

# The **Gonzales Inquirer**

OUR 169TH YEAR SERVING GONZALES COUNTY \$1.00

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## 10-year-old homicide suspect cannot be charged with killing Brandon Rasberry

Child confesses involvement after being arrested for making threat on Nixon-Smilely school bus

BY LEW K. COHN  
Inquirer Publisher

The person who killed Brandon O'Quinn Rasberry in January 2022 will not face murder charges in connection with the slaying as he was just shy of turning eight years old at the time the crime was committed, Gonzales County Sheriff's Office deputies said Thursday, April 18.



See **MURDER**, page 18 Brandon Rasberry

**'I told you we weren't going to stop, son!'**

Slaying victim's aunt promised she would see justice done for her nephew

BY LEW K. COHN  
Inquirer Publisher

Brenham resident Laura Fontenot keeps a photo of her beloved nephew Brandon Rasberry on her refrigerator and speaks to it every day since he was killed more than two years ago in Nixon.

She talks to her nephew and assures him he is loved, has not been

forgotten and that his murder will be solved someday.

On Thursday, April 18, she was finally able to reassure her nephew, whom she helped raise and helped name and called 'B,' that her promise was not made in vain.

"This photo sits on my refrigerator to keep him in my thoughts every day

See **RASBERRY**, page 15

## GISD announces two new Health Science Pathways with Victoria College

SPECIAL TO INQUIRER

In collaboration with Victoria College, Gonzales Independent School District (GISD) announces two new Health Science Pathways. These programs are designed to equip high school students with the skills and knowledge needed for thriving healthcare careers, offering a direct path to post-secondary

success.

Leading this exciting partnership is Wendy Cox, a seasoned professional in College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR). She focuses on aligning opportunities with the local job market and student interests, ensuring they excel in their chosen career paths.

See **PATHWAYS**, page 14



PHOTO BY SUE BROWN/TPA

Sweepstakes winners in the Texas Gulf Coast Press Association Better Newspaper Contest were (from left) Lew Cohn, Gonzales Inquirer, Division 1 weeklies; Dan Parker, Port Aransas South Jetty, Division 2 weeklies; and Shannon Crabtree, El Campo Leader-News, Division 3 semiweeklies. The awards were presented at the joint TGCPA/STPA meeting held at Moody Gardens in Galveston.

## Inquirer brings home second-straight Sweepstakes Award from TCGPA

Newspaper finishes third overall in STPA

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Gonzales Inquirer won its second-consecutive Texas Gulf Coast

Press Association Division 1 Weeklies Sweepstakes Award on Saturday, April 20, at the combined South Texas Press Association and TGCPA convention at Moody Gardens in Galveston.

The 171-year-old newspaper, one of the oldest continuously published weeklies in the state of Texas, brought home five TGCPA first-place plaques,

See **AWARDS**, page 14



Above: Norma's House Board President Kim Davis (right) hugs out-going board member Trisha Storey (left). Storey received an award for her five years of service on the board. Left: District Attorney Investigator John Brumme dances at the annual Bingo, Bags and Badges Friday, April 19, at JB Wells. Below: Gonzales County Sheriff's Deputy JC Batey models with one of the many bags being handed out in multiple rounds of Bingo.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS AND BRANDI VINKLAREK



## Gonzales Animal Control will provide free rabies shots

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

Gonzales dog and cat owners will get a chance to get their pets vaccinated at the Gonzales Animal Control Free Rabies shots event on Saturday, May 4.

Melissa Cunningham, of Gonzales Animal Control, has been working with many vet clinics and

different organizations to provide rabies vaccines for those in the community, she said.

"Pecan Valley Vet Clinic's Dr. (John) Withers is sponsoring the clinic along with Best Friends Animal Society, and EMS is giving us their old EMS building before they sell it.

See **VACCINES**, page 15

## Annual Jim Price Communitywide Cleanup draws record turnout

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Saturday, April 20, the spirit of community and environmental stewardship was alive and well as volunteers and residents of Gonzales united for the annual Jim Price Communitywide Cleanup Day.

See **CLEANUP**, page 16



# Smiley will continue to charge vacant properties with water meters

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Smiley City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday, April 17, at the Smiley City Hall.

One of the main agenda items that was discussed was charging for water meters on empty properties.

“Last month, you brought this up and you’re needing some more information in regards to the numbers that will be added to the package,” Smiley Mayor Lisa Benavidez said. “It’s \$15 for the water and basic rate for the sewage as well as trash, or does council want to only charge the residents for the water line and

then the city will be responsible for the trash so that the residents can still keep their water meter at your house when it’s being unoccupied?”

Council woman Melva Childress said she doesn’t have a problem charging an owner water if there is no one there.

According to Benavidez, three residents have come forward about having the water left on at their unoccupied properties.

City Secretary Scott Jewett said to the council that if you own a house and leave for 45 days, you are still going to be charged, regardless of zero water use.

“Our water rate is set at \$15.50 from zero to 2000 gallons, so whether you use zero or 1,999 gallons, for that time, it’s still the

same rate.” Jewett said.

“I understand that some residents and members have left the community and they want to keep access to the water, but that’s the same rate that if you go on vacation, you’re still going to pay that same rate,” Jewett said.

The council approved, 4-0, to leave the water meters as is for home owners who have property in Smiley that are unoccupied.

The council approved the following agenda items:

- approved to hold off to entering a contract with Cisco Septic
- approved to gather more information regarding the Fonseca Water Line



CONTRIBUTED

Pictured from left to right are Jason Fogle (Gonzales Noon Lions Club member and GADC Board Member), Josh Gray (GADC Board Treasurer), Cindy Rodriguez (Gonzales Noon Lions Club Foundation President) and David Lindeman (GADC Board President).

# Noon Lions Club Foundation receives donation to renovate, expand playground

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Noon Lions Club Foundation is embarking upon the expansion and renovation of the Lions Park Playground. They are excited to announce that the Gonzales Area Development Corporation (GADC) has contributed \$26,000 to help fund the project.

By replacing the existing playground structures with one large, ADA-compliant playground, they will

provide an environment that can be utilized by children of all abilities. These kids will be able to play together, and independently, creating a sense of community among children. The Gonzales Noon Lions Club Foundation greatly appreciates GADC’s support of the project.

For more information or ways to contribute to the playground project, contact Gonzales Noon Lions Club Foundation President Cindy Rodriguez at 830-672-9223.



## RIBBON CUTTING

The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture held a ribbon cutting Monday, April 22, to help Domino’s celebrate the opening of its Gonzales store on Water Street. The pizza chain has been very busy serving lots of pies since its soft opening earlier this year.

LEW K. COHN



# South Central Texas Economic Network announces Economic Development Summit

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The South Central Texas Economic Network (SCTEN) is proud to announce an upcoming Economic Development Summit, scheduled for Monday, May 6, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This pivotal event, a highlight of the 2024 Economic Development Week, will convene at the Anne Friar Thomas Homemaking Center, 501 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Cuero.

The summit aims to foster dialogue and share insights into the economic future of Texas, the direction of the South Central region, and the critical role of community support in economic development.

It will feature an impressive roster of speakers, including experts from local Economic Development Councils (Cuero, Gonzales, Hallettsville, Yoakum); Luke Goetting; Carlton Schwab, president of the Texas Economic Development Council; Teri R. Moten, MBA of Spherion Staffing and Recruiting; and Robert Royer, president of Building Brands Marketing.

The summit will offer an engaging lineup of activities, starting with an hour of registration and networking from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. This initial segment offers a golden opportunity for professionals from various sectors to connect and set the stage for future collaborations.

Following this, attendees will be treated to a series of expert-led sessions that dive into crucial subjects, including the behaviors of Millennials and Gen Z, the simplification of AI for business success, and cutting-edge hiring strategies.

Highlighting the event are insightful presentations by Carlton Schwab, alongside important updates from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) concerning regional developments. These highlights collectively underscore SCTEN’s commitment to fostering professional development and regional economic growth.

To participate in the 2024 Economic Development Summit, attendees are encouraged to register in advance. For registration details and more information, please visit the South Central Texas Economic Network Facebook page for the event link, or contact one of the event organizers:

- Maggie Cromeens, Cuero Development Corporation, mcromeens@cityofcuero.com.
- Susan Sankey, Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, gedc@gonzales.texas.gov.
- Chelsea Steffek, Hallettsville Economic Development Corporation, hallettsvilleedc@gmail.com.
- Genora Young, Yoakum Economic Development Corporation, gyoung@cityofyoakum.org.

## AUTHOR VISITS NIXON-SMILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL



David Rice, author of the award-winning novel, “Crazy Loco,” was persuaded to attend Nixon-Smiley Middle School in exchange for trail mix and cookies. However in actuality, his motives were spurred by his love and passion for motivating young readers. On Friday, April 19, he enlightened the seventh-grade students with his optimistic and energetic thoughts. Rice’s short stories are inspired by his Mexican American culture and delve into the unique experiences of being a South Texas native while his energetic personality easily captures, entertains, and inspires audiences. A special thank you to the Nixon-Smiley Education Foundation for donating each seventh grader a personal copy of Crazy Loco so that they could have an autographed keepsake of a great learning experience.

CONTRIBUTED

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## Gonzales Weather

	<b>April 25</b> 86°/72°	A thunderstorm in spots in the morning; otherwise, cloudy 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 84
	<b>April 26</b> 87°/71°	Mostly cloudy, windy and warm; a couple of thunderstorms in the morning, watch for a strong thunderstorm in the afternoon 65% chance of rain • RealFeel 87
	<b>April 27</b> 89°/71°	Watch for a strong morning thunderstorm; decreasing clouds and warm 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 91
	<b>April 28</b> 87°/70°	Remaining warm with a blend of sun and clouds 7% chance of rain • RealFeel 86
	<b>April 29</b> 85°/67°	Mostly sunny with a strong thunderstorm in spots in the afternoon 39% chance of rain • RealFeel 85
	<b>April 30</b> 85°/69°	Watch for a strong thunderstorm in the morning, intervals of clouds and sunshine 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 85
	<b>May 1</b> 88°/70°	A morning shower in places; otherwise, warm with sunshine and some clouds 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 87

## Celebrations

### Birthdays

<b>April 25th</b> Landon Bozka Jane Clark Daniels Amy Gibson Carol Martin	<b>April 28th</b> Wanda Janca Reid Means
<b>April 26th</b> Kevin Pirkle	<b>April 29th</b> Amanda Rivera Ryan Russell
<b>April 27th</b> John DuBose	<b>May 1st</b> Jane Kifer

### Anniversary

**April 27th**  
Randy & Trish Berger

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# Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

**April 27th-28th  
Texas Youth Rodeo  
Association Benefit**

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## Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



### Q. Why do most nurseries only sell Tropical Milkweed when so many native milkweed selections exist?

A. I am glad you did not say "when so many native milkweed selections are available"! Native milkweeds exist in many parts of the world but they are difficult to grow. Most of those in our area take four years to germinate and mature to the point where they produce generous blooms, nectar, and enough foliage for caterpillars. Tropical milkweed is apparently native to Central Mexico and germinates and produces nectar and substantial foliage in a short time.

### Q. Why do horticulturists including you, recommend Mexican sycamore rather than American sycamore? They both look equally good, and I have had good growing success with the American sycamore.

A. Not everyone has good success with American sycamore in Central and South Texas. They grow fast only to become infected with fungus and require an expensive removal project. Mexican

sycamore is attractive, grows fast, and is drought tolerant, and relative pest free. A good choice for our area.

### Q. We had trouble with fire ants on our okra last year. How should we deal with them to avoid problems this year?

A. Sometimes it is enough just to spray them off with your water hose just before you harvest pods. There are also available fire ant insecticides labeled for the vegetable garden that have Spinosad as an active ingredient that are easy to use. Follow label instructions.

### Q. What are the best seeds with which to attract goldfinches to our landscape?

A. I haven't had great luck attracting American goldfinches to my landscape in recent years, but if you are content with lesser goldfinches there are at least 3 options. They will come to a thistle feeder year round and also seem dedicated to harvesting seed from both sunflowers and coreopsis. Lesser goldfinches are more colorful in the wintertime here in Texas.



We are at a key point in the growing season for Central Texas lawns. In simple terms we would say the grass is ready to be fertilized because normally about May 1 the St Augustine, Bermuda, and Zoysia grasses have received enough warm weather to efficiently develop root and top growth for the growing season.

This year it is often a little more complex. There was not enough moisture and too much freezing temperature in the past 2 years for the normal development. The result was that the winter grassy weeds took advantage of the conditions to dominate the winter lawn. This is especially true in shady landscape situations. If you have one of those lawn situations, your weeds (Rescue Grass and Annual Bluegrass) made a great looking winter lawn but will decline now. The transition back to your real grass will take awhile and it may not be extremely satisfying. Be patient however and do not replace the whole lawn especially if the setting is in the shade. If the lawn decline is as much caused by too much shade for the grass as it is the drought and weeds, paying for a new lawn will not accomplish anything.

