time, twelve-month, non-tenure track instructors to teach Commercial Truck Driving for the Workforce & Continuing Education Department. **Classes will begin in January 2024.** Position may include the role of Program Coordinator. Class size is limited to four students per tractor.

Starting earned monthly salary for the twelve-month position is $4,944.89.

For more information and to complete an online application, please go to www.VictoriaCollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC. EEOE

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Request for Proposals

The Golden Crescent Workforce Development Board (GCWDB) is seeking office space to house its Gonzales Workforce Center. The leased space needs to be between 1,500 – 2,000 square feet, have ample parking, and meet ADA requirements. Proposals will be accepted until 9:00 AM, November 20, 2023. For more information, call (361)576-5872 or visit our website at wwwgcworkforce.org.

GCWDB Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

CITY OF GONZALES
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL

The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on December 4, 2023, at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph St. at 5:15 p.m., to allow for public comment on a rezoning request listed below. After consideration and recommendation by Planning & Zoning Commission and Public Hearing, the amendments will be presented to City Council for a Public Hearing and possible approval on December 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph St. on the following rezoning request:

Request to rezone the properties listed below from C-1, Light Commercial District to DMU, Downtown Mixed Use District:

Property Address: 425 St. James Parcel: 11636
Property Address: 515 St. Joseph Parcel: 11650
Property Address: 507 St. George Parcel: 11660
Property Address: 726 St. Paul Parcel: 11668
Property Address: 509 St. Joseph Parcel: 11673
Property Address: 510 St. Andrew Parcel: 11674
Property Address: 313 St. Lawrence Parcel: 11679
Property Address: 621 St. Joseph Parcel: 11701
Property Address: 510 St. Paul Parcel: 11706
Property Address: 322 St. George Parcel: 11708
Property Address: 623/627 St. Paul Parcel: 11714
Property Address: 300 Blk St. George Parcel: 11722
Property Address: 500 Blk St. James Parcel: 11723
Property Address: 516 St. Paul Parcel: 11725
Property Address: 515 St. Joseph Parcel: 11754
Property Address: 621 St. Paul Parcel: 11798
Property Address: 602 St. Paul Parcel: 11820
Property Address: 617 St. Paul Parcel: 11836
Property Address: 619 St. Paul Parcel: 11838
Property Address: 419 St. James Parcel: 11865
Property Address: 415 St. George Parcel: 11888
Property Address: 421 St. James Parcel: 11889
Property Address: 335 St. George Parcel: 11919
Property Address: 300 Blk St. George Parcel: 11920
Property Address: 342 St. George Parcel: 11921
Property Address: 332 B St. George Parcel: 11924
Property Address: 521 St. Joseph Parcel: 11928
Property Address: 307 St. Lawrence Parcel: 11956
Property Address: 607 St. Joseph Parcel: 11968
Property Address: 612 St. James Parcel: 11971
Property Address: 306 St. George Parcel: 11986
Property Address: 405 St. James Parcel: 11990
Property Address: 614 St. Paul Parcel: 11998
Property Address: 411 St. James Parcel: 12002
Property Address: 418 St. Francis Parcel: 12003
Property Address: 301 St. George Parcel: 23487
Property Address: 200 Blk St. Lawrence Parcel:24911
Property Address: 607 St. Joseph Parcel: 27437

The City Council encourages citizens to participate in the public comment and public hearing process for all applications for zoning or rezoning before the City Council. Citizens unable to attend meetings may submit their views to Kristina Vega, City Secretary for the City of Gonzales, by mailing them to P.O. Drawer 547, Gonzales, TX 78629. For additional information, contact the City Secretary office at (830)-672-2815.

THE STATE OF TEXAS GUADALUPE COUNTY

GUADALUPE COUNTY

Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for a **Telecommunications Operator, (Dispatcher).**

Applicants must have a school diploma or GED, the ability to handle stressful situations, have telephone, typing and computer data entry skills, and the ability to multi-tasks. Knowledge in radio and teletype duties preferred. Must be willing to work shift work.

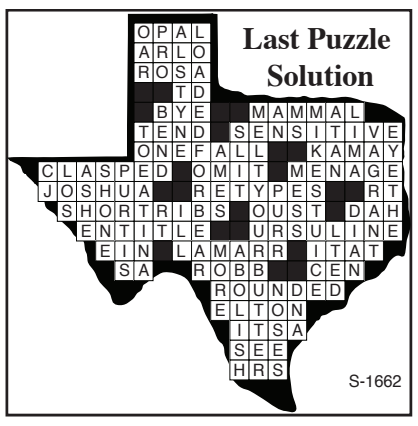
The starting salary will be $21.45 per hour. Salary will increase to $22.95 upon certification.

Benefits include Medical Insurance, Paid Holidays, Vacation, Sick Leave, Retirement Plan, $20,000 life insurance policy and access to EAP Program.

Full job description and Sheriff Application and Background Packet may be obtained from http://www.co.guadalupe.tx.us/employment/employment.php or the Human Resource office at 211 W. Court St., Seguin. Please submit applications and ALL required documents to Sheriff Arnold Zwicke at 2617 N. Guadalupe Street, Seguin, TX, 78155. Guadalupe County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

CLASSIFIEDS

November 9 Puzzle Answers



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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

CITY OF GONZALES
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
& CITY COUNCIL

The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on December 4, 2023, at 5:15 p.m. at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph Street, to allow for public comment on the staff proposed amendments to the City of Gonzales Code of Ordinances described below. After consideration and recommendation by Planning & Zoning Commission and the Public Hearing, the proposed amendments will be presented to City Council for a Public Hearing and possible approval on December 14, 2023, at the Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph Street at 6:00 p.m. on the following specific proposed amendments:

> Amendments to City of Gonzalez Code of Ordinances Chapter 14, Articles 14.200, 14.400, and 14.600 related the addition of new land uses for Bakery, commercial; Bakery, retail; Bar; Brewery/Distillery/Winery, industrial; Brewery/Distillery/Winery, craft; and Brewpub; associated land use definitions and off-street parking regulations.

The City Council encourages citizens to participate in the public comment and public hearing process for all matters presented before the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council. Citizens unable to attend meetings may submit their views to Kristina Vega, City Secretary for the City of Gonzales, by mailing them to P.O. Drawer 547, Gonzales, TX 78629. For additional information, contact the City Secretary office at (830)-672-2815.

Construction Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Nixon will receive bids for 2022 TxCDBG Downtown and Lowery Water Plant Improvements, TxCDBG Contract CDV21-0435 until 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at City Hall, 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Texas 78140. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at City Hall, 302 E. Central Ave., Nixon, Texas 78140.

Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows:

1. Downtown Water Plant - Water Plant Piping, 12" Water Lines and Plant Chemical Buildings.
2. Lowery Water Plant – Plant Chemical Building.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at BEFCO Engineering, Inc., 485 N. Jefferson (PO Box 615), La Grange, Texas 78945 (979) 968-6474. Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained by depositing $100.00 with BEFCO Engineering, Inc. for each set of documents obtained. The deposit will not be refunded. Electronic copies may be obtained at no charge by request at (office@befcoengineering.com).

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed $100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Nixon or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. The city is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The city strives to attain goals for compliance with Federal Section 3 regulations by increasing opportunities for employment and contracting with Section 3 residents and businesses where feasible.

The City of Nixon reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any irregularities and informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the City of Nixon for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

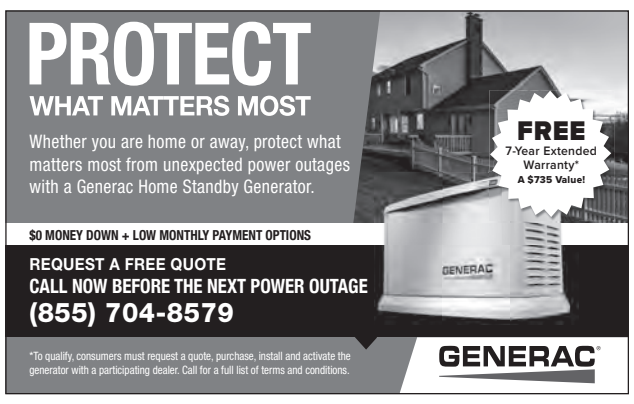
City of Nixon Harold Rice, City Manager 11/16/2023 & 11/23/2023

All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



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AUCTIONS

Simulcast Auction November 18th at 10 a.m. Trinity, Texas. Equipment, attachments, containers, metal art, 54' Semi-Trailers, portable office containers, temp fence panels and more. 936-222-7588, WWW.WALLEEAUCTIONCOMPANY.COM.

Ranch Dispersal Auction, Dec. 7, Mount Pleasant, TX. Full dispersal auction of McKellar Ranch: 430 acres w/2 homes in 11 parcels of 5 to 53± acres each ideal for homesites or development; 75+ lots including tractors, trailers, implements, UTV's, gates, pens and more. 918-550-8118, CJ-AUCTIONS.COM.

42nd Annual Oklahoma Select Bull Sale, Sat. Dec. 2nd – 1 p.m., 800 East B Street, Atoka, OK. Just East of Hwy 69-75. 806-790-2535, www.lawrencefamilylimousin.com.

