

The **Gonzales Inquirer**

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Russells plead no contest to lesser misdemeanor misapplication offense

Couple makes \$7,000 restitution, is sentenced to one day in jail

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

A Gonzales couple accused of misappropriating money that belonged to the Gonzales EMS have pleaded no contest to a lesser-included offense

and have made \$7,000 restitution to the agency, their attorney told the Gonzales Inquirer.

As a result of a plea deal reached with the Texas Attorney General's Office (OAG), Jim and Carla Russell were convicted of a Class A misdemeanor of

misapplication of funds of \$750 or more but less than \$2,500 and were given one day of jail time with time served counted, defense attorney Robert Bland said.

"They were adamant that they did not take anything that

they did not work for, but in this one case, it was just a gray area," Bland said. "Could the state have proved it at trial? Possibly. Could they not have? Possibly. It's always tough with

See **RUSSELLS**, page 17



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Catholic Community of Gonzales and Waelder held its annual Stations of the Cross, commemorating the forced processional march by the Roman soldiers of Jesus down the Via Dolorosa on the way to his crucifixion on Mount Calvary. The objective of the 14 stations is to help guide Christians on a spiritual journey to prepare for Easter and to connect with the Passion of Christ.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS AND BARBARA CROZIER



Chamber preparing for April 8 eclipse

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture and Visitors Center has been preparing for the upcoming April 8 solar eclipse and looking to help residents and visitors alike "create monumental memories."

The Gonzales Chamber office, 304 St. Louis St., in Gonzales distributed 350 pairs of eclipse viewing

glasses before completely selling out on Tuesday, April 2.

They are encouraging residents to take advantage of this extraordinary astronomical spectacle by strolling around and viewing the various monuments in Gonzales. The community's monuments boast an ideal setting to experience and appreciate this captivating scientific phenomenon.

Students at Nixon-Smile High School will be given solar eclipse viewers but can bring their own if they choose. They will be required to wear eye protection the entire time they are outside from 1:35 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Want to watch the eclipse from the comfort of your living room or can't get out of the office? You

See **ECLIPSE**, page 18

Emergency management getting ready for Cattle Country Music Festival

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

With just a week left to go before the inaugural Cattle Country Music Festival on April 12-14 in Gonzales, local emergency management officials have been getting ready for the influx of visitors the event is expected to bring to the area.

As many as 6,000 people or more a day could be at the festival site, Gonzales County Emergency Management Coordinator Jimmy Harless said.

First responders and law enforcement engaged in a tabletop exercise on Friday, March 21 — preparing for the possibility of a weather-related event that would either trigger a stay in place or a mass evacuation, depending on the type of weather, Harless said.



"Most of the time, if there is a thunderstorm we do a stop and if there is any cloud-to-ground lightning, we would do a shelter in place or in vehicles," Harless said. "For tornados, I have a volunteer who is a friend of mine who just retired from Guadalupe County who is going to be my weather liaison person and be a direct contact between us and the National Weather Service."

"(Festival founder) Marcus (Federman) and his people

See **FESTIVAL**, page 18

Gonzales named among most charming Texas river towns

BY BETTY COHN
Gonzales Inquirer

Gonzales has been named among the most charming river towns in Texas, according to the World Atlas in an article listed on their website, worldatlas.com, "8 Most Charming River Towns In Texas to Visit in 2024."

While the other river towns listed, namely Goliad, New Braunfels, Wimberley, Concan,

Llano, Nederland, and Blanco, are also deserving of a visit, Gonzales is proud to be a river town filled with not only beauty and charm, but a rich history and a lovely downtown district.

World Atlas encourages visitors to visit the Gonzales Memorial Museum for a first-hand look at the little cannon that could, and did, start a revolution — the Come and Take It

See **TOURISM**, page 17

Gonzales second annual Dog Extravaganza to be held April 28

BY BETTY COHN
Gonzales Inquirer

Gonzales Dog Adoptions invites the community to their second annual Dog Extravaganza, Sunday, April 28, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Episco-

pal Church, 721 St Louis St., Gonzales.

This event includes a dog parade, a costume/fashion contest, pup cups & treats, face painting, vendors, craft booths,

See **DOGS**, page 17

Unemployment rate increases to 4.0 percent in Gonzales County

BY BETTY COHN
Gonzales Inquirer

Unemployment in Gonzales County increased to 4.0 percent

in February 2024, continuing the year with the county placing the third highest of all seven counties which comprise the Golden Crescent Workforce

Development Area.

This increase continues a trend of unemployment rates rising for the county for the current year, according to state

Labor Market Information (LMI) figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

See **UNEMPLOYMENT**, page 18



Gonzales Beautification Board rallies for a cleaner tomorrow

Join the movement for Earth Day and Keep Gonzales Beautiful!

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

As the world gears up to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, the call for environmental action resonates louder than ever. In the heart of the Lone Star State, Texans are rolling up their sleeves and joining hands to ensure that the beauty of their land remains preserved for generations to come.

With the backdrop of Keep Texas Beautiful, a statewide initiative dedicated to litter prevention, community beautification, and waste reduction, the Gonzales Beautification Advisory Board promotes the Jim Price Clean-Up campaign and Keep Gonzales Beautiful by uniting for a common cause: a cleaner, greener future.

The message is clear: every action counts. From sprawling urban centers to remote rural landscapes, litter knows no boundaries. It mars the natural beauty of parks, spoils picturesque landscapes, and endangers wildlife. However, Gonzales residents refuse to stand idly by as their beloved community suffers the consequences. Instead, they are taking matters into their own hands, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship.

Volunteers are stepping up to organize litter clean-up drives, recycling initiatives, and educational programs. Schools are integrating environmental awareness into their curriculum, teaching students the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling. Businesses are implementing sustainable practices, reducing their



Brought to you on behalf of the Gonzales Beautification and Design Advisory Board



JOIN OUR CLEANUP!

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER GROUPS

SATURDAY, APRIL 20 @ 8:00 AM

CITY WIDE LOCATIONS NEEDING ASSISTANCE

LET'S KEEP GONZALES BEAUTIFUL TOGETHER

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carbon footprint, and leading by example.

The Gonzales Community Jim Price Clean-Up Event is being organized in collaboration with Keep Texas Beautiful, local businesses, and civic groups. The event aims to mobilize hundreds of volunteers to rid the community of litter and debris. Volunteer groups will be given specific areas to assist in litter clean up. A bulky waste collection center will be set up at Apache Stadium parking lot on Saturday, April 20 from 8 a.m. to noon. Gonzales residents must provide a residential utility bill to use this free service.

Through community engagement, public awareness campaigns, and policy advocacy, the Gonzales Beautification Board is working tirelessly to foster a culture of environmental responsibility. By empowering individuals

and communities to take action, Keep Gonzales Beautiful is laying the foundation for a cleaner, more sustainable Texas community.

As Earth Day approaches, the call to action reverberates across the state. Texans are urged to join the movement, whether by participating in local clean-up events, adopting eco-friendly practices in their daily lives, or supporting organizations like Keep Gonzales Beautiful.

Together, everyone can make a difference. Together, everyone can preserve the beauty of our beautiful community for generations to come.

For more information and opportunities to volunteer, please email the City staff liaison for the Beautification Board, Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla, at tpadilla@gonzales.texas.gov or call City Hall at (830) 672-2815.



Two arrested on minor drug charges after GCSO pursuit

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Two individuals received a "scenic ride to the Gonzales County Jail" after being apprehended following a pursuit on Wednesday, March 27, according to the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office.

A GCSO corporal observed a gray Ford F-150 pickup truck disregard a stop sign and travel north at a high rate of speed on Farm-to-Market Road 794 towards Harwood on the afternoon of March 27. The corporal notified area law enforcement of the suspicious behavior.

A deputy traveling on US 90 observed a Ford F-150 matching the same description traveling at a pace of 100 miles per hour as it headed towards Waelder from Harwood. This is when a pursuit ensued and the vehicle was pursued into Caldwell County after attempting to evade law enforcement officers by utilizing both gravel county roads as well as Texas Highway 304.

As deputies were more aware of the geography of Gonzales County than the fleeing suspects, they were able to predict the vehicle's location throughout its time in the county. Eventually, the vehicle came to

a stop on Kirk Corner Road in Caldwell County and the driver, who was not apprehended, fled the scene on foot, leaving behind two passengers who soon found themselves becoming passengers on a trip to the Gonzales County Jail.

Enrique Reyes, 40, of Del Valle, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces and had his surety bond set at \$1,200, while Adrian Vasquez-Perez, 41, of Austin, was also arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana

less than two ounces and had his surety bond set at \$1,200. Both since have bonded out of jail.

It turned out the vehicle was determined to have been reported stolen to the Austin Police Department less than two hours prior to its interaction with GCSO deputies.

"Let this be a reminder that the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office will use all available efforts in apprehending criminals and deterring crime within your Gonzales County," the department said in a press release. "We would like to thank Gonzales County Constable Pct. 1 and Caldwell County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in this incident."



Reyes



Vasquez-Perez

Gonzales Main Street announces shuttle service for Cattle Country Music Festival

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

In an effort to enhance the experience for attendees of the Cattle Country Music Festival, Gonzales Main Street is thrilled to announce the introduction of shuttle services running from Friday, April 12 through Sunday, April 14.

Gonzales Main Street, Inc. has procured two 15-passenger vans to facilitate transportation for festival-goers between the Cattle Country Music Festival grounds and downtown busi-



nesses. With this being the inaugural edition of the event, organizers are anticipating a significant turnout, expecting over 12,000 people per day. Despite the festival's location in the county and approximately 10 miles outside the city center, Gonzales Main Street is keen on leveraging

this opportunity to draw festival attendees into the downtown area.

Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla, executive director of Main Street, expressed enthusiasm about the initiative, stating, "We aim to showcase the array of exceptional small businesses within our vibrant community. What better way to achieve this than by bringing visitors right to our doorstep?"

Parking will be conveniently available at the Apache Field parking lot, with shuttles scheduled to run every half hour.

The shuttle route will include two stops along Saint Joseph Street on the way out of town and two stops on Saint Paul Street for the return journey.

Given the limited capacity of each shuttle, accommodating up to 14 riders, it is strongly recommended to purchase advanced tickets.

Tickets can be purchased for \$10 per person each way through gonzalesmainstreet.com or <https://www.eventeny.com/events/mainstreetshuttletocattlecountrymusicfestival-11249>.

Master Gardener spring plant sale set for April 13

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Attention all gardeners! Mark your calendars for the Gonzales Master Gardeners' annual Spring Plant Sale is fast approaching. Once again, this year's sale will be held at Independence Square in downtown Gonzales on Saturday, April 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You will find a wide array of plants that will include bedding annuals, hanging baskets, herbs, and houseplants. Perennials, native and pollinator plants will also be available along with roses, berries, and assorted trees. These plants are specifically chosen to perform well in this part of Texas and grown by either master gardeners or other area growers.

For the butterfly garden, there will be black-eyed Susan, yarrow, salvias, phlox, lavender, lantana, Gregg's mist-flower and goldenrod along with additional perennials to include desert mallow, pigeon-

berry, Brazilian rock rose, and bird of paradise. Tree varieties will include Anachocho Orchid Tree, Texas Mountain Laurel and Texas Redbud along with Improved Meyer Lemon, Persian Lime and Owari Satsuma citrus trees. Several varieties of fig, peach and plum fruit trees will also be available.

Coinciding with the plant sale will be a Silent Auction with a nice assortment of garden-related items to bid on, activities for children, and an "Ask the Master Gardener" booth for your gardening questions. Master gardeners will be circulating about to be on hand to share their expertise, assist with plant selections and offer friendly gardening advice.

You may bring your own wagons or carts to load up your plant selections and cash, check, credit and/or debit cards will all be accepted forms of payment. So come on out, rain or shine, and make sure you come early for the best selection as many varieties sell out early. For

additional information, call 830-672-8531.

Proceeds help support the mission of

teaching the community and school children about gardening and horticulture.

Celebrations

Birthdays

April 5th Floyvette Sattiewhite Kellie Staton	April 9th Caroline Helms Blundell Sterling DuBose Tori Ince Darin Kuntschik Armenta Thick
April 6th Blaine Harkey Kenneth Kuchynka	April 10th Becky Janota Theresa Shelton

Anniversaries

April 4th
A.J. & Mary Lee Brzozowski
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Gonzales Weather

	April 4 77°/54°	Mostly sunny and pleasant 12% chance of rain • RealFeel 80
	April 5 80°/61°	Plenty of sunshine 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 81
	April 6 75°/66°	Mostly sunny 3% chance of rain • RealFeel 75
	April 7 75°/66°	Partly sunny 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 79
	April 8 82°/67°	Sunny to partly cloudy 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 82
	April 9 83°/65°	A thunderstorm in spots in the morning; otherwise, cloudy and windy 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 82
	April 10 81°/65°	A shower in places in the morning; otherwise clearing 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 78

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

April 4th – South Texas Tours

April 6th – Conoco Phillips
Team Roping

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET
NO SALE MARCH 30, 2024!

NIXON LIVESTOCK
NO SALE APRIL 1ST, 2024.

HALLETTVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.
Sale date: March 26th
Cattle on hand: 1186
Packer Cows:
High Dressing: \$115-143
Medium Dressing: \$95-125
Low Dressing: \$85-98
Poor/Weak Cows: \$72-85
Packer Bulls:
High Dressing Bulls: \$145-160
Medium Dressing Bulls: \$120-145
Low Dressing Bulls: \$100-120
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1525-2000
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1100-1500
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: 9
PAIRSS \$1950-2200
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$340-405
200-300 lbs.: \$325-410
300-400 lbs.: \$310-410
400-500 lbs.: \$295-365
500-600 lbs.: \$260-320
600-700 lbs.: \$230-305
700-800 lbs.: \$215-265
Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$310-400
200-300 lbs.: \$270-375
300-400 lbs.: \$275-350
400-500 lbs.: \$260-340
500-600 lbs.: \$245-300
600-700 lbs.: \$220-265
700-800 lbs.: \$195-245
Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: \$275-330
No. 1 calves in all weight brackets sold fully steady & very

strong. No. 2 classes sold \$3 to \$6 lower. Demand continues very good in all areas. Packer cows & gulls sold \$3 to \$5 higher again on a supply of 150 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.
March 27th
Market Trend: Starting to see more flesh on cattle but market still remains steady all the way through on all classes.
Cattle – 460
Sheep & goats – 792
Medium & large frame #1 Steers:
200-300 lb. 1.80-2.54-3.75
300-400 lb. 1.00-2.85-3.75
400-500 lb. 1.20- 2.45-3.75
500-600 lb. 1.40-2.34-3.25
600-700 lb. 1.25-2.14-2.78
700-850 lb. 1.28-1.82-2.61
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. 1.65-2.61-3.55
300-400 lb. 1.55-2.74-3.20
400-500 lb. 1.35-2.47-3.35
500-600 lb. 1.28-2.24-2.73
600-750 lb. 1.53-2.33-2.51
Cows:
Utility & commercial – 1.12-1.29-1.40
Cutters – 1.12-1.19-1.26
Canners. - 1.00-1.08-1.16
Palpated cows – 1650-1900
Cow/Calf Pairs – 1125-2700
Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding – 1.35-1.54
Light & Low Yielding – 1.20-1.34
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies – 75-255
Kid Goats (Fat) – 2.25-3.40
Wethers -1.83-2.90
Billies – 1.85-3.15
Dorp. Ewes - 90-175
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) – 2.40-3.10
Woolled Ewes – 90-130
Woolled Bucks – 1.30-1.70
Lambs – 1.80-2.80
Barb. Bucks – 250

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
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Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



On tomatoes, butterflies, birds & April plantings

Q. The tomatoes at my favorite nursery include some in gallon pots and others in 4-inch containers, what size will work best?

A. We are at a good time to plant tomatoes if you obtain a determinate variety like Phoenix, Tycoon, or Amelia that will reach full size quickly and concentrate on producing fruit before it gets too hot. The large pots are the best option, but the smaller plants will also work.

Q. Monarchs have started to migrate through our neighborhood. The native milkweeds I have planted are not growing yet. What should I do to help them find enough nectar for them to keep migrating successfully? Can I plant Tropical milkweed to fill in for the other milkweeds until they grow?

A. Plant mistflower, zinnias, porter weed, lantana, and penta for nectar, and yes plant tropical milkweed transplants now to fill in for the native milkweeds.

Q. The purple martins swept through yesterday. Does that mean we should get up our



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

martin houses now?

A. Yes, last year was a tough year for purple martins and they seem to be late again this year. I have put my houses up and recommend you do the same. Also keep in mind that they prefer areas with open space so remove as much brush as possible near the houses. I think it is even important to keep the rescue grass and other winter weeds removed at a wide base around the bot-

tom of the pole.

Q. What vegetables can we plant in the garden in April? What about flowers?

A. Here is part of the list. For vegetables consider tomatoes, peppers, summer squash, eggplant, potatoes, cucumbers, southern peas, green beans, okra, watermelon, and cantaloupe. For flowers plant zinnias, vinca, moss roses, pentas, sweet peas and begonias.

Deadline approaching in Texas for SBA Working Capital loans

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Francisco Sánchez Jr., associate administrator for the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the Small Business Administration, reminded small nonfarm businesses in 74 Texas counties of the April 29, 2024, deadline to apply for an SBA

federal disaster loan for economic injury. These low-interest loans are to offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by drought in the following primary counties that began Aug. 22, 2023.

Primary Texas counties: Anderson, Bee, Brazos, Burleson, Cherokee, Crane, Dallas, Dewitt,

Grimes, Hood, Houston, Johnson, Karnes, Leon, Live Oak, Madison, McMullen, Reagan, Somervell, Upton, Waller and Ward;

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

According to Sánchez, small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. "Economic Injury Disaster Loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that cannot be paid because of the disaster's impact," said Sánchez.

"SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the applicant suffered

any property damage," Sánchez added.

The interest rate is 4 percent for businesses and 2.375 percent for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Interest does not begin to accrue until 12 months from the date of the initial disaster loan disbursement. SBA disaster loan repayment begins 12 months from the date of the first disbursement.

By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans available when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. The Secretary declared this disaster on Aug. 28, 2023.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency about the U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance in drought disasters.

Applicants may apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at SBA.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

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Watchdog group targets pipeline leaks, Railroad Commission

BY FREDA ROSS
Texas News Services
Special to the Inquirer

A Texas group is on a mission to reform how the state monitors and repairs oil and gas pipeline leaks.

More than 480,000 miles of pipeline run across the state, carrying everything from oil to natural gas to hazardous liquids.

Executive Director of the group Commission Shift - Virginia Palacios - says people often aren't aware of what lies beneath their neighborhoods, and potentially dangerous pipeline leaks in some areas are going unrepaired.

"There have been studies showing that the response time of leak complaints can vary depending on someone's neighborhood, their race or their income level," said Palacios. "There's a perception that certain communities aren't safe."

A recent study found that gas leak density in neighborhoods with people of color and lower household incomes is 37% higher than in predominantly white neighborhoods.

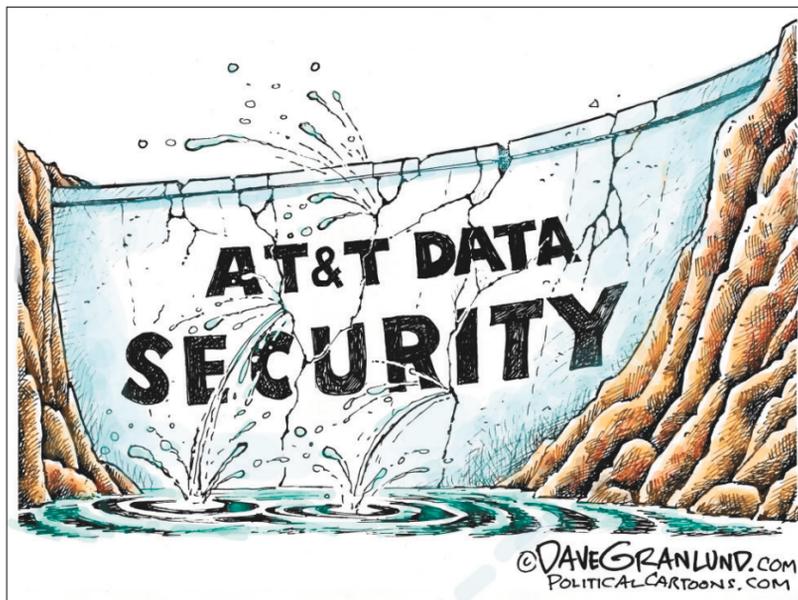
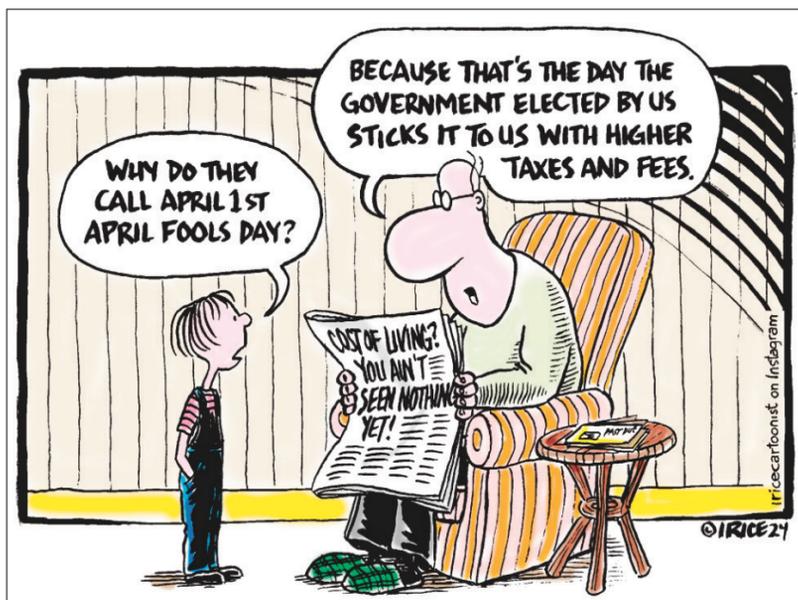
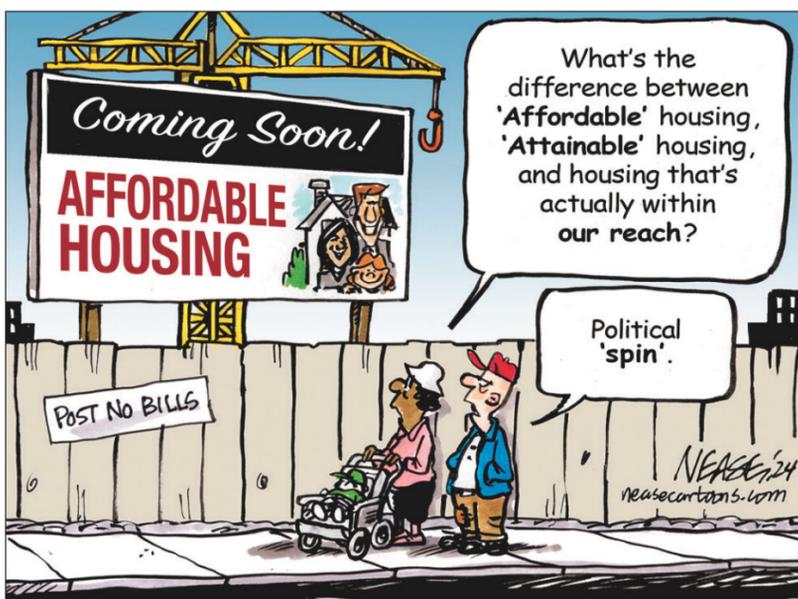
Current federal standards only require operators to repair leaks if they pose an "immediate safety hazard."

But the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has proposed a new rule to improve the

See LEAKS, page 15

GONZALES CO. HISTORY

- 1825 - April, first settlement, Gonzales, established on Kerr (pronounced Carr) Creek area, only Anglo colony west of the Colorado River.
- 1828 - Estimated seventy-five persons live in DeWitt's Colony
- 1831 - April 4, the Plan of the Town of Gonzales was approved by the political department in San Antonio de Bexar.
- 1833 - Sidney Gaston Miller divorced her husband and was the first woman in Texas to be granted alimony and child support (for her unborn child, who died in infancy.) She married John Kellogg and delivered his baby just six days after he reportedly died in the Alamo. She went on the "Runaway Scrape" and died just six months later.
- 1834 - Santa Anna's Centralist Party won everywhere but Coahuila (Texas) and Zacatecas; Zacatecas was plundered; taxes were levied; and Mexican troops were then sent to Texas. -Approximately 20,000 Americans had settled in Texas.
- 1836 - April 21, Sam Houston and his troops claim victory over Santa Anna's army at San Jacinto and Texas is now a free republic.
- 1847 - April, act was passed to build five bridges across ditches within the city.
- 1883 - April, the Inquirer occupied the second floor of a building on the west side of Texas Heroes Square, adjoining the Keyser House on the south. The Plaza Hotel later stood on this site, until it burned in January, 1966.) The editor was Carey Pilgrim, the foremen were D.L. Beach and G.W. McNight (Beach and McNight left shortly after and Reese took over in 1885).
- 1885 - April 11, contract for new three-story brick jail let to Eugene Heiner, architect. Lots of controversy over location. Some wanted it on originally designated Jail Square (now Independence Square) "in the heart of the City" rather than on originally named Market Square on the river where the existing jail then stood. It was finally determined that Central Square was best but later concern was that it was such a large structure that the "Courthouse would look like a shed" or an outhouse to the jail". (The courthouse being compared is the much smaller 1857 courthouse)
- 1895 - April, after much controversy, the commissioners laid the cornerstone for the new courthouse. First the Masonic Lodge was approved to do the honors and then a committee of the Gonzales Farmers Alliance was invited but in the end the county judge made the decision that the commissioners would lay the stone.



DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American

Leave it to the Aggies...

Texas A&M University-- a major educational institution respected throughout the world--emerged unscathed from a litany of "Aggie jokes" that were shared for decades, though not so much now.

They were, of course--exactly that--jokes. Actually, they likely enhanced a storied heritage, but they made some Aggies M-A-D.

My Uncle Mort's keen eye on Texas A&M literature fell on its Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications. He figures "ALEC" would better fit on business cards, and that graduates could be called "Smart-ALECs"....