You may need more sun along with the more water to restore lawn grass, and the best option is to convert the lawn to a

shade tolerant groundcover or mulch surface. Among the ground cover choices available are Asian Jasmine, Dwarf Ruellia, Mondo Grass, and English Ivy, and Liriope. A shady area is often most attractive when it includes several groundcovers and mulches placed in a pattern. It is also amazing that groundcovers require less water and labor than lawn grass.

In the vegetable garden the tomatoes should be setting fruit now. Keep them well fertilized and keep them clear of weeds to help prevent spider mites. Plant peppers, eggplant, and okra now.

Both zinnias and snapdragons continue to prosper in the cut flower garden. although this month the rust fungus will probably appear on the snapdragons. Pull the plants as they are infected by the disease, it happens every year at this time.

To meet the needs of the butterflies' plant Mist Flower, Lantana, Porter Weed, Salvia, Penta, and Milkweed in addition to the Zinnia.

The CPS Shade Tree Planting Rebate ended in April, but you can still successfully plant recommended shade tree varieties including Live Oak, Red Oak, Mexican Sycamore, Cedar Elm, Monterey Oak, Bur Oak, Chinkapin Oak, and Anauqua.

## Hallettsville Livestock Commission Co.

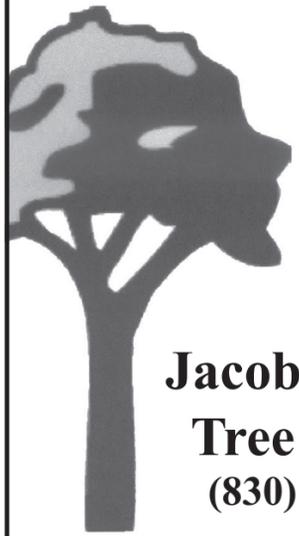
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## LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

### GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

April 20th, 2024

Cattle - 775

Compared to our last sale:

Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady to 4.00 higher. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold steady to active.

Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 325-525; 300-400 lbs., 285-415; 400-500 lbs., 255-300; 500-600 lbs., 230-275; 600-700 lbs., 195-250; 700-800 lbs., 195-237. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 90-155.

Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 285-375; 300-400 lbs., 280-315; 400-500 lbs., 245-295; 500-600 lbs., 200-267; 600-700 lbs., 196-243.

Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 109-121; Cutters, 126-134; Canners, 85-92; High yielding fat cows, 120-126.

Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 141-148; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 124-138.

Stocker Cows: \$900 to \$2,100. Pairs: \$1,600 to \$3,200.

### NIXON LIVESTOCK

April 22nd, 2024

Cattle - 770

Steers:

200-300 lbs - \$308-400

300-400 lbs - \$291-410

400-500 lbs - \$267-350

500-600 lbs - \$250-297

600-700 lbs - \$229-283

700-800 lbs - \$205-243

Heifers:

200-300 lbs - \$265-360

300-400 lbs - \$265-335

400-500 lbs - \$244-398

500-600 lbs - \$227-278

600-700 lbs - \$219-263

700-800 lbs - \$200-233

Slaughter Cows - \$102-128

Slaughter Bulls - \$125-154

Stocker Cows - NONE

Pairs: NONE

### HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.

Sale date: April 16th

Cattle on hand: 1115

Packer Cows:

High Dressing: \$120-141

Medium Dressing: \$110-124

Low Dressing: \$100-115

Poor/Weak Cows: \$80-95

Packer Bulls:

High Dressing Bulls: \$144-151

Medium Dressing Bulls: \$122-145

Low Dressing Bulls: \$102-124

Stocker Cows:

Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: \$1700-1900

Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1250-1650

Good Cow & Calf Pairs: \$2100-2450

Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: \$1300-1650

Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:

Number 1 steer & bull calves:

Under 200 lbs.: \$340-410

200-300 lbs.: \$310-385

300-400 lbs.: \$300-365

400-500 lbs.: \$285-330

500-600 lbs.: \$245-315

600-700 lbs.: \$225-280

700-800 lbs.: \$210-255

Number 1 heifer calves:

Under 200 lbs: \$300-400

200-300 lbs.: \$275-345

300-400 lbs.: \$275-335

400-500 lbs.: \$255-320

500-600 lbs.: \$230-270

600-700 lbs.: \$210-255

700-800 lbs: \$185-240

Replacement Heifers:

350-700 lbs.: \$275-345

The calf market was higher this week. No. 1 classes sold \$2 to \$5 higher. No. 2 kinds sold steady.

Demand was much improved. Packer cows and bulls sold \$3 lower on a supply of 260 hd.

Pasture conditions are improved but in need of a rain.

### SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

April 17th

Market Trend: Quality very good today. Stocker cattle 5 dollars better. Packer cows & bulls another 3 dollars softer.

Cattle - 645

Sheep & goats - 561

Medium & large frame #1 Steers:

200-300 lb. 1.00-2.58-3.60

300-400 lb. .95-2.55-3.65

400-500 lb. 1.15- 2.57-3.50

500-600 lb. .80-2.40-3.22

600-700 lb. 1.15-2.15-2.62

700-850 lb. 1.42-1.97-2.25

Medium & large frame #1

Heifers:

200-300 lb. 1.50-2.20-3.60

300-400 lb. 1.35-2.53-3.75

400-500 lb. 1.00-2.22-2.95

500-600 lb. .85-2.14-2.66

600-750 lb. 1.20-2.00-2.38

Cows:

Utility & commercial - 1.04-1.27-1.41

Cutters - 1.00-1.10-1.20

Canners. - .90-1.01-1.12

Palpated cows - 1175-1825

Cow/Calf Pairs - NONE

Bulls:

Heavy High Yielding - 1.40-1.56

Light & Low Yielding - 1.25-1.39

Sheep & Goats:

Nannies - 110-270

Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.80-3.75

Wethers - 1.60-3.35

Billies - 1.70-2.22

Dorp. Ewes - 80-155

Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 2.40-3.05

Woolled Ewes - 130-140

Woolled Bucks - 1.27-1.90

Lambs - 1.32-1.62

Barb. Bucks - NONE

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

April 19, 2024

Number of head 1,428

There were 176 cows and 26 bulls. Packer cows and bulls finally hit a point where a correction was needed that lowered past levels. Packer bulls were off \$5/cwt to \$163/cwt, while cows were off \$16/cwt at \$131/cwt. Each week had seen prices at or near all-time highs, but this week prices were lower. Demand continues to be very strong.

The calf market was improved over the last two weeks by over \$33 a head. The negative impact of the bird flu in dairy cattle was minimized.

Packer bulls: All Weights 90.00-158.00

Packer cows:

canners & cutters 85.00-131.00

poor & weak 30.00-57.00

Palpated: 29 bred \$1,100-\$1,900

PAIRS: 12 \$1,500-\$2,500

Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

Under 200 lbs. 381.00-435.00

200-250 lbs. 320.00-332.50

250-299 lbs 311.00-360.50

300-350 lbs. 301.00-345.00

350-400 lbs. 302.00-338.00

400-450 lbs. 293.00-336.00

450-500 lbs. 278.00-327.00

500-550 lbs. 270.00-306.00

550-600 lbs. 255.00-291.00

600-700 lbs 232.00-280.00

700-800 lbs 205.00-250.00

Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)

under 200 lbs. 348.00-410.00

200-250 lbs. 299.00-317.00

250-300 lbs 287.00-322.00

300-350 lbs. 278.00-328.00

350-400 lbs. 282.00-328.00

400-450 lbs. 259.00-314.00

450-500 lbs 252.00-298.00

500-550 lbs 245.00-290.00

550-600 lbs 242.00-268.00

600-700 lbs. 210.00-258.00

Over 700 lbs 180.00-224.00

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Gonzales Inquirer

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Dear editor,**  
The face and look of the gun shows we have grown up with and accustomed to is changing.  
Our current president, the BATE, and Congress have made changes to the regulations concerning our Second Amendment rights by getting the regulations changed as to private firearms sales by individuals between individuals.  
The new regulations now state that if you sell a firearm for profit, even if it is from your own private collection, you must acquire, at your own expense, a Federal Firearms Dealers License and required insurance that is also required to obtain an FFL. There is not a certain number of firearm sales per year; you are no longer able to make monetary gain through trading between individuals unless you have an FFL.

Unfortunately these new regulations does close the so-called "gun show loophole," but it will not deter crime, mass shootings. These new changes affect mainly elderly individual's that deals in mostly used sporting firearms, such as lever/bolt action deer rifles, older and classic shotguns, the antique/curio firearms — the ones when you look at them you wished they could tell the story of their existence, their history, our history.

If I read the new regulations correctly, a person may still sell his own collection as long as they do not make a monetary gain in doing so, nor set up to sell on a regular basis anywhere. All other transactions must be conducted through a FFL dealer. No big deal right?? When a person fills out an application to purchase a firearm from a FFL Dealer, they have to call in for a background check for authorization for permission to sell you that firearm from a governmental organization. The same governmental organization that exists to collect all public/private information on every United States citizen, including you. If you do not clear the background check, you do not get the firearm. Think about that for a minute.

When these new regulations become law this summer, most of the private non-FFL dealers are quitting/retiring/quitting because the penalties for defying the new regulations can range from a citation to several years incarceration in a federal penitentiary.

However until the new regulations become law, The Real Texas Gun Show will place advertisements in this publication when we will be in your town with the type of gun show you are accustomed to with all types firearms and accessories, in a family safe atmosphere — all under one roof.

**Aubrey Sanders Jr.**  
*The Real Texas Gun Show*

## Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters of 400 words or less will be published unless they contain language or content that the editors feel is inappropriate.

Letters must either be about Gonzales County, from a resident of Gonzales County, or in response to a story that appears in print or online in The Inquirer.

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

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

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

The Inquirer will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information.

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

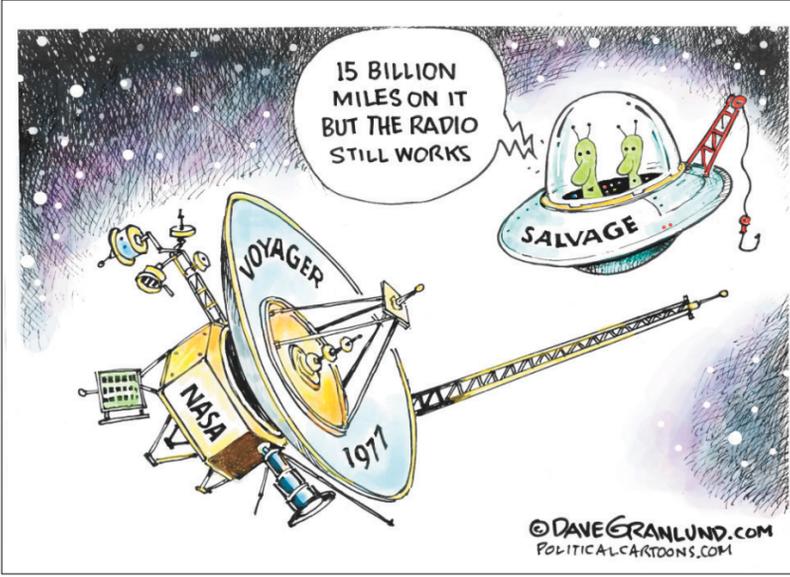
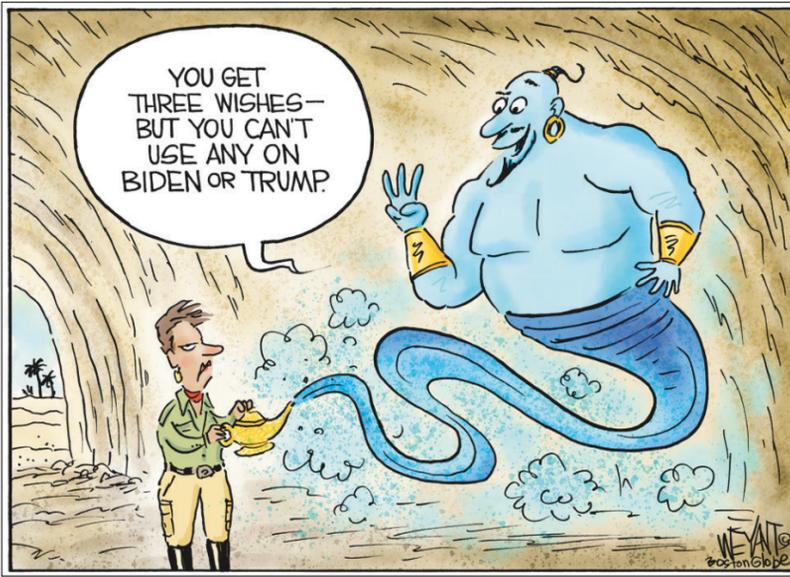
Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

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

**Please send Letters to the Editor:**

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

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



## Texas Soil and Water Stewardship Week showcases the significance of forests

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts are joining organizations across the state in a campaign to highlight Soil and Water Stewardship Week and the importance of voluntary land stewardship in Texas. The state-wide campaign is April 28 through May 5, 2024, and the focus this year is "May the Forest Be With You Always."

