



Gonzales County Emergency Service District No. 1 celebrated the grand opening of its new Central station at 1700 Water St. in Gonzales with a ribbon cutting and flag raising ceremony as well as an open house on Thursday, March 21. The new building was built at a cost of a little over \$4.73 million without needing a bond issue. For more photos, see page 15.

Gonzales County ESD 1 opens new central station

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Wet weather could not dampen the spirits of those who came to celebrate the grand opening of the Gonzales County Emergency Services District No. 1 Central EMS and Rescue Station in Gonzales on Thursday, March 21.

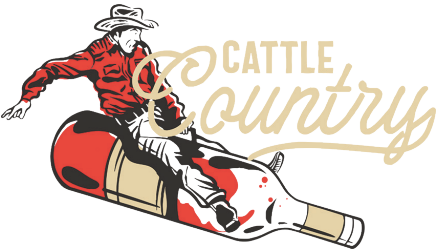
A ribbon cutting and flag raising ceremony was held for

the new facility at 1700 Water St. as well as an open house so the public could tour the building, which was completed earlier this month by contractor Weaver & Jacobs Constructors of Cuero at a cost of a little more than \$4.73 million, with design done by Bill Berger of Rawley McCoy & Associates Architects of Victoria.

The new building creates plenty of space to house not

only ESD administrative offices, but also a meeting room, classroom, bedrooms for those on duty, training area, kitchen, restrooms, supply room, a staff lounge and plenty of ambulance bays and space for all search and rescue assets. It allows the organization to combine all of its functions that existed in the Qualls Street building and the

See **STATION**, page 16



Cattle Country Music Fest gears up for unforgettable weekend

Star-studded lineup, exclusive experiences and Texas hospitality await

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The countdown to the ultimate country music extravaganza is officially on as Cattle Country Music Festival unveils its highly-anticipated daily schedule, an exciting festival map, their unique Come and Take it Lounge area, and a Texas camping oasis in historic Gonzales.

The stacked line-up includes headliners Eric Church, Whiskey Myers and Koe Wetzel with support from

See **MUSIC**, page 18

Funding secured for Gonzales Community Resource Center

SPECIAL TO INQUIRER

Community Health Centers of South Central Texas has secured funding to renovate approximately 1,200 square feet at the Gonzales Community Health Clinic to establish a Community Resource Center (CRC).

Through collaboration with

See **COPE**, page 16



The sound of cannon fire could be heard throughout the morning Saturday, March 23, announcing the departures of teams from the Gonzales Memorial Museum for the annual Texas Independence Relays. The 200-mile team run has been starting at the museum in Gonzales since it was founded in 2008. For more photos, see page 15.

LEW K. COHN

County commissioners hear presentation on duties, benefits of SCATTF membership

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County commissioners heard a presentation from the task force commander for the Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force (SCATTF) at the request of Gonzales County Sheriff Keith Schmidt during

the regular court meeting Monday, March 25.

Schmidt has asked the court to consider joining the task force as a full participating member, which would require the county to hire a deputy specifically to work auto theft

See **SCATTF**, page 17



LEW K. COHN

Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force commander Sgt. Andy Viruette speaks to Gonzales County commissioners about the benefits of the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office joining the SCATTF and the way it operates during a Monday, March 25 court meeting.

Commissioners create separate HR department

The position will move out of the auditor's office

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County commissioners voted unanimously Monday, March 25, to pull the Human Resources coordinator position out of County Auditor Becky Weston's office and place it instead under the supervision of Commissioners Court, effective immediately.

The commissioners will offer assistant auditor Misty Cook — who currently acts as the county's HR coordinator but also handles payroll duties — the first chance to fill the revised position. If she does not want

See **COUNTY**, page 17

City Council votes no on AEP rate increase

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Smiley city council met for a regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday, March 20 at Smiley City Hall.

One of the main agenda items that was talked about at the meeting was a proposed AEP rate increase.

AEP representative Vee Strauss spoke to the council about requesting

See **SMILEY**, page 16



Annual Jim Price Cleanup Day will be held April 20

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Spring has sprung in Gonzales, signaling the start of the annual tradition: spring cleaning. The City of Gonzales is gearing up for the much-anticipated Jim Price Communitywide Cleanup Day, slated for Saturday, April 20, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Apache football field parking lot, entering on St Paul Street.

Residents of Gonzales are reminded to mark their calendars and prepare to participate. To join in, residents must line up by noon at Tate Street/St. Paul Street and provide proof of residency via a recent utility bill. Accepted items for disposal include trash, batteries, dry paint, bagged yard debris, scrap metal, appliances, and electronics. However, concrete, roofing shingles, large brush, and tires will not be accepted under any circumstances.

The event pays homage to Dr. Jim Price, a beloved figure in Gonzales history. Dr. Price, who practiced general medicine in the town from 1948 until his retirement in 2003, was renowned for his dedication to his patients. He was



Price

not only known for delivering numerous Gonzales residents via home births but also for his compassionate house calls and respectful treatment of patients.

Dr. Price's commitment to cleanliness and community spirit was evident in his daily routine. During his morning jog (later transformed into a walk), he would diligently collect litter along the sidewalks of Gonzales, a gesture that caught the attention of many passersby. In honor of his legacy, the city has designated the Saturday closest to Earth Day on April 22 as the "Jim Price Communitywide Cleanup Day" for the past two decades.

Though Dr. Price passed away at the age of 92 in May 2013, his memory continues to inspire the annual community cleanup event that bears his name.

The Beautification and Design Advisory Board is looking for those interested in participating or organizing a team for neighborhood or public area cleanup. Please contact City staff liaison, Tiffany Padilla, to reserve a cleanup area by reaching out to 830-672-2815 or tpadilla@gonzales.texas.gov.

APRIL 208 -12 PM

APACHE FIELD PARKING LOT1520 ST PAUL STREETGONZALES, TX 78629

COME AND JOIN US!

HAVE A QUESTION?830-672-2815www.frontierwaste.com

GONZALES JIM PRICE CLEAN UP EVENT

BULKY ITEM GUIDELINES

- Collection will start at 8 am and end at 12 pm
- Must be a resident of Gonzales and bring a CITY UTILITY BILL
- Items must be dropped off at Apache Field Parking Lot 1520 St Paul Street
- Brush/tree limbs must be no longer than 4-5 ft in length and tied/grouped into manageable bundles weighing no more than 30 lbs.
- Grass and other yard debris must be bagged, weighing no more than 30 lbs.

COMMUNITY-WIDE BULKY ITEM DROP-OFF

Participants must line up along St Paul Street. Drop off line will be cut off at 12:00pm .

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS**

- Furniture (i.e couches, mattresses, tables)
- Appliances (i.e. refrigerators, ovens, TV's) Freon must be removed
- Limited amount of Construction Debris (i.e. carpeting, wood)
- BAGGED Small/Loose Debris (loose debris must be bagged)
- Empty and dried Paint Containers
- Other bulk items which are too large to be accepted by regular waste collection services

EXCLUDED ITEMS

- Hazardous Chemicals (i.e. paint, gasoline, motor oil/filters, antifreeze, fluorescent lights, pesticides, batteries, household & and pool chemicals, herbicides, flammable, corrosive, or biomedical material, etc.)
- Rocks, Dirt/Sand, Ashes, Tires
- Constructive and Demolition Debris (brick, concrete/cement, shingles, sheetrock)

APRIL PROCLAMATIONS



LEW K. COHN

The Gonzales County Commissioners Court on Monday, March 25, approved a proclamation declaring the month of April to be Child Abuse Prevention Month in Gonzales County. In fiscal year 2023, approximately 270,000 Texas children were reported as victims of abuse or neglect, and in Gonzales county 215 were designated victims of abuse and neglect. Child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every single segment of the community and finding solutions requires actions from the entire community, County Judge Pat Davis said.



LEW K. COHN

On Monday, March 25, the Gonzales County Commissioners Court approved a proclamation declaring the month of April as National Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month. Every 68 seconds, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States, including two in five women and one in five men in Texas. In fiscal year 2023, Thriving Hearts Crisis Center rendered 1,410 services to 452 survivors of sexual violence and provided 124 hospital accompaniments for sexual assault exams.

Edwards Community Center hosts egg hunt

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Edwards Community Center will hold an Easter Egg hunt this Thursday, March 28, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Edwards campus,

1427 Fly Street, Gonzales. This event is for children ages 0 through fifth grade. Come meet the Easter bunny and ride the train. All are welcome and don't forget to bring your basket!

Dr. A wins Outstanding Educator Award

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Dr. Elmer Avellenada, aka Dr. A, the superintendent of Gonzales Independent School District, has been named the Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award recipient.

The award, established by the Boy Scouts of America's National Council, honors educators who integrate Scouting's values into their professional lives.

Dr. Fretwell, an education professor at Columbia University and a Scouting pioneer, championed the movement to instill positive values and community service. The award reflects his vision by recognizing those who have positively impacted students and promoted Scouting principles.

"We were proud to honor Dr. A for his leadership and strategic academic impact in Gonzales ISD," said Charles Mead of the Boy Scouts of America. "We are grateful for all he and his team do for children!"

Dr. A's dedication to educational excellence and the Scouting movement has profoundly affected many youths, enhancing their academic journey and upholding strong positive values.

Dr. A expressed his enthusiasm for the recognition and his commitment to enriching the lives of GISD students.

"I am excited to work closely with students and hear their perspectives on how to improve Gonzales ISD," said Dr. A. "I have always said, 'Let's keep the main thing, the main thing' and that's our stu-



dents. They deserve to be heard and empowered."

The Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award was developed by the Educational Relationships Subcommittee of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Dr. Fretwell was a professor of education at Columbia University, an early thinker in the Scouting movement, and the second Chief Scout Executive of the BSA.

The Fretwell Award is

presented by local Scouters to teachers, educational support staff, and school administrators who stand out from their professional peers in instilling Scouting values in their students.

Dr. Fretwell championed Scouting programs as extracurricular learning opportunities that promote positive values and community service. Scouting benefits from easy access to schools for recruiting and from opportunities to serve schools.

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Gonzales Master Gardeners' Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, April 13, 2024

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Independence Square Downtown Gonzales

- Annual bedding plants • Perennials
- Natives • Herbs • Houseplants
- Succulents • Hanging Baskets
- Trees • Berries

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Celebrations Birthdays

March 28th

Dorothy DeBerry
Kennon Harkey
Henry Milligan
Kenneth Moore

March 29th

Betty Fehner
Tracey Jones
Michael McCaskill
Garrett Muelker
Brandi Pish

March 30th

Betty Lou Harris
Amber Palmarez
Brianna Rickman
Sophia Silbas

March 31st

Judy Pekar
Terry Tuch

April 1st

Sue Camarillo
Logan Kuchynka

April 2nd

Kevin Brown
Travis Flagg
Carla Russell

April 3rd

Jean Johnson Burns

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Gonzales Weather

March 28

79°/56°

Mostly sunny, pleasant and warmer
9% chance of rain • RealFeel 86

March 29

78°/57°

Considerable cloudiness
3% chance of rain • RealFeel 75

March 30

82°/60°

Sun and some clouds
3% chance of rain • RealFeel 84

March 31

75°/62°

Not as warm with sunshine and patchy clouds
25% chance of rain • RealFeel 75

April 1

80°/60°

Sunshine and some clouds
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 80

April 2

78°/55°

Plenty of sunshine
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 82

April 3

83°/58°

Plenty of sunshine
0% chance of rain • RealFeel 86

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

March 28th – South Texas Tour

March 30th – South Texas Tour

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1922 Co. Road 197, Gonzales, TX 78629



f/GonzalesInquirer

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3

Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



Q. When should we fertilize the lawn and what should we use?

A. Fertilize the lawn with slow release lawn fertilizer such as 19 05 09 after you have mowed real grass (St Augustine, zoysia, or Bermuda grass) two times. That usually means about May 1. If you fertilize earlier the process is not as efficient in terms of utilizing the nutrients.

Q. Is there a way to prevent all these winter weeds next year?

A. Yes, most of them are annual weeds so the easiest way to prevent them is to apply a pre-emergent herbicide like Crew or Dimension on or before March first. Mark your calendar. If one of the winter weeds bothering you right now is sticky bedstraw tackle it with a rake. It rolls up into compact bundles relatively easy.

Q. The leaves from our live oak trees are hard to collect! I thought it was suppose to be an

evergreen species?

A. It is described as an evergreen species even though it drops its leaves every year at this time. The leaves quickly resprout on the tree. You do not have to collect the leaves. If left on the ground they quickly decompose. Speed up the process by mowing them. Your mower will collect the leaves and they make great material for mulch in the shrub border or paths in the garden or raw material for the compost pile.

Q. How often and with what should I be spraying my peach and plum trees to protect them from fungus and insects?

A. Look through the insecticides and fungicides at your favorite nursery. There are products with organic active ingredients such as pyrethroid and permethrin and neem oil but I like malathion or Sevin as the insecticide and Captan as the fungicide. Apply them once per week together.



APRIL GARDENING CALENDAR



It is not too late to plant tomatoes if you do it in the first of the month especially if you can obtain transplants that have been potted up and are ready to bloom and start setting fruit. Consider the Rodeo tomato for the year “Rambler” or top determinate performers like Tycoon, Phoenix, Thunderbird, Amanda, Red Snapper, and Red Deuce. My two favorite tasting tomatoes are the cherries Ruby Crush and BHN968.