When reduced to deep thinking about TV commercials, one often enters the twilight zone of obfuscation. An example is a current home security system advertisement that promises an immediate warning when an "un-invited intruder" approaches. Sudden thought: Are intruders ever invited?

I prefer warnings about calls from roof repair people who "happen to be in the neighborhood, and happy to provide a free roof inspection." I dismiss them, telling them I've got relatives in the business....

Another ad deserving a "thumbs down" urges purchase of Charmin bathroom tissue. The announcer forgets that for decades, "toilet paper" was not to be discussed in polite company. He introduces a dancing bear that sings instead of talking, with references to smiling "from cheek to cheek" and "enjoying the go."

Please. Where is Mr. Whipple when we need him? When he starred, he asked only that we avoid squeezing the Charmin....

While on the subject of TV ads, let's not overlook State Farm Insurance. The company's current "push" is provided by movie star/former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The guy may have been an okay actor and--in the eyes of California voters, anyway--an okay governor.

State Farm had best line up world-class linguistics professors if he is expected to pronounce "neighbor" in an acceptable manner. However, "NAY-BAHHH" that rolls off his tongue causes us to think immediately of State Farm....

Advertising and public relations have come a long way. Communication was far simpler decades ago. Many stores' only "ads" were front door "OPEN" and "CLOSED" signs.

At Lum and Abner's "Jot 'em Down Store" --mentioned regularly on their weekly radio shows--store hours were simply stated: "Open when we get here and closed when we leave."

It was these comedic buddies who offered a simple explanation about their merchandise. "If you need it, we got it," they bragged. "And if we don't have it, you don't need it." The radio show was immensely popular from 1931-1954, originating from their fictitious community of Pine Ridge, AR....

Relatively new on the advertising scene in all media are appeals by law firms. In the previous century, lawyers gave little thought to outright ads, perhaps thinking such to be tacky and/or beneath their dignity. Now, they're after it, hammer and tong, with ads "clumping up" primarily during news broadcasts. (Truth to tell, I'm not sure I've heard of lawyers armed with tongs. Maybe "tongs" sounds too much like a kitchen weapon.)

In Texas, attorney Thomas J. Henry must have a multi-million-dollar ad venture underway. With offices in Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Austin, Houston and Dallas, the principal is often shown flying from court session to court session, and sometimes is pictured near his plane, which has "TJH" painted on its tail....

Looking back, I was given to hyperbole in my youth. Surely it was youthful innocence on my part, or maybe not. During early teen years, I peddled Cloverine Salve, bragging that any place you could rub it, stuff or sniff it, curative powers prevailed. I sold enough of the stuff to win a guitar. Alas, the guitar never arrived.

A few decades later, I saw a familiar face in a TV musical group. I couldn't call his name, but he'd been our rural mail carrier. And, he was not known as a guitarist until after my guitar was to have arrived at our mailbox....

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

The Gonzales Inquirer

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JFK splits season series with Apaches

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches hosted the San Antonio JFK Rockets for game two of the two-game series Tuesday, April 2.

The Apaches took game one, 8-5, in San Antonio, but San Antonio JFK split the series by beating Gonzales in Gonzales, 8-2.

Apaches head baseball Gary Beveridge said when his team came back from the Easter holiday a little sluggish and forgot the success they had built on.

"We kind of went back to square one. And we can't do that. We've got to [continue to build success], especially with this younger team we have got to kind of build on our learning build on our success and we don't have any room in the middle of district here to take any steps backwards," Beveridge said.

The Apaches forced JFK to all seven innings, and Beveridge said his team won the last three innings, but they can't "spot" a team with many runs early.

"So to be able to build on this we got to take those last couple innings in stride and keep working on that right direction," Beveridge said.

The Apaches will host the San Antonio Memorial Minutemen Friday, April 5 to kick off their two-game series; and game two is in San Antonio Tuesday, April 9.

Beveridge and the Apaches know that this series will be biggest of the season.

"So Memorial has done a complete 180 from the team they were on. They've gotten so much better. And we know that and we know that they're going to be a real tough competition," Beveridge said.

"But it's a game that we don't want to put more pressure on ourselves and what we need to do but it's games

Apaches earn first district win over JFK

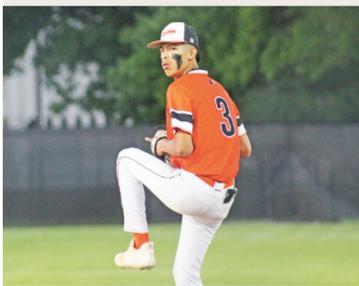
STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches earned their first district win of the season with 8-5 victory over the JFK Rockets on the road Thursday, March 28.

The Apaches shut out JFK's bats in three of the seven innings; and scored eight runs and earned nine hits.

The Apaches concluded their district match with JFK in game two Tuesday, April 2.

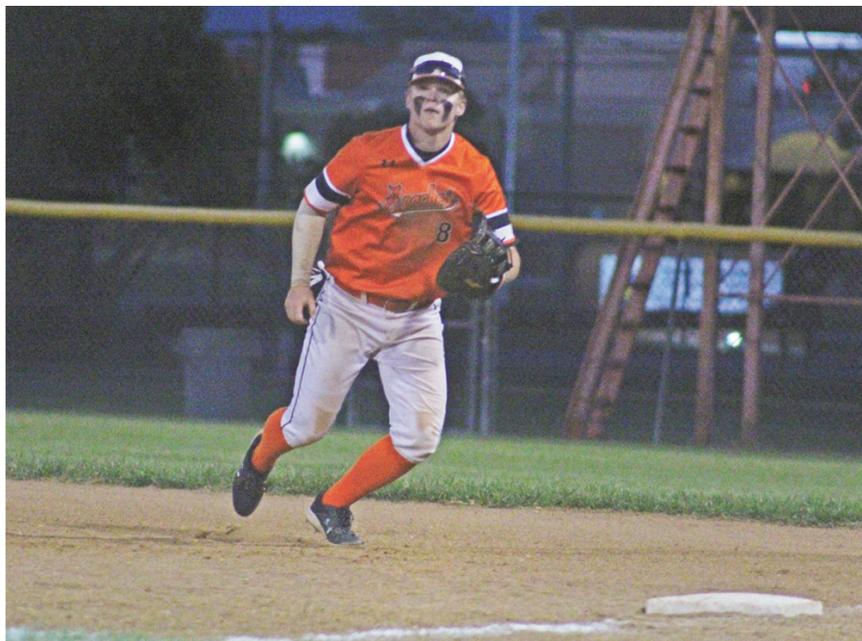
Gonzales will host San Antonio Memorial for a two-game series Friday, April 5 through Tuesday, April 9. First pitch is set for 7 p.m. for both games.



Apaches sophomore pitcher Nathan Castillo (3) throws a pitch against a San Antonio JFK batter in game two of the district series.

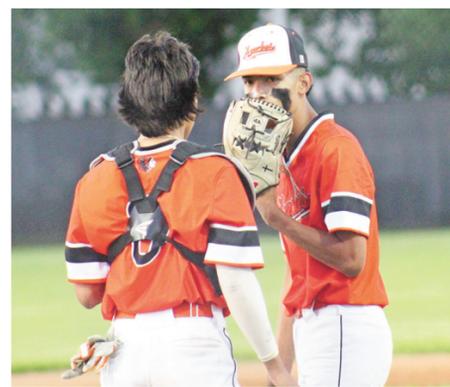
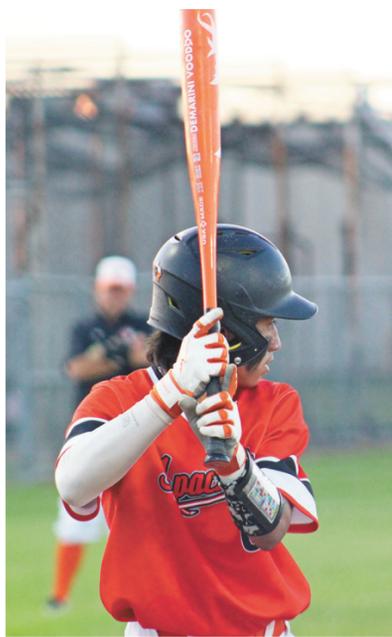
that we need to go out and win and we have the capabilities to do it. We're gonna have to do it as a team," Beveridge added.

First pitch for both games are set for 7 p.m.



Above: Apaches senior first baseman Dakota DuBose (8) looks up for a fly ball in the district match against San Antonio JFK. Left: Apaches freshman James Sanchez (6) at bat against the San Antonio JFK Rockets in game two of the district series Tuesday, April 2. Below: Apaches freshmen catcher James Sanchez (6) talks to his pitcher Nathan Castillo (3) in a district match against the San Antonio JFK Rockets Tuesday, April 2.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The winning team from the March 27 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Mike Turk, Will Ruddock, Brian Sample, Ricky Walker, Dee Tiller and Jarrid Boehm.



The second-place team from the March 27 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Mike Higginbotham, Bill Kessler, Donnie Janicek, Chuck Emmick and Ronnie DuBose.

Gonzales Athletes head to STCA All-Star games

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches and Lady Apaches will have plenty of representation at the second annual South Texas Coaches Association

(STCA) All-Star games in Floresville Saturday, May 18.

Six Gonzales seniors were selected to participate in the games: Macy Sample (volleyball), Haley Cantu (basketball),

Rocky Gallegos (football), Cole Duty (football), Landon Holub (football), and Davonte Smith (football).

All six seniors were part of playoff teams in the 2023-24 sports season.

Mustangs fall to Northern Oaks

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs traveled to San Antonio for district match against the Great Hearts Northern Oaks Griffins Tuesday, April 2.

The Mustangs fell to Northern Oaks, 13-3, in six innings for their fifth district loss in a row.

Northern Oaks got base 15 times from hits and held the Mustangs to only three runs and six hits on base.

Nixon-Smiley dropped to 0-5 in District 26-3A.

The Mustangs hit back on the road for the second half of district play against Randolph Friday, April 5. First pitch is set for 7 p.m.

Cole shuts out Mustangs, 12-0

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs returned home Monday, March 25 for their third district match against the Cole Cougars.

The Mustangs fell to the Cougars, 12-0, as Cole handed Nixon-Smiley its third district loss of the season.

Nixon-Smiley falls to 0-3 in District 26-3A.

The Mustangs will host the Luling Eagles Thursday, March 28 for their fourth district match and will head out on the road Tuesday, April 2 to San Antonio for a district match against Great Hearts Northern Oaks.

Both games start at 7 p.m.

Mustangs fall to Eagles in five innings

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs hosted the Luling Eagles in their fourth district match of the season Thursday, March 28.

The Mustangs fell to Luling, 17-1, in five innings and were handed their fourth district loss of the season.

The Mustangs traveled to San Antonio for a district match against Great Heart Northern Oaks to close out the first half of district Tuesday, April 2.

Nixon-Smiley will head back on the road Friday, April 5 for the second meeting with Randolph for the second half of district.

First pitch is set for 7 p.m.

GONZALES TRACK RESULTS AT RICE MEET

100 meter dash:

Lady Apaches: T. Smith (third place) and Kea'anna White (22nd place)
Apaches: Davonte Smith (second place) and Rocky Gallegos (18th place)

200 meter dash:

Lady Apaches: Tiana Smith (second place), Kaylyn Gonzales (eighth place), and Malaiyah Mayo (30th place)
Apaches: Marcus Izagurre (29th place)

400 meter run:

Lady Apaches: Jayda Glass (third place) and Kilee Schwausch (27th place)
Apaches: River VanKirk (21st place)

800 meter run:

Lady Apaches: Jordan Gonzales (10th place) and K. Schwausch (17th place)
Apaches: Christopher Ramos (14th place), Kevin Reyna (19th place) and Carlos Pedraza (20th place)

1600 meter run:

Lady Apaches: J. Gonzales (eighth

place), Yaritza Angel (13th place) and Marianelly Rodriguez (14th place).
Apaches: C. Ramos (16th place), K. Reyna (23th place) and C. Pedraza (26th place)

3200 meter run:

Lady Apaches: Y. Angel (sixth place) and M. Rodriguez (11th place)
Apaches: C. Ramos (11th place)

110 meter hurdles:

Apaches: Travis Malveau (17th place)

300 meter hurdles:

Lady Apaches: Hailey Camarillo (eighth place), Aubrey Lindemann (12th place) and Macey Pena (26th place)

Apaches: T. Malveau (third place)

4x100 relay:

Lady Apaches: H. Camarillo, Kaylie Ramirez, M. Mayo, and K. White (14th place)

Apaches: R. Gallegos, D. Smith, David Clack and Damion Hunt (fifth place)

4x200 relay:

Lady Apaches: K. Ramirez, M. Mayo,

K. Gonzales and M. Pena (12th place)
Apaches: D. Hunt, Keath White, M. Izaguirre, and D. Clack (10th place)

4x400 relay:

Lady Apaches: J. Gonzales, Y. Angel, K. Gonzales and A. Lindemann (10th place)

Discus:

Lady Apaches: Macy Sample (third place) and Syrenity Smith (sixth place)

Apaches: Dylan Hunt (second place), Jermaine Upshaw (sixth place), and Omar Borjon (eighth place)

Long Jump:

Lady Apaches: T. Smith (third place), M. Pena (27th place) and H. Camarillo (33th place)

Apaches: Daevien Pitts (25th place) and Tavarus Ornales (33th place)

Triple Jump:

Lady Apaches: T. Smith (sixth place), J. Glass (16th place) and H. Camarillo (28th place),

Apaches: R. Gallegos (12th place) and T. Malveau (18th place)

Lady Apaches roll past Lady Rockets, 19-3

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches got back on the winning track with a 19-3 win over the JFK Lady Rockets Thursday, March 28.