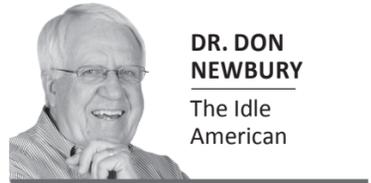
Forests contribute immeasurably to the well-being of our communities, our state, and the planet! Beyond producing oxygen and storing carbon, as well as being havens for biodiversity, forests play a crucial role in safeguarding our

soil and water resources. They stand as protectors, preventing erosion, filtering contaminants, and fostering healthy watersheds. This year's theme invites us to appreciate the intricate relationship between soil, water, and the abundant forests that shape our Texas landscape.

Forest landowners are an important part of Texas agriculture. They work closely with their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) to implement conservation practices that promote the health and sustainability of forests and forest ecosystems.

Since 1939, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

See **FORESTS**, page 14



## On New Year's resolutions...

My ancient Uncle Mort is not one to speak negatively of neighbors, unless they live at least three cattleguards away.

He recently "spilled the beans" on a neighbor who lives so deep in the thicket that no one passes his house going to town. The old guy admitted to Mort recently that he had made a high-bar new year's resolution. A fan of the grape, he vowed to swear off the devil's brew, "except maybe on holidays..."

He said he maintained his sobriety until Valentine's Day before uncorking a bottle, or "maybe it was two bottles."

The challenge became daunting. He wasn't sure he could make it until Easter without a drink. Then, he saw a newspaper ad proclaiming March as Ford Truck Month. This--he concluded--allowed him to substantially water down his sobriety pledge for a whole month.

Mort's neighbor was "king's X" on his resolution for 31 days....

\*\*\*\*\*

My uncle said he's been making monthly contributions for years to a small seminary back east that has added a new course. He's thinking of cancelling contributions, perhaps even stopping payment on April's \$5 check. He says the catalog's description of one course is "beyond frivolous." It claims to be "an in-depth study of nightmares, baptisms and the hereafter." Students already have re-named this course, calling it "bed, bath and beyond..."

\*\*\*\*\*

A big fan of the Texas Rangers, Mort remains giddy about their 2023 World Series championship. He bragged about the rings distributed recently.

Valued at \$75,000 each, the rings are symbolic of much.

They are encrusted with enough "rocks" to start a landslide, an interchangeable top and--of all things--a secret compartment....

Their weight is about the same as the average baseball.

Players and about 40 other award-ees--have gushed endlessly about the rings' beauty, their gratitude and optimism about repeating as champions in the 2024 season. Mort couldn't believe it that the rings are so heavy....

My uncle is optimistic for the 2024 team, joining other fans whose hope flames eternal. He admits, however, that he's concerned about bullpen depth. Manager Bruce Boche and his coaches need to inspect all relief pitchers before they reach the mound, according to Mort. Inspect? Huh?

"Yeah, with them rings being so big, coaches must be certain that relievers don't wear them on the mound," Mort joked. "If they insist on wearing their bling, they need to be sure it's not on their pitching hands!..."

\*\*\*\*\*

Mort went to a tiny high school in East Texas. I never knew it until recently, but he was on the high school baseball squad. Trouble was, he said, there were too many boys in high school--ten. Since only nine players were needed on the team, he was always the bench-warmer. On the final game of his senior year, the bases were loaded and the game was tied in the home half of the ninth inning. Two batters were out when the coach called his name to pinch-hit, despite Mort's never having played in a game.

The coach rattled off specific instructions. "Mort, I want you to look that pitcher straight in the eye, crowd the plate and get hit!..."

\*\*\*\*\*

Forever the "concept guy" who leaves the details to others, Mort tips his hat to the Werner Ladder Company for its creative advertising in lockstep with the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

For 15 years, Werner has manufactured custom ladders for winning "March Madness" teams, both men and women. This year, they turned out 60 ladders for all NCAA tournament divisions. "I made this suggestion decades ago, so I guess the ladder people must have come across some of my old letters, Mort believes.

Werner's contribution has led to numerous illustrations about "climbing the ladder," "reaching new heights" or "making it to the top." Poor Mort. He remains a "concept guy," a legend in his own mind....

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, writes weekly and speaks throughout Texas. His is the state's longest-running syndicated column of humor and inspiration. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

## The Gonzales Inquirer

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## Apaches fall to Cuero in seven innings

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

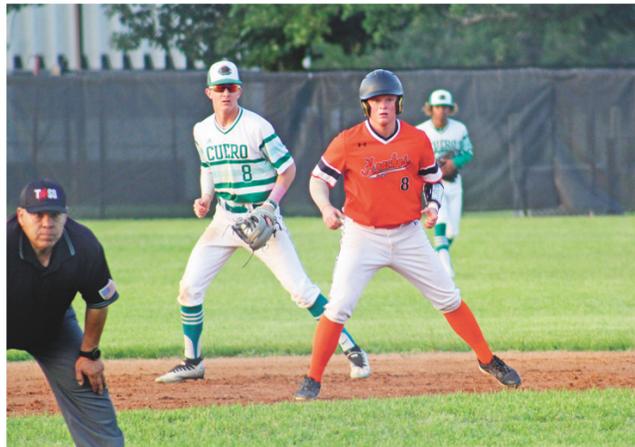
The Gonzales Apaches hosted the Cuero Gobblers for the final home game of the season Friday, April 19.

The Apaches and the Gobblers were tied for four innings, handling each other's offense with strong defenses, but errors had other plans for Gonzales.

Cuero took advantage of errors made by the Apaches in the top of the fifth inning and scored seven runs.

"Game one obviously didn't go our way. The biggest thing is that we really hurt ourselves. And I'll go ahead and say now — at this point that we really beat ourselves," Gonzales head baseball coach Garry Beveridge said.

"Cuero is good ballclub,



but we can't come out and we can't have the walks that put runners on and the errors that allow runners to score and that ends up being what absolutely sunk us tonight. And that's what's going to have to be cleaned up to give ourselves a

chance on Tuesday."

Beveridge was proud of how his defense did against Cuero in six out of seven innings, but that's not good enough to win against a good team, he said.

See **BASEBALL**, page 6



PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Left: Senior Dakota DuBose (8) slides away from second base in the district match against the Cuero Gobblers Friday, April 19. Above: Apaches pitcher Colt Robinson (7) pitches against the Cuero Gobblers in the final home game of the season.

## Lady Apaches roll past Lady Cardinals

STAFF REPORT

The UIL softball playoffs are around the corner for many teams in Texas, but the Gonzales Lady Apaches took advantage of the layover with a pre-playoff match against Shiner St. Paul Monday, April 22.

The Lady Apaches beat the Lady Cardinals, 8-5, in Shiner.

Lady Apaches senior catcher Sydney McCray recorded two home runs in the win over St. Paul and freshman pitcher Dixie Rae Lester struck out 10 Lady Cardinals' batters.

Gonzales will host game one against the Wimberley Lady Texans Friday, April 26 and game two and three (if needed) are set for Saturday, April 27 in Wimberley.

Wimberley finished third in District 27-4A, stunning the Boerne Lady Greyhounds in a 14-13 walk-off in eight innings.

First pitch for game one is set for 6 p.m.

Game Two is set for noon and game three is set for 2 p.m. (if needed).



Far Right: Lady Apaches Keiryah Greathouse (21) warms up against the Shiner St. Paul Cardinals Monday, April 22. Right: Lady Apaches junior first baseman Peyton Springfield in a pre-playoff warmup match against Shiner St. Paul Monday, April 22.

PHOTOS BY ERIN SAMPLE MCCRAY

SOFTBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEWS

## Lady Apaches gets ready for run in playoffs

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches closed out a historic season with a second place finish in district; now they set their eyes on the playoffs Friday, April 26 against Wimberley.

The Lady Apaches finished district with a 7-3 record in District 28-4A and will take on the Lady Texans who finished 5-5 in District 27-4A.

Gonzales is led by head coach Michelle Uribe, who, in her second year, turned the team around.

At bat, the Lady Apaches recorded 234 hits and recorded 166 RBIs; freshman first baseman Alexzis Hernandez leads the team with 28 RBIs and sophomore second baseman Ava Carrizales leads the team with 36 hits.

On the defense, the Lady Apaches fielders recorded 459 putouts total; senior Sydney McCray leads the

See **APACHES**, page 6

## NIXON-SMILEY PARENTS NIGHT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs celebrates the parents of the 2024 baseball team. The team consists of Zechariah Munoz (4), Davian Ramos (5), Timothy McGlothline (6), Federico Vazquez (7), Jaydin Munoz (8), Julian Amaya (9) Oscar Gamez (10), Aiden Flores (11), Jose Juarez (13), Moises Pompa (14), Jose Ramos (15), Nehemiah Alvarez (17), Layne Stewart (19) and Cash Davis (20). The Mustangs baseball team were coached by Daniel Pierce.

## Lady Mustangs preparing for playoff run

BY VANDY VAN EPPS  
Gonzales Inquirer

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs softball concluded their regular season with their fourth straight playoff appearance since 2021.

The Lady Mustangs finished District 26-3A with a 6-2 record and will take on District 25's Yoakum in a single-elimination bi-district match in Flatonina at 6 p.m.

The Lady Mustangs are led by head coach Jodie Vaughn, who, in her first year, led Nixon-Smiley to the playoffs and continued the playoff streak.

The Lady Mustangs on offense recorded 126 hits at bat, 17 home runs and 125 RBIs; junior Hailee Houseton led the team with 25

See **MUSTANGS**, page 6

## Mustangs fall to Northern Oaks in season finale

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs hosted their final regular season game against the Great Heart Northern Oaks Griffins

Friday, April 19.

The Mustangs fell to the Griffins, 20-2, to the close out district play with a 0-12 record; Nixon-Smiley recorded six hits and scored two runs in the final

match.

The Mustangs finished the season with 2-15-2 overall record for their 2024.

Nixon-Smiley will return back onto the baseball diamond in Spring 2025.

# Gonzales County track teams compete at regionals

## STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales Apaches, Nixon-Smiley Mustangs and Waelder Wildcats all traveled to their respective regional meets Friday, April 19.

## GONZALES

The Gonzales track teams traveled the Kingsville for the 4A Regional meet, and all the athletes finished in the top 15.

Senior Tiana Smith finished sixth overall in the 100 meter dash and junior Jayda Glass finished fourth in the 400 meter dash.

Junior Jermaine Upshaw finished sixth place in the discus throwing competition and senior Davonte Smith finished 11th place in the 100 meter dash.

Tiana Smith, Jayda Glass, Macy Pena and Kaylyn Gonzales competed in the 4x100 meter relay and finished seventh place in the finals.

Seniors Malory Clack and Macy Sample finished strong in their respective field events; Clack finished eighth in the shot put and Sample finished 10th in the discus and 15th in the shot put.

## NIXON-SMILEY

Nixon-Smiley had one regional qualifier for the meet in Seguin; senior Luke Moses competed in the 110 meter hurdles in the 3A Regional meet.

Moses finished seventh place in the race.

## WAEOLDER

Waelder traveled to Jourdanton for the 1A Region IV track and field meet.

The Wildcats had one regional qualifier to compete at the meet; junior Johnny Guitierrez finished 11th place in the 3200 meter race.

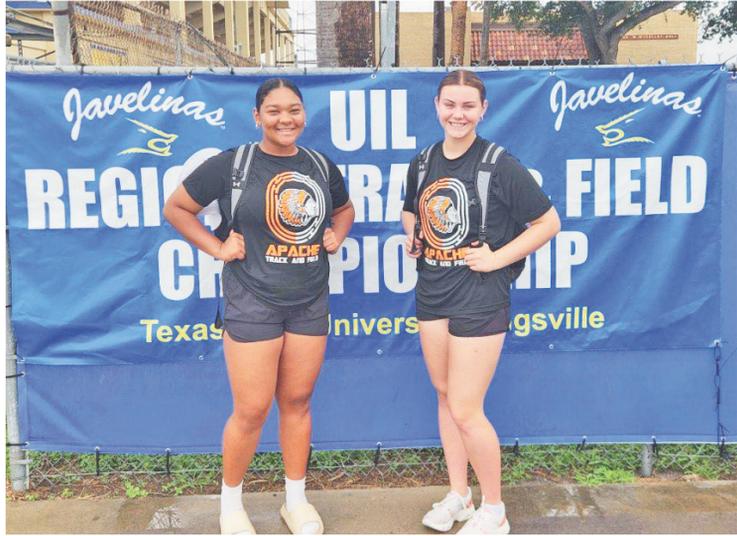
Waelder junior Johnny Guitierrez at the area meet. Guitierrez ran in the 3200-meter race at the regional meet in Jourdanton, Texas Friday, April 19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Kaylyn Gonzales, Jayda Glass, Macey Pena and Tiana Smith hold the baton for 4x100 meter race at the regional meet.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Seniors Mallory Clack (left) and Macy Sampler (right) at the regional meet Friday, April 19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The Apaches celebrated senior night for their three seniors (Weston Ruddock, Dakota DuBose and TJ Riojas) and Beveridge was proud to have these players on his team for the last two seasons.