It is also an excellent time to plant peppers. Aladdin is a good large mild selection that is easy to grow. After mid -month plant okra. The Oscar Okra selection makes a moderate sized plant and the individual fruit seems to have a longer period when it can be harvested. Plant green beans, cucumbers, and summer squash in early April. Try tatuma to replace summer squash if you

have problems with the squash vine borers.

The snapdragons will bloom well in April usually until the end of the month when the fungus” rust” may appear if the temps increase. It is the time of the year when both zinnias and snapdragons can both be blooming in the cut flower garden.

Plant zinnias by seed or transplants. One of the advantages of planting Dreamland and other selections with instant blooms is that they become a nectar source for Monarchs, hummingbirds and other pollinators in April and May. If you include blue curl, blue mist, larkspur, alyssum, milkweed, and other flowers in bloom in April you will attract lots of pollinators.

If you want to be part of the local gardeners effort to support a recovery in the Monarch population include a number of bloom

and foliage producing milkweeds in your landscape. It is difficult to increase the number of native milkweeds in your landscape but work at it and fill any initial gaps with Tropical milkweed. It is attractive and easy to grow.

April is a key month in lawn action. It is the period when we usually see the spring growth that encourages local homeowners to mow the lawn for the first time and to reach the “mowing real grass twice” which signals that it is time to fertilize the lawn with 19-05-09 slow release lawn fertilizer.

Remember to paint any pruning wounds on your oak trees as soon as it is discovered. Special pruning paint is readily available at all gardening shops but even a quick coat of latex paint will protect the tree from oak wilt disease carrying insects. It is the law in San Antonio.



Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co.

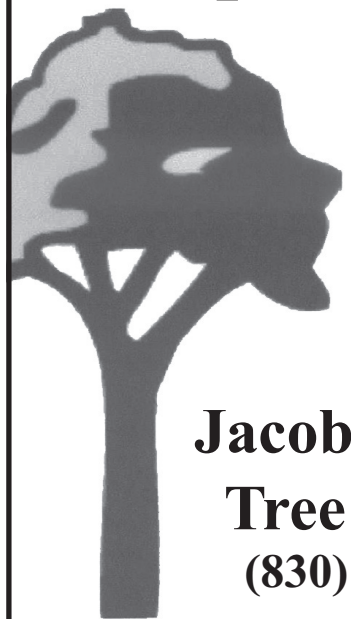
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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

March 23rd

Cattle – 812

Compared to our last sale: Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold fully steady. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold 2.00-4.00 higher.

Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 375-410; 300-400 lbs., 345-410; 400-500 lbs., 265-395; 500-600 lbs., 255-315; 600-700 lbs., 230-272; 700-800 lbs., 198-250. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 90-155.

Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 325-375; 300-400 lbs., 300-355; 400-500 lbs., 275-295; 500-600 lbs., 242-285; 600-700 lbs., 225-260.

Packer Cows: Good lean utility

and commercial, 109-128; Cutters, 134-147; Canners, 85-92; High yielding fat cows, 120-128. Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 141-156; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 124-138. Stocker Cows: \$900 to \$2,100. Pairs: \$1,400 to \$2,550. NO SALE MARCH 30, 2024! HAPPY EASTER!

NIXON LIVESTOCK

March 25th

Cattle – 722

Steers:

200-300 lbs - \$269-420

300-400 lbs - \$299-385

400-500 lbs - \$300-385

500-600 lbs - \$279-350

600-700 lbs - \$251-287

700-800 lbs - \$231-265

Heifers:

200-300 lbs - \$264-335

300-400 lbs - \$275-375

400-500 lbs - \$276-365
500-600 lbs - \$244-305
600-700 lbs - \$223-248
700-800 lbs - \$209-235
Slaughter Cows - \$86-140
Slaughter Bulls - \$106-150
Stocker Cows – \$850-1250
Pairs: \$1425-1725
WE WILL NOT HAVE A SALE
APRIL 1ST, 2024. HAPPY
EASTER TO EVERYONE!

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: March 19th

Cattle on hand: 835

Packer Cows:

High Dressing: \$105-140

Medium Dressing: \$95-124

Low Dressing: \$82-95

Poor/Weak Cows: \$70-85

Packer Bulls:

High Dressing Bulls: \$135-153

Medium Dressing Bulls: \$112-135

Low Dressing Bulls: \$102-115

Stocker Cows:

Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers:

\$1800-1950

Medium Stocker Cows &

Heifers: \$1100-1450

Good Cow & Calf Pairs: 1 PAIR

\$2450

Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: 2

PAIRS \$1300-1425

Stocker & Feeder Calves &

Yearlings:

Number 1 steer & bull calves:

Under 200 lbs.: \$330-440

200-300 lbs.: \$325-405

300-400 lbs.: \$310-390

400-500 lbs.: \$290-355

500-600 lbs.: \$260-330

600-700 lbs.: \$230-285

700-800 lbs.: \$215-260

Number 1 heifer calves:

Under 200 lbs.: \$310-420

200-300 lbs.: \$270-390

300-400 lbs.: \$275-370

400-500 lbs.: \$250-340

500-600 lbs.: \$235-305

600-700 lbs.: \$220-265

700-800 lbs.: \$190-245

Replacement Heifers:

350-700 lbs.: \$265-325

The calf market was higher

again this week. Average of all

alves was \$6 higher than last

weeks increase. Demand very

good in all areas. Packer cows &

bulls sold \$3 to \$5 higher on a

supply of 140 head. Bred cows

& pairs seeing more demand.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

March 20th

Market steady on all classes.

Packer cows and bulls remain

steady.

Cattle – 532

Sheep & goats – 1035

Medium & large frame #1

Steers:

200-300 lb. 1.65-3.25-4.60

300-400 lb. 1.40-3.21-4.05

400-500 lb. 1.30- 3.03-3.78

500-600 lb. 1.40-2.72-3.12

600-700 lb. 1.35-2.16-2.80

700-850 lb. 1.20-2.16-2.52

Medium & large frame #1

Heifers:

200-300 lb. 1.70-2.88-3.70

300-400 lb. 1.35-2.91-3.50

400-500 lb. 1.35-2.75-3.54

500-600 lb. 2.00-2.58-3.16

600-750 lb. 1.43-2.19-2.46

Cows:

Utility & commercial – .80-1.27-1.37

Cutters – 1.00-1.05-1.10

Canners. -.80-.90-1.00

Palpated cows – 1025-2250

Cow/Calf Pairs – 1600-2450

Bulls:

Heavy High Yielding – 1.40-1.52

Light & Low Yielding – 1.15-1.39

Sheep & Goats:

Nannies – 40-225

Kid Goats (Fat) – 2.70-3.12

Wethers -1.62-2.85

Billies – 1.40-2.05

Dorp. Ewes - 40-160

Dorp. Lambs (Fat) – 2.60-3.05

Woolled Ewes – NONE

Woolled Bucks – 1.25-1.50

Lambs – 1.20-1.80

Barb. Bucks – 250-340

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

March 22, 2024

Number of head 737

There were only 119 cows and

12 bulls. Prices continue to rise

each week as the packer bulls

were up \$8/cwt to \$160 while

cows were p \$5/cwt to \$142/

cwt. Each week sees new highs

as demand continues to be very

strong.

The calf market was very strong

with all weights being signifi-

cantly higher. A strong market

as the average calf price was up

over \$7/cwt and the weight was

up over 15 pounds, resulting in

the average value of a calf

bringing over \$75/head higher

than last week.

Packer bulls:

All weights 110.00-160.00

Packer cows:

canners & cutters 90.00-142.00

poor & weak 30.00-57.00

Palpated: 28 BRED 1450.00-

1,900.00

PAIRS: 11 2,100 - 2,650

Steer Calves:

Under 250 lbs NONE

250-299 lbs. 294.00-405.00

300-350 lbs. 318.00-385.00

350-400 lbs. 336.00-385.00

400-450 lbs. 322.00-365.00

450-500 lbs. 311.00-346.00

500-550 lbs. 289.00-315.00

550-600 lbs. 271.00-307.00

600-700 lbs. 251.00-294.00

700-800 lbs. 236.00-254.00

Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

Under 250lbs 380.00-405.00

250-300 lbs. 283.00-300.00

300-350 lbs. 346.00-415.00

350-400 lbs. 342.00-380.00

400-450 lbs. 332.00-372.00

450-500 lbs. 315.00-336.00

500-550 lbs. 292.00-310.00

550-600 lbs. 282.00-301.00

600-700 lbs. 256.00-280.00

Over 700 lbs. 225.00-266.00

Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

under 200 lbs. 386.00-405.00

200-250 lbs. 326.00-380.00

250-300 lbs. 275.00-332.00

300-350 lbs. 300.00-346.00

350-400 lbs. 305.00-395.00

400-450 lbs. 281.00-350.00

450-500 lbs. 278.00-344.00

500-550 lbs. 261.00-300.00

550-600 lbs. 251.00-300.00

600-700 lbs. 229.00-260.00

Over 700 lbs. 226.00-242.00

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Nonprofit helps rural towns secure grants to improve infrastructure

BY ROZ BROWN
Texas News Service
Special to the Inquirer

A lack of staff and know-how often means rural towns miss out on grants to improve their communities, and a Texas group is trying to balance the scales.

Billions of dollars will soon be flowing from the federal government to states for broadband, water and energy upgrades, transportation infrastructure and other projects. To help rural towns and nonprofits secure the money, Texas Rural Funders has stepped in.

Kelty Garbee, executive director of the group, said their online grants hub includes a list of grants available to rural groups.

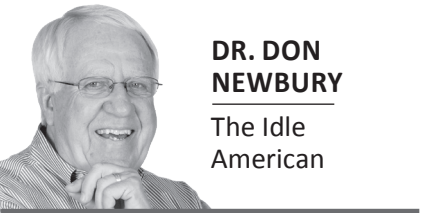
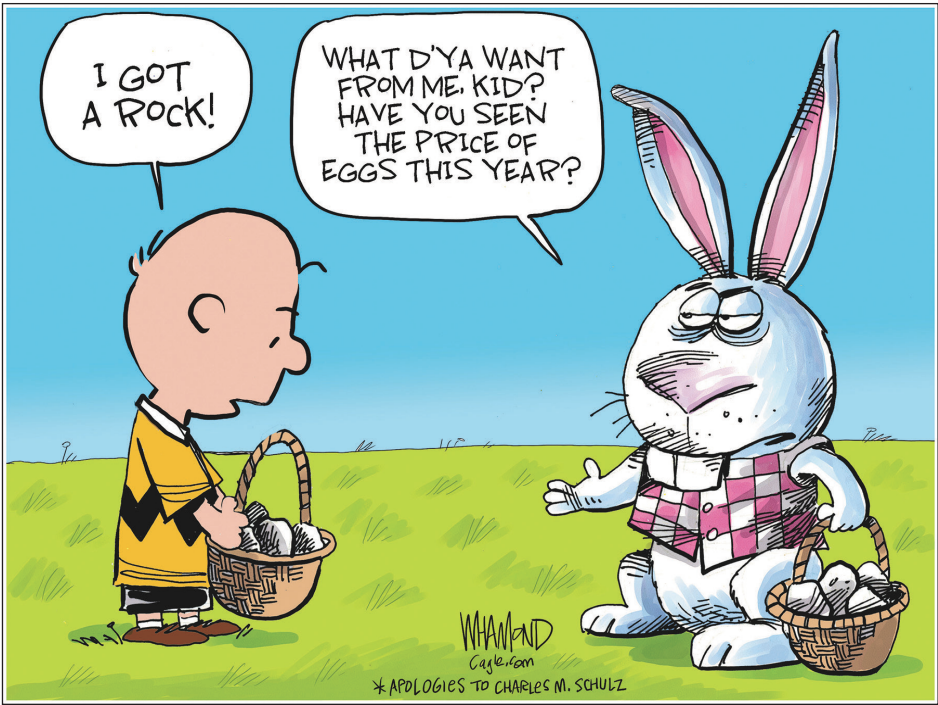
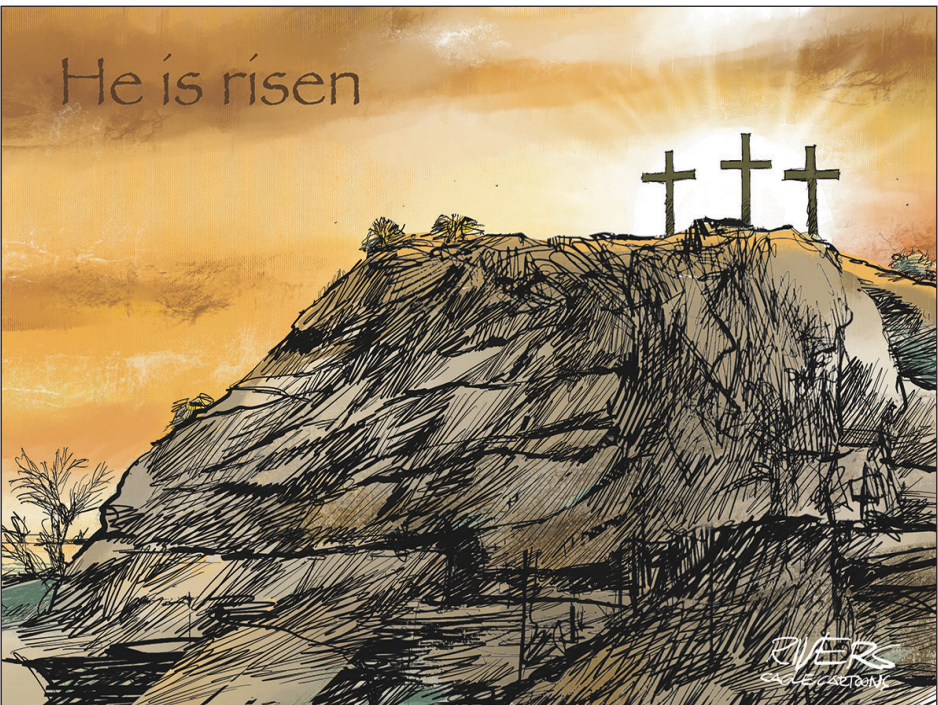
“I regularly receive calls saying, ‘We need to upgrade our fire station or our school is looking for support for a particular project,’” Garbee explained. “It’s very overwhelming to figure out where to find grants in the first place.”