BASEBALL

BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS – August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. $3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

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NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS § BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE
GONZALES COUNTY § DATED NOVEMBER 6, 2023
§

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Gonzales County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on November 6, 2023, seized, levied upon, and will, on the first Tuesday in December 2023, the same being the 5th day of said month, outside the Gonzales County Tax Office front door of the Randle Rather Building, located at 427 St. George, Gonzales, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day, beginning at 11:00 AM, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Gonzales and the State of Texas, to-wit:

6923 Account No(s). R10232, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. ROOSEVELT ALLEN, ET AL., 1.00 acre, Eli Mitchell ¾ League, Abstract 337, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 445, Page 774, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of $38,910.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of $16,990.17;

7081, Account No(s). R14444, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. MARK SPENCER, INDIVIDUALLY AND DOING BUSINESS AS POWER TO ASSIST MINISTRIES, ET AL., Lot 10, Block 36, town of Nixon, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 1241, Page 612, Official Record of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of $22,600.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of $11,334.28;

7152, Account No(s). R24235, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. JOHN RIOS, ET AL., Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Block 5, Colley's Second Addition, Town of Smiley, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 482, Page 247, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of $47,470.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of $2,444.11;

7264, Account No(s). R23043, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. ROBERT J. PENA, ET AL., Lots 5 and 6, Bock 6, V.B. Colley's 2nd addition, Town of Smiley, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 570, Page 614; and Volume 574, Page 792, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of $49,920.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of $11,782.78;

(any volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, being to the Deed Records, Gonzales County, Texas, to which instruments reference may be made for a more complete description of each respective tract.) or, upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion of the property described above shall be sold to satisfy said judgment(s), interest, penalties, and cost; and any property sold shall be subject to the right of redemption of the defendants or any person having an inter¬est therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the time and in the manner provided by law, and shall be subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, un¬der the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment(s) rendered in the above styled and numbered cause(s), together with interest, penalties, and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sales to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

Dated at Gonzales, Texas, November 6, 2023

Keith D. Schmidt
Sheriff Keith Schmidt
Gonzales County, Texas

By #1103
Deputy

Notes:
The Minimum Bid is the lesser of the amount awarded in the judgment plus interest and costs or the adjudged value. However, the Minimum Bid for a person owning an interest in the property or for a person who is a party to the suit (other than a taxing unit), is the aggregate amount of the judgments against the property plus all costs of suit and sale. ALL SALES SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION WITHOUT NOTICE. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL TAXES DUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SINCE THE DATE OF THE JUDGMENT. For more information, contact your attorney or LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP., attorney for plaintiffs, at (512) 634-3709.

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The Gonzales Inquirer
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COMMUNITY LEADERS HONORED

CONTRIBUTED/JESSICA RIVAS

The 2023 Inspire Awards were presented by the BRAINATION Foundation to, from left, Debbie Marshall (Lifetime Achievement), Dr. Humberto Rivas (Community Leadership) and Krystal Mammarella (Visionary Leadership) during a ceremony at Legacy Ranch Inspire Academy on Thursday, Nov. 9. The event served as a benefit for the foster children who attend school onsite at Legacy Ranch Inspire Academy. The award honors community leaders who have improved lives and demonstrated the power and goodness of the human spirit. Past recipients of the award include former San Antonio Spur George Gervin, ABC newsman John Quinones and San Antonio mayor Ron Nirenberg.

FOGAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

FOGAS came to the rescue when the City became concerned about the many horses kept within the City, out of ordinance compliance. FOGAS members spent hours over years revising the horse ordinance.

We sponsored "Horse Health Days" for several years where we offered discounted vaccinations, worming, access to a veterinarian while we worked with the horse owners to upgrade their facilities and achieve compliance. The situation is reversing now.

An officer called me in the spring for help. I started planning and organizing and then he did not return my calls. In giving up shelter management, FOGAS will be in a better position to help with other animal issues.

Kingdom Rescue seems to offer our best solution. Since GPAW is not able to continue as they intended, FOGAS volunteers are at the shelter helping out as best they are able. But FOGAS management is no longer an answer.

The City must find something else, and Kingdom Rescue is ready to go in a short few weeks. I hope the City Council will see Kingdom Rescue as the only viable solution at this time. Issues around animal services, like community cats and horse concerns, can be discussed with FOGAS and Kingdom Rescue, but for now, we need Kingdom Rescue to have a chance to manage the shelter.

Judith Tor is treasurer and a board member for the Friends of Gonzales Animal Shelter (FOGAS).

NEWBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

It's a magical time in the Metroplex. We are giddily connected in a fractured world. For moments that may be too brief and shining that will soon disappear, Metroplex togetherness abounds. When a parade commemorating the championship attracts more than a half-million folks, memories are nailed down.

Fans believe their Texas Rangers to be interplanetary and love them "to the moon and back."

If heaven has a glass bottom, Tom Vandergriff can't wipe the smile from his face. Even Hallie would agree that Texas' "boys of summer" will stoke warm memories for the snows of many winters....

*****

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

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Relax and breathe

Howdy folks. Here we are again on the cusp of yet another holiday season. While it's always a good thing to celebrate the things we're thankful for, the birth of our Lord & Saviour, and the hope that a new year will usher in even better things than this one has given us, I urge you not to get so caught up in the festivities that we forget the true meaning of what all of the celebrating is about in the first place. That's not to say that we shouldn't enjoy the food, football, family time and gift giving, but let's keep those around the world in prayer that are experiencing devastating hardships from war, famine, weather etc., humbly asking God to ease their burdens, while being thankful that we're not suffering the same. At the end of the day, we're all in this together, and prayer is our strongest weapon!

As I sat here at 4:00 am, staring at a blank screen and wondering what to write about, random pictures of our family life scrolled across the screen. It brought about a deep and truly heartfelt appreciation and thankfulness that God would allow such phenomenal blessings to be bestowed on someone that clearly deserved much less. That my friends, is Love...thank you Lord!

This holiday season will be my 66th. Wow, how'd that happen? One day at a time, just like the rest of us. It's kinda funny how some days seem to drag on like they'd never end, while others seem to be over before they really even got started. But the greatest mystery is how decades seem to pass quietly under the radar until something, a memory, picture, taste, smell, sound, song, old movie etc., will snap us back into the reality that the particular event we're thinking about happened many (many) years ago, yet seems like just yesterday. I'm sure many of you have experienced this weird phenomenon, understanding that the concept of time is just that...a concept. And to back this up, I just received my new drivers license in the mail and I'm pretty sure a mistake's been made, they apparently (maybe by accident, maybe a prank) substituted a picture of Santa's grandfather for mine? Oh well, gotta say, Santa's granddad's still one handsome old coot.

I've always kind of laughed at the fact that life, and every aspect of it, is such a seemingly endless learning curve. Funny thing is that once we've even come close to mastering one area, things change and the process starts all over again, and most of what we've learned so far barely, if at all, applies to the new situation at hand. I've learned how to do many different jobs that I no longer do. I've learned how to build a house, but the good Lord willing and the creek don't rise, I won't need to do it again. I went from single to married with children in two seconds (I...Do), and did the best I could to figure out how to best help raise a family, but that season of life has now passed. Now I'm working on a whole new learning curve and am as confused as I've ever been, but it does give me a reason to get out of bed in the morning. After five years of writing these weekly blurps in the paper, yep, still learning and still confused.

Psalm 46 tells us to "Be still and know that I am God" and that he is our refuge and is always ready to help in times of trouble. I have come to the conclusion that to be successful, happy and fulfilled in this life, putting God first, and taking time to just relax and breathe along the way, will be the single biggest determining factors in our overall well being during our short journey here on earth.

Love you guys, Eric.

Heights looks to create Christmas Tree Forest

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Heights of Gonzales is inviting families, businesses and organizations to help create their 2023 Christmas Tree Forest.

Families, businesses and organizations are invited to bring their own tree and decorate it with a personal creative theme, beginning Nov. 24. You have until Dec. 10 to create your personalized tree and there will be a fun-filled month in December with many different activities to make the Christmas Tree Forest enjoyable for the entire community. There will be a "best overall" winner recognized.

Trees will have to be removed from the premises by Jan. 6, 2024. For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Baby Mares, admissions and marketing coordinator, or Margaret Casarez, director of activities, at 830-672-4530.

Oelkers to perform Winterfest organ concert

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Saturday, Dec. 2, at 4:30 p.m., Chris Oelkers will be featured at the Winterfest organ concert, showcasing the historic pipe organ at the Presbyterian Church, 414 St Louis St., Gonzales.

This Estey instrument is 99 years old and still contains almost all its original components. Oelkers has performed in many U.S., Canadian, and European organ recitals, including Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. He is currently the organist at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Austin.

The concert will include improvisations of many well-known Christmas carols. Light refreshments will follow the performance. The concert is free of charge.

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FM 794, Gonzales

Country Baptist Church
Highway 87, Smiley

Eastside Baptist Church
Seydler Street, Gonzales

Efeso Iglesia Bautista
Highway 87, Smiley

Elm Grove Baptist Church
4337 FM 1115
Waelder, TX, 78959

First Baptist Church
422 St. Paul, Gonzales

First Baptist Church
403 N. Texas, Nixon

First Baptist Church
Highway 108 N., Smiley

First Baptist Church
406 N. Avenue E, Waelder

Greater Palestine
Baptist Church
S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)

Greater Rising Star
Baptist Church

Harwood Baptist Church
North of Post Office,
Harwood

Iglesia Bautista Macedonia
201 S. Congress, Nixon

Iglesia Bautista Memorial
Highway 97, Waelder

Leesville Baptist Church
E. of Highway 80
on CR 121

Memorial Heights
Baptist Church
1330 N. College, Gonzales

Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church
100 Capes, Gonzales

Oak Valley Baptist Church
Highway 97, Bebe

Old Moulton
Baptist Church
1121 N. College, Gonzales

Providence Missionary
Baptist Church
1020 St. Andrew, Gonzales

Stratton Primitive Baptist
FM 1447,
9 miles east of Cuero

St. James Baptist Church
Hwy 80, north of Belmont.