“Couldn’t have inherited a better group of seniors than last year and there’s juniors that are now seniors this year and these guys have really carried our program and lead and this team has been through a lot of ups and downs,” Beveridge said.

The Apaches had only three seniors this season and fielded a team that started six freshmen.

“The leadership has been key and the way that these seniors have sat — I mean, I love senior night because I love to celebrate these guys. Obviously we want to celebrate them with a win. But these kids have done a fantastic job and they’ve owned the leadership role and they’ve taken over the program and that’s been a

big part for us,” Beveridge said.

The Apaches faced Cuero for the regular season finale Tuesday, April 23 and Gonzales needs to win to force a three-way play-in tournament with Cuero and San Antonio JFK.

“The good news is that we’ve been in this situation before and it’s something that I think our kids understand that we’re able to flush this game and treat Tuesday as its own like I told our kids you know we have to play like our backs against the wall but we can’t play scared we got to come out and be aggressive and we have to play our brand of baseball and we’ve got to hit the baseball as plain and simple,” Beveridge said.

“We know that at times our defense has some errors or a mental mistake here and there but we have to put more runs on the board than just to put ourselves in a situation to win and that’s going to be our goal is whatever it takes,” Beveridge added.

## APACHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

team with 179 putouts.

On pitching, freshman pitcher Dixie Rea Lester stuck out 174 batters this season and leads the team.

On the Wimberley side, the Lady Texans recorded 218 hits and 139 RBIs for the 2024 season; senior Reese Adams leads the team with 35 hits and senior Juniper Daniel leads in the RBI category with 30.

The Lady Texans recorded 414 putouts with their fielders; Adams leads the team with 159 putouts.

Wimberley has two young pitchers,

sophomore Charlotte Woodward and freshman Grace Stroble; Woodward leads the team with 62 strikeouts and Stroble is second with 33.

Both teams met early in the season in a tournament match, where the Lady Apaches beat Wimberley, 12-2.

The bi-district series is a best-of-three series and game one will be in Gonzales with a 6 p.m. start and games two (noon) and three (2 p.m., if needed) are in Wimberley, Saturday, April 27.

## GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



The winning team from the April 10 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Jarrid Boehm, John Hahn, Amelia Hahn, Randall Dupree, Ryan Lee, Josh Bustos and Baylen Horton.

CONTRIBUTED



The second-place team from the April 10 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Ronnie DuBose, Billy Hyman, Ricky Walker, Chuck Emmick and Bill Kessler.

CONTRIBUTED

## MUSTANGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

hits, 30 RBIs and tied for home runs (6) with senior Nichole Ivey.

On defense, the Lady Mustangs put out 266 batters in the field; Ivey leads the team with 75 put outs and she recorded two double plays.

Senior pitcher Kendall Amaya leads the team with 49 strikeouts and Ivey is second with 15 total strikeouts this season.

The Yoakum Lady Bulldogs finished their district with 8-5 record and secured their third place finish with a 7-5

tiebreaker win against Tidehaven.

Yoakum has made the playoffs four of the last five seasons and this a playoff rematch from two season ago against the Lady Mustangs.

The Lady Mustangs met in the Lady

Bulldogs in the 2022 area round and Yoakum swept them in two games.

The two teams will meet for the second time in the playoffs Friday, April 26, in Flatonia for the first round of the 3A UIL Softball playoffs.



# CLASSIFIEDS

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You can place ads online at [www.gonzalesinquirer.com](http://www.gonzalesinquirer.com) or call

**(830) 672-2861**

and/or email [ads@gonzalesinquirer.com](mailto: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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**\$15.00 Garage Sale Packages**

## 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

## Come and Organize It April PopUp Sale

Saturday 4/27 & Sunday 4/28

from 9am to 3pm

608 Water Street

in Gonzales, TX 78629

No early birds, prices given prior OR presales!

Follow:

[www.Facebook.com/ComeandOrganizeIt](http://www.Facebook.com/ComeandOrganizeIt) for updates and photos

Our April COI PopUp Sale will consist of 4 client consignments that we have brought together for your shopping fun! We have ALOT of EVERYTHING!

### 190 LAWN, GARDEN

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

### 410 FARM EQUIPMENT

**KUBOTA MODEL 7060 tractor/loader, C/A, 4 cylinder engine, 203 hours, 4WD, LH reverser, 73 hp, deluxe cab, 38" rear tires, radio, new cost over \$60,000. Includes 8' shredder, \$53,995. Hustler zero turn mower, commercial model X-1, 60" mower deck, 473 hours, 27 hp, new cost over \$11,000, sell for \$7,500. 830-582-2012, Nixon.**

### 640 MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

**4 BEDROOM, 2 bathroom under \$90,000, delivery and setup included. In stock for ready for delivery. 751 Huser Blvd, Schulenburg Tx, 78956. 979-743-619. 2 Open 7 days a week RBl 32896. [www.fayettecountry-homes.com](http://www.fayettecountry-homes.com)**

### 670 APARTMENTS FOR RENT OR LEASE

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114 West 10th

Nixon, TX 78140

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays - 9:00am to 3:00pm

PHONE: 830-582-1343

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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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.



### 740 WANTED TO RENT

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

### 850 HELP WANTED

## LULING ISD NOW HIRING BUS DRIVERS.

This position pays \$15.50-\$24.00/hour depending on experience. Health coverage & benefits available. This is a great opportunity for someone to work a couple of hours each day supporting the educational success of Luling Children. You can apply on the LISD website or contact Mary McGlade for more information at 830-875-3191, Ext 6002 mary.venable@luling.txd.net Be the SMILE a student sees!

**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.

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

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

### 850 HELP WANTED

## CAREGIVER(S) NEEDED

Family looking to hire help for elderly couple in Gonzales. Experience and references required. For More information please call 512-423-0800.



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

## Electrical Instructor Welding Instructor

For more information go to [www.victoriacollege.edu](http://www.victoriacollege.edu) and click on Jobs@VC. Equal-Opportunity Institution

## W.B. FARM AND RANCH SUPPLY

## Is now hiring for Yard Hand

Forklift experience required. Must be dependable. Benefits Package & Overtime available.

**Apply in Person**  
2031 Water St., Gonzales, TX  
No phone calls



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Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.



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- Some weekends required
- 40 + hours
- Dependable

**\$15.00**  
(pay raise after 30 days)

Contact:  
Jimmy Newman  
(830) 857-1325

Human Resources  
603 W. Central, Hwy 87  
Nixon, Texas

### 850 HELP WANTED



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](http://www.victoriacollege.edu) and click on Jobs@VC. Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

## 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](mailto:generalmanager@gcuwcd.org); [admin@gcuwcd.org](mailto: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

## CITY OF GONZALES

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**  
FAIR HOUSING IS NATIONAL POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES, IT IS THE LAW, AND IT IS YOUR RIGHT.

Today, more than ever, America is closer to upholding the inalienable right of all its citizens to live where they choose, when they choose, or as long as they can afford to do so.

Yet, this year, as many as 2 million people who want to rent or buy a home will be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, handicapped, families with children, or national origin.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, makes discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin illegal in connection with the sale or rental of most housing and any vacant land offered for residential construction or use.

### YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION.

Complaints may be filed locally with the City of Gonzales at (830) 672-2815 or by reporting violations to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Toll Free, 1-800-669-9777, 1-800-927-9275 (TDD).

The City of Gonzales has appointed a Fair Housing/Equal Opportunity Standards Officer responsible for the oversight and compliance of fair housing and equal opportunity provisions and certification activities to be performed by the City. This Officer may be contacted through the Office of the Mayor, 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629 Telephone: (830) 672-2815 (Voice).

### INITIAL NOTICE

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, As Amended Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicapped Status.

The City of Gonzales does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted program or activities.

Name: Steve Sucher, Mayor of the City of Gonzales

Address: 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629

Telephone: (830) 672-2815 (Voice)

Has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Developments (HUD) regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8, dated June 2, 1988).

\*\*\*\*\*

The City of Gonzales has appointed a Section 504/Section 3 Coordinator responsible for the oversight and compliance of equal opportunity provisions and Section 504 certification activities to be performed by the City. This Officer may be contacted through the Office of the Mayor, 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, Telephone (830) 672-2815 (Voice).

The City of Gonzales announces that it has a policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement personnel within its jurisdiction against any individual engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations. This policy is in compliance with Section 519 Public Law 101-44, 1990, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, as Amended.

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**2nd 25th Judicial District  
OFFICE/BUSINESS  
MANAGER**  
– Intermediate Sanction Facility –  
Gonzales, Texas

The 2nd 25th Judicial District, Serving Colorado, Gonzales and Lavaca Counties is seeking to hire an Office/Business Manager for the Intermediate Sanction Facility (ISF) located in Gonzales, Texas. The ISF is a 60-bed male residential facility for offenders on felony and misdemeanor probation.

All interested applicants are required to submit an Application for Employment which can be found at 2nd25thprobation.com and a resume with cover letter to the attention of: Traci Darilek, Director at tdarilek@gonzales-county.net; in person at the Lavaca CSCD office located at 412 North Texana, Hallettsville, Texas 77964 or via U.S. Mail to the 2nd 25th Judicial District, P.O. Box 330, Hallettsville, Texas 77964 by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3, 2024.

Salary will be based on qualifications and experience. Minimum starting salary of \$43,000 with 3 years' experience in bookkeeping and accounting is preferred. High school diploma or the equivalent is required.

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**      **950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**LEGAL NOTICE:**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit (MB) by Lopez ML Inc. dba Lojax Bar & Grill, to be located at 120 W. 3rd St., Nixon, TX 78140 in Gonzales County, Texas. The limited liability corporation is owner and member-managed by Michael Lopez.

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No. PW24-0334

IN THE ESTATE OF § IN THE COUNTY COURT  
GILBERT WINN CHAMPION, § OF  
DECEASED § GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS, NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY, AND APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR**

Notice is hereby given that on April 10, 2024, Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Gilbert Winn Champion, Deceased, were granted to the Independent Executor, Candace Ann Million a/k/a Candace Champion Million, by the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, in Cause No. PW24-0334, pending upon the Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time prescribed by law to Candace Ann Million a/k/a Candace Champion Million at the address of the attorney for the said Independent Executor being as shown below:

Estate of Gilbert Winn Champion, Deceased  
Ford + Bergner LLP  
c/o Jeffrey M. Harris  
221 West 6th Street, Suite 900  
Austin, Texas 78701

/s/ Jeffrey M. Harris  
Jeffrey M. Harris  
Ford + Bergner LLP

**950 PUBLIC NOTICES**      **950 PUBLIC NOTICES**      **950 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Notice to Creditors**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of WILLIAM J. MILLER, JR., Deceased, were issued on April 16, 2024, in Cause No. PW24-0337, pending in the County Court of Gonzales County, Texas, to: SANDRA E. MILLER.

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.

**SANDRA E. MILLER**  
c/o Norman L. Burns  
Attorney at Law  
1606 N. Sarah DeWitt Drive  
Gonzales, TX 78629

Dated the 18th day of April, 2024.