Garbee noted about 50 federal and state grant opportunities are listed on the website, along with grant writers who can be hired to assist rural governments or organizations with applications. She explained the Hub preselects grants for which they know rural areas are eligible.

She pointed out essential needs in small towns to often go unfunded because of limited tax revenues. She hopes resources on the hub’s website will give small communities a leg up.

“Often in a rural community, one person has so many jobs,” Garbee observed. “What we’ve done is vet the grant writers. They’ll send in work samples of grants they’ve written so you can actually download this roster of grant writers.”

Texas is expected to receive about \$2.5 billion for water infrastructure through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. As the state with the largest rural population, it also will receive billions in federal dollars in broadband infrastructure grants.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

God’s blessing of Branson

Hills are greening up, fiddlers are tuning up and visitors from around the globe are showing up as the entertainment mecca of Branson, MO, gears up for a record-breaking season in the beloved Ozarks.

It’s a magical place known for musical excellence where God is honored--and where there are so many fiddlers--it’s difficult to predict whether “Cotton-eyed Joe” or “The Devil Went Down to Georgia” gets more play.

Most of us can’t get enough of either number, unflustered if the instruments go up in smoke as the music intensifies....

Such strains are anticipated, as are tears in the eyes of veterans, first responders, law enforcement officers, medical personnel and firefighters. They stand in response to thunderous roars of rafter-shaking thanks in the more than 100 venues at what has become what is arguably America’s favorite family place. Some 11 million folks are expected to visit Branson by year’s end, when Christmas shows attract masses.

I called my ancient Uncle Mort, letting him know that we had landed in Branson along with the spring-breakers, and that I was keeping count of the different types of string instruments that would include a gigantic harp. By week’s end, though, I admitted that I hadn’t seen a single lyre. “Well, there was at least one liar at every show you attended,” Mort cackled....

The Pandemic greatly challenged Branson, but it wasn’t a knock-out blow. Branson faithful held on tight, with most attractions surviving and once again thriving. Maybe it tightened the bonds of family and faith on both sides of the stage lights.

It’s an understatement to say there’s “something for everybody” in Branson. While this is indeed true, even more is coming. Two years from now, they’re opening a \$400 million, 320-room hotel with seven restaurants and an “immersive” water park.

We took careful notes of extremes during this visit. Specifically, we checked out places specializing in ice cream dishes. Two stood out among the dozen or so businesses offering dairy treats....

One place we’d never seen before is called “The Yard.” It listens. Also noticed in a tiny downtown location was “Boo Boo Baba’s.” It has a make-shift sign: “Root Beer Floats, \$1.99.” We bought two. “The Yard” is beyond upscale, capitalizing on all things bovine, including stuffed cows, calves and other animals, with milk shakes served in pint and quart jars for patrons with “hang-the-cost” attitudes.

“Hey, we’re on vacation,” someone said, ready to fork over a \$20 bill for a treat that’s both a culinary delight and a work of art....

The humongous desserts are indeed artfully assembled. They made me think of a favorite tie which always is a landing spot for food that misses my mouth. I don’t know whether to frame it or eat it.

A fun scene at “The Yard” occurs when tykes, not yet kindergarten age, tug at their dads’ pant legs, begging for one of those “big-uns.” Several of the most exotic dishes would feed a scout troop....

I’ll be “in and out” with many observations and suggestions concerning our trip in upcoming weeks, never claiming to be an authority by any measure. You won’t notice any reference to the many recognized golf courses in the area, simply because I don’t know anything about the sport.

I agree with the guy who says too much time is spent on golf unless it is providing a livelihood, in which case, go for it. A woman, as clueless about golf as I am, said it well. “I’m not even sure which end of the caddy to hold...”

Alas, our recent trip ended too soon. We saw the blossoms appear on the Bradford pear and redbud trees, but wished for additional blooms to come later.

We can dream, however, of the many wildflowers that soon will cover the mountainsides until fall and winter take over.

And we can hope for other visits up the way....

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

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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

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

During periods ahead of an election, The Inquirer does not accept letters to the editor urging voters to vote for or against candidates in local elections. Endorsements should be displayed in political advertising. In light of this policy, we reserve the right to reject or edit letters for references to candidates and whether or not they should be elected. The Inquirer will accept letters expressing views on bond measures, constitutional amendments and other such issues. Letters will not be accepted once early voting has begun.

The Inquirer will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information.

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

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

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

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

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

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SPORTS

Barr wins title at state powerlifting meet

SPECIAL TO INQUIRER

The Gonzales Apache boy's powerlifting team sent four Apaches to the THSPA Division 2 State Championships on Friday, March 22.

The Apaches returned with a state champion in senior Jessiah Barr, who won the championship in the 148-pound weight class on the last lift of the day, a deadlift of 575 pounds.

Barr had been to state the previous two years, finishing 10th in 2022 and state runner-up in 2023. However, he would not be denied in 2024, hitting totals of 575 in the squat, 370 in the bench, and the aforementioned state championship winning deadlift of 575, totaling 1,520 pounds.

The Apaches also brought back some more hardware with fourth-place winning Omar Borjon, who made his first appearance at the THSPA State Championships as a junior. Borjon competed in the 308-pound division, hitting personal records in all three lifts, with a 700 squat, 530 bench press, and 530 on deadlift, totaling 1,765 pounds.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Gonzales Apaches together at the state powerlifting meet in Abilene Friday, March 22. Apaches senior Jessiah Barr (middle right) was named state champion in the 148 class and junior Omar Borjon (middle left) finished fourth in the 308 class.

Borjon will look to return to the State Championships next season as a senior.

Along with Barr and Borjon, seniors Landon Holub and Kaden DeLeon competed in

some stacked weight divisions (275 for Holub & 165 for DeLeon). Holub finished just

outside medal contention, with a sixth-place finish, while DeLeon finished 11th in the biggest division at the championships (31).

Holub hit 710 on squat, 465 on bench press, and 495 on deadlift, totaling 1,670 pounds. DeLeon squatted 550, benched 420, and deadlifted 480, for a total of 1,450.

Head Coach Keith Cubit said about the Apaches going to state: "It's really great to see Gonzales represented at the highest competition for powerlifting in the state of Texas. DeLeon, Holub, and Borjon were determined to make it to state and they did just that. Putting in extra work afterschool in the weight room and in outside gyms. They are Apaches that are growing greatness and leaving their mark."

Head Coach Keith Cubit said about 148 State Champion Jessiah Barr: "Jessiah (Barr) showed us what true grit, determination, and dedication will get you. Barr told me last year after he got second that he was coming back to win it all in the 148 class and he did what he set out to do."



VANDY VAN EPPS

Apaches first baseman Brodi Ramos (13) pick attempts Navarro's Joey Padilla (8) on first base in the district opener Friday, March 22.

Apaches fall to Navarro in district opener

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches traveled to Seguin for their district opener against the Navarro Panthers Friday, March 22.

The Apaches and the Panthers exchanged runs in the game's first four innings, but Navarro scored the final six runs to beat Gonzales, 11-6.

Apaches head baseball coach Gary Beveridge was proud of how his team performed against one of the top teams in the district.

"With the last couple games we've had and the outcomes that haven't gone our way, moral victories aren't a big thing, but the way that our team stepped up and put out a great performance against a really great team is something we can build upon. That's gonna be big for us," Beveridge said.

Gonzales will take on Navarro for game two of the two-game series, and one of the things Beveridge said

Navarro sweeps season series

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches traveled to Navarro Monday, March 25 for game two of the district series against the Panthers.

The Apaches were scheduled to host Navarro, but Monday showers forced the Apaches to delay their home district opener to Tuesday, April 2 against the JFK Rockets.

Navarro swept the Apaches for the season, handing them a 12-3 loss.

The Apaches are now 0-2 in district play.

Gonzales will head out on the road Thursday, March 28 for district match against JFK.

First pitch is set for 7 p.m.

they must do, heading into game two, is controlling the pitching.

"We're going into a real short week and so we want to keep our bats hot. We did a great job coming out and scoring runs, but we want to make sure that we serve up our defense and cut down the errors and we really want to come out and make sure that

we put ourselves in a good place, moving forward with district," Beveridge said.

The Apaches fell in game two to Navarro, 12-3, and kicked off district with a 0-2 record.

Gonzales will travel to San Antonio Thursday, March 28 for a district match against the JFK Rockets.

First pitch for the JFK game is set for 7 p.m.

Navarro stuns Lady Apaches in walk-off

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The No. 23-ranked Gonzales Lady Apaches traveled to Seguin for a district match against the Navarro Lady Panthers Friday, March 22.

The match was originally set in Gonzales, but thunderstorms and rain made both teams switch sites for the season.

The Lady Apaches and

the Lady Panthers took it all seven innings with Gonzales leading, 3-2, heading into the bottom of the seventh.

Navarro stunned the Lady Apaches with a 4-3 walk-off win from an infield error.

"I actually was really proud of the way they performed. Unfortunately, we didn't get those big hits when we needed and we had lots of runners on and just couldn't get the ball to fall," Lady Apaches

head softball coach Michelle Uribe said.

The Lady Apaches hosted the No. 4-ranked Cuero Lady Gobblers Monday, March 25 and with a spot at the top of the district on the line.

Lady Apaches senior catcher Sydney McCray and teammates will use the loss to Navarro as confidence booster for the Cuero match.

See **APACHES**, page 6

Lady Apaches FC season ends in bi-district shutout

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches FC playoff run ended in the bi-district round with a 1-0 loss to the Floresville Jaguars Tuesday, March 26.

The Lady Apaches capped off their season with a 11-7-1 record and an 8-3-1 second-place finish in District 27-4A, the highest finish in the program's history.

"I am incredibly proud of our girls. Like I was telling them, it's not the moment for them to be down on their selves," Lady Apaches head soccer coach Shantael Trimm said. "We

See **SOCCER**, page 6



VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Apaches Samarah Olmedo (10) kicks a free kick for Gonzales in the bi-district match against the Floresville Jaguars.



VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Apaches freshman pitcher Dixie Rae Lester (10) pitches against the fourth ranked Cuero Lady Gobblers in a district rivalry match Monday, March 25.

Cuero beats Lady Apaches in district showdown

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches hosted the No. 4-ranked Cuero Lady Gobblers Monday, March 25.

The Lady Apaches started the match slow, falling behind, 7-0, at the end of the fifth inning.

Gonzales got on base eight times and earned two runs from a solo home run by Sydney McCray in the bottom of the sixth inning and an RBI single (Ava Carrizales scored) in the bottom of the seventh; McCray went four for four at bat in the 7-2 loss to Cuero.

"We've been kind of struggling to get that key hit and the

moment we find it, man, we're going to be unstoppable but we just we just need that we got our runners on," head softball coach Michelle Uribe said. "We were running bases the way we wanted to see it and you know, that the one kid is going to step up and get some RBIs is really going to get us going."

Seniors Kelly Breitschopf and Dakota Schmidt helped the Lady Apaches get on base; and kept Cuero under double digits for the first time since Friday, March 8.

"It feels good, but I feel like we could have done better. I feel like we could have cut out a

See **SOFTBALL**, page 6

Mustangs powerlifting competes in state meet

STAFF REPORT

On Friday, March 22, the Nixon-Smiley boys powerlifting team had a school-record seven lifters compete in the THSPA State Championships in Abilene, Texas.

“Well all I can say is thank you to all the boys and their parents for allowing me to coach them this year!” said Coach Eliseo Cano. “It has been a long season but well worth it all. I am so proud beyond what words can describe. All the boys in my powerlifting program did a great job competing and representing Nixon-Smiley High School and the community this year. We received so many compliments about how respectful and hardworking our boys were this year.”

Oscar Acosta competed very well and made history by placing second and getting a silver medal. Oscar become the highest-placing lifter at the state meet in Nixon-Smiley High School powerlifting history.

Cesar Vazquez had the meet of his life and set personal records in a tough 114-pound weight class on his way to placing fifth and medaling.

Jesus Espino also had the meet of his life and set personal records on his way to a fifth place finish and receiving a medal. Jesus also received first-team Academic All-State for all his hard work in the classroom.

“These boys did an amazing job competing. The state meet was full of amazing lifters from



The 2024 Nixon-Smiley Mustangs powerlifting team and coaches celebrate at the state powerlifting meet in Abilene Thursday, March 22.

CONTRIBUTE PHOTO

around Texas,” Cano said.

Tyler Barrientez placed 13th in the 132 weight class.

Jose Olvera placed 12th in the 148 weight class.

Omar Morales-Navarro placed 12th in the 181 weight

class.