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SE 2nd Street, Waelder

Shiner Baptist Church

Union Lea Baptist Church
St. Andrew St., Gonzales

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St. James Catholic Church
417 N. College, Gonzales

Sacred Heart
Catholic Church
St. John St., Gonzales

St. Joseph Catholic Church
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St. Patrick Catholic Church
Waelder

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Highway 87, Smiley

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Church of Christ
(Iglesia de Cristo)
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E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon

Church of Christ, Belmont

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Community Church of God
1020 St. Louis, Gonzales

Gonzales Memorial
Church of God in Christ
1113 Hastings, Gonzales

New Beginnings
1020 St. Louis, Gonzales

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of the Messiah
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Nixon

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1027 Church St., Gonzales

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613 St. Joseph, Gonzales

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of Gonzales County
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Waelder

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Gonzales

Encouraging Word
Christian Fellowship
Highway 80, Leesville

Lighthouse Church
of Our Lord
1805 Weimar, Gonzales

New Life Temple
for Jesus Christ
16214 US 90 W, Harwood

River of Life
Christian Fellowship
207 Steele St., Smiley

Thompsonville
Community Church
CR 423, Thompsonville
Between Harwood &
Waelder off old Hwy. 90

Two Rivers Bible Church
1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr.,
Suite 210, Gonzales

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL
Faith Family Church
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Gonzales

Living Waters Fellowship
306 St. Paul, Gonzales

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OBITUARIES

Randolph "Todd" Garrett

Randolph "Todd" Garrett passed away peacefully on November 4, 2023 in New Braunfels, Texas at the age of 51. Todd was born in Corpus Christi, Texas on January 15, 1971 to Alfred (Al) Garrett and Kathryn (Katie) Todd Garrett. The family moved around a bit until settling when Todd was 6 in Smiley, Texas. He was raised in the country and enjoyed spending his childhood days around the farm. He loved being outside and living close to his maternal Grandparents, both were a huge influence in his life.

Though living in Smiley, Todd spent most of his growing up years going to Gonzales for church, little league and school. He grew up in the Gonzales Methodist Church as a member of the MYF, and played high school sports at Gonzales High School. Todd worked through high school and played sports, he was in the DECA coop program and competed in the competitions, which won him a trip to Nationals competing in Marketing competition. He graduated from Gonzales High School in May 1990. He then went on to school at Sam Houston University in Huntsville, where he made many of his life long friendships. Through Todd's gift to talk to anyone, smile and welcoming demeanor he flourished in the college environment ultimately being elected as President of his fraternity Sigma Tau Gamma. He graduated with his Bachelor degree in Business Administration in May of 1995.

Todd then moved to Houston to begin his career in sales working for multiple companies of the years selling everything from wood products, to medical supplies and playground equipment. While still single, he was a member of St. Luke's Methodist and he taught Sunday School for High School kids. He enjoyed giving back to the youth and teaching them the art of communication and connections as much as the Biblical lessons. While in Houston, Todd reconnected with alumni of Sam Houston and started dating his future wife Kerri James. They were married in September 2001.

Though the marriage ended, Todd received the gifts he had always wanted, the honor of being a Dad. He was so proud of all three of his children and anytime you had a moment he would be happy to tell you the latest event, happenings, or funny story. The highlight of his life was being a Father.

Todd was survived by his children, Wesley Garrett, Margaret (Meg) Garrett, and Gage Garrett. He is also survived by his mother, Katie Garrett, sister Gena Garrett Thiele (David) and nephews Garrett Thiele and William Thiele.

He was proceeded in death by his father Alfred (Al) William Garrett; paternal Grandparents, Julius Randolph Garrett & Evelyn Garrett (Jewett); maternal Grandparents Bill & Geneva Todd.

Todd had an infectious smile, a gift of conversation, and an optimistic spirit. The stories that keep coming forth is how he encouraged people to be their best, believe in themselves, and grew their own confidence. He was a son, a brother both in family and in fraternity, and a friend. His most proud title was Father. He will be missed by the many that loved him.

Services will be Saturday November 18, 2023 at Gruene United Methodist in New Braunfels Texas. Visitation at 1:00 and services at 2:00.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Gruene United Methodist Church (2629 E. Common St New Braunfels TX 78130) or Hope Hospice (611 N. Walnut Ave. New Braunfels, TX 78130).

Tammy Russell

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ~a time to be born and a time to die, ~a time to plant and a time to uproot, ~a time to kill and a time to heal, ~a time to tear down and a time to build, ~a time to weep and a time to laugh, ~a time to mourn and a time to dance, ~a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, ~a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, -a time to search and a time to give up, ~a time to keep and a time to throw away, ~a time to tear and a time to mend, ~a time to be silent and a time to speak, ~a time to love and a time to hate, ~a time for war and a time for peace."
— Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NIV)

Tammy's Life Story

On January 19, 1970, in Gonzales, Texas, Frankie Mae Williams and Delta Ray Hunt were blessed with a baby girl whom they named Tammy Yvette Russell.

Tammy was baptized at an early age at Union Lea Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. A. J. Maxwell.

Tammy attended Gonzales High School and was employed at Sonic. She enjoyed dancing, singing, cooking, cleaning and being around her children, grandchildren, and also her family.

Tammy was preceded in death by her mother-Frankie Mae Williams; father-Delta Ray Hunt; brothers-Anthony Russell and Patrick Russell; grandmothers-Mary Roxie Russell and Dorothy Hunt; grandfather-Tommie Russell; aunts-Jannie Mae James and Faye Henderson; and uncles-Jesse Russell and Tommie Russell, Jr.

Tammy leaves to cherish her memories one daughter- Jessica Russell and one son-Steven Russell; one brother-Keith Russell; one sister-Kimberly Williams; one aunt-Sherry Russell; one uncle Charles Russell; seven grandchildren-Jasmine, La'Sa, Kellen, Yazmin, Jacob, Alexavier, Hazley; a host of other relatives and friends.

Services rendered by Harris Funeral Home. The place for a perfect tribute.

Ofelia Portales Turner

Ofelia Portales Turner, a vibrant spirit and a remarkable woman, graced this world with her presence on September 19, 1926, in Gonzales, Texas. She was an embodiment of resilience, entrepreneurship, and unwavering love for her family and friends. Ofelia was a pioneer in her own right, embracing the role of an entrepreneur and owning multiple businesses in Gonzales, Texas, where she resided until young adulthood. She also embraced the role of being a guardian to her 14 year old sister and 12 year old brother after their parents had passed. She then moved to San Antonio, Texas, making this her home for the majority of her life. Her life was a testament to the power of hard work, determination, and the pursuit of dreams, even against all odds.

Ofelia's accomplishments were many, but they were merely the backdrop to her most admired qualities. She was a woman of great strength and character, always rising to the occasion, whether it was in the face of personal adversity or professional challenges. Ofelia's entrepreneurial spirit was visible in every aspect of her life, from her role as a loving sister and dutiful daughter to her remarkable career as an entrepreneur. It was this spirit that led her to become a beacon of inspiration for many. Ofelia was a woman of substance, courage, and a burning passion for life, which she passed on to everyone she encountered.

She is preceded in death by her beloved spouse, Karl Turner, and her parents, Jose and Cornelia Portales, as well as her siblings, Lupe Valdez, Joe Portales, Andres Portales, Josephine Ramirez, and Consuelo Flores.

Ofelia is survived by her loving siblings, Carlos Portales, Rachel Cantu, and Becky Portales. She is survived by many loving nieces and nephews including her caregiver Casandra Caceres who regarded Ofelia as her role model, affectionately referred to her as Mama OP, advocated for her health and needs, and lovingly took care of her during the last 6 years of her illness. Her legacy remains alive in the hearts of her surviving relatives and the countless lives she touched with her vibrant spirit and unyielding determination.

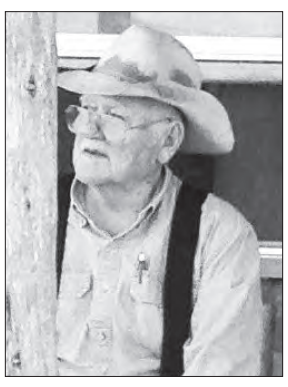
Services will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Gonzales, Texas with Father Jason Martini officiating. The services will begin with a visitation at 8:30 am, a rosary to be held at 9:30 am, and the funeral mass at 10:00 am. Interment will follow at St. James Catholic Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Jacob Moreno, John Cantu, Andrew Cantu, Chris Caceres, Art Cacares, Charles Portales, Richard Portales, Charles J. Portales, and Charles M. Portales.

Honorary pallbearers will be Joseph Portales, Will Portales, James Portales, and Armando Caceres.

We invite you to join us in commemorating Ofelia's remarkable journey. Please feel free to share your personal memories, stories, and photos of Ofelia on her memorial page. Your contributions will serve as a lasting tribute to a woman whose life was a symphony of love, strength, and entrepreneurship.