NORMAN L. BURNS  
Attorney for Sandra E. Miller  
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 SALE**

STATE OF TEXAS § BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE  
GONZALES COUNTY § DATED APRIL 04, 2024  
§

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Gonzales County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on April 4, 2024, seized, levied upon, and will, on the first Tuesday in May 2024, the same being the 7th day of said month, The steps outside the Gonzales County Tax Office in the Randle Rather Building, located at 427 St. George, Gonzales, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day, beginning at 11:00 AM, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Gonzales and the State of Texas, to-wit:

7001 Account No(s). R10450, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. CITIBANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR BY ACQUISITION OF HOME SAVING ASSOCIATION, ET AL., Lot 37, Glen Heights Addition, City of Nixon, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 506, Page 24, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of \$27,020.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$27,020.00;

7090, Account No(s). R26168, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. WILLIAM STEUBING, ET AL., Lots 1, Block 4, H.C. Forester Addition, Town of Nixon, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 248, Page 248, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of \$26,540.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$15,727.49;

7164, Account No(s). R12895, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. FELIX CASARES, ET AL., Lot 6, Block 3, Norwood Heights Addition, Town of Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 779, Page 898, Official Records of Gonzales County, Texas, SAVE & EXCEPT that 0.129 acre portion of Lot 6, Range 6, East of Water Street in the Original Outer Town of Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 585, Page 739, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of \$52,580.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$10,219.09;

7185, Account No(s). R23820, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. CLEMENTE RAMOS, ET AL., 0.22 acre, more or less, being Part of Lot 2, Range 1, East of Water Street, in the Original Outer Town of Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 232, Page 347, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of \$61,420.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$28,020.15;

7209, Account No(s). N340256, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. CHARLES LEE JACKSON, LEASE #0085717 BARNHART (EF) D W#1H-8H (MARATHON OIL EF LLC) R1 0.001064 ABSTRACT 247, A W HILL, RRC 17171, GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS, with an adjudged value of \$2,970.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$1,518.06;

7209, Account No(s). N340257, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. CHARLES LEE JACKSON, LEASE #0085733 BARNHART (EF) K W#1H-3H 5-10H (MARATHON OIL EF LLC) R1 0.000763 ABSTRACT 247, A W HILL, RRC 17273, GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS, with an adjudged value of \$1,210.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$1,210.00;

7233, Account No(s). R26520, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. LUCENIA TAYLOR ARKADIE, ET AL, 7.20 acres, more or less, A.B. Williams League, A-79, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 246, Page 27, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of \$111,100.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$21,236.30;

7277, Account No(s). R21132, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. OLD STONE CONSUMER FINANCE CORPORATION, FORMERLY KOWN AS DIXIE ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION, ET AL., Lot 8, Block 1, Ewings, Second Addition, Town of Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 373, Page 11, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of \$42,850.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$23,607.25;

7284, Account No(s). R313910, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. PAMELA KAY ANDERSON, An undivided 16.666% interest in Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, Block 70; Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 75; Lots 1 and 2, Block 88; and Lots 1 and 2, Block 89, Town of Harwood, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 550, Page 649, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of \$28,260.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$11,456.18;

7332, Account No(s). R12874, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. MIGUEL ALMAZAN, ET AL., Lots 3 and 4, Block 72, Town of Waelder, Gonzales County, Texas, described in Volume 870, Page 245, Official Records of Gonzales County, Texas, together with a manufactured home situated thereon, with an adjudged value of \$23,610.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$8,006.60;

7359, Account No(s). R28241, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JULIA WILLIAMS., Lot 9, Block 77, Kelley Addition, an addition to the City of Waelder, Gonzales County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Volume 217, Pages 481 and 482, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of \$2,330.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$2,330.00;

7383, Account No(s). R76567, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. LUCIANO RODRIGUEZ, AKA LUCIANO RODRIGUEZ MARTINEZ, ET AL., 0.747 acre, more or less out of Lot 4, Block 16, Range 1, West of Water Street, Original Outer Town of Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas, as described in deed dated July 13, 2018, from Angelina Rodriguez to Luciano Rodriguez, in Volume 1289, Page 765, Official Records of Gonzales County, Texas, including Mobile Home, Label no. GEO0837243., with an adjudged value of \$38,960.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$4,230.31;

7387, Account No(s). R24027, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. CATHERINE REYNA, 0.1291 acre, more or less, out of Lot 3, Block 3, Norwood Heights Addition, an addition to the City of Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas, as described in deed dated June 30, 1986, from Jesus Casarez etux to Catherine Reyna, in Volume 585, Page 739, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of \$124,250.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$15,785.78;

7394, Account No(s). R28031, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. L.V. STEVENS, JR., ET AL, Lot 5, Block 2, Ewing's Second Addition, an addition to the City of Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Volume 105, Page 260, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of \$19,300.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$5,163.53;

7421, Account No(s). R19881, GONZALES COUNTY, ET AL VS. ELIZABETH LEE, ET AL, Lot 1, Block 5, Davis Addition, an addition to the Town of Gonzales, Gonzales County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Volume 123, Page 428-431, Deed Records of Gonzales County, Texas, with an adjudged value of \$1,780.00, and an Estimated minimum opening bid of \$1,780.00;

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

Dated at Gonzales, Texas, April 4, 2024.

Sheriff Keith Schmidt  
Gonzales County, Texas

By \$1150  
Deputy

**Notes:**

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

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## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF GONZALES GONZALES, TEXAS 2024 STREET IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Separate sealed bids addressed to the City of Gonzales (OWNER) clearly labeled "2024 STREET IMPROVEMENT PLANS, ATTN: CITY SECRETARY" will be received at Gonzales City Hall, 820 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, until **2:00 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2024** and then publicly opened and read aloud immediately.

This project includes installation of approximately 11,670 SY of Two Course Surface Treatment over 6-inch reclaim of existing streets and the replacement of approximately 762 LF of curb & gutter and 233 LF of Valley Gutter. The bid also includes an alternate of 1-1/2-inches of HMA in Lieu of the Two Course Surface Treatment.

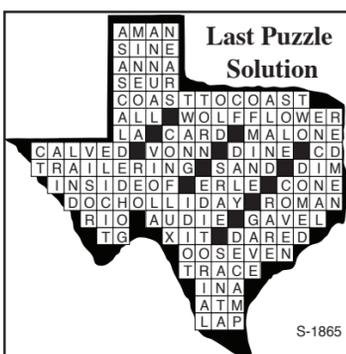
The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Agreement, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Special Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Technical Specifications and Plans, together with any Addenda are available at Doucet & Associates, Inc., 829 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, (512) 583-2672. Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be examined and purchased for a non-refundable fee of \$50.00 at this location or may be received via email at no charge. Email [kschauer@kleinfelder.com](mailto:kschauer@kleinfelder.com) if interested in bidding the project.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a cashier's check or certified check upon a national or state bank in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total actual bid price payable without recourse to the City of Gonzales, or a bid bond in the same amount from a reliable surety company as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract and execute required performance and payment bonds.

The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder; however, the right is reserved, as the interests of the OWNER may require, to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informality or minor defects in bids received. Bids may be held by the OWNER for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of the opening for Bids for the purpose of reviewing the Bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders, prior to awarding of the Contract.

There will not be a pre-bid conference. Contractors shall make their own individual site inspections and/or investigations to make themselves aware of existing conditions/issues. Failure to make adequate observations, investigations and/or ask questions prior to bidding shall not be grounds for requesting additional work or services. Questions shall be forwarded to J. Keith Schauer, P.E., 829 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629, [kschauer@kleinfelder.com](mailto:kschauer@kleinfelder.com), (512) 583-2672, by 5:00 o'clock p.m., Monday, April 29, 2024.

## April 18 Puzzle Answers



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

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AUCTIONS

Farm, Ranch & Construction Equipment, Cattle & Surplus from Bellville ISD Auction - Sat., April 27 at 9 a.m. 1036 S. FM 331, Sealy, onsite & online bidding. Tractors, trucks, trailers, livestock equip., construction equip., misc. Bellville ISD surplus will sell online - (2) buses, (2) zero turn mowers, tools (7) Smart Boards, cafeteria equipment, (19) CPU, (23) computer monitors & more. [www.switzerauction.net](http://www.switzerauction.net), 979-885-2400.

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EVENT

Lamesa - Chicken Fried Steak Festival, April 26-28, Lamesa, TX. More than 100 booths, live music Fri. & Sat., volleyball tournament, car & motorcycle show, children's story time, pet costume contest, petting zoo, parade, 5K run, worship service, carnival games, team roping, tumblers & dancers, Mister and Miss Chicken Fry Pageant. For registration forms and more information go to [www.ci.lamesa.tx.us](http://www.ci.lamesa.tx.us) or call 806-872-2124 ext. 322.

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### ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01 ORDENANZA NRO. 2024-01

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GONZALES, TEXAS ORDERING A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 4, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING AN INDIVIDUAL TO THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT 1 AND COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT 2; PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING; PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE ELECTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**UNA ORDENANZA DE LA CIUDAD DE GONZALES, TEXAS, QUE ORDENA QUE SE CELEBRE UNA ELECCIÓN MUNICIPAL GENERAL EL 4 DE MAYO DE 2024, CON EL PROPÓSITO DE ELEGIR A UN INDIVIDUO PARA EL CARGO DE MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO DISTRITO 1 Y MIEMBRO DEL CONSEJO DISTRITO 2; QUE DISPONE LA VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA; QUE DISPONE OTROS ASUNTOS RELATIVOS A LA ELECCIÓN; Y QUE DISPONE UNA FECHA DE ENTRADA EN VIGENCIA.**

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

**AHORA, POR LO TANTO, EL CONSEJO MUNICIPAL DE LA CIUDAD DE GONZALES, TEXAS, ORDENA:**

Section 1. That a May 4, 2024 regular election for the purpose of electing an individual to the office of Council Member District 1, and Council Member District 2 is hereby Ordered.

This Order of Election is to be posted at the Gonzales Municipal Building on the Bulletin Board used for posting notices of the meetings of the City Council.

Sección 1. Que se ordena por la presente una elección regular para el 4 de mayo de 2024 con el propósito de elegir a un individuo para el cargo de Miembro del Consejo Distrito 1 y Miembro del Consejo Distrito 2.

Esta Orden de Elección se publicará en el Tablero de Anuncios del Edificio Municipal de Gonzales que se utiliza para publicar avisos de las asambleas del Consejo Municipal.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Gonzales finds that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety and interest to conduct a joint election with Gonzales County for the May 4, 2024 election requiring the use of polling locations and early voting hours as determined by Gonzales County.

Sección 2. El Consejo Municipal de la Ciudad de Gonzales halla que es en el mejor interés de la a salud, la seguridad y el interés público celebrar una elección conjunta con el Condado de Gonzales para la elección del 4 de mayo de 2024 que requiera del uso de los lugares de votación y los horarios de votación anticipada que el Condado de Gonzales determine.

Section 3. The Election Administrator for Gonzales County shall serve as early voting clerk; the appointment of a deputy clerk or clerks for early voting by the Election Administrator shall be in accordance with the law.

Sección 3. El Administrador de Elecciones del Condado de Gonzales actuará como oficial de votación anticipada; la designacion de un suboficial o suboficiales para la votación anticipada por el Administrador del Condado se hará en conformidad con la ley.

Section 4. On Election Day, May 4, 2024, the polls shall be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., at the locations established by Gonzales County on the dates and times as follows, or as may be amended by Gonzales County, per the contract.

<b>Gonzales County Election Precinct</b> Pct. 1, 2, 3, 12	<b>Voting Location</b> Randle Rather Bldg, 427 St. George, STE 100, Gonzales, TX 78629
--	---

Sección 4. El Dia de Elección, el 4 de mayo de 2024, las casillas abriran en el horario de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m., en los lugares de votación establecidos por el Condado de Gonzales en las siguientes fechas y horarios o según el Condado de Gonzales los modifique en virtud del contrato.

<b>Precinto electoral del Condado de Gonzales</b> Precinto 1, 2, 3, 12	<b>Lugar de Votacion</b> Randle Rather Bldg, 427 St. George, STE 100, Gonzales, TX 78629
---	---

Section 5. Early Voting by personal appearance shall commence on April 22, 2024 and continue through April 30, 2024, at the locations established by Gonzales County on the dates and times as follows, or as may be amended by Gonzales County, per the contract.

Main Early Voting Location: Randle-Rather Building - EV Election Room 427 St. George, Gonzales, Texas 78629		
April 22nd-April 26th	Monday - Friday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
April 29th-April 30th	Monday-Tuesday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Additionally, early voting locations will be identified in the contract executed with Gonzales County.

Sección 5. La votación anticipada en persona empezará el 22 de abril de 2024 y continuará hasta el 30 de abril de 2024, inclusive, en los lugares de votación establecidos por el Condado de Gonzales en las siguientes fechas y horarios o según el Condado de Gonzales los modifique en virtud del contrato.

Lugar principal de votación anticipada:  
Randle-Rather Building - Sala de elección de votación anticipada  
427 St. George, Gonzales, Texas 78629

22 de abril al 26 de abril	Lunes a viernes	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
29 de abril y 30 de abril	Lunes y martes	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Además, los lugares de votación anticipada serán identificados en el contrato firmado con el Condado de Gonzales.

Section 6. Applications for ballot by mail shall be received by the Gonzales Election Administrator at 427 St. George, Ste 306, Gonzales, Texas 78629 no later than close of business on April 23, 2024.

Sección 6. Las solicitudes de boletas por correo serán recibidas por el Administrador de Elecciones de Gonzales en 427 St. George, Ste 306, Gonzales, Texas 78629 hasta el cierre de operaciones el 23 de abril de 2024.

Section 7. This election shall be held in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Texas and the Election Code, and all resident qualified voters of the City shall be eligible to vote in the election. The City Secretary and Mayor are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all actions necessary to comply with the provisions of the Code in carrying out and conducting the election, whether or not expressly authorized herein.

Sección 7. Esta elección se celebrará en conformidad con la Constitucion del Estado de Texas y el Código Electoral, y todos los votantes habilitados residentes de la Ciudad serán elegibles para votar en la elección. Por la presente, se autoriza e instruye a la Secretaria de la Ciudad y al Alcalde a que tomen todas y cada una de las medidas necesarias para cumplir con las disposiciones del Código para realizar y celebrar la elección, sean expresamente autorizadas en la presente o no.