Gavino Moreno placed 14th in the 220 weight class.

“These four boys didn’t medal but they competed very well,” Cano said. “I am very proud of all their hard work

and dedication they put in this season. Again we made history for Nixon-Smiley boys powerlifting team, we had three boys medal. As a team these boys placed 15th out of 43 teams.

“Please congratulate them if

you see them around school or town. Also want to send a big thanks to Paul Kirby for all his help at regionals and the state meet with the boys. Now to work towards bigger things in 2025!”



VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Apaches freshman first baseman Alexis Hernandez (8) slides to second base in the district match against the Navarro Lady Panthers Friday, March 22.

APACHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

“I think this will give us a lot more confidence than what we had before and knowing that we can play like that is going to help us up,” McCray said.

Lady Apaches freshman pitcher Dixie Rae Lester said her team needs to move on from this game, focus on

the next game and get a win.

“It’s all comes down to our mechanics and how we play together as a team,” Lester said.

“We’re gonna have to be able to forget this one real fast and take the weekend to recover and hopefully hit the ball against Cuero when we need

it. That way we can come up with a win,” Uribe said.

The Lady Apaches will hit back on the road Thursday, March 28 for district match against the JFK Lady Rockets.

First pitch for the JFK game is set for 7 p.m.

Lady Mustangs beat Cole, 15-5

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs returned home Tuesday, March 26 for their third district match against the Cole Lady Cougars. The Lady Mustangs got back on the winning path with a 15-5 win over Cole in five innings.

Nixon-Smiley recorded 13 hits and earned 12 RBIs; and junior Hailee Houston and freshman Kaelynn Mendiola each hit a home run.

Senior pitcher Kendall Amaya pitched in all five innings and struck out five Cole batters.

The Lady Mustangs will host the Luling Lady Eagles Thursday, March 28 to close out the first half of district play.

First pitch is set for 7 p.m.

Marion hands Lady Mustangs first district loss

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs traveled to Marion for a district match against the Lady Bulldogs Friday, March 22.

The Lady Mustangs and the Lady Bulldogs had a competitive first two innings with Nixon-Smiley taking a 7-6 lead entering the third.

In the fourth and fifth innings, the Lady Mustangs’ bats went quiet and Marion scored the next six runs.

The Lady Mustangs fell to Marion, 18-8, in six innings.

Nixon-Smiley hosted Cole for its third district contest Tuesday, March 26, and will host Luling Thursday, March 28 for the fourth district match.

First pitch for the Luling game is set for 6 p.m.

Marion shuts out Mustangs in district tilt

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs traveled to Marion for a district match against the district-leading Bulldogs Friday, March 22.

The Mustangs fell to the Bulldogs in a shut out 10-0 loss in five innings.

Nixon-Smiley dropped to 0-2 in District 26-3A.

The Mustangs hosted the Cole Cougars Monday, March 25 for their third district game. The Mustangs will host the Luling Eagles Thursday, March 28

.First pitch is set for 7 p.m.



VANDY VAN EPPS

Lady Apaches junior center fielder Sarah Padilla (7) at bat for Gonzales against Cuero Monday, March 25.

SOFTBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

lot of errors,” Schmidt said.

The Lady Apaches will hit the road to San Antonio for district match against the JFK Lady Rockets Thursday, March 28.

“We definitely need to be more loud in the dugout and be more excited so that we’ll get on rallies and do better,” Breitschopf said.

Uribe has her mind set on JFK and to move on from the Cuero loss.

“We like to say be a goldfish and just forget it as fast as possible and move on to the next one,” Uribe said.

First pitch for JFK game is set for 7 p.m.

SOCCER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

finished in third place in our district last year. This year, we moved up to second place, so even though we didn’t walk away with our bi-district this year, we still made that huge improvement. I couldn’t be prouder of them and I hope they’re proud of themselves.”

Lady Apaches junior striker Bella Agüero recorded seven shot attempts in the bi-district loss.

Agüero said it was important to get those shots for her team, but sometimes, it was an off day for her.

Agüero scored 17 district goals and led the team, and Trimm knows she’ll be a key contributor as one of the senior leaders next season.

“She’s an amazing player. She’s definitely a key part of our team. We love having her. We wait for her in anticipation to finish her basketball season. And so I think next year, she’ll definitely be crucial because, again, we’re going to be losing a really significant group of seniors this year,” Trimm said.

The Lady Apaches say goodbye to seven seniors: Madison Stewart, Natalia Martinez,

Eva Moreno, Dakota Navejar, Christie Reyna, Kassandra Mendez and Mariela Grifaldo.

Trimm was very proud of the leadership they brought for the 2024 season.

“We lost a good handful last year. There were really significant parts of our team and seniors this year stepped up and they filled those roles and they were awesome leaders uplifting their team commanding the field. We couldn’t have got this far without them,” Trimm said.

The Lady Apaches will have to deal with the district realignment, which the UIL has to yet reveal, but Trimm said they are ready for 2025.

“I think a lot of the teams are going to be facing a big shake-up just because there are so many of them that we saw. They’re losing significant numbers of their team. And so, I think next year is really going to be a toss up in the air. We’re have to go in strong, focus and just kind of see what we have to go up against.”

The Lady Apaches FC will return in 2025.

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Gonzales County Election's Office is requesting applications for the position of Deputy Elections Clerk. High School Graduation is required. This position requires the clerk to work well under pressure in a high-volume multi-task office. Must work closely with others and maintain confidentiality in the performance of duties. The candidate must have general office skills, phone etiquette, data entry skills, knowledge of basic mathematical principal and the ability to deal with the public. Election experience is preferred. There will also be lifting of election machines over 50lbs and election boxes over 40lbs. During the election cycles extended hours and weekend hours will be required for various aspects of this position.

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Applications may be obtained at the Gonzales County Clerk's Office located at 427 St. George, Suite 200, Gonzales, Texas, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:45 P.M. or on the web at www.co.gonzales.tx.us. Only completed applications will be considered. Applications must be received by 4:00 P.M. on April 5, 2024. A drug and alcohol screen test and physical will be required. Gonzales County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and handicap status in employment or the provision of services. EOE.

Gonzales County Clerk's Office is now accepting applications for the full time position of:

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Gonzales County Clerk's Office is requesting applications for the position of Deputy Clerk. High School Graduation is required. Position requires strong data entry and filing skills, knowledge of basic mathematical principal and 10 key by touch. This position requires the applicant to work well under pressure in a high-volume multi-task office. The applicant must be able to handle a heavy workload. Must work closely with others and maintain confidentiality in the performance of duties. The applicant must have general office skills, phone etiquette and the ability to deal with the public. The applicant is required to be a very organized and detailed oriented person.

Applications may be obtained at the Gonzales County Clerk's Office located at 427 St. George, Suite 200, Gonzales, Texas, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:45 P.M. or on the web at www.co.gonzales.tx.us. Only completed applications will be considered. Applications must be received by 4:00 P.M. on April 5, 2024. A drug and alcohol screen test and physical will be required. Gonzales County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and handicap status in employment or the provision of services. EOE.

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Is seeking an experienced accounting person for the Position of

Assistant County Auditor

(Salary range is up to \$23.36 per hour)

Gonzales County Auditor's office is seeking a person with strong bookkeeping skills. This is a full-time position. Applicant must possess the following: ability to handle a heavy workload, have strong accounting skills, be able to multi-task, work well under pressure, able to adhere to deadlines, utilize time management skills, and pay strict attention to details. Must work closely with others and maintain confidentiality in the performance of duties. This is a detailed oriented position requiring strong bookkeeping skills, knowledge of accounts payable, payroll, and auditing a plus.

Essential skills: ten-key by touch, computer aptitude, general office skills, organized, and phone etiquette. General office duties to include: answering phones, data entry, filing, copying, and other duties as assigned.

Applications may be obtained at the Gonzales County Auditor's Office, located at 427 Saint George Street, Suite 302, Gonzales, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. or on the web site at www.co.gonzales.tx.us. Only complete applications will be considered. Applications must be received by April 12, 2024. A drug and alcohol screen test and physical will be required. Gonzales County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age and handicapped status in employment or the provision of services. EOE.

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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.

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March 21 Puzzle Answers

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MIEN
UNTAMED
HORSE
NEE
CROP
DAMAGE
ID
DRAG
EDITOR
AGHAST
TRES
ASIT
OR
COUNTY
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IPSO
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ARKANSAS
ASIA
ODOR
LIKE
KEISSING
DUALS
NEW
LEANT
KATTIE
ASS
SIT
CIDER
DWELLED
ONAN
RON
TLC
HAY

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1681

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

CLASSIFIEDS

950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: Cause No. 28,473

HOMER WILLIAMS, JANET

ANTHINE, AND JOHNIE

RICHARDSON, ET AL

PLAINTIFFS

V

RACHEL BARFIELD, ET AL

DEFENDANTS,

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT

25TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT


GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: Unknown heirs of RACHEL BARFIELD ALSO KNOWN AS RACHEL BAREFIELD, DECEASED, PEARSON AND PASTURE STEEN, DECEASED, LOUISA MIKES, DECEASED, EUGENE STEEN, DECEASED, NOVELA JONES, DECEASED, RATE STEEN, DECEASED, OZ STEEN, DECEASED, SYLVESTER STEEN, DECEASED, KATIE MAE BLACKWELL, DECEASED, LAWYER STEEN, DECEASED, LILLIAN STEEN, DECEASED, HARROSLIS STEEN, DECEASED, JOSEPH STEEN, DECEASED, BIRDO STEEN, DECEASED, EDMAN STEEN, DECEASED, RUBY L.S. MOSLEY, DECEASED, KENNETH COLEMAN, SYLVESTER STEEN, JR., DECEASED, JOHNIE E. STEEN, DECEASED, BIRDO STEEN, JR., DECEASED, BURNIE WILLIAMS, DECEASED, JOSEPH STEEN, DECEASED, MARTHA L. STEEN, DECEASED, WILLIE STEEN, DECEASED, LILIAN SIMMONS, ROSEMARY STEEN, DECEASED, GRACE L. HECK, LIONEL ROGERS, NATHAN K. ROGERS, DECEASED, STANLEY E. ROGERS, WILLIAM J. SHROPSHIVE, MICHAEL W. STEEN, JULIA C. MCAFEE, MARTHA K.T. MADDOX, MARSHA T. PICKENS, ETHEL T. SHELTON, BOBBY JOE THOMPSON, DECEASED, MITCHELLE THOMPSON, STEVEN THOMPSON, DECEASED, BOBBIE STEEN, JOHNSIE STEEN, LAURA STEEN, BERDA J. WILLIAMS, WANDA THOMPSON, EDNA LEE STEEN, DECEASED, BILLY JO NEAL, MARYLIN STEEN, SALLIE C. STEEN, DECEASED, SHAWN DEAN THOMPSON, COREY D. BROOKS, MONIQUE THOMPSON, NICHOLE THOMPSON, DELORIS Y. THOMPSON, LARKIN GOODPASTURE, DECEASED, HENRIETTA GOODPASTURE, also known as HENRIETTA COLLINS, JUSTIN GILMORE, RACHEL KETCHUM, AMY KETCHUM, ALFRED J. MCNEAL, JESSIE IRVIN, ANTHONY PEARSON, and HEINRIETTA JOHNSON, DECEASED, JULIAS JOHNSON, DECEASED, MATTIE L. JOHNSON, DECEASED, JUSTIN GILMORE, DECEASED, RACHEL KETCHUM, DECEASED, AMY KETCHUM, DECEASED, ALFRED J. MCNEAL, DECEASED, JESSE LEE MCNEAL, DECEASED, ANTHONY PEARSON, DECEASED and their respective unknown heirs

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: “You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you. “You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff’s Petition at or before 10:00 o’clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date of issuance of this citation before the Honorable District Court of Gonzales County, at the Courthouse in said Gonzales County, Texas. Said Plaintiff’s Petition was filed in said court on the January 30, 2023 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is a PETITION FOR SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 23A TEXAS PROPERTY CODE, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff’s Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Gonzales Texas this 20th day of March, 2024.



Clerk of the Court:
Janice Sutton
414 St. Joseph St., Ste. 300
Gonzales County, Texas
By K. Alanen Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

Janice Sutton
District Clerk, Gonzales County Texas
414 St. Joseph Street, Ste. 300
Gonzales, TX 78629

Andrew M. Abrameit
Abrameit Law Firm, PLLC
P.O. Box 192
Cuero, Texas 77954
Attorney for Plaintiff

THE STATE OF TEXAS

Cause No. 27,851; *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrein Goode, I. Kelly Goode, Jr., Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr., Larry Goode, Jr., Tyrone Loving, Lionel Loving, Terry Clark, Susan Johnson, Stephanie Goode, Evonn L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Therris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and The Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants*; in the 2nd 25th Judicial District Court, Gonzales County, Texas.


TO: STEPHANIE GOODE

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: “You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.”