Lynn Smith Jr.



A true Texan, Lynn Smith Jr. was born November 22nd, 1927 in Luling, TX to Lynn Smith Sr. and Sally "Wootsie" Davis Smith. The family moved to Gonzales where Lynn Jr. attended Gonzales High School and played on the football team.

He attended Baylor University where he played the saxophone and clarinet in the orchestra. His love of big band music was locked in; Count Basie and Glen Miller were his favorites. He also participated on the boxing team. Shortly after college, he married Janet Laurence, his lifetime love and partner, and never left her side.

Lynn Jr. helped his father run the Lynn Theatre until he found his true passion: ranching. A love of animals and stewardship of the land was something he cherished throughout his life. He served in the Army and was Lieutenant Colonel in the national guard. He also belonged to the Independent Cattlemen's Assoc., NRA, Oddfellows Lodge and was named Citizen of the Year in the 1980s. He served on the Boards of Directors for the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation, Luling Foundation Farm and Groos Bank. He was active in Gonzales County politics and the community, emceeing the Come and Take It Parade for many years.

He loved the Presbyterian Church and served as an Elder, Deacon and Sunday school teacher. His favorite hobbies were hunting and fishing, playing cards and dominoes, reading, and telling the best stories. He never backed down from a challenge, earning the nickname "Chief."

Lynn Jr. wasn't just our Grandad, he was Grandad to all our friends too. He treasured time with family and welcomed everyone with open arms to join in a meal, a party, the church and everywhere in between.

He is survived by wife Janet Smith, daughters Loy Smith and Lynnette Cooper, grandchildren Nicole Cooper and Slade (Courtney) Cooper, and great grandchildren Davis Cooper and Nash Cooper.

Services will be held Friday, November 17th, 2023. The graveside ceremony will be at 10 am at Oddfellows Cemetery. Pallbearers: Dell Whiddon, Bradley Baker, Dr. Bruce McKee, Paul Cooper, George Reese, and Bennie Davis. Honorary pallbearers: Truman Tootie Dupree, John Mohrmann, Bryan Denman, Robert Ramos, Dr. Terry Eska, Richard Houser, and David Shelton. A memorial service will follow at 11 am in the Presbyterian Church, with lunch immediately following downstairs. Please join the family in celebrating the life of Lynn Smith Jr. If you feel so moved, in lieu of flowers, please donate to the "PDC - Presbyterian Children's School" in Gonzales, TX. 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.

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13 Austin MFM Dr. Malik Dr. Desai	14 Dr. Echols Dr. Quintero	15 Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	16 Dr. Ryan Dr. Malik Dr. Echols	17 Dr. Bui
20 Austin MFM	21 Dr. Echols	22 Dr. Quebedeaux	23 Dr. Ryan Dr. Kirchner Dr. Echols	24
27 Austin MFM	28 Dr. Echols	29 Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	30 Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	

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Heritage Quilters Guild discusses spring quilt show

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild hostesses Rose Mary Havlik, Janet Zabransky, Debbie Novosad and Benie Gerdes prepared a refreshment table with delicious food and decorated with a colorful fall theme for the Nov. 7 meeting.

Nola Bohuslav, program chair, led the members in sharing tips, tricks and unique quilt making ideas. Some topics discussed were machine tension, quilt binding ideas and sewing needle choices.

Janet Ferguson conducted the meeting. The "Spring into Quilting" show on March 8-9, 2024, was the main topic. Members were encouraged to take quilt show publicity cards to give to friends, family, etc. Show entry forms were distributed and boutique items were shown.

Show and Tell followed and the meeting concluded with door prize drawings provided by the hostesses.

Everyone is looking forward to the member Christmas Dinner at the next meeting, Dec. 5.

CONTRIBUTED
Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild hostesses Rose Mary Havlik, Janet Zabransky, Debbie Novosad and Benie Gerdes.

SERVING HER COUNTRY

CONTRIBUTED
Demi D. Monohan is a 2022 Gonzales High School graduate who was a member of the Apache Band and the National Honor Society (NHS). Today, she is a U.S. Navy Corpsman (Med Lab Technician), serving from 2022 to current.

OBITUARY

Benedict Darilek

There will be a FULL MILITARY HONORS Ceremony for Benedict (Bennie) Darilek on Saturday, November 18 2023 at 1:00 pm at North Belton Cemetery in Belton, Texas.

He was raised in Gonzales Texas, and graduated from high school there in 1967. He received an invitation to a Cardinals baseball tryout camp, but two weeks before the camp he received his draft notice and was inducted into the Army on May 31, 1968.

After basic and special training he was assigned to Lai Khe (nicknamed "Rocket City" because of all the incoming attacks) Vietnam, Company A 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division, and served two

tours there as Aircraft Armament Repairman and a door gunner.

He will be recognized for his 20 years of service to his country and for the many medals and awards he received which included:

227th BN Valorous Unit Award for the Cambodian Campaign (Fish Hook) 01 May to 29 June 70

Bronze Star for Nov 69 to Nov 70, for meritorious service in military operations against hostile forces

Meritorious Service Medal for 1978 to 1984 Section Leader for numerous Live Fire Aerial Gunnery exercises without a single unsafe incident

Air Medal for 23 Nov 69 to 5 Dec 69 for more than twenty-five flights in 12 days, in spite of hazards inherent in repeated flights over hostile territory

Army Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement in operations against a hostile force (multiple dates in Vietnam, and later)

Army Achievement Medal (multiple dates after Vietnam) for initiative and expertise

Army Good Conduct Medal for exemplary conduct, efficiency, and fidelity

National Defense Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal, RVN Gallantry Cross, Vietnam Campaign, and RVN Civil Action Honor.

After his final retirement, the first thing he did was to read the Bible from cover-to-cover. He later donated to his local Catholic Church for the benefit of its children, and helped in funding a program to furnish Bibles and a study system for them to use with their parents.

Please join us in celebrating his life and service to his country.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office

10/29/23 – 11/04/23

10/29/23

• Williams, Phillip Michael, 02/1962, Austin: Warrantless/On-View – Public Intoxication, Released – Order to Appear JP1

• Lagrone, Timothy Lee, 02/1983, Harwood: Warrantless/On-View – Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member, Requires - $3,500 Bond; Warrantless/On-View – Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member, Requires - $3,500 Bond; Remains in Custody

11/01/23

• Gloria, David Alan, 06/1979, Gonzales: Local Warrant – Continuous Violence Against Family, Requires $50,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Bail Jumping and Fail to Appear Felony, Requires $50,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

• Washington, Billy Ray, JR, 06/1987, Gonzales: Local Warrant – Unl Carrying weapon, Requires $15,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Poss Marij <2oz, 1 Bond all Counts; Remains in Custody

• Johnson, Christopher Anthony, 02/2002, Gonzales: Local Warrant – Burglary of Habitation, Requires - $75,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Burglary of Habitation, Requires - $75,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Burglary of Habitation, Requires - $75,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Theft of Firearm, Requires $75,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

• Smith, Robert Joseph, JR, 03/1984, Gonzales: Other Agency Hold – Parole Violation, Remains in Custody

11/03/23

• White, Shelton Lamar, 12/1974, Gonzales: Commitment Sentence – Poss Marij <2oz, Released – Weekender

• Vera, Delrik Jim, 02/1997, Gonzales: Other Agency Hold – Parole Violation, Remains in Custody

• Zamora, Rudy, 12/1993, Seguin: Local Warrant – Poss CS PG 1/1-B>=4G<200G, Requires $150,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Poss CS PG 1<1G, Requires $2,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Theft of Firearm, Requires $2,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Tamper/Fabricate Phys Evid w/Inten to Impair, Requires $2,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Poss CG PG 2>=1G<4G, Requires $2,000 Bond; Local Warrant – Poss CS PG 1/1-B>=1G<4G, Requires $15,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

• Oden, Wesley Alan, 08/1985, Brenham: Local Warrant – Agg Sexual Assault Child, Released – Weekender

• Perez-Ramirez, Ramon, 09/1981, Houston: Warrantless/On-View – Theft Prop >=$2,500 <$30k, Released – Dropped by Arresting Officer

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processing's:

GCSO	11
DPS	00
GPD	05
WPD	00
NPD	01
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	**17**