The Lady Apaches improved to 3-2 in district play and head softball coach Michelle Uribe was glad to get back to winning and scoring a lot of runs.

The Lady Apaches, in the last two games, had trouble scoring runs, but that changed when they scored 13 runs from RBIs in the sixth and seventh innings.

“We were doing a lot of work in practice, so it was good to see it pay off and it’s the scores showing on the scoreboard,” Uribe said.

Gonzales recorded 14 RBIs and the Apaches were on base 20 times from hits.

Sophomore Gyzelle Guevara recorded three runs, a double and RBI in the win over the Lady Rockets.

“We finally waited on the right pitches and we started hitting good and smart base running,” Guevara said.

Junior Sarah Padilla recorded two triples and four RBIs in the top of the seventh inning and was glad to get the offense rolling.

“It was really exciting. At first I



Lady Apaches pitcher Haley Cantu (4) high fives freshman catcher Blakely Mercer (1) for scoring a run against JFK Thursday, March 28.

was struggling a little bit and then coming up with my team and just being able to back them up with some hits. It felt really good,” Padilla said.

The Lady Apaches face the La Vernia Lady Bears in their final meeting of the season Tuesday, April 2.

Uribe knows her team will be ready for round two against La Vernia.

“I think our pitching has gotten better. I think our defense has learned a lot and if we can hit the ball like we did today, I think we’ll be in much better shape,” Uribe said.

The Lady Apaches will host San Antonio Memorial Friday, April 5. First pitch is set for 6 p.m.



Above: Lady Apaches senior catcher Sydney McCray (3) catches a pitch from pitcher Haley Cantu (4) in the district match against San Antonio JFK Thursday, March 28. Left: Lady Apaches senior pitcher Haley Cantu (4) pitches the first four innings against the JFK Lady Rockets Thursday, March 28.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs celebrate in the huddle for their, 11-10, walk-off win over the Luling Lady Eagles Thursday, March 28.

Lady Mustangs win a walk-off over Lady Eagles

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs hosted the Luling Lady Eagles Thursday, March 28 for the final match of the first half of district play.

The Lady Mustangs clinched their third district win with a 11-10 walk-off victory over the Lady Eagles and put themselves in a three-way tie for first place in District 26-3A.

The match was tight through all sev-

en innings with both teams recording 10 hits, double digit runs, and scoring in five of the seven innings played.

Nixon-Smiley begins the second half of district at home with a match against Randolph Friday, April 5.

G-Town Striders opens signups for summer track

STAFF REPORT

The 2024 G-Town Striders Summer Track and Field signups are open for Gonzales athletes (ages six and 18).

Registrations will be taking place at the Gonzales ISD Track Friday, April 19 at 6 p.m.

“The G-Town Striders Gonzales Track Club is here to offer you all this and more. A chance to be the best you can be. It is track and field with some of the elite athletes of South Texas, and a chance to qualify, and compete in the National Junior Olympic Games,” coach Quincy Johnson said in press release.

“You will work harder than ever, make lifelong relationships, learn discipline and get exposure, and recognition outside of the local community. All while having the time of your life,” Johnson added.

Registration fee is \$125 and parents must be present with their athlete.

For more information contact: Quincy Johnson at (830) 857-3425 or qjohnson@gvec.org.

NIXON-SMILEY TRACK RESULTS FROM RANDOLPH MEET

- Mustangs Thursday, March 28**
- 200m: AJ Zamora 24.37- 6th Place
 - 100m: Abdiel Benitez 12.17- 16th place
 - 100m: Aiden Flores 12.43- 20th place
 - 400m: John Garza 57.33- 16th place
 - 110m Hurdles: Luke Moses 16.90- 3rd place
 - 110m Hurdles: Carl White 17.41- 5th place
 - 300m Hurdles: Carl White 44.30- 5th place
 - 4x100 Relay: Aiden Flores, Luke Moses, John Garza & Tristen Mikes 47.58- 7th place
 - 4x200 Relay: Abdiel Benitez, AJ Zamora, Luke Moses, Tristen Mikes 1:35.89- 4th place
 - 4x400 Relay: Abdiel Benitez, Tristen Mikes, Aiden Flores, AJ Zamora 3:33.68- 2nd place
 - Shot Put: Jaylun Rodriguez 38’2”- 7th place
 - Long Jump: Luke Moses 18.09.50- 9th place
 - Long Jump: Carl White 18.06.50- 11th place
 - Triple Jump: Tristen Mikes 40-05.50- 6th place
 - Triple Jump: Carl White 38-04.50- 8th place

- Lady Mustangs Thursday, March 28**
- 200m: Nichole Ivey 29.73- 12th place
 - 200m: Tori Gonzales 32.14- 23rd place
 - 200m: Sadie Walden 33.15- 24th place
 - 100m: Hailee Houseton 13.76- 9th place
 - 100m: Janaelyn White 13.84- 10th place
 - 100m: Skylye Kitchens 14.51- 19th place
 - 400m: Mariela Castillo-Limon 1:09.31- 14th place
 - 400m: Raelyn McGhee 1:18.59- 24th place
 - 100m Hurdles: Kourtney Johnson 20.40- 11th place
 - 1600m: Yizel Galvan 6:41.52- 19th place
 - 300m Hurdles: Kourtney Johnson 56.22-9th place
 - 4x100 Relay: Janaelyn White, Hailee Houston, Skylye Kitchens, Madison Yanes- 6th place
 - 4x200 Relay: Grace Gomez, Dulce Mosqueda, Mariela Castillo-Limon, Nichole Ivey 2:02.25- 10th place
 - Shot Put: Janaelyn White 29.00- 4th place
 - Shot Put: Juliana Kendrick 26.08- 6th place
 - Long Jump: Madison Yanes 13.03.50-17th place
 - Triple Jump: Halie Houseton 37.10.25-5th place
 - Triple Jump: Skylye Kitchens 29.01.00- 10th
 - Triple Jump: Sadie Walden 23.08.00- 17th place

Lady Apaches sweep season series from La Vernia in extra-innings win

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Lady Apaches made a statement with a 6-1 road win over the La Vernia Lady Bears in 10 innings Tuesday, April 2.

The Lady Apaches and the Lady Bears each scored in the fourth inning and went five scoreless innings afterwards.

Lady Apaches Gyzelle Guevara, Kelly Breitschopf and Alexis Hernandez got Gonzales on the board in the top of the 10 with five runs total.

Freshman pitcher Dixie Lester struck out an impressive 18 La Vernia batters in the win as she went the distance on the mound and only allowed five hits and the one run.

The Lady Apaches completed a season sweep of La Vernia and improved to 4-2 in District 28-4A; this is the first time they have swept La Vernia in a season.

The Lady Apaches will host San Antonio Memorial Friday, April 5.

First pitch is set for 7 p.m.



PHOTOS BY ERIN SAMPLE MCCRAY

The Gonzales Lady Apaches celebrate after a strike out on the La Vernia Lady Bears Tuesday, April 2.



Lady Apaches freshmen Alexis Hernandez (8) at bat for Gonzales in the second district meeting against the La Vernia Lady Bears.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOW TO PLACE AN AD

You can place ads online at www.gonzalesinquirer.com or call

(830) 672-2861

and/or email ads@gonzalesinquirer.com

All rates are net cash with order until credit is approved. We accept Mastercard, VISA, American Express and Discover or payment can be made in person with cash or check.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

The deadline to place an ad in the paper is Tuesday by Noon.

ERRORS

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

CALL TODAY
830-672-2861

050 GARAGE SALES

YARD SALE: SATURDAY, April 6, 8-2, 638 FM 532 E. Furniture, clothes, lots of miscellaneous items.

190 LAWN, GARDEN

MARIO BERMEA TREE SERVICE Home-830-587-6235 or Cell 512-923-4650. INSURED. Over 30 years experience. Specializing in: Residential, Ranch and Riverfront.

TREE TRIMMING & Removal. Yard maintenance. Serving Gonzales area since 1987. Call Dennis Droupy, 830-672-2000.

210 MISC. SERVICES

JOEL'S OUT-DOOR SERVICES. Skid Steer Service. Dump trailer & flatbed trailer for hire. Fence Cleaning, Bulldozing & Firewood for sale. Lot cleaning. Tree trimming. 830-832-6985.

670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

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Individuals with a disability wishing to request a reasonable accommodation to complete the application process should contact the apartment manager at 830-582-1343.
Para solicitar un apartamento favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343. Para solicitar una adaptacion o modificacion razonable, favor llamar manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.
Personas que hablan espanol y requieren un interprete, favor llamar a manager al siguiente numero 830-582-1343.
*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

740 WANTED TO RENT

LOOKING FOR PROPERTY or place to lease to catch rattlesnakes. Contact David at 830-370-4391.

850 HELP WANTED

Are You Looking For A Career In Law Enforcement?
Caldwell County Sheriff's Office has **immediate** openings for
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Annual Salary \$50,571.35
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Annual Salary \$50,571.35
Applications are available on the county website at co.caldwell.tx.us or at the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office at 1204 Reed Drive, Lockhart, Texas.
Contact Information: Chief Deputy Jon Craigmile @ 512-398-6777
Full-time employment benefits include:
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* Paid Vacation Leave * Paid Sick Leave * Holiday Pay/Leave
* Longevity Leave/Pay * Flexible Spending Account * Personal Day
* Paid Training * Career Advancement Opportunities

670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

LOW INCOME APARTMENTS for rent. 1, 2, 3, 4 bedrooms. No electric deposit required. Apply at 410 Village Drive. Gonzales 830-672-3419.

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All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



850 HELP WANTED

DRIVER NEEDED AT Ingram Ready Mix. CDL required. Apply in person at 307 Theo St. 830-625-9156, ext. 253.

CAL MAINE FOODS

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

CAL - MAINE FOODS INC.

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

850 HELP WANTED

Employee Hiring Notice

Position: Part-Time Field Technician
Immediate Supervisor: General Manager
Effective Date: March 12, 2024

The Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District (GCUWCD) is seeking to hire a part-time Field Technician responsible for assisting with well registrations, well mitigation, measuring water levels, collecting water samples, and other field related activities.

Requisite Skills/Requirements

- High School Diploma or GED
- Ability to work courteously and professionally with well owners and co-workers
- Ability to follow directions
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Must be willing and able to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Solid written and verbal communication skills
- Must be mechanically inclined with experience operating and troubleshooting tools and equipment
- Ability to lift at least 50 pounds
- Valid Driver's License with a clean DMV record
- Reliable transportation
- Ability to read maps

Work Hours/Compensation
The Field Technician must be able to work at least two to three days per week during normal business hours from 8:00 - 5:00 Monday through Friday. The Field Technician position is paid at a salaried rate not to exceed \$25,000 per year. Position is opened until filled. Resumes may be submitted by email to generalmanager@gcuwcd.org; admin@gcuwcd.org or mailed to:
Gonzales County UWCD
522 Saint Matthew Street
P.O. Box 1919
Gonzales, Texas 78629

For additional information contact the Gonzales County UWCD District Manager at 830-672-1047. The Gonzales County UWCD reserves the right to accept or reject any and all responses received under this notice.

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION FOR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS (AVISO DE ELECCIÓN GENERAL PARA OTRAS SUBDIVISIONES POLÍTICAS)

To the registered voters of the County of Gonzales Independent School District, Gonzales, Texas:
(A los votantes registrados del Condado de Distrito escolar independiente de Gonzales, Gonzales, Texas)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., May 4, 2024 for voting in a general election to elect school district trustees for (3) terms for single-member district 4 & 7.
(Notifíquese por la presente, que los sitios de votación citadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el Mayo 4, 2024 para votar en la elección general para elegir.)

On Election Day, voters must vote in the precinct where registered to vote, unless the countywide polling place program is being used in the election.
(El Día de Elección, los votantes deberán votar en el precinto donde estan inscritos para votar, a menos que el programa de sitios de votación del condado se está utilizando en la elección.)

Location of Election Day Polling Places
Include Name of Building and Address
(Sitios de votación el Día de Elección)
(Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)

Precinct Number(s)
(Numero de precinto)

Randle Rather Bldg., 427 St. George Street, Ste 100,
Gonzales, Tx. 78629

During early voting, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below:
(Durante Votación Adelantada, los votantes podrán votar en cualquiera de los sitios de votación nombradas abajo.)