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the PLAINTIFF’S FIRST AMENDED PETITION AND APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, TEMPORARY INJUNCTION, PERMANENT INJUNCTION, AND FOR IN-KIND PARTITION AND TO HAVE IMPROVEMENTS ISOLATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF PLAINTIFF at or before 10:00 o’clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 29th day of April, 2024 at or before 10:00 a.m., before the Honorable 2nd 25th District Court of Gonzales County, Texas, at the Courthouse in Gonzales County, Texas. Said Plaintiff’s First Amended Petition was filed on the 7th day of September 2023 in this case, numbered 27,851 on the docket of said court, and styled: *Truitt Land Holdings LLC, Plaintiff v. Sustrein Goode, I. Kelly Goode, Jr., Kareem Goode, Melvin Goode, Alvin Goode, Gloria Jackson, Jo Nell Miller, Eural Walker, Jr., Larry Goode Jr., Tyrone Loving, Lionel Loving, Terry Clark, Susan Johnson, Stephanie Goode, Evonn L. Walker, Euralene Walker, Vangie Adams, Frances C. Goode, Carol White, Bambi Alford, Alfred Gene Goode, Jr., Verline Celestine, Anthony Goode, Therris Goode, Reginald Pierce, The Unknown Heirs of Latasha Loving Manuel, and the Unknown Heirs of Janice Johnson, Defendants*.

A brief statement of the nature of the suit and a description of the real property is as follows, to-wit: Declaratory Relief, Application for Temporary Restraining Order, Temporary Injunction, Permanent Injunction, and for an In-Kind Partition of the surface estate of a tract of land containing 57.33 acres, more or less, located in the Prosper Hope Survey, Abstract 252, Gonzales County, Texas, and being the same land partitioned to Frances Allen in that certain Partition deed dated May 30, 1942, between Susan Allen and Frances Allen, recorded in Volume 198, Page 424 of the Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas. The nature of the suit is more fully shown in said Plaintiff’s First Amended Petition on file in this suit.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at Gonzales, Texas, on this 15th day of March, 2024.



JANICE SUTTON,
Clerk of the District Court of
Gonzales County, Texas
By: K. Alanen Deputy

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2. DON'T ADVERTISE. Tell yourself you just don't have the
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3. DON'T ADVERTISE. Just assume everybody knows what
you sell.

4. DON'T ADVERTISE. Convince yourself that you've been in
business so long customers will automatically come to you.

5. DON'T ADVERTISE. Forget that there are new potential
customers who would do business with you if they were
urged to do so.

6. DON'T ADVERTISE. Forget that you have a competition
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NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

AEP Texas Inc. (AEP Texas) publishes this notice that on February 29, 2024, AEP Texas filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) its Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates (the Petition), a copy of which is kept at AEP Texas’ office at 400 W. 15th Street, Suite 1500, Austin, Texas, 78701. The Petition has been assigned Docket No. 56165. This notice is being published in accordance with 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.51(a)(1).

AEP Texas’ Petition is based on the system-wide financial results for a 12-month test year ending on September 30, 2023, adjusted for known and measurable changes. Related to its distribution cost of service, the Company requests a rate increase of approximately \$100.4 million over its adjusted test year revenues. This net change is a 13.1% increase over net present distribution revenues. When expected annualized Transmission Cost Recovery Factor revenues are included in the comparison to present revenues, the net increase to distribution cost-of-service is 8.4%. Related to its transmission cost of service, the Company requests a rate increase of \$63.1 million above its adjusted test year revenues, an increase of 9.29%.

In addition to new rates, AEP Texas requests a prudence determination on all capital investment made to its system for the period from January 1, 2019, through September 30, 2023.

AEP Texas’ Petition requests Commission approval to continue its offering of facilities rental services, as described in tariff schedules 6.1.2.3.6, 6.1.3.3.6, and 6.1.4.3.6, and a good-cause exception to the Commission’s rule requiring AEP Texas to obtain the Commission’s approval to provide these services every three years. If approved, the requested good-cause exception will allow the Company to extend the effective date of its existing tariff schedules through the effective date of the tariffs approved in its next comprehensive rate case.

Finally, AEP Texas requests recovery of its reasonable rate-case expenses associated with this proceeding and certain prior rate proceedings, including those expenses paid to reimburse municipalities for their participation.

If approved, the increased rates will be charged to AEP Texas’ direct customers, all retail electric providers (REPs) in AEP Texas’ service area, as well as the retail electric customers of those REPs. The extent to which the REPs pass along to their customers the increased retail rates is a function of the competitive market. In addition, AEP Texas’ petition affects customers taking service under the Company’s wholesale transmission rates.

AEP Texas has requested its proposed rate change become effective 35 days after the filing its Petition.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings, in Docket No. 56165, *Application of AEP Texas Inc. for Authority to Change Rates*, should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the Petition was filed with the Commission.

AVISO DE MODIFICACIÓN DE TARIFA

AEP Texas Inc. (AEP Texas) publica este aviso de que el 29 de febrero de 2024, AEP Texas presentó ante la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Comisión) su Petición y Declaración de Intención de Cambiar las Tarifas (la Petición), una copia de la cual se encuentra en la oficina de AEP Texas en 400 W. 15th Street, Suite 1500, Austin, Texas, 78701. A la Petición se le ha asignado el Número de Expediente 56165. Este aviso se publica de conformidad con 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.51(a)(1).

La Petición de AEP Texas se basa en los resultados financieros de todo el sistema para un año de prueba de 12 meses que finaliza el 30 de septiembre de 2023, ajustados por cambios conocidos y medibles. En relación con su coste de servicio de distribución, la Compañía solicita un aumento de tarifas de aproximadamente \$100.4 millones de dólares sobre sus ingresos ajustados del año de prueba. Este cambio neto supone un incremento del 13.1% sobre los ingresos netos actuales de distribución. Si se incluyen los ingresos anualizados previstos del Factor de Recuperación de Costes de Transmisión en la comparación con los ingresos actuales, el aumento neto del coste del servicio de distribución es del 8,4%. En relación con el coste del servicio de transporte, la Compañía solicita una subida de tarifas de 63,1 millones de dólares por encima de los ingresos ajustados del año de referencia, lo que supone un incremento del 9,29%.

Además de las nuevas tarifas, AEP Texas solicita una determinación de prudencia sobre toda la inversión de capital realizada en su sistema para el período comprendido entre el 1 de enero de 2019 y el 30 de septiembre de 2023.

La Petición de AEP Texas solicita la aprobación de la Comisión para continuar con su oferta de servicios de alquiler de instalaciones, tal y como se describe en los programas de tarifas 6.1.2.3.6, 6.1.3.3.6 y 6.1.4.3.6, y una excepción de causa justificada a la norma de la Comisión que exige a AEP Texas obtener la aprobación de la Comisión para prestar estos servicios cada tres años. Si se aprueba, la excepción de causa justificada solicitada permitirá a la Compañía ampliar la fecha de entrada en vigor de sus programas de tarifas existentes hasta la fecha de entrada en vigor de las tarifas aprobadas en su próximo caso tarifario global.

Por último, AEP Texas solicita la recuperación de sus gastos razonables relacionados con este procedimiento y algunos procedimientos tarifarios anteriores, incluidos los gastos pagados para reembolsar a los municipios por su participación.

Si se aprueban, las tarifas incrementadas se cobrarán a los clientes directos de AEP Texas, a todos los proveedores minoristas de electricidad (REP) en el área de servicio de AEP Texas, así como a los clientes minoristas de electricidad de esos REP. La medida en que los REP repercutan a sus clientes el aumento de las tarifas minoristas depende del mercado competitivo. Además, la petición de AEP Texas afecta a los clientes que contratan el servicio según las tarifas de transmisión al por mayor de la empresa.

AEP Texas ha solicitado que el cambio de tarifa propuesta entre en vigor 35 días después de la presentación de su Petición.

Las personas que deseen intervenir o hacer comentarios sobre este procedimiento, en el expediente N° 56165, *Aplicación de AEP Texas Inc. de Autoridad para Cambiar las Tarifas*, deben notificarlo a la Comisión lo antes posible, ya que se impondrá un plazo de intervención. Las solicitudes de intervención o de información adicional deben enviarse por correo a Public Utility Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. También puede obtenerse más información llamando a la Comisión al (512) 936-7120 o al (888) 782-8477. Las personas con discapacidad auditiva o del habla que dispongan de teléfonos de texto (TTY) pueden ponerse en contacto con la Comisión en el número (512) 936-7136. El plazo para intervenir en el procedimiento es de 45 días a partir de la fecha de presentación de la petición a la Comisión.

GOLF SCRAMBLE



CONTRIBUTED
The winning team from the March 20 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Mike Higginbotham, Miguel Cruz, Chuck Emmick, San Juan Garcia and Kenneth Hernandez.



CONTRIBUTED
The second-place team from the March 20 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Chase Kotzebue, Zack Kotzebue, Danny Williams, Baylen Horten, E B Williams and Josh Bustos.

Victoria College Athletics Program shifts focus to serve athletes in the Crossroads

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

After five seasons of competition in Division I of the National Junior College Athletic Association in men’s basketball and women’s volleyball, Victoria College announced its decision to return to club and intermural competition in order to serve more

students from the Crossroads. An analysis of the past five years in NJCAA participation revealed that the vast majority of student-athletes moved to Victoria from outside of the region, often from out of state, to participate in athletics. Few complete their educational journeys in Victoria, nor remain in the community after graduation to enter careers.

“When we consider the mission and vision of Victoria College, as well as our focus of educating and training students to enter careers of high economic value in the region, the needed direction of the athletic program becomes clear,” said VC President Dr. Jennifer Kent. “Returning to club and intermural competition in basketball and volleyball will create more oppor-

tunities for local students who might not have the same competitive background but still wish to be involved recreationally.” VC will continue to participate in NJCAA cross country and track and field as the sports are well-suited to local athletes who wish to continue at the collegiate level.

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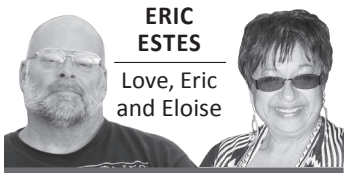
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830-857-4442

Squatters Rights?

Hey there everyone, I hope all is well with you and yours. While continuing with our fit for ‘24 & beyond series, last week I mentioned how everyday is a new and separate adventure, often requiring changes and adjustments along the way. Us humans are a funny bunch, we want every good thing as soon as possible, and try to skirt the bad stuff indefinitely, if at all possible. Unfortunately, life just doesn’t work that way. That being said, I guess it’s up to all of us to take responsibility for our own health and well being, mentally, emotionally, and physically. Or, we could just forget about it, throwing caution to the wind, hoping technology, science and medicine will eventually find a cure for simpleminded foolishness, something we all seem to suffer from occasionally. Or, a better option might be to just roll up our sleeves (or pant legs in this case) and put in some effort, as a lack of doing so will probably have a negative impact on, not only ourselves, but the ones we love as well.

New studies from the American Medical Association have confirmed that some form of regular exercise is imperative for a longer, healthier life (up to 30% less risk of early death from most causes), something I think most of us already knew. Today’s title, squatters rights, refers to the ability of someone to continue occupying property they don’t have legal claim to. In effect, God has created us to temporarily occupy earth in our physical bodies, essentially...squatting. So, in order to continue to occupy our existence here, we need to be strong enough to do so. It seems that as we age, one of the first things to loose strength is either our heart or our legs, both able to suck the joy out of life. One great way to deter this is what’s known as the “King of Exercises”, the squat. Besides strengthening the legs, it flushes the whole body with blood, helping to keep those blood vessels dilated and flexible, and supplying oxygen and nutrients to our organs as



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

well. As an added bonus, a decent set of squats will cause some robust breathing, working those lungs as well, but starting slow and working your way up is highly recommended. And besides, a nasty call from a chicken demanding his legs back is always embarrassing!

The way I approach this exercise has changed over the years. I use to be able to knock out a couple of quick warmup sets and get right to it. Today, with the advantage of youth behind me, I have to use my head more than my legs. I’ll normally start out by stretching my hamstrings (back of leg) by putting my foot on a bench or chair and slowly leaning towards it for 30 seconds or so, then either squatting down or pulling my ankle up behind me to stretch the fronts (quads). Followed by lower back and some upper body stretches and a short walk on the treadmill to get up and running. After starting with alternating sets of power tower leg lift (abs) and standing calf raises on the smith machine, I’ll move on to squats. Moving at a medium to slow speed and cutting a little off both the top and bottom of the movement (less joint stress), I’ll continue to add about 30 lbs. per set to the smith machine bar (eliminating balance problems) until I reach 125 lbs., where I’ll do multiple sets of 15 to 20 reps, until I feel like the chicken legs have had enough. A far cry from the 315 lbs. I used in my 30’s, but still gets the job done reasonably well. Finishing legs off with alternating leg extensions (quads) and leg curls for hamstrings has been more than adequate for this stage of the game. More next week...

Love you guys, Eric.

HIS STORY

Easter, 2024

By Lynn Wilson



A manger in a stable,
a brightly shining star,
the beginning of a story
told both near and far.

A crown of thorns and a wooden cross
marks the story’s end;
The birth and death of Jesus,
mankind’s greatest friend.

Son of God, Messiah,
Heaven’s King of Kings,
Emmanuel, Lord of Lords,
from Whom salvation springs.

His birthday, we call Christmas,
His death, the crucifixion.
But the story culminates
at His resurrection.

So, marvel at His coming,
and at His empty tomb,
for at the Resurrection,
Satan met his doom.