Section 8. The Mayor and/or the City Secretary of the City of Gonzales are hereby authorized to execute and/or issue, for and on behalf of the City, such orders, documents, and forms as may, from time to time, be promulgated by the Secretary of State of the State of Texas in conjunction with the election herein ordained.

Sección 8. Por la presente, se autoriza al Alcalde y/o la Secretaria de la Ciudad de la Ciudad de Gonzales a firmar y/o expedir para la Ciudad y en su nombre, ciertas órdenes, documentos y formas como pueda, periódicamente, promulgar la Secretaria del Estado de Texas en conjunto con la elección ordenada en este documento.

Section 9. Said election shall be held in accordance with Texas Election Code and the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

Sección 9. Dicha Elección se llevará a cabo de acuerdo con el Código Electoral de Texas y la Ley Federal de Derecho al Voto de 1965 y sus enmiendas.

Section 10. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council of the City that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

Sección 10. Por la presente, se declara que es intención del Consejo Municipal de la Ciudad que las frases, cláusulas, oraciones, párrafos y secciones de esta Ordenanza sean divisibles, y si cualquier frase, cláusula, oración, párrafo o sección de esta Ordenanza fuera declarado inconstitucional por el fallo o decreto válido de cualquier tribunal con competencia jurisdiccional, dicha inconstitucionalidad no afectará ninguna de las frases, cláusulas, oraciones, párrafos o secciones restantes de esta Ordenanza, debido a que la misma hubiera sido promulgada por el Consejo Municipal sin la incorporación en esta Ordenanza de cualquiera de esas frases, cláusulas, oraciones, párrafos o secciones inconstitucionales.

Section 11. It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance was adopted was open to the public and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, as amended.

Sección 11. Por la presente, se halla y se determina oficialmente que la asamblea en la cual e s t a Ordenanza file adoptada estuvo abierta al público y que se dio aviso público de la hora, el lugar y el propósito de dicha asamblea según lo exige la Ley de Asambleas Públicas en el Capitulo 551 del Código de Gobierno de Texas y sus enmiendas.

Section 12. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

Sección 12. Esta ordenanza entrará en vigencia inmediatamente después su aprobación.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of January, 2024.

APROBADA Y ADOPTADA el 8 de enero de 2024.

Mayor (Alcalde), S.H. Sucher

ATTEST (ATESTIGUA):

Kristina Vega, City Secretary (Secretaria de la Ciudad)

## DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS 14TH DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION



Members of the American Legion Post 40 of Gonzales attended the Department of Texas 14th District Spring Convention, April 13-14 in Seguin. Post Commander Albert Rodriguez, Post Hub Master David Tacy and Post member Gary Schroeder were in attendance. Schroeder is also pictured with District 14 Commander Tony Lopez and Deputy Vice Commander Rich Huntley. Post 40 will also be joining the Veterans County Service Officer to provide valuable information to veterans and their families in the near future.

## Hospital Auxiliary hears informative presentation by Mayor Steve Sucher

**BY ELIZABETH BRELSFORD BENNETT, REPORTER**  
Special to the Inquirer

The Hospital Auxiliary of Gonzales Memorial Hospital met March 3, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. There were 11 members present and three visitors: Pilot Club President Linda Vaclavik, Gonzales Mayor Steve Sucher and his wife Linda.

Cathy Crowley addressed the membership regarding the gift shop. She is willing to assume management of the shop. She stated she will present needs for operating the gift shop.

Pilot Club members will pay yearly dues and be Hospital Auxiliary members.

Mayor Sucher gave an interesting program on his vision for Gonzales — that of community involvement in growing many aspects of Gonzales to a higher level. A brief question/answer session followed regarding future improvements on drainage and beautification plans. Mayor and Mrs. Sucher then departed. We appreciate the Mayor giving his time to our group with the updates.

The Hospital Gala on April 27 was discussed and a motion by Dyna

DuBose and seconded by Betty Fink to buy a \$500 table was approved. A sign up sheet for interested attendees were made by Betty Neubauer, President.

A blessing for the meal was given by Barbara Koricaneck and a salad luncheon was enjoyed by all.

A drawing for attendance prizes were won by Cynthia Garcia, Betty Fink and Leona Zella.

The Nominating Committee for new officers to be approved in April, voted on in May and installed in June was approved by President Neubauer. These were, Betty Fink, Dyna DuBose, Barbara Koricaneck and Linda Vaclavik.

The next meeting is April 30 at 2 p.m. at Thrive.

Motion to adjourn was made by Betty Fink, seconded by Cynthia Garcia and approved by all.

The appointed Nominating Committee met after the previous meeting closed and the following were proposed: President Cathy Crowley; Vice President, Sylvia Mercer; Treasurer, Dyna DuBose, Parliamentarian, Barbara Koricaneck.

New beginnings, new year, we shall make the best of all!!

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# Armed & Ready



**ERIC ESTES**  
Love, Eric and Eloise

Hey there everyone, I hope life's treating you well. Fortunately, at this point in time for me it is, and I definitely appreciate it (thank you Lord), and am mindful not to take it for granted. As life has it's ups and downs, I believe it's important to fully enjoy these times and thank God for them, knowing that if we'll be faithful, he'll be there to help us get through and navigate the tough times when they come. After wising up and allowing God into my life, seeing as he did give us the gift of choice (or curse in some circumstances), this philosophy has helped me immeasurably since coming on board. So, if you haven't allowed Christ into your life yet, I urge you to give it some serious thought, because if you do, your life can only get better. A word of caution though, if you don't look at God for who he is, but instead, examine him through your experiences with people, you'll end up with a very distorted view of God as a whole, cause us humans are one big mess!

Moving right along with our "Fit for '24 and beyond" series, today I'll be covering the third, and last exercise routine of my strength training (or, trying not to prematurely fall apart as I'm growing older) cycle. Judging by today's title you've probably guessed it's "arms", but what I'm actually "ready" for is carrying

on without falling over. In the last article I'd mentioned a few arm and shoulder injuries I'd incurred along the way, but none were due to exercising. While both work and sports can be dangerous at times, keeping at least somewhat fit has its benefits. After separating my shoulder once, the doctor said I'd have to wear a sling for six weeks before light therapy could begin, but after two weeks I started baby stepping through light shoulder exercises, and was fully recovered by my next visit, one month later, needless to say, he was quite impressed. A little self care goes a long way.

Just to recap, my home gym is equipped with a smith machine unit, which is a barbell that glides on rails, eliminating balance issues, and comes complete with a bench and cable system, allowing most exercises found in health clubs. Shoulders and arms are done during the same workout, but after covering shoulders last week, today we'll start with biceps (front of arms). This is the part that gets tight when carrying kids, groceries, or throwing fallen limbs into your neigh-

bors yard...yep, that Edna's a hoot. After some stretching and light warmup sets I start with preacher curls, done with arms resting on a downward sloping pad, curling the weight slowly to chin. These days I no longer lift heavy, only going to about 50 lbs. for 15-20 reps for 3-4 sets. I'll follow these with several sets of dumbbell curls, either standing or seated on incline bench to finish off.

Following the same basic set/rep scheme, next is triceps (back of arms), used in pushing things away ...is it date night already? I start with several sets of tricep pushdowns with a rope handle, locking out at bottom. Next is lying tricep extensions, with bar attached to cable for constant tension. I'll follow that with single arm overhead extensions for a complete stretch. Be careful with these, they're called skull crushers for a reason, as dropping a dumbbell on your head will help you become one. I'll generally finish off with a set of bench dips. These can also be done by placing hands on the front of a chair-knuckles facing forward, lowering butt down and pressing back up, legs out straight or in seated position for less resistance. These have really helped me to get out of my easy chair after an episode of Skinwalker Ranch!

Until next time, love you guys, Eric.

## Noted archaeologist to speak at Emmanuel Fellowship

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Emmanuel Fellowship is pleased to announce that Scott Stripling, noted Bible teacher and biblical archaeologist, will be speaking at the morning service on Sunday, April 28.

Dr. Stripling is a world-renown archaeologist, and is currently leading in the excavation at Shiloh, the site of the first Tabernacle in Israel. Other archaeologist excavations in which Dr. Stripling had a significant part include excavations at Tel-el Hammam, the site of Biblical Sodom; Biblical Ai, a site long thought to be mythical; and on Mount Ebai, the mountain of curses named in Deuteronomy 29.

He gained much recognition when he discovered a curse tablet from Mount Ebai in 2019. Finding the tablet has helped scholars understand that the Israelites were using written language hundreds of years before previously thought.

In addition to his knowledge and understanding of archaeology, Dr. Stripling is an excellent Bible teacher. Because of his knowledge of Israeli history, he is able to make the Bible even more interesting by including historical information not specifically mentioned in Scripture.

Dr. Stripling speaks at conferences and churches all over the world and it is truly an honor for Emmanuel to host him a second time prior to his planned return to Israel and the excavations at Shiloh. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the presentation of the Word of God by this gifted teacher. Emmanuel is located at 1817 St. Lawrence St., Gonzales. The service will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Find out what all your friends are talking about

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<b>BAPTIST</b> Clark Baptist Church FM 794, Gonzales	St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont.	Full Gospel Church 1426 Fisher, Gonzales	Emmanuel Fellowship 1817 St. Lawrence, Gonzales
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Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley	Union Lea Baptist Church St. Andrew St., Gonzales	Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS 1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales	New Life Temple for Jesus Christ 16214 US 90 W, Harwood
Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115 Waelder, TX, 78959	Union Valley Baptist Church FM 1681, NW of Nixon	Belmont Methodist Highway 90A, Belmont	River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley
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First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon	Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales	First Methodist 426 St. Paul, Gonzales	Two Rivers Bible Church 1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales
First Baptist Church Highway 108 N., Smiley	St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon	First United Methodist 410 N. Franklin, Nixon	<b>INTER-DENOMINATIONAL</b> Faith Family Church 1812 Cartwheel Dr., Gonzales
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Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office, Harwood	<b>CHURCHES OF CHRIST</b> Church of Christ 1323 Seydler St., Gonzales	Monthalia Methodist CR 112 off Highway 97	Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales
Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon	Church of Christ (Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon	Smiley Methodist Church 1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley	Life Changing Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236
Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon	Webster Chapel A.M.E. 1027 Church St., Gonzales	<b>PRESBYTERIAN</b> Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116
Leesville Baptist Church E. of Highway 80 on CR 121	Church of Christ, Belmont	<b>NON-DENOMINATIONAL</b> Agape Ministries 512 St. James, Gonzales Bread of Life Ministries 613 St. Joseph, Gonzales	Presbyterian Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales
Memorial Heights Baptist Church 1330 N. College, Gonzales	<b>CHURCHES OF GOD</b> Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales	Christ the King Church 1262 U.S. Highway 77 South Hallettsville	Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero
Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church 100 Capes, Gonzales	Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales		
Oak Valley Baptist Church Highway 97, Bebe	Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales		
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# Gonzales Area Parkinson's Support Group celebrates Parkinson's Awareness Month

## SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

April has been Parkinson's Awareness Month and was celebrated in many different ways to raise awareness of this disease.

The Gonzales Area Support Group will have their regular meeting for the month of May

on Thursday, May 2, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Gonzales Presbyterian Church at the corner of St. Louis and St. Joseph Streets in Gonzales, Texas.

A discussion will be held concerning past activities of the

support group and what will be coming in the future. It will include information on Parkinson's Disease, its symptoms, treatments, and other related topics. There will also be time for sharing concerns and asking questions.

Everyone is invited to attend

including Parkinson's patients, caregivers, family members or anyone interested in learning more about the disease. Light refreshments will be served.

Meetings of the group are held on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at this same location.

## OBITUARY



### JUANITA JANE BAKER

Juanita Jane Baker Iley, 75, of Gonzales, passed away Monday, April 15, 2024. She was born in Gonzales on April 6, 1949 to Zilmon J and Florence Townsend Baker.

Juanita enjoyed tending her plants and taking care of her beloved dog Boots. She was an avid reader and had filled several Kindles with books she loved. She loved to cook and was forever making certain that everyone was fed and cared for. Juanita adored her grandchildren who called her Nanny. She was a loving and doting wife to Kenneth for nearly 52 years.

Juanita is survived by her loving family, husband, Kenneth Wayne Iley, daughter, April Michelle Iley (Bennie Lerma), grandchildren, Sara and James Jalufka, and sister, Elizabeth Ann Baker. She was preceded in death by her parents, grandson, Brendon Wayne Iley, brother, Buford R Baker, and sisters, Evelyn Jo Pfuhl and Allie Baker Valenta.

Private family services will be held at a later date. Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting [www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com](http://www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.com). Memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice.