Location of Main Early Voting Polling Place
Include Name of Building and Address
(Sitio principal de votación adelantada)
(Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)

Days and Hours of Operation
Días y Horas Hábiles

Randle Rather Bldg., 427 St. George, Ste. 100,
Gonzales, TX 78629

April 22, April 26th, April 29th & 30th 8:00am -5:00pm

Locations for Branch Early Voting Polling Places
Include Name of Building and Address
(Sitios sucursal de votación adelantada)
(Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)

Days and Hours of Operation
Días y Horas Hábiles

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

Gwen Schaefer
(Name of Early Voting Clerk)
(Nombre del Secretario/a de la Votación Adelantada)
P.O. Box 1753
(Address) (Dirección)
Gonzales, Texas 78629
(City) (Ciudad) (Zip Code) (Codigo Postal)
830-519-4054
Telephone Number (Número de teléfono)
ea@co.gonzales.tx.us
Email Address (Dirección de Correo Electrónico)
https://www.co.gonzales.tx.us/page/gonzales.elections.admin
Early Voting Clerk's Website (Sitio web del Secretario/a de Votación Adelantada)

Applications for Ballots by Mail (ABBMs) must be received no later than the close of business on:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán recibirse no más tardar de las horas de negocio el:)
04/23/2024

Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) must be received no later than the close of business on:
(La Tarjeta Federal Postal de Solicitud deberán recibirse no más tardar de las horas de negocio el:)
04/23/2024

Issued this 12th day of February, 2024
(Emitida este día 12th de Febrero, 2024)

Signature of Presiding Officer (Firma del Dirigente que Preside)

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850 HELP WANTED 850 HELP WANTED

Gonzales County Auditor's Office
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.



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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Welding Instructor

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Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CHARLES DERWOOD MAHAN, Deceased, were issued on March 20, 2024, in Cause No. PW24-0326, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: MARK ALAN VEIT.

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

MARK ALAN VEIT
c/o Norman L. Burns
Attorney at Law
1606 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive
Gonzales, TX 78629

Dated the 26th day of March, 2024.

NORMAN L. BURNS
Attorney for Estate of Charles Derwood Mahan
State Bar No.: 03448500
P.O. Box 827
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-9511
Facsimile: (830) 672-7638
E-mail: nburns@munsonburns.com

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of MICHAEL LOUIS FOUGERAT, Deceased, were issued on March 20, 2024, in Cause No. AD24-0328, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: GERALD JULIAN FOUGERAT, JR.

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

GERALD JULIAN FOUGERAT, JR.
c/o Norman L. Burns
Attorney at Law
1606 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive
Gonzales, TX 78629

Dated the 26th day of March, 2024.

NORMAN L. BURNS
Attorney for Gerald Julian Fougerat, Jr.
State Bar No.: 03448500
P.O. Box 827
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-9511
Facsimile: (830) 672-7638
E-mail: nburns@munsonburns.com

950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES 950 PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DON CHRISTOPHER RAINEY, Deceased, were issued on March 20, 2024, in Cause No. PW24-0327, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: MICHAEL THOMAS RAINEY.

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

MICHAEL THOMAS RAINEY
c/o Norman L. Burns
Attorney at Law
1606 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive
Gonzales, TX 78629

Dated the 26th day of March, 2024.

NORMAN L. BURNS
Attorney for Michael Thomas Rainey
State Bar No.: 03448500
P.O. Box 827
GONZALES, TX 78629
Telephone: (830) 672-9511
Facsimile: (830) 672-7638
E-mail: nburns@munsonburns.com

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION FOR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS (AVISO DE ELECCIÓN GENERAL PARA OTRAS SUBDIVISIONES POLÍTICAS)

To the registered voters of the County of Gonzales, Texas:
(A los votantes registrados del Condado de Gonzales, Texas)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., 05/04/2024 for voting in a general election to elect School Board Trustee for Three Year Term.
(Notifíquese por la presente, que los sitios de votación citadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 05/04/2024 para votar en la elección general para elegir Para Consello De Administradores Por Un Termino De Tres Anos.)

On Election Day, voters must vote in the precinct where registered to vote, unless the countywide polling place program is being used in the election.
(El Día de Elección, los votantes deberán votar en el precinto donde estan inscritos para votar, a menos que el programa de sitios de votación del condado se está utilizando en la elección.)

Location of Election Day Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Sitios de votación el Día de Elección) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Precinct Number(s) (Numero de precinto)
---	--

Waelder Community Center, 311 Hwy 90W., Waelder, TX 78959

During early voting, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below:
(Durante Votación Adelantada, los votantes podrán votar en cualquiera de los sitios de votación nombradas abajo.)

Location of Main Early Voting Polling Place Include Name of Building and Address (Sitio principal de votación adelantada) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Days and Hours of Operation Dias y Horas Hábiles
--	---

Waelder City Hall

Locations for Branch Early Voting Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Sitios sucursal de votación adelantada) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Days and Hours of Operation Dias y Horas Hábiles
---	---

Waelder City Hall
300 Hwy 90A
Waelder, TX 78959

Monday, April 22, 2024 through Friday, April 26, 2024
8:00 am-5:00 pm
Monday, April 29, 2024 through Tuesday, April 30, 2024
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Early voting locations: subject to change

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

Gwen Schaefer/Gonzales County Elections Administrator
(Name of Early Voting Clerk)
(Nombre del Secretario/a de la Votación Adelantada)
P.O. Box 1753
(Address) (Dirección)
Gonzales, Texas 78629
(City) (Ciudad) (Zip Code) (Codigo Postal)
830-519-4054
Telephone Number (Número de teléfono)
ea@co.gonzales.tx.us
Email Address (Dirección de Correo Electrónico)
https://www.co.gonzales.tx.us/page/gonzales.elections.admin
Early Voting Clerk's Website (Sitio web del Secretario/a de Votación Adelantada)

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04/23/2024

Issued this 26th day of February, 2024
(Emitida este día 26th de Febrero, 2024)

Signature of Presiding Officer (Firma del Dirigente que Preside)

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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. Sustrain 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, Therriis 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. Sustrain 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, Therriis 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. Alarcon Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS: Cause No. 28,473

HOMER WILLIAMS, JANET \$ IN THE DISTRICT COURT
ANTWINE, AND JOHNNIE \$
RICHARDSON, ET AL \$
PLAINTIFFS \$ 25TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
\$
\$
V \$
\$
RACHEL BARFIELD, ET AL \$
DEFENDANTS, \$ 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, JOHNNIE E. STEEN, DECEASED, BIRDO STEEN, JR., DECEASED, BURNIE WILLIAMS, DECEASED, JOSEPH STEEN, DECEASED, MARTHA L. STEEN, DECEASED, WILLIE STEEN, DECEASED, LILLIAN SIMMONS, ROSEMARY STEEN, DECEASED, GRACE L. HECK, LIONEL ROGERS, NATHAN K. ROGERS, DECEASED, STANLEY E. ROGERS, WILLIAM J. SHROPSHIRE, MICHAEL W. STEEN, JULIA C. MCAFFEE, 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. Alarcon Deputy

March 28 Puzzle Answers

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

Last Puzzle Solution

JOCK, ALICE, WELL, EL, AMY, BAITOUT, USAA, IRSOFFICE, PANINTO, HOMES, SHAGMAN, REBA, BISECT, OUTLAW, FEEDBAG, EE, ROUGHSHOD, WASH, ALE, MINIBAR, ANEWTRIM, NET, MCCOYS, AREA, GTE, EARP, YOD, WARMEST, SCION, LES, ESE, STY

S-1682

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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.

VC partners with Gonzales Intermediate Sanction Facility to offer innovative training

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College has partnered with the Gonzales Intermediate Sanction Facility (ISF) to offer incarcerated individuals an opportunity to receive training in electrical, HVAC and welding, preparing them to reenter the community with valuable job skills they were unable to obtain prior to incarceration.

"Research has shown that individuals afforded the opportunity to obtain a job with a living wage is one of the most significant factors towards success and avoiding future incarceration," said Bridgette Barfield, director of the Gonzales ISF. "This initiative marks the first time a community corrections facility in Texas will provide extensive, skill-based training as



Dr. Jennifer Kent

part of its rehabilitation program. We anticipate several Texas jurisdictions will order individuals to attend the ISF specifically due to these training opportunities."

The first class of 18 students recently began their studies at

the Workforce Training Building at VC's Gonzales Center. After completing the training, participants will continue to work on employability skills or other ISF programming, or transition into the ISF work program until they are discharged.

"Our goal is for every eligible resident in our facility to have the opportunity to complete one of the three training courses before they are released," said Barfield.

VC has partnered with the Gonzales ISF for many years, initially focusing on preparing ISF residents to earn a GED. The partnership later expanded to also include Core Curriculum: Introductory Craft Skills, a course covering basic safety, construction math, hand and power tools, and communications skills.

The new training in electrical, HVAC and welding is open to all Gonzales ISF residents who meet good behavior requirements and successfully complete the Core Curriculum class. Residents are able to choose their field of study as long as it aligns with their release date.

Upon successful completion, participants will receive NCCER certifications. These industry-standard credentials are recognized by employers in the construction trades and hold significant value in the job market.

"Victoria College is excited about this opportunity to partner with the Gonzales Intermediate Sanction Facility to improve the lives of incarcerated individuals by equipping them with the skills and certifications they need

to secure employment after release," said VC President Dr. Jennifer Kent. "When we train the incarcerated to reenter society with marketable skills, they have more than a means to earn a living - they have hope, and that makes all the difference."

Funding for the training is provided through the Adult Education & Literacy grant awarded to Victoria College.

"The overwhelming enthusiasm from the residents has been truly encouraging," said Barfield. "We've even seen some individuals voluntarily extend their stay to complete their training. As one resident stated with pride to a detention officer, 'I dropped out of high school years ago, but look at me now: I'm taking college classes!'"

DuBose hosts safe-secure community shred event

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

DuBose Insurance Agency is holding a community-wide shred event in the DuBose Insurance parking lot, 826 E. Sarah DeWitt Dr., Gonzales, on Saturday, April 20.

This drive-thru event is open to the public from 9 a.m. to noon and all paper documents are accepted. Stapled documents will be accepted; however, all binder clips, paper clips, etc., should be removed before dropping off the items for disposal.

This is a safe-secure shred and is being held in recognition of Earth Day 2024, so clear out your garage, your file cabinet, your counters and your desk drawers and participate in a neater, cleaner environment for all this year.

GCSO deputies recover car stolen from Ottine

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

No fooling, Gonzales County Sheriff's Office deputies recovered a stolen car within a few hours of it being stolen on Monday, April 1.

However, deputies are warning residents to not park their cars with the keys left inside the vehicle as this makes for an easy target for car thieves. There has been a big uptick of auto thefts in the region recently.

On Monday night, GCSO received a report of a stolen car in the Ottine area in Gonzales County. Responding deputies were informed the vehicle had been parked in a driveway with the keys left in the vehicle.

A diligent landowner in northern Wilson County observed the gate to her property was damaged and went to investigate. The land owner observed tracks from a vehicle in her pasture and followed the tracks. This led her to the area where a car was stashed in the brush. The landowner called the Wilson County Sheriff's Office to report the vehicle on her land.

Wilson County investigators contacted Gonzales County investigators and requested they meet at the property in Wilson County. Gonzales County investigators were able to



recovery the vehicle within a few hours of it being stolen and return it to the owner.

It was also reported to the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office that Lavaca County and Colorado County also had several vehicles stolen on

the same night.

The Gonzales County Sheriff's Office would like to remind everyone to please lock your vehicles, remove the keys from the vehicle, and remove all weapons from your vehicle when leaving it parked overnight.



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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 Texas amateur radio operator (2 wds.)
- 5 TXism: "a sheep in wolves clothes"
- 6 this Texas Speaker was a great center fielder
- 7 seat of Jackson County
- 8 TXism: "that ___ won't drill" (differ)
- 9 who TX Jeannie C. Riley "socked it to"
- 12 TX Tommy Lee Jones won one for "The Fugitive"
- 17 in Andrews County on U.S. 385
- 19 TXism: "couldn't fight his way out of ___ bag"
- 21 Zagreb is this country's capital
- 22 the ___ Bend Reservoir is near Hemphill
- 23 TX Vernon Dalhart tune: "Can't ___ Me Callin' Caroline?"
- 28 TX Orbison's "___ Woman Blues"
- 29 car washing aids
- 30 ___ soil is hard to farm
- 31 how a Texan says "can't"?
- 35 historical "Texas Gazette" was published by this Eastern (init.)
- 36 eastern Houston suburb
- 42 TXism: "bellered ___ bull"
- 44 TXism: "no flies ___" (pretty)
- 46 TXism: "he's a frisky fiddler"
- 48 rich layer cake
- 49 George W. to George H.W.
- 50 close a person's eyes
- 51 TXism: "she's ___ best when her lips ain't moving"
- 52 TXism: "scarce ___ wildcatter with a bank balance"
- 53 TXism: "___ it or lose it"
- 54 coldly ignores
- 56 actress Adams in "Racquet" with TX Lynda Day George
- 57 TXism: "head rug" dejected
- 10 former newspaper in Munday (3 wds.)
- 11 TXism: "limp ___ dish rag"
- 12 horse morsel
- 13 Texas-based Haggard products, e.g. (2 wds.)
- 14 TXism: "___boose" (jail)
- 15 TXism: "got knocked down ___ or two"
- 16 Cincinnati MLB team
- 18 "Petticoat" actor, TX Meredith Mac___
- 20 singer in 28-across (init.)
- 23 TXism: "dance with who brung ___"
- 24 "good ___ boy"
- 25 big Brahman ranch in Texas
- 26 TX Don Henley's rock group
- 27 Snyder has ___ buffalo statue
- 32 TXism: "he's ___ ornery old cuss"
- 33 TXism: "dab ___ on"
- 34 TXism: "___ dice"
- 36 TX Tracey Needham military TV series
- 37 king toppers in poker
- 38 TXism: "___ a bug's ear"
- 39 TX Autry's "Back ___ Saddle Again"
- 40 TXism: "suits me to a fare-___well"
- 41 2024, e.g.
- 43 TXism: "let '___ rip!"
- 45 actor Ulrich (init.)
- 47 ___ Alta Taylor Johnson (Lady Bird)
- 48 in Milam County on U.S. 79/190
- 55 Dallas (2 wds.)