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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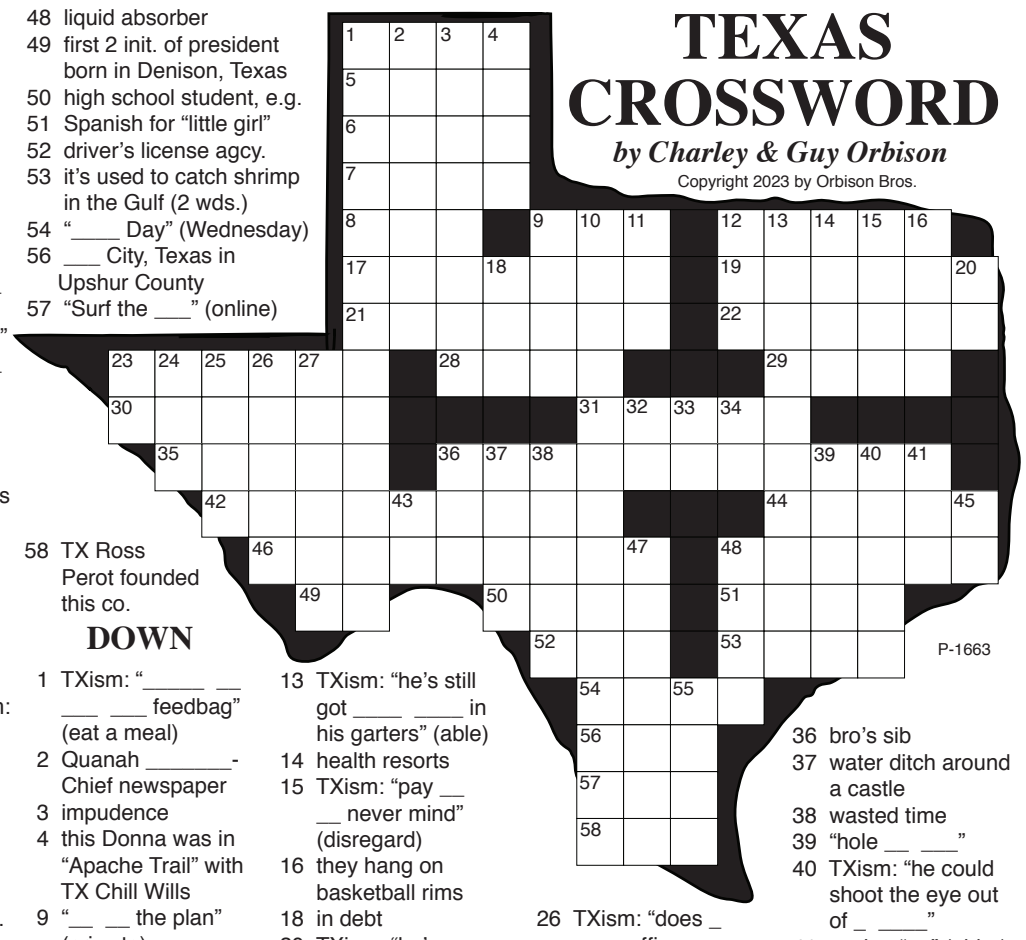

P-1663

ACROSS

1 Lone ____ State
5 TXism: "it it ain't ____, there ain't a cow in Texas"
6 go by horse
7 TXism: "he's _ ___ hombre" (mean)
8 agcy. that regulates Texas utilities
9 TX Trini sang "__ _ Had a Hammer"
12 TXism: "old __ ___"
17 some say an _____ __ your socks will cure the flu
19 it was Letterman's nightly list (2 wds.)
21 Fox _____ carries NFL football games
22 TXism: "he's _ ___ __ walk the river with" (reliable)
23 "the die __ ____" (no turning back)
28 hankerings
29 TX Vikki Carr album: "____ Hombres"
30 this 1967 hurricane hit Texas hard
31 horny _____ (lizards)
35 _ ____ of cotton
36 museum Institution in Washington, D.C.
42 the Alamo was originally "Mission San _____ __ Valero"
44 TX Charley Pride's "Kiss an _____ Good Mornin'"
46 Seur __ __ _____ led first French expedition in Texas
48 liquid absorber
49 first 2 init. of president born in Denison, Texas
50 high school student, e.g.
51 Spanish for "little girl"
52 driver's license agcy.
53 it's used to catch shrimp in the Gulf (2 wds.)
54 "____ Day" (Wednesday)
56 ___ City, Texas in Upshur County
57 "Surf the ___" (online)
58 TX Ross Perot founded this co.

DOWN

1 TXism: "_____ __ ___ ___ feedbag" (eat a meal)
2 Quanah _____-Chief newspaper
3 impudence
4 this Donna was in "Apache Trail" with TX Chill Wills
9 "__ __ the plan" (privy to)
10 Galveston had the _____ _____ exchange in Texas
11 TXism: "___ slinger" (writer)
12 TX Tanya Tucker sang "One Love __ _ Time"
13 TXism: "he's still got ____ ____ in his garters" (able)
14 health resorts
15 TXism: "pay __ __ never mind" (disregard)
16 they hang on basketball rims
18 in debt
20 TXism: "he's __ spring chicken" (old)
23 this Berlin wrote songs for TX Ginger 1936 film "Follow the Fleet" (init.)
24 "___ Rim State Park" on the Gulf
25 Havana's country
26 TXism: "does _ ____ office business"
27 seasoned
32 TX Roy Orbison's "__, Pretty Woman"
33 TXism: "honest __ the day is long"
34 TX Strait's "What __ You Say to That"
36 bro's sib
37 water ditch around a castle
38 wasted time
39 "hole __ ___"
40 TXism: "he could shoot the eye out of _ ____"
41 saying "no" (abbr.)
43 symbol for sodium
45 noted black golfer, TX Elder (init.)
47 guaranteed
48 Crackle and Pop's amigo
55 New York's NL team in MLB

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Hornets end Apaches' season in bi-district

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches' bi-district championship hopes came up short in a 34-31 loss to the Gatesville Hornets in Hutto Memorial Stadium on Friday, Nov. 10.

The Apaches trailed, 28-17, against Gatesville entering the second half, but Gonzales battled through and made it a game in the final two quarters. The Apaches even took a 31-28 lead in the third quarter after scoring two big touchdowns, but the Hornets would push across the winning touchdown in the fourth quarter and keep Gonzales out of the end zone the rest of the game.

Apaches senior running back Rocky Gallegos carried the ball 27 times for 164 yards and one touchdown; senior quarterback Cole Duty carried the ball 16 times for 91 yards and two touchdowns; and senior wide receiver Davonte Smith carried the ball nine times for 63 yards and one touchdown.

The Apaches were no stranger to trailing in games and coming back to win this season; Gonzales trailed against Giddings, but quickly turned it around and won it in overtime. They also fell behind Smithville in the fourth quarter, but pulled out a victory.

"I kept telling them, I said, 'We've been here for the last three weeks' and I really thought it was going to come out in our direction, but I'm just so proud of the fight that they had in them," Apaches head coach Joey Rivera said.

Rivera said the loss hurts, but he told his players that's what happens when you put everything into something.

The Apaches senior group battled through every hit that Hornets threw out at them, and Rivera appreciated their hard work on that last drive.

"We had a lot of seniors out there on that last drive. We've got guys that were banged up, and bruised up ankles here and there, and sickness here and there, and those guys came through and gave everything they had," Rivera said.

The Apaches went from missing the playoffs by one game to second place in District 12-4A-2 with a 4-1 record; Rivera said this season was special.

"To see this group come together, to see the community rally behind them. I got tears in my eyes leaving today with the sendoff and just feeling everyone coming together as an athletic program as a community, it was a great feeling," Rivera added.

Rivera and the coaching staff had to say goodbye to a group of seniors including Gallegos, Duty, Smith, Weston Ruddock, Kamren Leal, TJ Riojas, Dakota DuBose, Alan Orduna, Kaden Deleon, Blake Wright, Luciano Sirilo, Hayden Lopez, Rafael Rodriguez, Landon Holub, Jacob Clack, and Jessiah Barr.

"I love these guys. We drive them crazy and they drive us crazy, but at the end of the day, we love these guys and we're always here for them," Rivera said.

The standard has been set for the 2024 Gonzales Apaches, and Rivera knows his players know what to expect next year.

"The standard has been set, this is the expectation to get here. And now we've got to take that next step and that's to advance [in the next round of the playoffs]," Rivera said.

The Gonzales Apaches will return to the football field in fall 2024.

Apaches' senior running back Rocky Gallegos stiff arms a Gatesville defender for the first down marker. Gallegos carried the ball 27 times for 164 yards and one touchdown in the bi-district loss to Gatesville in Hutto.
PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Above: Gonzales Apaches head football coach Joey Rivera in the final post-game huddle with his players in the 34-31 loss to Gatesville in bi-district. Rivera in his second year turned around the Apaches with a 4-1 second place district finish in 4A DII District 12. Left: Apaches' senior quarterback Cole Duty rushes by the Gatesville defense for positive yardage in the bi-district match. Duty carried the ball 16 times for 91 yards and two touchdowns. Bottom left: The Gonzales Apaches' defense lines up against Gatesville's offense in the bi-district playoff game Friday, Nov. 10 in Hutto. Bottom right: Apaches' freshman kicker Brandon Duenez kicks a 39 yard field goal at Hutto Memorial Stadium against Gatesville in the bi-district playoff game Friday, Nov. 10.
PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

STATS

--Offense--

PASSING:
C. Duty: 2/6 for 11 yards

RECEIVING:
W. Ruddock: one reception for 10 yards
D. Smith: one reception for one yard

RUSHING:
R. Gallegos: 27 carries for 164 yards and one touchdown
C. Duty: 16 carries for 91 yards and two touchdowns
D. Smith: nine carries for 62 yards and one touchdown
David Clack III: eight carries for 24 yards

--Defense--

TOTAL TACKLES:
Jermane Upshaw: 11 total tackles
Isaac Gonzales: five total tackles
D. Clack III: four total tackles
Blake Wright, Jacob Clack, Rafael Rodriguez, and Kamren Leal: four total tackles
Dylan Hunt, Jessiah Barr, Brandon Dubose, and Omar Borjon: three total tackles
John Izaguirre, Davien Pitts and Travis Malveaux III: one total tackle

TACKLES FOR LOSSES:
J. Upshaw: two tackles for losses
D. Hunt: one tackle for loss

SACKS:
J. Upshaw and D. Hunt: one sack

SPECIAL TEAMS:
FIELD GOALS: Bradon Duenez: 1/1 for 39 yards

BOYS BASKETBALL

Apaches lose season opener to Davenport

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches' varsity basketball team returned to the court on the road against the Comal ISD Davenport Wolves on Monday, Nov. 13.