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

## LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

### Gonzales County Sheriff's Office

04/07/24 - 04/13/24

#### 04/08/24

- Carballea-Prieto, Marlon Michael, Austin, Age: 23: Local Warrant - Viol of Motor Fuel Tax Requirements, Local Warrant - Viol of Motor Fuel Tax Requirements, Released - Transfer
- Salina, Victoria, Natalia, Age: 40: Warrantless/On-View - Criminal Trespass, Requires \$4,500 Bond; Warrantless/On-View - Driving While License Invalid, Released

#### 04/09/24

- Lopez, Samuel J, San Antonio, Age: 35: Local Warrant - Poss CS PF 2 < 1G, Released

#### - Transfer

- Novosad, Garrett, Quentin, Shiner, Age: 37: Warrantless/On-View - Man Del CS PG 1>=4G<200G, Requires \$50,000 Bond, Released

#### 04/10/24

- Castillo-Ocoro, Jose Carlos, Gonzales, Age: 25: Warrantless/On-View - No Drivers License Issued, Released
- Barajas-Leon, Oscar, Gonzales, Age: 27: Warrantless/On-View - No Drivers License Issued, Other Agency Hold - Immigration Detainer, Released

#### 04/12/24

- Dilworth, Johnny Ray, Yoakum, Age: 39: Commitment/ Sentence - Poss CS PG

#### 1>=1G<4G, Released - Weekender

- Clayton, Tiffany Monique, San Antonio, Age: 47: Local Warrant - Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$20,000 Bond, Released
- Saucedo, Faustino Estrada, Houston, Age: 53: Commitment/ Sentence - Driving While Intoxicated 3rd or more IAT, Released - Weekender
- Wilson, Lonny Dean, San Antonio, Age: 26: Warrantless/On-View - Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$1,000 Bond, Released
- Lucio, Joshua Anthony, Lockhart, Age: 29: Other Agency Hold - Poss Marij <2oz, Requires \$7,500 Bond, Released

#### 04/13/24

- Krenek, Jamie Lynn, La

#### Ward, Age: 21: Other Agency Hold - Criminal Trespass, Released - Transfer

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processing's:	
GCSO	12
DPS	03
GPD	07
WPD	00
NPD	03
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

## 2ND 25TH COURT SENTENCINGS

- Michael Angelo Almedina, possession of a controlled substance greater than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 grams, two years TDJ probated for five years, \$1,000 fine, attorney fees and court costs.
- Marlon Michel Carballea-Prieto, viola-

tion of motor fuel tax requirements (two counts), two years TDCJ-ID with 231 days credit.

- Joseph Isaac Chacon, possession of a controlled substance greater than or equal to four grams but less than 400 grams, seven years TDCJ

with 10 years deferred adjudication, fine, attorney fees and court costs.

- Kristina Marie Contreras, manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance greater than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 grams, six years in TDCJ-ID with credit for 84 days.

- Elijah Yohance Holiday, aggravated robbery, tampering or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair, theft of proper-

ty greater than or equal to \$2,500 but less than \$30,000, five years TDCJ-ID with 60 days credit.

- Richard Eugene Kalak, manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance greater than or equal to 4 grams but less than 200 grams, 10 years deferred adjudication, held in ISF for one year, \$2,000 fine, attorney fees and court costs.

- Christina Martinez Melchor, theft of property greater than or equal to \$2,500 but less than

\$30,000 (two counts), five years deferred adjudication, \$25,000 restitution, \$1,000 fine plus court costs.

- Portino Montero Rodriguez, assault of family or house member impeding breath or circulation, five years TDCJ-ID with 370 days credit.

- Joseph Wyman Rogers, possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram, four years deferred adjudication, \$1,000 fine, attorney fees and court costs.

**BRITNEY JONES CAKA**  
LUTCF, FSCP, CLU  
Agent

1731 Seydler St.  
Gonzales, TX 78629

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m 830-857-6296  
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Kelly Breitschof	Allison Jahns	Emily Stampfort
Grace Frederick	Tara Lester	

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## Historical Commission looking for information on cemeteries in county

### SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales County Historical Commission is doing its best to update their information regarding the county's cemeteries. There is much to fill in, improve upon, and generally get our database up to the date to make it easier for folks to

get the information that they need when pursuing genealogy, looking for long-lost relatives, etc.

The Commission has a new cemetery chairman who is dedicated to getting this done. However, much of this information is not known except to one or two persons in many cases. Many cemeteries no longer have a board, and if the cemetery is not active in the present day, much of its information could be lost. The Commission is asking for your help, please.

There are standard bits of information that is essential:

- Name of the cemetery
- Contact person & contact information
- If on private property, what is the procedure to gain access?
- Is the cemetery fenced?
- Is the cemetery maintained?

The chairman and a couple of volunteers are currently engaged in trying to locate each cemetery in Gonzales County. There are many, many cemeteries and graveyards in our county and any information will most certainly be very welcome!

The new cemetery chairman is Cindy Munson. You may contact her by phone at 210-288-5264 or by email [pilot392jm2672@outlook.com](mailto:pilot392jm2672@outlook.com).

You may also call the Robert Lee Brothers Library with information at 830-672-6315.

## 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 8 Dr. Malik Dr. Desai	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			

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830-672-8497

**Cardiology**  
William Craig, MD  
830-672-3845

**Dermatology**  
Alpesh Desai, DO  
713-864-2659

### Specialty Physician Outpatient Clinic

**Audiology**  
Amy Trost  
Hearing Specialist  
830-372-2237

**Chiropractic**  
Jeff Echols, DC  
512-799-6811

**Dermatology**  
Vicente Quintero, MD  
830-626-5551

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

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

**Pain Management**  
Eric Miller, MD  
830-272-7746

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

**Ophthalmology**  
Joseph Kavanagh, MD  
830-379-3937

**Orthopedics**  
Trent Twitero, MD  
830-625-0009

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

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

# AWARDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

two second-place finishes, a third-place finish and two honorable mentions for a total of 625 points.

The Inquirer also finished third overall in the STPA Division 1 Weeklies Sweepstakes on Friday, April 19, with a total of 675 points, finishing just behind the Hays Free Press (800) and Frio-Nueces Current (775).

It was the first time in several years the Inquirer had competed in the STPA contest. The newspaper won four first-place plaques, three second-place finishes and a third-place finish.

“For more than 170 years, the Gonzales Inquirer has been the voice of the Gonzales County community and a trusted source for local news. We are happy to not only continue that tradition, but be recognized for our work by our peers and colleagues,” Inquirer Publisher Lew K. Cohn said.

“To win Sweepstakes just one year in a contest is difficult, but to repeat, back to back, speaks volumes about the expertise and professionalism of our staff. It is an honor and a privilege to represent Gonzales County and to come and take these awards back to the birthplace of Texas independence.”

## TGCPA RESULTS

The Inquirer won first place for its special section, Discover Gonzales County, which featured a partnership between the newspaper and Tour Gonzales, the tourism arm of the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture.

“Outstanding design, collection of historical facts about the town, introduction to everything in Gonzales,” a judge from a National Newspaper Association member newspaper wrote.

The Inquirer also won first place for General Excellence, which is one of the most prestigious awards given in the contest. General Excellence recognizes newspapers that shine brightest in overall quality, content, design and community engagement.

“Nice, visually pleasing layout with an attractive front page,” the judge wrote. “Articles are well-written and flow well, with plenty of supporting pictures throughout.”

The Inquirer also won first place in Editorial Writing, Display Advertising and Feature Photos, but there were no comments from the judges in any of those categories.

A second-place finish in Headline Writing brought the following comment from a judge: “You caught my attention and made me smile, but I knew what the article would be about.” Meanwhile, the Inquirer finished second in the Ferris Block Memorial Community Service Award after a story written about the death of a truck driver prompted TxDOT to install flashing red lights at the intersection. “I applaud you for doing work that matters and leads to change,” the judge wrote.

The Inquirer received a third-place finish for best newspaper website and an honorable mention for sports coverage with “great stories and great pictures with several sports.”

## STPA RESULTS

The Inquirer’s four first place finishes included the Griff Singer Award for General Excellence; Layout; Advertising; and Special Section. The General Excellence Award for STPA is named for former University of Texas journalism professor Griff Singer, who also happens to be one of Cohn’s first mentors in the field.

“Good art, strong news, fun community pieces and solid sports coverage. These entries issues showcased the whole package. I loved the interesting design and willingness to show that newspapers can have a sense of humor, too. Definitely a paper I would pick up on a newstand,” a judge from the North & East Texas Press Association said.

“If there was just one award I wanted to win for sure at STPA, it was the one named for my mentor and former professor, Griff Singer,” Cohn said. “He encouraged my writing abilities at the University of Texas and helped shape the way I approach my job — with professionalism, dignity and respect and a lot of fun thrown in as well.”

Discover Gonzales County, the Inquirer’s Special Section, was also well-loved by the judges in the STPA contest.

“I loved the originality of this and how it focused on the town,” one wrote. “The layout was also super fun!”

The Inquirer received second-place finishes in News Writing, Feature Photos and Headline Writing while the lone third-place honor came in News Photos.

# FOREST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and SWCDs across the state have tirelessly worked to encourage responsible natural resource management. Now, more than ever, the collaborative efforts of TSSWCB, SWCDs, the Texas A&M Forest Service, and our conservation partners are crucial in developing strategies to protect and conserve our precious soil and water resources.

Our goal is to shine a light on the forestry industry’s integral role in tandem with agriculture. The collaboration between these sectors is essential for maintaining the health of our soil, water, and forests. Recognizing their relationship is a step towards fostering sustainable practices that benefit us all.

Privately-owned forests contribute significantly to the Texas economy and provide numerous environmental and social benefits. You don’t have to stand in the middle of the woods to be surrounded by forests. Essential products made from trees include paper products, the lumber that built your home and even household items such as toothpaste, medicines and dyes. Trees also offer habitat and food to birds, insects, lichen, fungi, mammals, and reptiles. Finally, trees increase our quality of life through a relaxing effect, reducing stress. It doesn’t matter where you are — the forest is always with you.



LEW K. COHN

Gonzales County Commissioners Court unanimously proclaimed April 28-May 5 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week in Gonzales County. Effective conservation practices have been credited with helping to provide a better standard of living and the county’s security depends on healthy soil and clean water.

In Texas, 11.7 million people get their clean surface drinking water from forests and as stewards of these precious natural resources, we must acknowledge and conserve the bond of soil, water, and forests. Through the theme “May the Forest Be with You Always,” we acknowledge the intricate interdependence of these elements and commit to conserving the beauty and vitality of our beloved Texas landscape for generations to come. Together, let’s ensure that working our forests endure, our soil remains productive, and our waters flow sustainably — may the conservation force be with us always.

This campaign aims to bring more awareness and support to voluntary land stewardship because the way we manage our resources on private lands directly impacts our natural resources. Partnering organizations in the “May the Forest Be With You Always,”

campaign includes Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, AgriLife Extension, Ducks Unlimited, Plains Cotton Growers, Texan By Nature, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, Texas Association of Dairymen, Texas Conservation Association for Soil and Water, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Forestry Association, Texas Hemp Coalition, Texas Poultry Federation, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, Texas Water Resource Institute, Texas Watershed Steward Program, Texas Wildlife Association, The Nature Conservancy, Upper Trinity Conservation Trust, and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Water Grows.

For more information on “May the Forest Be With You Always,” please visit [www.tsswcb.texas.gov](http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov).

# PATHWAYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The four-year program allows students to take a sequence of courses, starting their freshman year and culminating in a hands-on practicum their senior year.

The Health Science Career Cluster: Program of Study in Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services consists of four meticulously aligned courses:

- Level 1 - Principles of Health Science
- Level 2 - Medical Terminology
- Level 3 - Anatomy and Physiology
- Level 4 - Practicum in Health Science

The culminating Level 4 Practicum course will provide students the opportunity to earn certifications as a Medical Assistant or Pharmacy Technician.

Dr. Elmer Avellaneda, superintendent of Gonzales ISD, expressed his enthusiasm for the new program.

“Gonzales ISD is forward-thinking, adapting so our students learn today to lead tomorrow. Learning today, Leading tomorrow, reflects our mission to prepare students for success,” said Dr. Avellaneda. “With Pharmacy Technicians seeing a 16 percent and Medical Assistants seeing a 29 percent growth rate with high demand in Gonzales, we’re responding to our student and community’s needs.”

The partnership between Gonzales ISD and Victoria College aligns with the district’s five-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gonzales Independent School District announces a partnership with Victoria College with two new Health Science pathways in diagnostic and therapeutic services.

year strategic plan by proactively addressing the needs of our students and our local healthcare sector’s workforce needs. It ensures that Gonzales ISD students are prepared for in-demand careers and at the forefront of the evolving job market.

The pathway responds to local job market data, ensuring students are ready for the future healthcare landscape.

Future exploration for Career and Technical Education plans include expanding program offerings for Food Processing and Veterinary Assistant certifications for the 2025-2026 school year.



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**ACROSS**

1 \_\_\_ Performance Hall in Fort Worth  
TXism: “best I ever wrapped \_\_\_ around”

5 French explorer in Texas: Sieur \_\_\_ Salle

7 George H. W. to George W.

8 LBJ choice for chief Justice of Supreme Court: \_\_\_ Fortas  
TXism: “covered like fur \_\_\_”

15 type of Dr. Pepper

16 TXism: “worthless as \_\_\_ flush”

19 divided by two (2 wds.)