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "attacked like grandma ___"
- 2 Gov. ___ Runnels (1857-59)
- 3 TX Judith McNaught novel: "___ of Dreams" (1989)
- 4 Fort Bliss site: Lanoria ___
- 9 Quannah Parker's father, Nocona

SUDOKU

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

TWC accepting grant applications to fund CTE

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.

OBITUARY

ANNIE TUCH LUEDECKE



Annie Tuch Luedecke, 97, of Victoria, formerly of Gonzales, passed away Thursday, March 28, 2024. She was born March 24, 1927 in Gonzales the daughter of Charlie and Annie Clara Muntz Tuch.

Annie was a homemaker, she enjoyed gardening, especially growing flowers and sewing. She loved shopping flea markets with family. She was a resident of Victoria for over 65 years.

She is survived by her daughter Vickie Manley and husband Gary of Nacogdoches; sons Heinz Luedecke, Jr. and Lee Luedecke both of Victoria; granddaughters Michelle Smith and husband Casey of Florida and Lesly Hodo and husband Baron of Dallas. Also surviving are 6 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Heinz Otto Luedecke, Sr., great-granddaughter Haley Smith, sisters Lillian Kolar and Elsie Windwehen, and brothers Charlie

Edward (Sonny) Tuch and Raymond Douglas (Mike) Tuch.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home. Graveside services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at the Gonzales Memorial Park Cemetery.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences at www.seydler-hillfuneralhome.com

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home, 906 St. Paul St., Gonzales, TX.

Grusendorf to address Guadalupe County Republican Women

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Thursday, April 25, at 11:30 a.m., the Guadalupe County Republican Women will be presenting Kent Grusendorf, a successful businessman, entrepreneur, and author.

While serving in the Texas Legislator for 20 years his primary focus was on education. He has been on several state and federal

boards of education and written numerous studies and editorials related to education and education finance.

He is currently the President of Liberty For The Kids, a non-profit dedicated to educational freedom and his latest book is "Saving Public Education -Setting Teacher Free to Teach."

The luncheon/meeting will be held at the Seguin Silver Center at

510 East Court Street beginning at 11:30 am. Lunch is available by making reservations with Glenda Partain by calling or texting 830-391-3979 or silvercenter@sbc-global.net.

The program is free but if you plan on enjoying a delicious lunch, the cost is \$15.

For more information, go to <https://www.guadalupe-county-rw.com>.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff's Office 03/24/24 - 03/30/24

03/24/24
 • Delagarza, Bonnie Mae, Age: 18, Victoria: Warrantless/On-View - Poss CS PG 4>=28G<200G, Requires \$2,500 Bond; Warrantless/On-View - Poss CS PG 2>=1G<4G, Requires \$2,500 Bond; Warrantless/On-View - Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$1,000 Bond; Released

03/25/24
 • Siptak, Gianna Corryn, Age: 23, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence - Poss Marij <2oz, Released - Weekender
 • Winkle, Johnnie Lee, Age: 31, Harwood: Local Warrant - Man Del CS PG 1>=4G<200G, Released - Case reset

03/26/24
 • Sirildo, Mykal Rai, Age:22, Gonzales:

Commitment/Sentence - Proh Substance/Item in Correctional Facility, Commitment/Sentence - Poss CS PG 1/1-B<1G, Commitment/Sentence - Burglary of Habitation, Commitment/Sentence - Poss CS PG 1/1-B<1G, Remains in Custody

03/27/24
 • King, Joeseff Sidney, Age: 48, Smiley: Warrantless/On-View - Poss CS PG 1/1-B<1G, Requires \$2,500 Bond; Warrantless/On-View - Poss Dangerous Drug, Requires \$500 Bond, Released

• Reyes, Enrique, Age: 40, De Valle: Warrantless/On-View - Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$1,200 Bond, Released
 • Perez, Adrian Vazquez, Age: 41, Austin: Warrantless/On-View - Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$1,200 Bond, Released

03/28/24
 • Martinez, Brandon Richard, Age: 24, Nixon: Warrantless/On-View - Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$500 Bond, Released
 • Balderas, Katelynn Dolores, Age: 22, Gonzales: Local Warrant - Publish/Threat to Publish intimate Visual Matr, Requires \$100,000 Bond, Remains in Custody
 • Groom, Amber Ray, Age: 39, Uvalde: Local Warrant - Poss CS PG 1/1-B<1G, Requires \$100,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

03/29/24
 • Beltran, Isaac, Age: 31, San Antonio: Commitment/Sentence - Agg Assault w/ Deadly Weapon, Remains in Custody
 • Dilworth, Johnny Ray, Age: 39, Yoakum: Commitment/Sentence - Poss CS PG 1>=1G<4G, Released - Weekender
 • Gonzalez, Jasmine

Nichole, Age: 36, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence - Robbery, Remains in Custody
 • Riojas, Coty John, Age: 36, Nixon: Commitment/Sentence - Criminal Mischief >=\$100<\$750, Released - Weekender
 • Hodge, Rozaun Demont, Age: 39, Cedar Creek: Commitment/Sentence - Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Member, Released - Weekender
 • Saucedo, Faustino Es: Commitment/Sentence - Driving While Intoxicated 3rd or more IAT, Released - Weekender

03/30/24
 • Rodriguez, Martin, JR, Age: 32, Palestine: Local Warrant - Driving w/Lic Inv w/Prev Conv/Susp/w/o Fin Res, Requires \$1,500 Bond, Released
 • Johnson, Ronald, SR, Age: 43, Austin: Other Agency Hold - Disorderly

Conduct Discharge/Display Firearm, Requires - \$1,000 Bond; Warrantless/On-View - Assault Public Servant, Requires - \$100,000 Bond; Remains in Custody
 Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processing's:

GCSO	18
DPS	02
GPD	05
WPD	01

NPD	01
GISD	00
SMO	01
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	28

2ND 25TH DISTRICT COURT SENTENCINGS

MARCH 25, 2024

- Anthony Turrubiarte, evading with a vehicle, plea 25 years TDCJ, 154 days counts as time served, dismissed charge of evading/enhanced.
- Jonathan Feathers, attempt to commit assault on a peace officer, five years TDCJ, 261 days counts as time served.
- Jerome Hastings, assault/family violence, five years TDCJ, 65 days counts as time served.
- Briana Rodriguez, assault on a peace officer, 12 years TDCJ, appealed.

MARCH 26, 2024

- Isaac Beltran, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, six years deferred adjudication, report to ISF, plus court costs.
- Derik Lee Croft, possession of a controlled substance equal to or greater than four grams but less than 200 grams, 10 years TDCJ, probated for 10 years, plus court costs and attorney's fees.
- Akaria Shamone Ford, possession of a controlled substance equal to or greater than 1 gram but less than four grams, 10 years deferred adjudication plus court costs.
- Mykal Rai Sirildo, possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram, prohibited substance or item in a correctional facility, five years deferred adjudication plus court costs.
- Mykal Rai Sirildo, burglary of a habitation, eight years deferred adjudication plus \$1,000 fine, court costs and attorney fees.
- Mykal Rai Sirildo,

possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram (second charge), prohibited substance or item in a correctional facility, five years deferred adjudication plus court costs.
 • Mykal Rai Sirildo, possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram (third charge), prohibited substance or item in a correctional facility, five years deferred adjudication plus court costs.

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Keep your family safe from carbon monoxide

There's a good chance you have a natural gas, propane, or wood burning appliance in your home. Are you protected against carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is deadly to humans and pets. You can't see, taste, or smell it.

These tips will help keep you and your family safe:

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm in your house. It's also a good idea to get a portable alarm for when you travel.
- Test your alarm monthly.
- Don't use a stove to heat your home.
- Don't use a charcoal grill inside.
- Keep your fireplace clean, and always open the flue when you use it.
- Don't leave your vehicle running in the garage, even with the door open.
- Don't run a portable generator in or near your home. Make sure it's 20 feet away from open doors and windows.
- If your alarm sounds, move outdoors immediately and call 9-1-1.

BRITNEY JONES CAKA
 LUTCF, FSCP, CLU
 Agent

1731 Seydler St.
 Gonzales, TX 78629

o 830-672-7518
 m 830-857-6296
 E bcaka@txfb-ins.com

FARM&RANCH / ANNUITIES / MEDSUP

Gonzales Healthcare Systems April 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Austin MFM 1	Dr. Echols 2	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller 3	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols 4	5
Austin MFM Dr. Malik Dr. Desai 8	Dr. Echols Dr. Quintero 9	Dr. Quebedeaux 10	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols 11	Amy Trost Dr. Miller 12
Austin MFM 15	Dr. Echols 16	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller 17	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols Dr. Malik 18	Dr. Bui 19
Austin MFM 22	Dr. Echols 23	Dr. Quebedeaux 24	Dr. Ryan Dr. Kirchner Dr. Echols 25	26
Austin MFM 29	Dr. Echols 30			

Located at THRIVE Healthplex

Orthopedics Gloria Box, MD 830-672-8497	Surgery Kathleen Koerner, DO, FACOS 830-672-8497	Cardiology William Craig, MD 830-672-3845	Dermatology Alpesh Desai, DO 713-864-2659
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Specialty Physician Outpatient Clinic

Audiology Amy Trost Hearing Specialist 830-372-2237	Pain Management Eric Miller, MD 830-272-7746
Chiropractic Jeff Echols, DC 512-799-6811	Urology Robert Ryan, III, MD 830-379-8491
Dermatology Vicente Quintero, MD 830-626-5551	Ophthalmology Joseph Kavanagh, MD 830-379-3937
Nephrology Azhar M. Malik, MD 361-576-0011 Yong Du, MD 361-576-0011	Orthopedics Trent Twitero, MD 830-625-0009
Obstetrics Alyson Kirchner, MD, OBGYN 830-379-1500	Podiatry Terri Quebedeaux, DPM, PA 830-303-0005 Charles White, DPM 830-303-0005
	Austin Maternal Fetal Medicine 512-821-2540

GONZALES HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS
Feel the Difference

Victoria College names Dr. Marisa Pierce as new Vice President of Student Services

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College has named Dr. Marisa Pierce of Arlington, Texas, as its new Vice President of Student Services, effective May 13.

In this crucial role, Pierce will serve on VC's Administrative Council and provide strategic leadership to the Division of Student Services. Her primary focus will be to cultivate a student-centered culture while ensuring support systems align to successful completion, transfer and/or entry to a career with a family-sustaining wage for all students.

Pierce brings a wealth of experience in higher education leadership, spanning 30 years across various institutions. Most recently, she served in the inaugural role of Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management at Dallas College during a successful single-accreditation transition. Prior to that, she was the Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management at North Lake College within the Dallas County Community College System.

"Dr. Pierce's extensive background in student success initiatives makes her an ideal leader for Victoria College," said Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President. "Her passion for empowering students to achieve success aligns perfectly with our vision of improving lives and strengthening communities by providing a supportive environment that equips students to reach their full potential."

Pierce's career has been dedicated to fostering student success, beginning with her role as Project Director for the El Paso Community College's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). Through her leadership, the program established strong

academic partnerships with El Paso County rural school districts, successfully increasing college-going rates in each of the participating schools.

"Throughout my career, I've been fortunate to work with K-12, universities and community colleges," said Pierce. "One of the most rewarding experiences for me involved working with the rural communities around El Paso while serving as a program director. I'm excited to return to my roots of serving rural communities while leveraging all my experiences to make a positive impact in Victoria and surrounding areas."

Pierce holds a doctorate in educational leadership and administration from The University of Texas at El Paso along with a master's degree in reading education and a bachelor's degree in speech communications. In addition to her leadership roles, she has actively participated in various local, state and national projects, committees and professional organizations dedicated to advancing educational access and success.

"I am incredibly honored to join Victoria College and contribute to its unwavering commitment to student success," said Pierce. "Creating a vibrant student experience is essential, and I look forward to collaborating with students, employees and educational partners to ensure VC remains a leader in student-centered education."

Raised in El Paso, Pierce is a fluent Spanish speaker and a proud Latina. She and her husband, Gus, have two sons.



Pierce

Gym sloth labor pains

Howdy folks, hope your week is going great. Continuing with our general fitness series, and after starting off with baby step exercises leading to where I am these days, I left off last week with my basic leg workout. To recap: I alternate leg raises on a "power tower" with calf raises on my smith machine unit (barbell gliding on rails, complete with cables and bench), followed by squats, leg extensions and leg curls. This is a very standard leg workout for any self respecting gym rat (or gym sloth, in my case), and will definitely get the job done.