The Apaches fell in the season opener to Davenport, 89-23. Last year, Davenport was a 4A playoff team that lost in bi-district round to La Vernia. Last year, Gonzales went 11-18 and finished fifth in their district.

Gonzales has a new head basketball coach for the 2023 season, Steven Pinchback.

Pinchback served the last two seasons as the head girls basketball coach at Lake View High School in San Angelo, Texas. He was an assistant coach for DeSoto ISD from 2015-2017 and was part of the team that won the 6A state title in 2016. Pinchback was also the head varsity boy basketball coach for Lehman High School from 2017-2019.

The Apaches will play Rice Consolidated on the road, Friday, Nov. 17. Tip off is set for 6:30 p.m. On Wednesday, Nov. 22, the Apaches will play in the Spurs Hardwood Series against the Laredo LBJ Wolves at the Frost Back Center in San Antonio.

Game tips off at 1:15 p.m.

Lady Apaches named to all-state academic team

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches volleyball team continues to receive accolades, this time in the classroom.

Six Lady Apache seniors were named to the THSCA Academic All-State team: Macy Sample, Kelly Breitschopf, Hannah Avant, Sydney McCray and Dakota Schmidt were named second-team all-state academic and Samantha Baker was named honorable mention.

The Lady Apaches capped off a historic season finishing third in Distirict 28-4A with an 8-4 district record and sweeping all the San Antonio schools in district.

The Lady Apaches will return to the volleyball court in fall 2024.

Lady Mustangs win season opener over Yorktown, 47-43

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs returned to basketball court Tuesday, Nov. 7 under new head basketball coach Trevor Johnson.

The Lady Mustangs won the home opener, 47-43, against the Yorktown Lady Wildcats; junior Kaylie Morin led Nixon-Smiley with 11 points in the win over Yorktown.

Junior Janaelyn White led the team with nine rebounds and six steals; and junior Madisen Yanes led the team with four assists.

The Lady Mustangs hosted Natalia on Saturday, Nov. 11 and traveled to Falls City Tuesday, Nov. 14 for a non-district contest against the Lady Beavers.

The Lady Mustangs will travel to Skidmore-Tynan for a tournament Thursday, Nov. 16 through Saturday, Nov. 18.

They'll return home Monday, Nov. 20 for a matchup against Prairie Lea.

The Prairie Lea match tips off at noon.

STATS

POINTS:
K. Morin: 11 points
Ayanna Corpus: eight points
Juliana Kendrick and Emmersyn Stone: six points
M. Yanes: five points
J. White: four points
Victoria Gonzales, Kendall Amaya and Alize Davila: two points
Arian Hanson: one point

REBOUND:
J. White: nine rebounds
A. Garcia: eight rebounds
K. Amaya: seven rebounds
A. Corpus: six rebounds
E. Stone and J. Kendrick: five rebounds
A. Hanson and M. Yanes: three rebounds
A. Davila and K. Morin: one rebound

ASSISTS:
M. Yanes: four assists
K. Amaya, J. White, and K. Morin: three assists
A. Davila and E. Stone: one assist

STEALS:
J. White: six steals
M. Yanes and A. Garcia: four steals
K. Morin and A. Corpus: three steals
K. Amaya: one steal

Natalia hands Lady Mustangs first loss of the season, 57-53

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs hosted Natalia for their second game of their basketball season Saturday, Nov. 11.

The Lady Mustangs led, 37-24, entering halftime, but Natalia flipped the script and outscored the Lady Mustangs, 33-16, in the final two quarters and handed the Lady Mustangs their first loss, 57-53.

Senior Kendall Amaya led the team with 14 points in the loss to Natalia and senior Emmersyn Stone finished behind Amaya with 10 points and finished second in rebounds with seven.

The Lady Mustangs traveled to Falls City Tuesday, Nov. 14 for a non-district contest against the Lady Beavers.

The Lady Mustangs will travel to Skidmore-Tynan for a tournament Thursday, Nov. 16 through Saturday, Nov. 18.

They'll return home Monday, Nov. 20 for a matchup against Prairie Lea.

The Prairie Lea match tips off at noon.

STATS

POINTS:
K. Amaya: 14 points
E. Stone: 10 points
Janaelyn White: eight points
Madisen Yanes: seven points
Ashly Garcia: six points
Kaylie Morin: four points
Alize Davila: three points
Brooke Crisp: one point

REBOUNDS:
J. White: eight rebounds
E. Stone and A. Garcia: seven rebounds
Juliana Kendrick and M. Yanes: six rebounds
B. Crisp: five rebounds
K. Amaya: three rebounds
K. Morin: two rebounds
Victoria Gonzales: one rebound

ASSISTS:
B. Crisp: four assists
J. White: three assists
E. Stone: two assists
A. Garcia, J. Kendrick, V. Gonzales, and K. Morin: one assist

STEALS:
J. White: nine steals
M. Yanes: three steals
K. Morin and A. Davila: two steals
E. Stone, Ayanna Corpus, K. Amaya, V. Gonzales, and A. Garcia: one steal

BLOCKS:
B. Crisp: one block

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Gonzales Lady Apaches varsity basketball team in the huddle with their head coach Mark Belford in the game against the Brookshire Royal Lady Falcons Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Lady Apaches win second game in row to improve to 2-2

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches improved to 2-2 for the season with a 38-27 win over the Brookshire Royal Lady Falcons Tuesday, Nov. 14 on the road.

The Lady Apaches and the Lady Falcons were neck and neck, with Gonzales leading, 26-21, entering the fourth quarter.

Gonzales outscored the Lady Falcons, 12-6, to close out the game with the win.

The Lady Apaches will travel to Corpus Christi Friday, Nov. 17 for a non-district contest with the West Oso Lady Bears.

Gonzales will host back-to-back home games against La Grange (Monday, Nov. 20) and Three Rivers (Tuesday, Nov. 21).

The West Oso game tips off at 6 p.m.

The La Grange and Three Rivers games tip off at 11:30 a.m.

APACHE FOOTBALL ENJOYS BIG SENDOFF FROM THE COMMUNITY

The community of Gonzales showed their support for the Gonzales Apaches varsity football team with a send off for their bi-district game against the Gatesville Hornets Friday, Nov. 10.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Lady Mustangs fall to Lady Beavers

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs lost their second straight game with a 65-40 loss to the Falls City Beavers Tuesday, Nov. 14.

The Lady Mustangs started off the game trailing, 18-9, at the end of the first quarter; Nixon-Smiley scored in the double digits with 11 points in second and third quarter.

The Lady Mustangs will travel to Skidmore-Tynan for a tournament Thursday, Nov. 16 through Saturday, Nov. 18.

They'll return home Monday, Nov. 20 for a matchup against Prairie Lea.

The Prairie Lea match tips off at noon.

The Classifieds:
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The Gonzales Inquirer
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CONTRIBUTED

Lainey Witzkoske and Ashlynn Clack from Gonzales Junior High School will perform with the Varsity Spirit All-Americans in the Thanksgiving Day parade at Walt Disney World.

Local cheerleaders set to perform in Disney World Thanksgiving Day parade

SPECIAL TO INQUIRER

Ashlynn Clack and Lainey Witzkoske from Gonzales Junior High School in Gonzales, Texas, are two of more than 800 elementary, junior high and high school cheerleaders and dancers from across the country that will represent Varsity Spirit in the 2023 Thanksgiving Tour at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

The individuals invited to perform are part of a select group chosen as All-Americans during Varsity Spirit summer camps.

All-Americans are selected via tryout based on either superior cheerleading or dance skills at camps operated by Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA), Universal Dance Association (UDA), National Cheerleaders Association (NCA), National Dance Alliance (NDA), or Urban Cheerleading Experience (UCE).

Ashlynn and Lainey will perform with the Varsity Spirit All-Americans in a performance through Disney's Magic Kingdom Park during Thanksgiving week. Besides enjoying a sunny trip to Orlando, All-Americans will have the opportunity to meet cheerleaders and dancers from across the nation and enjoy a magical holiday season at Walt Disney Worlds Resort parks.

"I feel so blessed to be given this opportunity to participate in the Varsity Spirit Spectacular parade at Disney World. I'm looking forward to performing with Lainey and being able to meet other cheerleaders who are coming from across the U.S. It is also a great honor and privilege to represent GJHS," Ashlynn said.

"I am most excited and looking forward to perform on Main Street USA, in front of the castle, while alongside of my classmate!" Lainey said. "While honored to be representing GJHS cheer. I am also looking forward to all the yummy treats and spending quality time with my family."

Spectacular Stitches on display at Chisholm Trail Museum

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum is honored to present selected textile works from the collection of patron and fine art photographer, Frank Klein. Traveling around the world to museums, galleries, quilt shows and other venues, these quilted and embellished masterpieces are bold, artistic statements. The exhibit will be open to the public from Nov. 15 to Feb. 10, 2024.

Contemporary quilts have become a dynamic, vibrant, and complex art form using a rich blend of traditional techniques and modern-day technology of design computer/tablet, free-motion/stationary long-arm quilting machines incorporating dimensional and fusible applique, bead working, and mix-media dye/paint.