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First Assembly of God 509 E. 3rd St., Nixon	Stratton Primitive Baptist FM 1447, 9 miles east of Cuero	FULL GOSPEL Camp Valley Full Gospel Hwy 80, 7 mi. north of Nixon	El Centro Cristiano “Agua Viva” 403 Highway 90 W, Waelder
BAPTIST Clark Baptist Church FM 794, Gonzales	St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont.	Full Gospel Church 1426 Fisher, Gonzales	Emmanuel Fellowship 1817 St. Lawrence, Gonzales
Country Baptist Church Highway 87, Smiley	St. Paul Baptist Church SE 2nd Street, Waelder	JEWISH Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul HashemYeshua1 @yahoo.com	Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship Highway 80, Leesville
Eastside Baptist Church Seydler Street, Gonzales	Shiner Baptist Church	LUTHERAN First Evangelical Lutheran 1206 St. Joseph, Gonzales	Lighthouse Church of Our Lord 1805 Weimar, Gonzales
Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley	Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales	Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales	New Life Temple for Jesus Christ 16214 US 90 W, Harwood
Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115 Waelder, TX, 78959	Union Valley Baptist Church FM 1681, NW of Nixon	Dewville United Methodist West of FM 1117 on CR 121	River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley
First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales	CATHOLIC St. James Catholic Church 417 N. College, Gonzales	First Methodist 426 St. Paul, Gonzales	Thompsonville Community Church CR 423, Thompsonville Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon	St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon	First United Methodist 410 N. Franklin, Nixon	Two Rivers Bible Church 1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales
First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley	St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder	Flatonia United Methodist	INTER-DENOMINATIONAL Faith Family Church 1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales
First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder	St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley	Harris Chapel United Methodist S. Liberty St., Nixon	Living Waters Fellowship 306 St. Paul, Gonzales
Greater Palestine Baptist Church S. of 90A (sign on Hwy 80)	CHRISTIAN First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling	Harwood Methodist Church Harwood	PENTECOSTAL Faith Temple Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon
Greater Rising Star Baptist Church	CHURCHES OF CHRIST Church of Christ 1323 Seydler St., Gonzales	Henson Chapel United Methodist 1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales	Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2 1515 Dallas, Gonzales
Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office, Harwood	Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon	Monthalia Methodist CR 112 off Highway 97	Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia 893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon	Smiley Methodist Church 1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley	Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales
Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ, Belmont	Webster Chapel A.M.E. 1027 Church St., Gonzales	Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236
Leesville Baptist Church E. of Highway 80 on CR 121	CHURCHES OF GOD Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales	NON-DENOMINATIONAL Agape Ministries 512 St. James, Gonzales Bread of Life Ministries 613 St. Joseph, Gonzales	PRESBYTERIAN Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116
Memorial Heights Baptist Church 1330 N. College, Gonzales	Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	Presbyterian Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church 100 Capes, Gonzales	New Beginnings 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales	Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero	
Oak Valley Baptist Church Highway 97, Bebe	Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, Gonzales		
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OBITUARIES

JAMES SELZER JR.



James “Jimmy” Selzer, Jr., aged 75, of Gonzales, peacefully passed away on Thursday, March 21, 2024. Born on August 13, 1948, in Moulton to James Selzer, Sr., and Lenora Hrincko Selzer, Jimmy grew up in Little New York, attending school in Gonzales. During summers, he worked in his family’s store and cherished swimming in Peach Creek with his close friends. It was during his school years that he met Susie Brzozowski, whom he married on September 14, 1969, at St. James Catholic Church, just three months after their graduation.

Jimmy initially worked for the State Highway Department after high school but soon pursued his dream of cowboying. Renowned for his exceptional cow dog sets, Jimmy’s skills were admired by many in the county. He transitioned from cowboy work to managing various ranches in the area before hanging up his spurs to begin spraying mesquites for other area ranchers.

A man of few words, Jimmy was known for his stoic demeanor, strong principles, and unwavering faith in God. He found immense joy in spending time with his beloved

family. Whether it was barbecuing for friends and family or teaching his grandchildren the art of fishing and hunting, Jimmy’s presence radiated strength, warmth and love. He cherished moments at the deer camp surrounded by some of his closest friends, he considered this the embodiment of what life was all about.

Jimmy, fondly known as “Pop” to his grandchildren, was their hero, and they meant the world to him. His passing left no opportunity for good-byes, but it’s believed that Jimmy bid farewell in his own silent way, tipping his hat as he rode into eternity.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 54 years, Susie Marie Selzer, his daughter Shelly Renee Furman (Larry), his son

Michael Lynn Selzer (Michael), his sisters Mary Lou Matejcek and June Murphy (Matt), and his grandchildren Jack and Taylor Furman, Terri, and Alexander Selzer Sharpe. He was preceded in death by his parents and twin brothers.

The family will receive friends from 4 to 6 pm on Monday, March 25, 2024, at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home, with funeral services to be held at 10 am on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, also at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home, officiated by Rev. Hollas Hoffman. Interment will follow at Denton Creek Cemetery. Pallbearers include Kit Hodges, Bradley Baker, Kevin LaFleur, Steve Petty, Tracy Gillett, Chris Brzozowski, Matthew Hillman, Darrell Malik, Robert Ramos and Danny Ramos, with honorary pallbearers being all the other cowboys and close friends Jimmy held dear. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Denton Creek Cemetery Association or a charity of choice. Condolences may be shared online at www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com.

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

ROBERT LEE HILL



Robert Lee Hill, age 85 of Seguin, passed away on March 24, 2024. Robert was born on November 18, 1938, in Nixon, Texas to Lou (Dromgoole) and Perry Moses Hill.

Robert and Betty were active members of the Dewville Methodist Church. He loved going out for a great meal, especially with his church family whom he loved dearly. He enjoyed talking to everyone who would listen to memories or any other subject that might come up.

Robert is preceded in death by his loving wife of 61 years, his parents, great-grandson, Zane Pieprzica, and his brother Wayne Hill.

Survivors include daughters, Karen Pawelek and husband Isidore and Deborah Glenn and husband Jerry; grandchil-

dren, Kimberly Holmes and husband Josh, Laura Pieprzica and husband Michael, Kevin Pawelek and wife Jennifer and Krystal Adams and husband Brett; great-grandchildren, Lilly, Emily, Zacharias, Zoe, Chloe, Claire, Brennan, Breesa, Kynlee, and Remington; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other loving family members and many friends.

Visitation will begin Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the Dewville Methodist Church followed by funeral services at 11 a.m. with The Reverend Rip Collins officiating. Interment will follow at Treybig Cemetery in Gillett, Texas.

Pallbearers will be Derek Dion, Joey Wrinkle, Monie Fellers, Chase Mikesch, Tanner Mikesch, William Green, Bobby Simmons, and Johnny Baker.

Memorial contributions may be made to Dewville Methodist Church, P. O. Box 44, Nixon, Texas, 78140. You are invited to sign the guest book at www.treshewell.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Tres Hewell Mortuary, 165 Tor Dr., Seguin, Texas, 78155, 830-549-5912.

STEVE CASTRO JR.



Steve Castro Jr, from Waelder, Texas, born on July 10, 1953, left this world on March 19, 2024. Steve will be remembered for his vibrant personality, his love for the tunes of Carlos Santana, Micheal Jackson, and Tejano music, his sense of humor that could light up any room, and his unwavering kindness. He was the life of every party, bringing joy, laughter, and dancing wherever he went.

In addition to his magnetic presence, Steve was a master carpenter and builder, known for his skill and craftsmanship. He was dedicated to his craft in his younger years, creating beautiful pieces that will stand as a testament to his talent for years to come.

Steve’s passing leaves a profound void in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him, a testament to the impact he had on those around him. His vibrant personality and genuine kindness will not be forgotten. Steve’s ability to uplift others with his humor and compassion was truly remarkable, and his memory will continue to be a source of comfort and inspiration to all who were touched by

his presence. While his physical presence may be gone, the imprint he left on the hearts of his loved ones will remain eternally cherished, a reminder of the joy and goodness he brought into the world.

Steve was preceded in death by his father, Estefan Castro Sr, his mother, Rosie Santacruz, his stepmother, Tomasita Castro, and his brother Abel Castro. He is survived by his loving wife, Oralee Rodriguez, his children Florentino Castro (and wife Amy), Steven Castro, Carlos Castro (and wife Magaly), Brittney Cedillo, and Pete Cedillo II. He was a cherished grandfather

to Delilah Rodriguez, Savannah Castro, Brandon Jackson, Isabella Castro, and Adelina Jackson. Steve is also survived by his sisters Sylvia Casanova, Rosalinda Quintero, and Julia Ramirez, and his brothers Sam Castro Sr, Herman Castro, Edward Castro, and Jerry Castro.

Services to honor and celebrate Steve’s life will be held at Smith Funeral Home-Flatonia, 128 E 5th St, Flatonia, TX 78941. Visitation will be held on Friday, March 29, 2024, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm with a rosary at 7:00 pm. The funeral will be on Saturday, March 30, 2024, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Steve will be laid to rest at Waelder Community Cemetery, 206 S 1st St, Waelder, TX 78959, following the funeral service.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy can be shared with the family at www.smithfuneraltx.com

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LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff’s Office
03/17/24 – 03/23/24

03/17/24

- Jackson, Gary Lee, 08/1984, Gonzales: Warrantless/On-View – Resist Arrest Search or Transport, Requires \$2,000 Bond; Warrantless/On-View – Public Intoxication, Order to Appear JP1; Released

03/18/24

- Siptak, Gianna Corryn, 08/2001, Gonzales: Commitment/ Sentence – Poss Marij <2oz, Released – Weekender

03/20/24

- Almazan, Andres Guerrero, 11/1975, Waelder: Other Agency Hold – Sex Abuse of Child Continuous Victim Under 14, Requires \$250,000 Bond, Remains in Custody
- Landreth, Shelby Michael, 04/1994, Nixon: Other Agency Hold – Theft Prop >=\$100<\$750, Released \$1,000 Bond

03/21/24

- Hastings, Dustin Dewayne, 09/1989, Gonzales: Local Warrant – Man Del CS PG 1>=4G<200G, Released - \$100,000 Bond

03/22/24

- Almaguer, Manuel, JR 08/1982, Gonzales: Commitment/ Sentence – Arson Intend Damage Habitat/Place of Worship, Commitment/ Sentence - Arson Intend Damage Habitat/Place of Worship, Released – Weekender
- Dilworth, Johnny Ray, 10/1984, Yoakum: Commitment/Sentence – Poss CS PG 1>=1G<4G, Released – Weekender
- Riojas, Coty John, 06/1987, Nixon: Commitment/Sentence-Criminal Mischief

>=\$100<\$750, Released – Weekender

- Hastings, Jerome Bryan Keith, 07/1992, Gonzales: Local Warrant – Assault Family/ Household Member w/ Prev Conv, Released – Transfer w/TDCJ Detainer
- Montantes, Jose Angel, JR, 12/1993, Smiley: Warrantless/ On-View – Agg Assault w/ Deadly Weapon, Requires \$125,000 Bond, Remains in Custody
- Hodge, Rozaun, Demont, 12/1984, Cedar Creek: Commitment/ Sentence – Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member, Released – Weekender
- Saucedo, Faustino Estrada, 02/1971, Houston: Commitment/ Sentence – Driving while Intoxicated 3rd or More IAT, Released – Weekender
- Feathers, Jonathan Michael, 05/1998, Kerville: Local Warrant – Assault Peace Officer/ Judge, Remains in Custody

03/23/24

- Hernandez, Daniel Arceo, 02/1987, Unk: Warrantless/On-View – Traffic Offense, Released – Order to Appear JP3

• Cruz, David Jefferson, 11/2004, San Antonio: Warrantless/ On-View – No Drivers License Issued, Released – Order to Appear JP1 Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processing’s:

GCSO	15
DPS	01
GPD	01
WPD	01
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	19



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713-864-2659

Specialty Physician
Outpatient Clinic

Audiology
Amy Trost
Hearing Specialist
830-372-2237

Chiropractic
Jeff Echols, DC
512-799-6811

Dermatology
Vicente Quintero, MD
830-626-5551

Nephrology
Azhar M. Malik, MD
361-576-0011
Yong Du, MD
361-576-0011

Obstetrics
Alyson Kirchner, MD, OBGYN
830-379-1500

Pain Management
Eric Miller, MD
830-272-7746

Urology
Robert Ryan, III, MD
830-379-8491

Ophthalmology
Joseph Kavanagh, MD
830-379-3937

Orthopedics
Trent Twitero, MD
830-625-0009

Podiatry
Terri Quebedeaux, DPM, PA
830-303-0005
Charles White, DPM
830-303-0005

**Austin Maternal
Fetal Medicine**
512-821-2540

The Classifieds:
Your Ticket to Local Finds





CONTRIBUTED

McIntosh to perform organ concert at Episcopal Church of the Messiah

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Episcopal Church of the Messiah (721 St. Louis) is hosting a free organ concert on Friday, April 19, at 6 p.m. in their newly restored sanctuary. Seating capacity is 100, so the church urges guests and members to come early to find a place.

The guest organist, Daniel McIntosh, is a graduate student majoring in organ performance at Baylor University where he studies with the internationally acclaimed Dr. Jens Korndörfer.

Presently, Daniel is organist for Calvary Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, serving under the direction of Dr. Randley Bradley, the department chair of the Baylor Church Music program.

Previously organist at Trinity Lutheran Church at Badger Ranch in Woodway, Texas, and First Baptist Church of Valley Mills, TX, Daniel received an undergraduate degree in Church Music with organ concentration from Baylor in 2023. A multi-talented musician, Daniel has played organ, piano, saxophone,

and drums for different styles of worship services around the world – in Texas, Florida, California, Guam, South Korea, Japan, and Cambodia.