For those of you wondering, a power tower is a free standing unit that has a chin up bar, and handles for both dips and pushups, but I only use it for ab work. After years of punishing my lower back with sports, crazy exercise routines, and way too much physical labor, I guess you could say that I've become accustomed to "labor pains". Finding that trying to work lower abs with leg raises on the floor was simply too painful. On this unit, it has two small steps to help you get into position, which is upright with your back against a pad, resting your forearms on pads and holding onto two upright handles, allowing your legs to hang down. From there I will slowly raise my

legs (knees bent) towards my chest, hitting lower abs at the start of the movement and upper abs at the highest point. I'll normally alternate a straight raise, followed by one to the left, then to the right to hit the smaller muscles on the sides, and follow that by standing and slowly twisting from side to side with abs flexed. I'll alternate this with my warmup sets of calf raises, hitting a total of four sets. As an added bonus, while in position for leg raises, just allowing your legs to hang and doing a figure eight pattern with your feet is a great way to decompress your spine and stretch out those lower back muscles, something I've affectionately named the "Leg Dangle". It does wonders on those cold / damp mornings when the old man within rears his ugly (uglier by the day) head.

By this time my calves are warmed up and ready to go. Standing on a homemade calf block (two 2' pieces of 4 by 4, with a 2 1/2' - 2 by 6 screwed to the top), I'll have 125 lbs loaded onto the smith machine bar and do 3 to 4 sets (feet slightly wider than shoulders) of whatever I can muster, slowly standing up on my toes then lowering slightly past starting position for a nice stretch, trying not to over



ERIC ESTES

Love, Eric and Eloise

do it. Don't know if my calves will ever grow into full grown cows, but if the chicken calls and wants his legs back, he ain't gonna be happy about it!

Moving on to thighs, I'll generally start with a set of light leg extensions and curls, followed by a high rep set of squats (bar only), then another light set of ext / curls to fully warm up, then will add about 30 lbs. per set of squats (15-20 reps) before hitting my final workout weight of 125 lbs., for 3-4 sets of whatever I feel comfortable with that day. 'Cause at this juncture, everyday's a new adventure. I realize that to most younger people who lift regularly these weights seem paltry, but trust me, now past retirement age and after a lifetime of beating myself senseless (or was I senseless to begin with?), they feel quite heavy. So be warned young'uns, the way you treat yourself during blissful youth will either allow you to reap the rewards, or suffer the consequences when you're older!

Next week it's on to chest and back, so stay tuned, love you guys, Eric.

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COOKING WITH PARIND

Spanish chestnuts pair well with Lockhart quail

Hello everyone. My name is Parind Vora. I am the chef/owner of Gonzales Bistro at 320 Saint George Street right of the historic Independence square. www.gonzalesbistro.com. In this column we talk cooking, tricks to cooking, and sometimes eating.

I ordered a few pounds of Spanish chestnuts. So, what the heck are they?

Spanish chestnuts are the fruit (edible) of a nut tree that grows throughout the world. FYI: They can be eaten raw or cooked. Like hazelnuts they are actually fruit versus a seed. They grow 3-4 average inside a spikey husk that looks like a big Burr oak acorn husk.

For dessert preparation they are usually boiled and their savoury versions the chestnuts are generally roasted or baked.

I feel one of the best things to cook with chestnuts is poultry. We will use quail as it sits squarely between red meat fowl like duck and white meat fowl like pheasant or chicken. Quails are mild but are not too mild. Today we will make them into an appetiser. Perfecto!

Crunchy Lockhart quail with glazed chestnuts and a sherry vinaigrette

Ingredients

One pound Spanish/European chestnuts (Do not try to substitute Chinese water chestnuts as they are not even close). Available fresh on-line.

1-2 tablespoons of olive oil

¼ stick of high-quality churned butter like Plugra or Kerry gold.

1 cup of Mexican coke.

2 quarts of peanut oil to fry

¼ cup sherry vinegar

¼ cup light brown sugar

2 tablespoons honey

Small bag of Chile arbol

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

½ cup of Japanese panko breadcrumbs seasoned with salt & freshly ground pepper

½ cup of seeded Jewish rye bread-crumbs (crust removed, oven dried overnight and pulsed into coarse breadcrumbs) seasoned with salt & freshly ground pepper

½ cup corn starch seasoned with salt & freshly ground pepper

seasoned with salt & freshly ground pepper to taste

½ cup of beaten whole eggs seasoned with salt & freshly ground pepper

4 quails (semi-boneless): We use the quails from Texas quail farms out of Lockhart and are readily available.

Cut a few slits into the sides of the chestnuts that are through the tough skin but not too deep into the flesh. Toss the chestnuts in the olive oil in a bowl and roast in a 425 F oven for 15/20 minutes until tender. Peel the skin with a small paring knife as soon as the nuts are cool enough to handle and set aside.

To prep the quail, set up a three-stage breading with 1 bowl of seasoned corn starch, 1 bowl of seasoned and beaten eggs and one bowl of well



mixed seasoned panko and rye bread-crumbs.

Pat the quails very dry with paper towels. Dredge in corn starch first until very well coated and then shake the excess off. Next, dredge in the seasoned egg wash until very well coated and you have shaken the excess off. Third, coat with the breadcrumbs mix and you have shaken the excess off. Put the breaded quails on a cold plate/platter and put in the fridge for at least 30 minutes to firm up the breading.

Over medium heat, add all of the sugar, honey, coke, vinegar, 2 arbol chiles broken in ½ and the butter into a pot. Add the peeled, roasted chestnuts and stir while reducing the glaze for the chestnuts that are slightly caramel-

ized. Season to taste, set aside and keep warm.

In a big enough pot, bring the peanut oil to 350F. Deep fry the quail until cooked to medium (between 5-8 minutes). Set aside to rest draining on a rack over a sheet pan/cookie sheet.

Lightly season the fried quail with salt.

To plate: put the chicken fried quail in the middle of the plate. Surround the quail with 4-5 glazed chestnuts and a drizzle of the glaze.

For this dish I like a bold Tempranillo from the Priorat region of Spain for the red or an bone dry Chablis from Burgundy for the white.

Cheers!

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Bantam Fest 2024 gears up for May date

BY BETTY COHN
Gonzales Inquirer

The Smiley Bantam Activity Group are excited to announce their upcoming 2024 Bantam Fest on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at the Smiley Fire Department.

This community favorite all day festival will feature live music provided this year by Park Sanchez & Wrangler Country.

The events are set to begin at noon when all booths open and contest sign ups are scheduled to occur. Earlier in the day the 9 a.m. cook off entry deadline will be observed, as usual.

Family friendly events including a cake walk (1 p.m.), kids games (2 p.m.), Exes Reunion (2 p.m.), DJ & karaoke events from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m., with both adults and kids contests scheduled at 3:30 p.m. The all time favorite Corn hole Tournament is set to begin at 4 p.m., with registration earlier in the day at 3 p.m. This friendly competition is open to all, with a \$40 per team sign up fee.

The evening will conclude with a swinging dance, from 7 p.m. – 11 p.m., with guarantees for all to have a great evening.

Mark your calendars, come out to meet new friends, and see old ones, while having an amazing day enjoying the fun day planned for everyone. #Keeponsmilin' and follow Smiley Bantam Activity group on Facebook for more information.

Let's make this year's Bantam Fest the best one yet! Special thanks to the Bantam Fest 2024 coordinators Michelle Mills (Vendor & Entertainment Coordinator) Stella Brassell (Vendor Coordinators), Vanessa Dyer (Cook Off Coordinator & Smiley 4H) & Roger Dyer (Cook Off Coordinator), Joshua Bermea (Corn Hole Coordinator), Adel Bermea & Nicole Reid (Cake Walk Coordinators), and Lucy & Larissa Fernandez (Kids Games Coordinators).



Dr. A with Gonzales Junior High Teacher of the Year D'laine Easley and Principal Karen Perez.



Dr. A with Gonzales Elementary Teacher of the Year Julie Belin and Principal Nikki Nerada.



Dr. A with Gonzales Primary Academy Teacher of the Year Jessica Bouler and Principal Dr. Ariana Hernandez.



Dr. A with Gonzales High School Teacher of the Year Christy Day and Principal Jon Basha.



GISD honors campus Teachers of the Year

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Tuesday, April 2, was a day of surprises and recognition as the five Gonzales Independent School District Teachers of the Year were named.

Gonzales ISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda joined principals at the campuses along with cheerleaders and members of the Mighty Apache Band in publicly saluting these exceptional educators in front of their students, fellow staff members and families.

Teachers of the Year for 2023-24 include:

- Jessica Bouler, Gonzales Primary Academy.
- Julie Belin, Gonzales Elementary School.
- Alexandra Finch, Gonzales North Avenue.
- D'laine Easley, Gonzales Junior High School.
- Christy Day, Gonzales High School.

"Their unwavering commitment and remarkable impact on their students serve as an inspiration to us all," the district said in an announcement.

The district Teacher of the Year will be named at a later date.

Dr. A with Gonzales North Avenue Teacher of the Year Alexandra Finch and Principal Vanessa Chapa-Gibson.



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LEAKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

detection and repair of pipeline leaks.

The industry argues that more regulation of things like leaks would make their business less profitable, and limit its ability to increase employment.

Palacios said finding and repairing the leaks would help reduce smog and combat climate change.

"On a 20-year timeframe, methane is about 87 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a climate 'forcer,'" said Palacios. "So, scientists say that if we reduce

methane emissions, that is our greatest hope at reducing rates of warming."

The Railroad Commission of Texas is in charge of pipeline safety in the state. Its mission statement says protecting the environment and preserving property rights are two of its primary responsibilities.

Commission Shift says the Railroad Commission often prioritizes oil and gas development over safety and the environment.

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CATHOLIC COMMUNITY PRESENTS STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The Catholic Community of Gonzales and Waelder gathered at the Gonzales Memorial Museum for the annual Stations of the Cross event Friday, March 29 for Good Friday. The Catholic Community walked each station witnessing Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS AND BARBARA CROZIER



TOURISM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cannon — as well as a nod to the Immortal 32 who fought valiantly at the Alamo. The article mentions experiencing our beautiful little town via tours of Eggleston House, Pioneer Village Living History Center, J.B. Wells House Museum, as well as the multitude of

artifacts and exhibits located through self guided tours, which allow visitors to visit the not-so-distant past in person, and up close, at their own speed and direction. Noting the more than 100 historical landmarks Gonzales has, as well as a nod to the 1835 attack at Sandies Water

Hole, as well as the 1835 Battle of Gonzales, this article strives to highlight the local lore, legend and history of the town of Gonzales, noting the proximity to other Texas cities of note, including San Antonio. While recognition is a wonderful thing for both our com-

munity pride, and our community economy, we hope this article encourages those who call Gonzales home to explore their community, learning something old, something new, something to be proud of, and something any native Texan would understand, which is community pride and

ownership. Sometimes a trip to the past helps to highlight the present day, and with a history as rich and historical as Gonzales has, it often remains the path to the future, via landmarks, tours, community involvement and local festivals to honor the home of the Texas Revolution.

RUSSELLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

juries and I always tell my clients a jury trial is 50-50 because you never know what a jury is going to do. Could we have gone in and put forth an argument in this case? Yes, but again, who knows what 12 people sitting there are going to come up with?" The case was prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General James Haugh after the Gonzales County Attorney's Office recused itself from the case and brought in the OAG to take over. Efforts to reach Haugh for comment through the OAG press office were unsuccessful. The couple could have faced up to as much as 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine had they been found guilty of the most serious charge levied against them — theft of funds of an aggregate value of \$30,000 or more

but less than \$150,000 by a public servant, which is a second-degree felony. A grand jury originally alleged in November 2019 that between January 2011 and June 2018, the Russells had misapplied EMS funds for their own benefit by depositing money meant for the EMS and CPR classes into their own personal bank accounts, overpaying themselves or other employees for unworked hours, being paid by other entities while simultaneously being paid by the EMS and mishandling donations to the EMS. Jim Russell had been employed as the EMS director, while Carla Russell was a billing and collections clerk who also worked as a paramedic and a supervisor. They were both initially arrested on June 4, 2018 after a lengthy investigation by the Gonzales