Through innovation and mass media learning, textile fabrication has exploded and continues to evolve at a rapid pace.

The Frank Klein Spectacular Stitches Collection contains 26 works of remarkable artists from the United States, Ukraine, Brazil. and France demonstrating many ways of surface design, texture, layering, and color. Featured quilt "New Dawn" by Caryl Bryer Fallert, was made in the year 2000 to celebrate the dawning of the new millennium and has recently returned from a three-year special global exhibit. CTHM invites you to see these quilts up close to truly appreciate their beauty and workmanship.

CTHM is located at 302 N. Esplanade, Cuero, Texas. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. See our website at chisholmtrailmuseum.org for more details.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact the museum at 361-2770 or at info@chisholmtrailmuseum.org.

VC students to showcase artwork

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College art students will display their work during the Fall 2023 Student Juried Art Exhibit from Nov. 9 through Dec. 8 at VC's Fine Art Gallery.

The gallery is located in the Fine Arts Building on VC's Main Campus at 2200 E. Red River Street in Victoria. Gallery hours are Wednesday, Thursday from 1-3 p.m. and Fridays from noon-2 p.m.

Victoria College offers a variety of art classes that accumulate college credits, including Art Appreciation, History of Art I and II, Design I, Drawing I and II, and Ceramics I.

For more information about the exhibit or Victoria College's art classes, call (361) 573-3291.

VC student honors mom's legacy, aims to make a difference

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

In the span of eight days in December 2020, Rebecca Leist turned 24 years old, moved into her first apartment while working as a clinician and lost her mother, Martina Buenger, to Mild Acute Ligament Syndrome.

"Throughout my grieving process for my mom, I saw my patients grieving in different ways through their surgeries or diagnoses," she said. "My patients inspired me to think, 'If they can do it, I can do it.'"

Leist

Watching a video of her mother after surgery led Leist to change her career trajectory and enroll in Victoria College's Physical Therapist Assistant Program in 2022.

"In the video, there were two physical therapy assistants helping her," she said. "That inspired me, too. That's what I want to be to my patients."

While attending Yoakum High School, Leist got a jump on her higher education by completing dual-credit college courses. She graduated from VC in 2017 with her first degree, an Associate of Science.

Starting college early also helped Leist get a jump on earning a bachelor's degree, which she completed in health studies at the University of Houston-Victoria three years later.

"Attending Victoria College was beneficial for me," she said. "Coming from a home with a single mom, taking dual-credit classes and being able to keep up my grades helped my mom get most of her money back. That was the best part of it."

Leist recently earned a $1,000 scholarship as one of four winners of VC's "What's Your Story?" essay contest and was invited to share her story with employees at VC's Fall Convocation.

"I sent my story in because it's how I got to where I am today," she said. "I am really glad to share my story because 24 is pretty young to lose a parent. I don't have any financial support. I am doing it all on my own with scholarships. Hopefully, my story can help someone going through a similar situation."

With an expected graduation date of May 2024, Leist hopes to become a physical therapist assistant in either pediatrics or at a nursing facility.

"I am pretty open," she said. "I have done outpatient. I just finished my rotation with a skilled nursing facility. My next step is trying to work with pediatrics. I am happy with anything I get. I love working with people."

With the extra motivation of helping others while honoring her mother, Leist is thriving in school and plans to continue doing so into her career.

"Me and my mom, who was originally from Berlin, Germany, were really close," she said. "We even worked the same job at H-E-B for close to 10 years. We were in different departments, but we enjoyed working together.

"Instead of being down and depressed about the situation, my mother is my motivation to keep going – to go on and live with the legacy."

Leist concluded her essay by saying: "Victoria College's PTA Program is helping me achieve that goal for my future. Learning and digesting everything I've seen in clinic when I was a tech is so extraordinary to me. My professors do it with such conscientiousness.

"Because of that, I'm receiving the greatest education to help me become the best PTA I can be. I decided that I wanted to make a difference in people's lives, just how my mom and patients did in mine, just how the PTAs did in hers. She walked; now, I will walk for her."

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CITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the public comments before the vote; Gonzales resident Suzanne Gunn spoke the council with numbers of how the finals has impacted the local economy.

"An average week, compared to rodeo week, we do $35,000 more that week. Rodeo, when compared to our next biggest weekend which would be Come and Take It with $24,000 more just for that week," Gunn said.

"So I just wanted to leave it at the members and let us sit on that. But we really hope that you'll bring them back. We enjoy them. They're a great group of people there … and we hope to see them five more years, if not more," Gunn added.

Before a final vote, Councilman Lorenzo Hernandez wanted clarify what he said in the last meeting regarding the TJHRA finals license extension.

Hernandez said he wanted to look into contract of the TJHRA between the city and added someone took his words out of context that he was against the rodeo being in Gonzales.

"I just want for the record to correct that was not my intention at all. For whoever started it, I don't know. I just want to get it straight. I am in support of the rodeos being here and I will be moving on," Hernandez said.

Councilwomen Ronda Miller defended Hernandez asking questions about the contract.

"It's our duty to ask questions and make sure that we make good decisions. So, just because we ask questions, it doesn't mean we're opposed to something. But we're trying to learn and educate ourselves and make the best choices that we can. And we also have the duty to listen to our constituents," Miller said.

The council voted unanimously, 5-0, to authorize City Manager Tim Crow to execute a license agreement with TJHRA.

Gonzales Mayor Steve Sucher asked Crow about a year-round economic analysis of JB Wells Arena.

"I really would like to see us close the loop on that conversation sooner rather than later so that we can be armed with accurate information for one thing and be able to … push back on some of the political rhetoric around whether or not the JB Wells Arena is a good thing for the community or not," Sucher said.

In other business, council had presentations from both Alley Cat Allies and Kingdom Rescue Team. Both of them went over the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program; and Kingdom Rescue team addressed amendments to the term of the existing cat shelter agreement and recommendations for the TNR animal control ordinance.

The council approved the following agenda items:

- approved to authorize city manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with Kingdom Rescue Team to run the cat shelter formerly run by Friends of Gonzales Animal Shelter (FOGAS).
- approved to move the Jan, 11, 2024 meeting to Monday, Jan. 8, 2024.

> **"I really would like to see us close the loop on that conversation sooner rather than later so that we can be armed with accurate information for one thing and be able to … push back on some of the political rhetoric around whether or not the JB Wells Arena is a good thing for the community or not."**
>
> *—Steve Sucher, Gonzales mayor*

- approved casting votes for the Gonzales Central Appraisal District Board of Directors for the terms beginning Jan. 1, 2024 and ending Dec. 31, 2025.
- approved authorizing the city manager to execute an interlocal cooperative agreement and lease agreement between Victoria College and the City of Gonzales.
- approve authorizing the Gonzales Little League to construct a batting cage at Independence Park Little League Fields to be located on city property.
- approved authorizing the Gonzales Golf Association Inc. to move forward with the curbing project on city property located at the Gonzales Independence Golf Course with the total cost of the curbing project being incurred by the Gonzales Golf Association Inc.
- approved authorizing the City Manager to execute an Encroachment Agreement with Kirk Mahon.
- approved authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute an Interlocal Agreement with Texas Department of Public Safety-Driver License Division for the use of City property located at 415 St. Matthew.

Closed Session Item:

510 St. Paul Street:

- approved to authorize the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation executive director to execute a subordination agreement and the fundamental extension on the terms as discussed in their executive session.

ALERT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

system in use by Gonzales County Emergency Management and county employees will begin receiving training on the new system starting Dec. 1. Meanwhile, the contract with Code Red will end Dec. 31 after the county gives its 30-day notice.

Emergency Management Coordinator Jimmy Harless said the county began contracting with Code Red before he was hired. He said he was intrigued by the features that Hyper-Reach includes that exceed the capabilities of Code Red.

"Technically, to be able to utilize (Code Red), it's kind of intense and it's clumsy, so we don't utilize it a lot. We just do it for specific things," Harless said. "There's two things (about Hyper-Reach) that caught my attention. Number one, I can actually do it and utilize it on my iPad from a particular scene. I can actually send that out when I'm there instead of having to come back to the judge's office and open a folder and let (court coordinator) Liz (Longoria) try to figure out how to use Code Red."

Harless noted that Hyper-Reach is attached to the IPAWS federal alert notification system that can extend the county's reach beyond the database of users who signed up to receive alerts under the old Code Red or the new Hyper-Reach system. One feature is that it would allow Harless to drop a pin from his iPad while on scene at an incident and the alert would be sent out in a radius from that pin.

"What it does is, if we had something, knock on wood, that we had to reach people passing through the county that weren't signed into the database, the IPAWS system uses that to be able to reach them like an Amber Alert, but it's regionally located," Harless said. "If we have something to do with, for example, a hazmat situation on the interstate or the train tracks, anybody passing through — whether they're signed into our system or not — will get that IPAWS message.

"Another plus is it's tied into our social media page, because we have a pretty significant social media page here. When we send out a Hyper-Reach alert, it actually transitions onto our social media page, whether it's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, whatever we're going to use. It automatically does that so I don't have to go in, do the alert and then go back into the Facebook page."

Harless said people who have Amazon's Alexa in their homes can sign up to Hyper-Reach for Gonzales County and "you already have a database that's with Amazon, because it's an Amazon product, it automatically transition and signs you up."