Most recently he toured France playing organ in Cathedrals across Paris and in the palace of Versailles. When he is not practicing an instrument, his hobbies include distance running or playing basketball with friends.

Attendees may make a free-will offering to support the outreach efforts of the church.

Heritage Quilters Guild set to meet April 2

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Shiner Heritage Quilters Guild will meet on Tuesday, April 2 at the Shiner Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Members gather at 5 p.m. to socialize and begin the meeting at

5:30 p.m. Hostesses are Gladys Muehlstein and Marilyn Schroeder.

The members, who range from beginner to advanced, are always eager to share knowledge and learn about quilts from each other. They welcome visitors and

new members.

Log onto Shiner Heritage Quilters on Facebook to see the winner’s presentation video at the 2024 “Spring into Quilting” quilt show held on March 8 and 9. Access information at www.shinerheritagequilters.org.

EASTER EVENTS

Stations of the Cross returns to Gonzales

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Catholic Community of Gonzales and Waelder will hold its annual commemoration of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday — Friday, March 29, — at 3 p.m. at The Gonzales Memorial Museum, 414 Smith St., Gonzales.

The full experience will be on display this year, as Jesus makes the journey to his crucifixion and his eventual resurrection and ascension at various stations throughout downtown Gonzales.

Henson Chapel UMC hosts annual Good Friday fish fry

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Henson Chapel UMC, which is “Transforming Communities Through the Power of Love” at 1107 St. Andrew St., Gonzales, will hold its annual Good Friday fish fry on Friday, March 29, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Plates include two crispy farm-raised catfish fillets, homemade tartar sauce, delicious trimmings, dessert, and a cold drink for \$15. They deliver as well.

For more information, call 830-285-1244.

Monthalia Methodist Easter ‘Son’rise Service

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Monthalia Methodist Church will hold its Easter “Son”rise service in the country at the church, 1926 CR 112, Monthalia.

Schedule for the day is:

- 7 a.m. “Son”rise Service
- 7:45 a.m. Breakfast
- 9 a.m. Worship
- 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt (bring your basket)

Easter at Episcopal Church of the Messiah

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Come, rejoice and celebrate Easter at The Episcopal Church of the Messiah, 721 St. Louis St., Gonzales. Easter services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 31.



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ACROSS

1 slang for “athlete”

5 ____ vera

6 TXism: “suits me to a fare-thee-____”

7 Metroplex Tex-Mex eatery: “__ Fenix”

8 Madigan of Texas-based 1985 film “Alamo Bay”

9 TX Meat Loaf’s first album: “____ of Hell” (1977)

15 San Antonio-based military insur. co.

16 TXism: “exciting as a fire at the ____”

19 TXism: “jumped from the frying ____ the fire”

21 residences for old folks: nursing ____

22 1970s male hair style (2 wds.)

27 this McEntire was “Ma Tex” in “North”

28 cut in half

29 TX John Wesley Hardin, e.g.

30 TXism: “put on the ____” (eat)

32 a shoe width

33 TXism: “he rides ____ over everybody”

36 TXism for “nonsense” or “lies”: “hog ____”

37 Texas-based “Steak and ____”

38 where you find sodas in a hotel room

39 diet goal: ____ look

41 Gulf shrimp snare

DOWN

1 TXism: “____ cracker” (dentist)

2 TXism: “good ____ boy”

3 city of the “Chronicle and Democrat-Voice”

4 “Kelly Field” in San Antonio was formerly “____ Base”

8 TXism: “tough ____ old boot”

9 Bing’s role in 1959 film “Say One For Me” with TX Debbie Reynolds (2 wds.)

10 TXism: “old ____ dirt”

11 TXism: “up ____ snuff”

12 Chisholm Trail was also known as “____ Trail”

15 “Devil’s Sinkhole State Natural ____”

16 Texas-based “____ Southwest” is now “Frontier Southwest”

17 frontier lawman, Wyatt

18 smallest Hebrew letter

19 most toasty

52 descendant of wealth

53 “____ Miserables”

54 dir. from Trinity to Woodville

55 a pigpen

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1682

SUDOKU

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

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.

Gonzales Area Parkinson’s Support Group to meet

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

It is time for the Gonzales Area Parkinson’s Support Group (GAPSG) to meet again. The time is 6 p.m. Thursday,

April 4 at the Gonzales Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. As always there is a time of fellowship and sharing of information about Parkinson’s Disease. Come join to receive information and

resources. You can also share your experiences with the disease which will help others who are dealing with the same problems. Light refreshments will be served.

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

The Community Health Centers of South Central Texas hosted a community baby shower Thursday, March 21 for expectant mothers. Front row: Diana Macy and Patrick Caldwell. Back row left to right: Lisa Arnic, Joe Melgar, Janelle Lester, Sharon Hastings.



Sharon Hastings and Mayari Cleveland speak at the community baby at CHCSTX. Cleveland was translating what Hastings was saying at the event from English to Spanish.



Expectant mothers around the Gonzales County are gather at CHCSTX for the community baby shower Thursday, March 21.



Loretta Shirley, the great exalted leader for the Elk Lodge #2413, speaks at the community baby shower.

FREE THROW WINNER



CONTRIBUTED/GONZALES KC

The Gonzales Knights of Columbus would like to congratulate Skylee Pape of Nixon, who recently won the state title in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw competition for her age group. Competitors start off at the local level in January and have the opportunity to advance to district, regional and eventually the state Level. The competition is open to all boys and girls ages 9-14. Pictured are District Deputy Joe Medina, Skylee, and local KC Chancellor Rudy Villareal Jr.

Sudz Car Wash to hold third Easter Egg Hunt

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Sudz Car Wash will hold its third annual Easter Egg Hunt. Come meet the Easter Bunny and enjoy fun outdoor games, free hot dogs and snow cones. Games include egg and spoon race, bunny

hop race, pass the egg, face paintings and an egg hunt with golden eggs prizes. Everything will take place on Saturday, March 30, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Victoria College Field, 424 E. Sarah DeWitt Dr., Gonzales. (Located across from Sudz Car Wash).

FBC Easter Eggstravaganza scheduled for this Saturday

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

First Baptist Church of Gonzales will hold an Easter Eggstravaganza this Saturday, March 30


from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rotary Pavilion at Independence Park. This free event will include burgers, hot dogs, drinks, three egg hunts, bounce houses, great prizes and giveaways.

Boy Scout troop BBQ fundraiser set for April 6

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Boy Scout Troop 262 & Venturing Crew 263 will be holding a BBQ Chicken

& Sausage Fundraiser on Saturday, April 6 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Independence Park Lions Pavilion. Plates are \$13.00. Thank you for your support.



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Council # 5090
Gonzales, TX

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- Flag Day – June 14th,
- Independence Day – July 4th,
- Labor Day – the first Monday in September,
- Columbus Day – the second Monday in October, and
- Veteran’s Day – November 11th.

Your subscription helps the Knights of Columbus with charitable donations to organizations such as: High School Scholarships, Little League, Deaf Charities, Gonzales Livestock Show, Norma’s House, and many others. Also, keep this in mind as gifts to other family and friends!

____ (Detach Here) _____

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Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature: _____

Any special instructions: _____

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TEXAS INDEPENDENCE RELAY



Plug your ears! The cannon announcing the departure of each group running the Texas Independence Relay on Saturday, March 23, is quite loud and is based on the same cannon Gonzales challenged Mexico to “come and take” on Oct. 2, 1835, in a skirmish that began the Texas Revolution. The Texas Independence Relay pays tribute to the fierce, independent spirit of the Lone Star State and recalls those who fled Gonzales during the Runaway Scrape on their way to eventual victory at San Jacinto.

LEW K. COHN

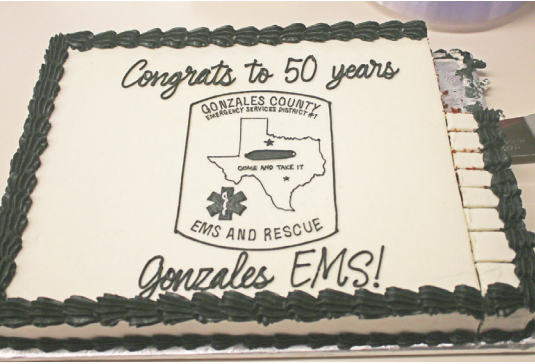


GONZALES EMS 1 OPENS NEW CENTRAL STATION



It was a day of celebration at the new Gonzales County Emergency Service District No. 1 Central EMS station on Water Street on Thursday, March 21. Not only was a ribbon cut and flags raised at the new facility, but it was opened up for tours and there was a 50th anniversary celebration for the Gonzales EMS, which began as a community organization in March 1974. Present for the ceremony was Dr. Robert Payne Williamson (pictured immediately to the right), who spent nearly 45 years serving as medical director for the Gonzales EMS from March 1974 to December 2018.

LEW K. COHN



GCAM thrift shop open 3 days a week

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Beginning Monday, April 1, the Gonzales Christian Assistance Ministry thrift shop, 708 Saint Louis Street, will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The shop has clothes, shoes, books, toys, small household items and much more. For more information about the shop, call 830-672-5566 or email gcamdirector@yahoo.com.

COPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services and discussions among COPE members, a need to extend support beyond our healthcare clinic walls was identified.

The CRC aims to address the non-medical drivers of health by serving as a central hub for various community resources such as housing, utility assistance, transportation, employment, education, and more.

In addition to existing medical, dental, and behavioral health services at the Gonzales Community Health Center, this initiative will bring much-needed resources not only to CHCHSCT patients, but to the entire community.

We envision our partners, who bring unique resources to the community, utilizing the resource center for their offices and services. This will create a one-stop-shop for individuals seeking resources and assistance, empowering them to navigate crises and take proactive steps towards self-improvement.

SMILEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a rate increase within its jurisdiction.

“AEP Texas has made a filing with the Public Utility Commission for ratings review, which also includes a rate increase we’re requesting, so the City of Smiley, with original jurisdiction, you have to act,” Strauss said.

Strauss added this happens every four years and the last was in 2019, and the City of Smiley has to take action before AEP can move forward.

“We definitely want to be mindful of all the rate classes. And that’s what we’re doing is adjusting rates and adding some different rates for some commercial and industrial level customers. That’s the reason for the filing,” Strauss said.

Strauss said she is there to ask the council to deny or say no to the rate increase or to suspend it because it is currently being negotiated. To say yes would be to approve the rate before it is negotiated to what the final rate will actually be.

The council approved 5-0 to vote no on an AEP rate increase.

In other buisness, the council announced at the Wednesday meeting that the city has a new website at www.smiley.texas.gov.

The council approved or tabled the following

- approved to table charging owners or renters who have a water meter at their property when the property is empty.
- approved to remove water meters from vacant buildings.
- approved to charge all property owners the street fee.

STATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

1724 Hickston location into one centralized site with immediate access to US 183 (Water Street) just down from the intersection with US 90-A (Sarah DeWitt Drive).

The facility also has a three-flagpole flag mall dedicated to the memory of the late Noel Kenneth “Buster” Lindemann, who served on the Gonzales Hospital District Board as well as the Gonzales EMS Board for many years before he passed away in November 2017.

The number 32, which hangs over the southern-most set of three garage bays, is a tribute to the Immortal 32, the men from Gonzales who snuck across enemy lines to answer the call for help from Lt. Col. William Travis and the Alamo defenders.

“May the spirit of the Immortal 32 forever inspire the men and women who serve the people of Gonzales County who are sick, injured, or suffering and may it be with compassion, integrity, and selflessness,” said Dr. Matt Pennington, lead pastor of First United Methodist Church of Gonzales, during his invocation.

“God, we thank you for this station and for the men and women who will fill it and work from it. We ask your blessing on them and on this community. May these EMS workers and rescue workers and all of their team who run in when others run out, as well as all of the other first responders who do the same, be blessed with your protection.”

Andrea Fischer, the communications director for state Sen. Lois Kolkorst, R-Brenham, presented EMS executive director Eddie Callender with a proclamation celebrating not only the new station, but the 50th anniversary of community emergency services in Gonzales since the creation of the Gonzales County Volunteer Ambulance Corps in March 1974 as well as the 35th anniversary of the Emergency Services District.

The resolution noted the addition of the new station “will allow employees and volunteers to better serve the community while offering the public opportunities to learn CPR, first aid and other emergency care skills” while recognizing that “for half a century, Gonzales County Emergency Services staff members and volunteers and others have worked tirelessly to help ensure the continued health, safety and well-being of area residents.”



Above: GCESD1 executive director Eddie Callender talks about the new EMS station as ESD Commissioners Jacey Trammell, Linda Carter, Dr. Commie Hisey and Rene’ De la Garza listen. Left: EMS deputy chief of operations Allen Linebrink, left, and Capt. Scott Evan raise the “Come and Take It” flag at the new Gonzales County ESD No. 1 Central EMS station on Water Street in Gonzales.

PHOTOS BY LEW K. COHN

“I want you all to just understand we were close to losing this and these people helped turn this around. And we were able to save back money, get new ambulances and build this and not go to a bond issue or anything else. And it’s been with God’s guidance that we’ve done that. I just appreciate having this available for the health care of my family and friends here.”

—Vice President Dr. Commie Hisey

ESD Board Chair Rene’ De la Garza also recognized former ESD Commissioner Donald Rihn for his efforts to help save the EMS, which very nearly closed six years ago.