Police Department. Jim Russell had been placed on administrative leave without pay in January 2018 while the investigation was under way; he was fired by the board on June 26, 2018. Carla Russell was asked to resign following her arrest, which she did. The Texas Attorney General's office found, however, after taking over the case that the only charges they felt confident would stick at trial involved the money deposited into the Russells' bank accounts for the CPR classes they taught on behalf of the EMS, Bland said. "The question was, 'Was this money that the EMS service should have received versus the Russells themselves, who are actually teaching the class?'" Bland said. "That is kind of a gray area. There was some stuff in the bid specifications that made it a gray area as to what did it mean, and who could have received the funds for that. That is where the AG's office really saw that there could be any kind of criminal liability. "It was just really about who should have received those funds. Should that have been the EMS board? Should that have been the individuals who are performing the services? There is a deal in that bid specification that says the EMS service is to provide these classes to the public, but it doesn't explain how they're gonna provide it or who is defined as the public? Is it these individual companies that are requesting classes? "I believe the AG's Office did a really good job in coming in and reviewing the case, looking at it with what was neutral eyes, and putting some work into it to see if they

could make sure these numbers were correct," Bland added. Bland noted at that time there were two separate entities involved — a governmental entity, the Gonzales County Emergency Services District No. 1, contracted through bids with the Gonzales EMS, a 501(c)(3) private nonprofit, formerly known as the Gonzales Volunteer Ambulance Corps, to provide EMS services in Gonzales. Today, ESD1 runs and oversees all operations of the Gonzales EMS after the latter was absorbed into the former in a merger. The \$7,000 restitution check was written to ESD1 as they now control all Gonzales EMS assets, Bland said. He said the Russells answered to the Gonzales EMS Board during their employment and not the ESD, which meant they were not considered public servants. "The EMS did not provide all the funding for the EMS. The EMS, as a 501(c)(3), was able to get grants and they received donations," Bland said. "They also did their own billing, and they would do transports, so they would get billed for that, so they had their other sources of funds. "And that was another kind of issue as to whether this was public funds? Was it not public funds? That kind of dealt with are they public servants or not? It really didn't pan out to them being public servants, because they did not work for the ESD." Bland said the investigation by the OAG found no evidence of overpayments to the Russells or anyone else and he said the Gonzales EMS board, who oversaw the Russells, had allowed them to earn extra money by working on standby at the rodeo or other events and getting paid for their time. He said that was how they made up for Jim Russell not receiving a raise in his \$64,000 executive director salary or both Jim and Carla Russell working

supervisory shifts or on ambulances as paramedics without any additional pay. "The board allowed Jim and Carla both to do extra work, provide extra services to make up for that lack of pay raises, and that comes in to some of the allegations that were made about that they were working as a supervisor, working for the EMS and also doing standby at the rodeo and stuff," Bland said. "The board said, 'Hey, that's how they make extra money to compensate for us not giving them raises. They're working and we're okay with that.' "There were things in the company's operating procedures that said they could have gotten paid extra for working those shifts (on an ambulance or as supervisor). They didn't do that. They were trying to help the service as best they could, because the EMS service was always close to being short funded." Bland said all donations to the EMS were accounted for after a review by the OAG. "Either the donations were spent to purchase tools, purchase items, or the money was there to be used for matching grants," Bland said. "Once the AG's Office looked at that, they didn't think that there was anything out of the ordinary with these donations, nothing where the Russells had benefited themselves in any way." Bland said the allegations made against the Russells didn't come from any internal investigation or finding of wrongdoing by the EMS Board, but instead came from former EMS employees who provided documents to law enforcement "who just kind of took it and ran with it." "These people never went and directed their thoughts to the board," Bland said. "I think that would have cleared up a lot of this, had they gone to the board and said, 'Hey, this is what

we feel that's going on. What does the board feel?' The board didn't get a chance to investigate these claims before law enforcement just started digging into them. And they dug and they dug and dug and dug and dug. "I think it was a poor investigation. It seems like law enforcement almost was like, 'Well, how can we prove these allegations?' and they believed these allegations as wholehearted facts instead of doing a neutral investigation. And I think a lot of that stemmed from law enforcement did not know how EMS ran their operations. "What law enforcement saw looking from the outside in as ... so-called double dipping ... turned out it wasn't because the board's like, 'We're okay with that. That's how we allow them to make extra money, so we're not having to pay them a raise. We're letting them earn their money.' And then there's some things in some of the reports where there were law enforcement seems to be comparing apples to oranges. "I don't think the investigation from law enforcement was very good," Bland said. "I think it was a little overzealous and just maybe not going about it the right direction. I think had the EMS board been approached about this, I think that's something they probably could have handled internally saying either 'We're good with this' or 'We're not good with this and let's try to remedy the situation.'" Bland said his clients have left the medical field and plan to "continue working the jobs they are doing now and go on about their lives" now the issue has been resolved and restitution has been made. "Misdemeanors don't carry near the stigmatization that a felony does or the legal impediments," Bland said. "There's a lot of stuff that a felony will prevent you from doing and a lot of jobs don't like that felony on there. With a misdemeanor conviction, they should be able to put this behind them and go on with their lives."

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John is originally from Gonzales, TX, he is a member of the United Methodist Church of Gonzales, the Texas Wildlife Association and is Vice President of Gonzales County Wildlife Management Association. In his down time, John enjoys spending time on the family ranch. John resides in Gonzales, TX.

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DOGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

food trucks and t-shirt sales, as well as other fun events for the entire family, both human and fur! There will also be Blessing of the Pets by Father Robert Certain of the church. Donations are welcome, as well as sponsorship for this outside event, with COVID-19 guidelines in place for the safety of the community. Hosts for this event include the Gonzales Dog Adoptions/Gonzales Dog Shelter, as well as Victoria Currie. Come one, come all, come big pets, and come small, to the dog extravaganza!

ECLIPSE

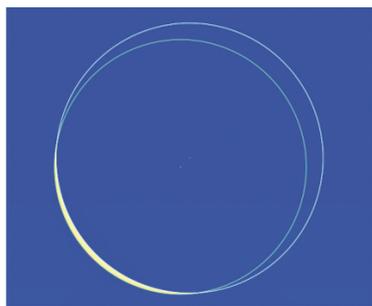
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can see it online at <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/live>.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is warning travelers to expect severe traffic delays on Texas highways on Monday, April 8. As a result, no size/weight permitted travel will be allowed on that day from midnight to midnight in counties in which totality will occur.

The celestial celebration begins in Gonzales (29.5016257N, 97.4524926W) at 12:16:14 p.m. with the first “bite” of the eclipse taking place at 3 o’clock if you were looking at the sun as a clock face. Remember, you must use eclipse glasses to look at the Sun at this time!

Mid-eclipse (the point of greatest obscuration) takes place at 13:36:14 p.m. with 97.9 percent coverage of the sun’s diameter in Gonzales. Altitude will be at 68 degrees, or about three-



COURTESY/ECLIPSE2024.ORG

A representation of how the eclipse will appear when viewed in Gonzales. The moon will block out nearly 98 percent of the sun, leaving just a small sliver of the solar surface showing.

quarters of the way up. The azimuth will be at 183 degrees or nearly due south — just three degrees past. The eclipse is expected to end in Gonzales at about 14:58:14, or two hours and 42 minutes after it first began.

You can see animation of what the eclipse will look like at <https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse-simulator/2024/38761>.

UNEMPLOYMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For the entire Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area, the unemployment rate for February 2024 was 4.1 percent, lower than the state average of 4.4 percent. This represented a total of 3,766 residents in Gonzales, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties seeking employment out of a total workforce of 92,263 people.

The counties reporting lower than Gonzales County are Lavaca County, with the lowest unemployment rate at 3.5 percent, followed by Calhoun County at 3.6 percent, Dewitt County at 3.8 percent, and Jackson County following at 3.9 percent. Gonzales follows with 4.0 percent, with Goliad at 4.4 percent, Victoria County closes in the highest position at 4.5 percent.

For February 2024, there were 387 individuals in Gonzales County seeking employment out of a workforce of 9,629 with 9,242 reported as employed. In January 2024, there were 346 people seeking work in Gonzales County out of an employment force of 9,367 for a total unemployment rate of 3.7 percent.

In February 2023, Gonzales County had an unemployment rate of 3.9

percent. The 3.2 percent unadjusted unemployment rate for April 2023 was the lowest seen in Gonzales County since it was reported at 2.7 percent in March 2022.

Unemployment rates since February 2022 for Gonzales County are:

- March 2022, 2.7 percent.
- April 2022, 2.6 percent.
- May 2022, 2.7 percent.
- June 2022, 3.5 percent.
- July 2022, 3.2 percent.
- August 2022, 3.2 percent.
- September 2022, 3.1 percent.
- October 2022, 3.1 percent.
- November 2022, 3.1 percent.
- December 2022, 2.7 percent.
- January 2023, 3.7 percent.
- February 2023, 4.0 percent.
- March 2023, 3.5 percent.
- April 2023, 3.2 percent.
- May 2023, 3.5 percent.
- June 2023, 3.7 percent.
- July 2023, 4.0 percent.
- August 2023, 4.0 percent.
- September 2023, 3.5 percent.
- October 2023, 3.3 percent.
- November 2023, 3.1 percent.
- January 2024, 3.7 percent.
- February 2024, 4.0 percent.



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“They come through the system, kind of like at an airport. They come through the system and if it doesn’t alert, you’re good, have a good time, that kind of thing, But if they come in and it alerts, we’ll pull them aside and then check them to make sure there is nothing going on. We do a secondary search so we’re not inconveniencing everyone.”

—Jimmy Harless, Gonzales County Emergency Management Coordinator

FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have their own weather ops group, but on my side, our go to is the National Weather Service. Anything they give us with any kind of approaching storm, we will reconfirm with our federal friends. We have in place for updates about 80-mile range, 40-mile range, 20-mile range and so on.”

Harless said the person overseeing safety concerns for Cattle Country Music Festival is the same person who helped with Float Fest two years ago — a retired state police officer who has performed similar functions with Lollapalooza and other big name festivals and with whom Harless has been in weekly contact in the days leading up to Cattle Country.

Harless said the Victoria County Sheriff’s Office is loaning Gonzales County its 18-wheeler mobile command center to set up onsite at “The Boot,” the 400-acre ranch along the Guadalupe River where the festival will take place.

FirstNet — the First Responder Network Authority — will have a mobile tower present to allow first responders to stay connected so there are no phone issues. Phone service on traditional cell towers can slow down or become very spotty due to high demand at festival sites, so having FirstNet on site means first responder communications will not be dropped, Harless said.

For fire safety, there will be two fire apparatuses onsite at peak times when the music is playing, as well as an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) with a 60-gallon water tank. Firefighters will be on site at all times as well.

Harless said he plans to do an inspection on all tents the day before to “make sure that anything over a certain size has exit signs and all fire extinguishers are up to date.”

The Texas Department of Public Safety will have its mounted patrol on site with five horses.

“I don’t know exactly when they’re going to be on on site and off site, but they’ve acquired a place to stay and they’re going to be there for visibility,” Harless said. “Plus, the horses are just beautiful. Hopefully some of the fami-

lies are bringing the kids and that’ll be an attractant but also a security measure on our side.”

Sheriff’s deputies and police officers will be working on duty, including traffic, plus DPS will also have a strike team on site as they did for Float Fest, “basically looking for traffic violations and showing the colors off site on the state road,” Harless said.

Lavaca County Sheriff’s Office, the Shiner Police Department and Lavaca EMS have all volunteered assets to help out and the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council, or STRAC, which oversees emergency medical response in the region for the state, will have assets on standby that can be activated at the drop of a hat, Harless said. Plus there will be a fully equipped medical tent at the festival grounds, just as there was at Float Fest in 2022.

One of the neatest additions at the festival in the way of security is a weapons detection system that uses sonar to scan people coming into the grounds, Harless said.

“What it’s doing is it’s scanning you and if it gets a return on the sonar that indicates you might have a weapon, it alerts,” Harless said. “They will have certified people who are going to run it. It’s pretty neat technology.”

“That way, we’re not searching everybody. They come through the system, kind of like at an airport. They come through the system and if it doesn’t alert, you’re good, have a good time, that kind of thing, But if they come in and it alerts, we’ll pull them aside and then check them to make sure there is nothing going on. We do a secondary search so we’re not inconveniencing everyone.”

Cattle Country’s lineup includes headliners Eric Church, Whiskey Myers and Koe Wetzel with support from 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, playing on three stages during the course of the three-day festival.

Notice of Virtual Public Meeting
Texas Department of Transportation

2025 – 2028 Rural Transportation Improvement Program Yoakum District

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) – Yoakum District will conduct an online virtual public meeting for the 2025 – 2028 Rural Transportation Improvement Program (Rural TIP). The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive comments on which transportation projects may be coming to your area. The Yoakum District includes Austin, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Victoria and Wharton counties. The Rural TIP includes all added capacity and regionally significant projects to be funded within a TxDOT District during the next four years, including those eligible for federal funding. As such, this meeting offers the public an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed priorities. The Rural TIP is the first step on the road to producing a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

To participate in the virtual public meeting and learn more about projects in Austin, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Victoria and Wharton counties, please participate during the comment period indicated below:

Virtual Public Meeting

Available on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 10 a.m. until Monday, May 6, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.

Austin, Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Victoria and Wharton counties

Visit www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearingsmeetings.html and look for “2025 – 2028 Rural Transportation Improvement Program Yoakum District” meeting on page



Rural Transportation Improvement Program Yoakum District meeting on page

The Rural TIP meetings are being held pursuant to Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Section 16.102, which calls for an opportunity for public comment concerning the Rural TIP. A short presentation, exhibits explaining how the Rural TIP operates, and projects that are included in it will be available to view during the virtual public meeting.

All community members are encouraged to attend the virtual public meeting and provide written comments on the proposed program. Comments must be postmarked or otherwise received by Monday, May 6, 2024 to: TxDOT Yoakum District, Attn: Rural TIP; 403 Huck Street, Yoakum, TX 77995 or by email to Jeffery.Vinklarek@txdot.gov, Attention: Rural TIP.

Special Accommodations: The virtual public meeting and in-person option will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public meeting or in-person option, please contact Lucrean Kuykendall, Yoakum District Public Information Officer, at (361) 293-4436 no later than 4 p.m. CT, April 18, 2024. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

If you do not have internet access, you may call 361-293-4363 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions about the RTIP or receive materials.

TxDOT Rural TIP

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