"Not only that, but if I send out an alert and you have Alexa, it will tell you there's an alert and will read that to you, and we can do it in English and Spanish, which is another good thing," Harless said.

Harless said with the Cattle Country Music Festival scheduled for April 2024, the county can use Hyper-Reach to set up a QR code that visitors can use when they come for the event and it will create a database for that specific location for the weekend.

"While they're there at the location for just that weekend, I can reach them on their cell phones at the event, so if we needed an evacuation, or we had something going on, I could actually get on the site and talk to the people that scanned that QR code that are camping for that specific weekend," Harless said. "Code Red couldn't do that. It's the same price or a little bit more than Code Red, but this is way better and plus, we will also get free training before we kick it off."

County Judge Pat Davis said Hyper-Reach can also be used to create a database of county employees and used to alert them to notifications regarding the county during emergencies — something that would have been especially helpful during the February 2021 snow storm.

Davis' officer administrator Amy Peeler, who met the Hyper-Reach representative with Harless, told commissioners the problem with Code Red was that whenever an alert was sent out, "there was usually never an update."

"This (Hyper-Reach) gives us the opportunity to automatically do updates," Peeler said. "If we sent out a message and it went to your cell phone or your home phone or whatever, and you didn't answer it, by the time you call that number back, you will get the most updated message. So, if it was something that happened early in the morning, but there have been several updates throughout the day, you're gonna get that last update. That's something that Code Red didn't offer."

Harless noted he had "never received any significant training from Code Red because (former County) Judge (David) Bird and his court had put that in place before I started. But in this case, it's going to start from scratch and I'll get the training for almost a whole month so that we're up and running and when we start, we're good to go."

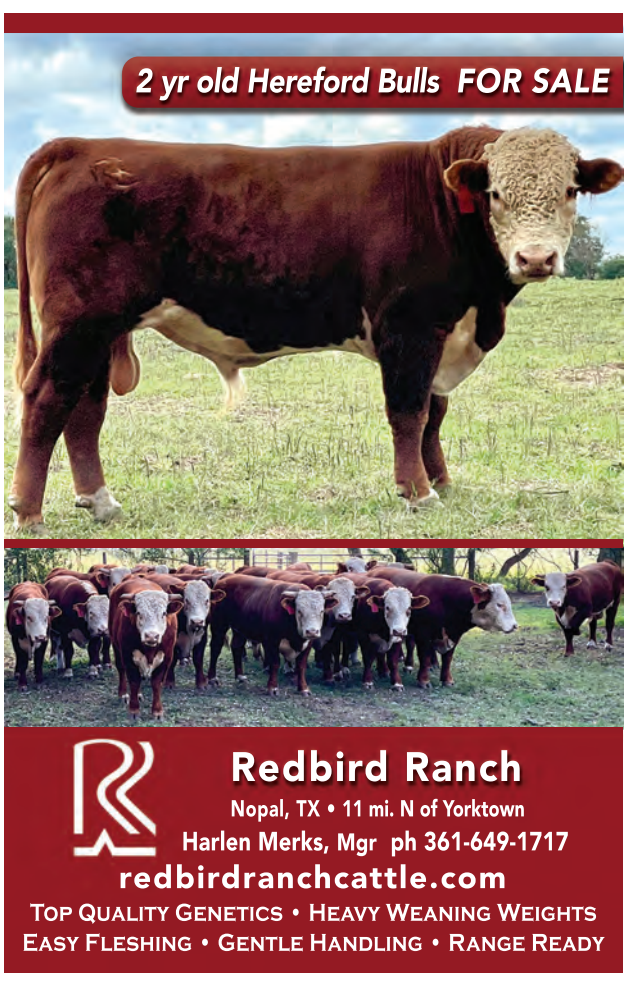
Peeler said the county is currently playing $5,502 per year for Code Red and they are not utilizing it enough to make up for the cost, while the base price for Hyper-Reach is marginally larger at $5,500 per year with an optional $800 per year inbound information line that provides a local number residents can call for recorded updates.

"The capabilities are there with Code Red, but we just never updated so we've been paying $5,502 for a very minimal package. This Hyper-Reach is almost the same, just a little bit more, but we're getting three times as much service out of it," Peeler said. "(Code Red) was always so cumbersome, because we would send stuff out, and I may get it immediately, but you may not get it for an hour or so later. (Hyper-Reach) is immediate, because it not only goes out to your phones and cell phones, but it even goes to your browser on your computer."

In other action Monday, commissioners voted unanimously to give enough of their votes to Jeff Harvey to elect him to the Gonzales Central Appraisal District Board of Directors and to then give any remaining votes to Ryan Mills in an effort to help him get elected as well.

Every taxing unit which is a part of the district can vote for from one to five candidates to be on the board of directors. Last time, the county nominated Craig Hines, who has served as secretary for the board, but Hines indicated he has served a number of years and does not wish to serve again.

Each entity's votes for the appraisal district board are determined by taxing entity total tax levy. Gonzales ISD has 34.51 percent of the total tax levy in Gonzales County, so they received 1,725 total votes, compared to 1,168 for Nixon-Smiley CISD (23.36 percent) and 1,141 for Gonzales County (22.83 percent). No other entity has more than 190 votes.



COURTHOUSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Perry Builders Inc., did earn an "Award of Excellence in Historic Architecture" from the Texas Historical Commission in 1999.

"We wanted to work with Volz again because they did such a great job, but they are actually retired," County Judge Pat Davis said. "(O'Connell) actually worked with Volz and she has been given access to the master plan from 1993, but it's going to have to be redone and we don't know how much that will cost yet. We have to have a new master plan in order to get the actual money for repairs.

"We would need a new master plan, but at least we would have the architectural design, the dimensions and all of the stuff that's in there from 1993. We would have to come back and update and say, 'okay, we have water in the basement, we have sandstone on the outside that needs to be replaced, we are possibly looking at putting central heat and air throughout the courthouse.'"

A ballpark estimate for the master plan could be between $150,000 to $200,000, depending on how much needs to be updated in the document, Davis said. The county could apply for up to $10 million in assistance from the THCPP for the necessary repairs to the courthouse. However, grant awardees must provide at least 15 percent of the total project cost as a match, with THCPP paying for no more than 85 percent of the total cost.

In addition to providing architectural work for the county, O'Connell would also provide grant management services. Because of the specialized nature of her work — and because there are so few firms in the state that are allowed by THC to perform these types of restorations — the county can hire her without having to go out for bids as a specialized vendor, Auditor Becky Weston said.

During the past 25 years, THCPP has had more than 140 participants and has awarded more than $360 million to counties to fund the full restorations of 78 courthouses and provided smaller grants to assist with emergency and planning projects.

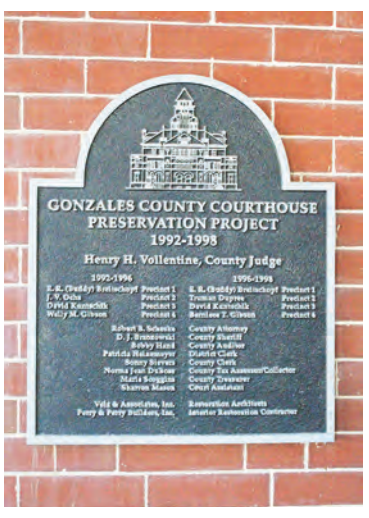
In other action, the commissioners also voted to hire Gonzales First Shot Surveying LLC to perform an updated survey of the Courthouse grounds. The last time a survey was performed was prior to the construction of the Justice Center next door, Davis said.

"According to the THC, the whole block of the Courthouse must be surveyed and the old survey shows everything but the Justice Center," Davis said. "They have to have a survey of the entire footprint of the Courthouse grounds."

Davis also noted that while the Courthouse and Justice Center buildings belong to the county, the land actually belongs to the city of Gonzales, based on how it was deeded under the old Green DeWitt colony. However, agreements between the city and county and the historic nature of the old deeds should make it possible to get grant funding from THC, Davis added.

VANDY VAN EPPS

The Gonzales County Courthouse was last worked on from 1992 through 1998 by Perry & Perry Inc. with Volz & Associates serving as the architect and funding partially coming from a federal ISTEA grant. County officials are looking at applying for funding next year from the Texas Historical Commission Courthouse Preservation Program to make necessary repairs to the building, which has served the county since 1896. The original courthouse burned down in 1893.



THCPP Round XIII Grant Timeline

February 2, 2024	Round XIII Grant Application Materials Available
February 5, 2024	DRAFT New Master Plans for Program Eligibility Due by 5PM
February 5, 2024	DRAFT 95% Architectural Plans for Shovel Ready Status Due by 5PM
March 1, 2024	Courthouse Project Reviewers Provide Comments on DRAFT Master Plans
March 1, 2024	Courthouse Project Reviewers Provide Comments on DRAFT 95% Architectural Plans
April 3, 2024	Orientation and Training Webinar Available In-Person at Real Places or Online (Required for New Participants – Complete Training Before Application Deadline)
April 5, 2024	FINAL Master Plans and Architectural Plans Due
April 22, 2024	Notification of Approved THCPP Master Plan and Round XIII Eligibility
April 22, 2024	Notification of Approved 95% Architectural Plans & Specifications and Shovel Ready Status for Additional Points
May 13, 2024	Grant Application Deadline 5PM
TBD	Architecture Committee Meeting for Public Comment
July 26, 2024	Round XIII Grant Awards Announced