“Donald was so instrumental in getting us into safety and getting our books cleaned up,” De la Garza said. “We’ve come a long way from then. We were barely able to keep the doors open at one time, but because of the team that we have, we’ve been able to (build this building) and I am really proud of what we’ve done here for our community.”

Vice President Dr. Commie Hisey said he had heard some people question why Gonzales should have such a nice building, to which he asked, “Why not?”

“We have people that are this dedicated to what they do and they deserve a place to rest at night. They deserve this place for education,” Hisey said.

Hisey said the efforts of Callender and his leadership team — which includes Belinda Richter, Allen Linebrink, Michelle Molina, Jess Fullilove and Scott Evan — kept the EMS from closing its doors after an embezzlement scandal involving former administration.

“I want you all to just understand we were close to losing this and these people helped turn this around,” Hisey said. “And we were able to save back money, get new ambulances and build this and not go to a bond issue or anything else. And it’s been with God’s guidance

that we’ve done that. I just appreciate having this available for the health care of my family and friends here.”

Callender gave a special shout out to Dr. Robert Payne Williamson, who was present and spent nearly 45 years serving as medical director for the Gonzales EMS from March 1974 to December 2018.

“Most anybody who’s ever worked as a volunteer or a paid person in EMS in Gonzales County since 1974 has worked under the license of Dr. Williamson,” Callender said.



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COUNTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the job and instead seeks to remain in the auditor's office, the court will accept applications for a new HR coordinator. The fiscal 2024 budget will be amended to cover the remaining salary for the transferred position.

The court met in executive session for nearly an hour to discuss what to do about the HR department. County Judge Pat Davis first had brought up concerns about having HR in the same office as payroll at a February meeting, with County Attorney Paul Watkins echoing those concerns as well, calling it "an inherent conflict" in having the same office handle both payroll and HR, let alone the same person.

"Not that Becky would ever do anything wrong — I'm not suggesting that at all," Watkins said in February. "I'm just saying that when an HR person is responsible for the employees, and to the elected officials, but also is

I think there's a conflict here, because at some point, you're going to be deciding between money and people. And that's what an HR person does — they advocate for our employees."

—Paul Watkins, Gonzales County Attorney

in charge of the money — that's an inherent conflict.

"We have more than enough employees for a full time HR. That's an absolute truth. I'm going to tell you that I have had employees from this county come to me and tell me they're not comfortable going into the auditor's office to talk to HR. I think there's a conflict here, because at some point, you're going to be deciding between money and people. And that's what an HR person does — they advocate for our employees.

"They will answer to somebody in the sense that they're not an elected official, and they're responsible to the commissioners court. But at the same time, they have to be an independent office," Watkins said.

"I've got people that

come to me and say they're not comfortable going to HR now," Davis added. "They're not comfortable because they don't want to say something and then it's doesn't seem to be confidential."

Davis said he would not want to move payroll from the auditor's office, just the HR position, and said the two would obviously work closely together due to overlapping concerns.

Gonzales County has 160 employees and is one of the largest employers in the county without a full-time separate HR department.

Originally, Davis had suggested moving the HR coordinator under his office, but commissioners instead wanted to have the coordinator position fall under the supervision of the commissioners court as a whole.

TWC now accepting grant applications to fund career, technical education

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has published a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) grant program.

Texas public junior, state, and technical colleges, school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools may apply. The JET program has approximately \$15 million to provide grants to these applicants in Fiscal Year 2024.

The JET program provides funding to defray equipment start-up costs associated with developing career and technical education (CTE) courses or programs leading to a license, certificate, or post-secondary degree and may include courses offering dual-credit and technical education programs. JET also supports employers by

preparing students for careers in high-demand occupations identified by local businesses.

The complete RFA packet, including requirements and submission documents, can be downloaded from the TWC Procurement Portal website. To prepare a submission, please log into the portal or create an account by clicking the "Log in/Register" button on the portal. Registration is free.

All questions regarding this RFA should be e-mailed to RFA-Grants@twc.texas.gov.

Visit the JET website to learn more about JET and access the grant Tool Kit. Use this resource to answer questions, utilize the flowchart, watch guidance videos, and learn about common disqualifications to ensure you are preparing more effective applications.

SCATTF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cases, though the majority of that cost would be reimbursed through grant funds.

After the presentation, court members voiced their desire to hold off on joining the task force at this time until they can look at their available resources during the next budget cycle.

Schmidt introduced SCATTF commander Sgt. Andy Viruette, who was also joined by agent Ron Williams and specialist/analyst Alicia Machado. Viruette explained how

SCATTF works to solve and prevent auto theft crimes as well as educate the public.

Viruette is a sergeant with the Travis County Sheriff's Office and is in his first year as SCATTF task force commander, though he has been a law enforcement veteran for more than 20 years.

SCATTF receives grant funds from the state through the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority, which is funded by a \$5 fee generated on motor vehicle

insurance policies issued within the state of Texas. Most counties in the state belong to one or more of the 24 task forces that are MCVPA grantees. Travis County manages SCATTF.

"(MVCPA) is a collaborative effort of not just law enforcement, but other entities," Viruette said. "There's law enforcement groups, prosecutors, insurance industry and local tax assessor/collectors. Basically, this whole group was created as an initiative to combat auto theft and motor vehicle

crimes. Through that, the state provides and awards financial grants to these agencies."

The 14 counties which are encompassed currently by SCATTF are Bell, Blanco, Caldwell, Colorado, Comal, Fayette, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Jackson, Lee, Milam, Travis and Wilson counties. The task force is comprised of Viruette, as the task force commander, as well as 11 investigators (agents), a community liaison and a law enforcement specialist/analyst.

Viruette said since its inception, task forces funded by MVCPA have reduced motor vehicle theft in the state by more than 60 percent and increased the recovery of stolen vehicles by 20 percent. The total value of vehicles and other property recovered by these task forces is in excess of \$11.6 billion.

He said the different task forces are designed to work together with each other as a function of the grant program — there are no "blurred lines" of jurisdiction.

"Just Friday, I received a call from the task force commander over in Beaumont," Viruette said. "They were talking to us about a vehicle that they wanted us to go take a look at because it was released and it turned out the vehicle was what we call in our industry a 'clone.' It had a fake VIN (vehicle identification number) on it that it had been masked for a vehicle

that had been stolen.

"This is Beaumont saying, 'Hey, can y'all go look at it in your jurisdiction, and in this case it is in Travis County, and let us know, for one, if the vehicle is there and then, for two, make contact with them.'"

"We also work closely with Mexico because a lot of our vehicles end up south, especially with y'all being here in a ranching community, a lot of these vehicles stolen from here are being found toward the south," Viruette said.

Gonzales County is currently a coverage county but in order to be a full member or participating, like Travis or Hay counties, the county would need to supply a full-time agent deputy that would be a member of the task force.

The salary and fringe benefits for that deputy would be reimbursable through MVCPA grant funds at a rate of 80 percent, with the county being responsible for 20 percent of the cost, as long as 100 percent of the agent's time is dedicated to auto theft-related duties or training. Any work performed outside that area would not be reimbursable.

"That basically means that if my agent here, if he works Monday through Thursdays, then 100 percent of his time has to be dedicated to auto theft," Viruette said. "If he gets pulled for some reason as an agent, if our agency is understaffed and he is

pulled to go work patrol, well, then that is on that agency to have to take up that cost for that work day of that agent, because now he's no longer doing his assigned functions. Now, he's working in a different capacity."

The participating agency (GCSO) would also be responsible for providing the deputy a vehicle to use in the course of his duties. However, investigative equipment and uniforms as well as auto theft-related training, conferences, travel and any per diem would all be covered by SCATTF.

All reimbursement from SCATTF and MVCPA is done on the back end, not paid in front. And the county cannot supplant. This means they cannot use existing resources as a cash match or use grant funds to replace other funds that would otherwise have been available to use for the same purpose or program.

"Specifically, jurisdictions may not reduce the amount that they spend for motor vehicle burglary and theft by moving costs of personnel into a grant funded position," Viruette said.

Viruette said task force agents work as a unified group within the 14-county region and could be required to leave their home county when needed to work theft investigations and temporarily work out of any office within the coverage area.



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FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH

STAGE 1 GUADALUPE
SOPHIA SCOTT 7:00 PM
SUBLIME WITH ROME 8:00 PM
KOE WETZEL 9:30 PM


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SATURDAY APRIL 13TH

STAGE 1 GUADALUPE	STAGE 2 PECAN	STAGE 3 COME+TAKE IT
THE WAR AND TREATY 4:00 PM	WILLIAM BECKMANN 2:00 PM	DEREK AUSTIN 11:00 AM
SOUTHALL 6:00 PM	COLBIE CAILLAT 5:00 PM	THE WEATHERED SOULS 12:00 PM
KALEO 8:00 PM	TANYA TUCKER 7:00 PM	KYLER WESTON 1:00 PM
WHISKEY MYERS 10:00 PM	RANDY ROGERS BAND 9:00 PM	CAMERON SACKY 3:00 PM
		BRELAND 12:00 AM

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SUNDAY APRIL 14TH

STAGE 1 GUADALUPE	STAGE 2 PECAN	STAGE 3 COME+TAKE IT
BLACKHAWK 2:00 PM	TANNER USREY 3:00 PM	MATT KOZIOL 10:00 AM
WILLIAM CLARK GREEN 4:00 PM	HAILEY WHITTERS 5:00 PM	ANGEL WHITE 11:00 AM
TRACY LAWRENCE 6:00 PM	RED CLAY STRAYS 7:00 PM	THE GLORIOUS SONS 12:00 PM
CHASE RICE 8:00 PM	SHANE SMITH AND THE SAINTS 9:00 PM	TYLER BRADEN 1:00 PM
ERIC CHURCH 10:00 PM		AUSTIN SNELL 3:30 PM

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MUSIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more than 30-plus artists, including Chase Rice, Randy Rogers Band, Tanya Tucker, Shane Smith & The Saints, The Red Clay Strays, The War And Treaty, Colbie Caillat, Tracy Lawrence, Tyler Braden, William Clark Green and more. The diverse lineup from up-and-coming artists to chart-topping headliners span across three stages over the three-day festival.

“The town of Gonzales has been so incredible to us in our first year and we’re excited to bring people from all over the world to not only enjoy the music and Texas southern hospitality, but to also see how beautiful the backdrop of this festival truly is. It’s going to be one heck of a memorable weekend and we can’t wait for April 12,” said Marcus Federman, founder of Cattle Country Music Festival.

On Friday, April 12, for those staying overnight or for the weekend, the camping grounds open at noon and the festival gates open at 5 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, you can check in the camping grounds at 8 a.m. with festival gates opening at 10 a.m.

In nearly two weeks, on April 12-14, the festival will take place in Gonzales on a sprawling 400-acre ranch dubbed “The Boot “ along the Guadalupe River, and it is set up for one epic weekend. On the festival map, you can find where to grab some mouth-watering Texas eats; upscale beverages, including crafted cocktails and wines; the Come and Take it Lounge area; and your favorite stage, including our main stage, The Austin Hope Wines Stage. The grounds will also include an on-site convenience store for all those last-minute needs.

You can see there is no need to leave the ranch when you can stay right where the action is. Whether you’re a seasoned camper or prefer a touch of luxury, Cattle Country Music Fest has got you covered with a range of accommodation options. Pitch your tent under the stars in the GA or VIP camping areas, elevate to the luxurious Glamping Village with a private glamping lounge offering daily snacks and coffee, or stay the weekend in an RV and enjoy



on-site amenities. And for all those who like the convenience of having their own lockable porta potty, you can even secure one of these. The festival will have 24-hour security on the grounds at all times. To secure your accommodations, visit www.cattlecountryfest.com

Elevate your experience at the exclusive Come and Take It Lounge. An ode to Gonzales’ famous “Come and Take It” cannon, a major part of Texas’ history as the object behind the first shot fired in the war for Texas Independence, this will be your ultimate festival oasis! Open to all ticket holders, the lounge offers a relaxing atmosphere complete with live music, delicious food, refreshing beverages, big screens for catching all the action, 50 plus unique vendors and so much more. Kick back, unwind, and soak in the festival vibes!

Cattle Country Fest is proud to partner with a variety of esteemed sponsors who are just as dedicated to creating an exceptional experience for guests as they are. They extend their gratitude to Austin Hope Wines, Bud Light, Butler-Wood, GVEC, Iron Wolf Ranch and Distillery, NUTRL, PATH Water, PEPSI, South Texas Tractor Supply, Sugarland Distillery, and White Claw. While they are proud to count these incredible brands among their sponsors, they also

want to recognize that this festival is made possible by the collective efforts of many more partners, large and small. Each one plays a vital role in creating the magic that you’ll experience at Cattle Country Fest!

“PATH water is excited to completely eliminate single-use plastic bottled water at the Cattle Country Festival. Cattle Country is leading the charge in sustainability in the music scene by offering PATH’s reusable bottled water and refill stations throughout the entire three-day event,” says CEO Shadi Bakour.

Whether you’re looking to party all weekend or just come spend a day at the festival, you’re sure to find the perfect ticket option to suit your needs. As excitement has built for the inaugural festival, organizers are reminding fans to secure their tickets before increasing pricing the week of the event.

If you are a student, teacher, first responder, military, or veteran, there are special discounted tickets for you. Or if you have a crew you want to bring along, grab a bundle package for discounted pricing.

For more information, join the Cattle Country Conversation:

- Website - www.cattlecountryfest.com
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