21 TXism: “never let \_\_\_ you sweat”

22 box with perforated top for perfume

27 what Christ said on the cross meaning “My God” unemployed Texan \_\_\_ job

29 TXism: “\_\_\_ shooting” (certain)

30 TXism: “use your head for something besides a \_\_\_”

32 TX Janis Joplin died of this (abbr.)

33 TX Larry McMurry wrote “\_\_\_ Grave”

36 cole

37 Larry, curly & \_\_\_

38 TXism: “run it by a \_\_\_” (finalize)

39 persistence

41 entrants at Texas Motor Speedway, e.g.

44 TXism: “you’re preaching \_\_\_ choir”

45 “Giant” actress (init.)

46 roof overhang

47 Gen. Robert \_\_\_ historic “Opera House” in Columbus

51 fully grown Texan

52 TXism: “busy \_\_\_ bartender on pay day”

53 Dallas suburb: \_\_\_ Colinas

54 deer-like animal in West Texas

10 TXism: “\_\_\_ hill for a stepper” (doable)

11 gold symbol

12 content of small Texas stream (2 wds.)

13 Fort Worth based \_\_\_ Brick company

14 chore

15 TXism: “\_\_\_ dog stink? (yes)”

16 TXism: “he’s got \_\_\_ of arrows in his quiver” (capable)

17 relieve again

18 good shooter

20 what the Texas legislature can enact (2 wds.)

22 Gov. Preston (init.)

23 “yep” or “si,” in France

24 coffee container

25 TX cowboy Gay & actress Patricia

26 fancy appetizer

28 read quickly

31 dark pub beers

34 Tex Ritter hit: “\_\_\_ Whiskey”

35 TXism: “about as clear as \_\_\_ River mud”

37 small contribution

40 TXism: “playing with a \_\_\_ deck” (unlucky)

42 fancy “adios”

43 in Jasper County on U.S. 96

49 flat container for “rot gut”

50 extra play for the Mavericks (abbr.)

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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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.

# RASBERRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that we were not going to stop," Fontenot said. "He's never out of our thoughts and he's definitely not out of mind. I look at him every day and I talk to him every day."

"When this came out and my sister called me on Thursday, I put my hand on his face and told him, 'I told you we weren't going to stop, son!' But now, we're really just beginning because of the situation."

After more than two years of fruitless leads and clues that did not pan out, the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office finally got the break it was looking for in solving Rasberry's homicide when a 10-year-old Nixon-Smilely student threatened a classmate on a bus one week earlier on Thursday, April 11.

That one event set in motion a chain-reaction of events that culminated with the discovery that the boy had shot and killed Rasberry on Jan. 16, 2022 — when he was just a week shy of his own eighth birthday.

The motive for the slaying remains unclear. The boy admits he held no animosity towards Rasberry and didn't even know him when he took his grandfather's 9mm pistol from a truck glovebox, snuck into Rasberry's trailer and shot him once in the head as the 32-year-old Rasberry was sleeping. He would fire another bullet into the couch, leave the trailer, put away the gun and his responsibility for this appalling, secret act would not surface for another two years.

"I guess that's what's kind of disturbing to us also is that he was seven at the time," Fontenot said. "We try to look back on our children at seven. I mean, when 'B' was seven, he didn't even have a BB gun! So, it just goes to show, I guess, how these generations are changing. Right? Like my own son, you know, whenever he found out, he's like, 'Mom, I'm just sick. I'm sick.'"

"We couldn't cry. When my sister made her first phone call to me, after leaving Gonzales County Sheriff's Department getting the news, we couldn't be angry, we couldn't cry. You know, it was like, 'Okay, we've got to do something,' and then to know that he couldn't be charged with murder!"

## REMEMBERING BRANDON

Fontenot held back tears as she lovingly remembered her nephew's love of the outdoors and kind-hearted nature.

"He loved camping. He loved fishing. He was such a free spirit," Fontenot said. "He didn't have an enemy and he would

give you the shirt off his back. He never tired of learning new things.

"He was definitely a hard worker. He loved his sons and he loved his nieces. We were a tight-knit family. If one person went camping, we all went — all the time. I mean, when you say Sunday funday or people talk about Sunday fundays, this was like full weekends."

Fontenot was a major part of her nephew's life and even suggested to her sister Charlene Hadley Munn his middle name — O'Quinn.

"He was like a son to me and at one point I helped my sister raise him," Fontenot said. "I'm not sure about how he got his first name. Someone asked me about that the other day. I think my sister was the one who said Brandon, but then said, 'I need a middle name,' and I suggested O'Quinn. It came from our mother's mother's father, so our great-grandpa, his middle name was O'Quinn. "Three years ago, I went through a stroke. And whenever I got home here in Brenham, he was the first one to call. 'Aunt Laura, if you need anything, you know, I'm here.'"

Fontenot said Brandon did not finish school at Brenham, but rather was enrolled in Gary Job Corps, where he earned his welding certificate. Some of this was due to another part of Brandon's gentle nature — a wish to avoid confrontation from those who sought to cause him harm.

"He went there because Brandon didn't like confrontation and back at the time, he was a little bit overweight and he was being bullied (in school)," Fontenot said. "So my sister found a place that he might enjoy and it was better to see him succeed than just quit."

After several other jobs, including working as an OTR truck driver, Brandon eventually would find himself working at Holmes Foods in Nixon, where he earned a reputation for being a valued employee who not only didn't skip work, but enjoyed his new work home.

"He used to be there before anyone," Fontenot said of Rasberry. "His supervisor said he was always 'Johnny on the spot.' He was there and he would open shop for everyone in the mornings. He would put on his music and he was ready. All of us love karaoke and 'B' loved singing."

The last members of his family to see Rasberry alive were his grandparents, who helped him move into the RV he proudly rented in Nixon, which was to be a new beginning. He would only get to

spend four days in the RV before he was killed.

"They drove away on a Thursday," Fontenot said. "I'm the first phone call, through Facebook, through a friend of mine, who said, 'I'm so sorry for your loss of your nephew.' And we didn't even know what the hell took place."

"This got out on Facebook (before we knew). I was the one that had to tell my sister that she's lost her son and I've lost my nephew. And then I was the first person to call our mother and tell her ... 'Mom, I need you to go because, you know, I'm being told that your grandson's been murdered.'"

Fontenot said she couldn't understand why someone would target her nephew, wondering if "he met his maker and, for the first time in his life, he was actually having to defend himself"

"Because he didn't never have altercations anywhere," Fontenot said. "And we were like, 'Really, you just move in and you already made an enemy and you never had an enemy before?'"

"They went through 'B's phone and called numerous people asking, 'What kind of man was he,' when they were looking for something at the end of the day to try to explain. And now that it's come out, it's almost like this doesn't make sense, but it makes sense that a ... child killed an innocent person because nobody else had a problem with 'B.'"

In what is a case of extremely good timing or divine intervention, Brandon's sister-in-law, Emily Fojtik, posted on the "What's happening in Nixon Texas?" Facebook page on April 14, 2022, seeking answers to Rasberry's unsolved murder.

"Hello Nixon community! My Brother-in-law Brandon Rasberry, was murder on January 18, 2022 at Lazy J Rv Park. We are still looking for answers. The family has lost faith in the Gonzales Sheriff's Department and have had to start our own investigation. From the very start, there was a lot of suspicion surrounding the RV park. He moved into the park on January 15th, and by the 18th he was gone. If anyone has any information, please reach out to Jonathan Fojtik through a private message. The family would like to have closure for Brandon. He was such a special soul; kind, giving, and loving."

"Apparently at the time that this post was going out, this child was being already held in questioning for my nephew's murder," Fontenot said. "And on Monday morning, my sister receives a phone call from Sergeant (Jared) Brumme (the lead investigator on the case). And she calls me and says, 'Sister, we've got to keep this under wraps. But I've got to meet on Thursday with Brumme.' Wow, we post this and probably at the time that this posting went out, this child was being questioned."

## PETITION FOR CHANGE

Fontenot said the family is outraged



CONTRIBUTED/LAURA FONTENOT

This photo of Brandon Rasberry stays on Laura Fontenot's refrigerator as a constant reminder of her beloved nephew and the promise she made not to stop looking for his killer.

that criminal law in Texas does not allow for children to be charged with violent crimes if they commit them while under the age of 10. Her nephew's killer is avoiding culpability for his actions because of his age — he was just a week shy of his eighth birthday when he pulled the trigger.

A family friend, Julie Hintz, began a petition at change.org, which asks the Texas House and Texas Senate to "Amend in 'rare cases' Texas Penal Code 8.07 to Hold Juvenile Murderers Accountable." It had 249 signatures since it began on April 18.

"Somebody's got to be held accountable. And what is slapping me in the face that we have a stupid Texas Penal Code that we can't go after a child at this age," Fontenot said. "We've got to start right now and we've got to change this law in Brandon's name, even if this has got to go all the way to the Capitol. We are not stopping. Somewhere, somebody's going to be accountable."

"It may have to be with a law change so this doesn't happen to any innocent person again, because that really disgusted me that he just walked in and shot my nephew while he was asleep and then turned around and make another shot into the couch. The family wants someone held accountable. Because someone knows more than what they're saying. We're gonna try our damndest to change this law."

While a Michigan mother was recently convicted of involuntary manslaughter when her 15-year-old son killed four fellow students at his high school, Texas' parental responsibility laws do not cover personal injury liability. Unless the parent took part in committing the crime, they cannot be charged with the actions their children took.

State law will allow families of victims to bring a personal injury claim against parents for damages a child caused on the grounds of parental negligence. They can also sue a minor's parents for negligence or breach of duty if it can be proven that the parents knew of a child's propensity for the harmful behavior before it occurred and failed to do anything to prevent an injury or property damage.



# Vaccination

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Adults

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# VACCINES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And of course, I'm getting the support from the city to provide this for our city," Cunningham said.

Since January, Gonzales Animal Control reported 14 animal cruelty cases, and out of 14 of them, two animals were vaccinated, Cunningham said.

"If the animal bites the human and the animal had been exposed to rabies, it can pass that on to a human. It's deadly. Rabies is still very much something to be afraid of and to make sure you that

you take care of your pets, so your children and your family doesn't get rabies," Cunningham said.

Rabies is transmitted through saliva and Cunningham said they have reported two positive rabies cases from skunks in the city, she said.

Last year, Lavaca County and Victoria Country had the highest number of reported rabid animals in the area.

State law requires dogs and cat owners to have their pets vaccinated

against rabies, and Cunningham said they'll be distributing 100 rabies shots at the old EMS Building, 1724 Hickston, from 8 a.m. to noon.

"Just make sure that you have your dogs on a leash and your cats in a carrier. Your animals have to be four months or older in order to get a vaccine and spread the word and hopefully we can protect our citizens and our furry babies as well in this process," Cunningham said.

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For your Firearms needs contact Brandon or Stephanie  
Fehner Firearms is closed on Mondays

# CLEANUP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Timed to coincide with Earth Day, this tradition sees the City of Gonzales rallying its citizens for a day of collective action.

Frontier Waste, demonstrating its commitment to sustainability, stepped up this year by providing 12 roll-off containers, four residential rear load trucks, and deploying a crew of 10 dedicated staff members. Working hand in hand with an additional 10 city staff, equipped with backhoes and claw excavators, they tackled the task with gusto, filling every available space in the dumpsters and waste trucks with a staggering total of over 57.09 tons of waste. A&S Recycling also contributed by collecting two roll-off dumpsters brimming with metal recycling.

The community spirit was palpable as volunteers turned out in force to spruce up their neighborhoods. Aptiva, demonstrating their corporate citizenship, generously provided a large trailer and volunteers to aid the elderly and disabled in transporting their bulky waste to the drop-off site. Mayor Steve Sucher himself, led by example, leading a team of volunteers through the streets, picking up litter and debris.

From the crack of dawn until midday, a steady stream of vehicles lined up at the

Apache Stadium parking lot to offload bulky waste. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors like GVEC and HEB, the Beautification Advisory Board was able to organize a heartfelt "thank you" luncheon for all the volunteers and crew who contributed their time and effort to the clean-up.

Leading up to and during the event, numerous volunteer groups lent their support, including stalwarts like The Rotary Club of Gonzales, The Gonzales Noon Lion's Club, and The Pilot's Club of Gonzales, as well as youth organizations like The Live Oak District of the Boy Scouts of America. State Representative John Kuempel and his campaign crew, as well as local businesses like Next Concept Motorsports, also pitched in, alongside countless individual volunteers, all united in their shared mission to Keep Gonzales Beautiful.

This annual event pays homage to Dr. Jim Price. Dr. Price, a revered figure in Gonzales, served the community as a dedicated doctor from 1948 to 2003. Known for his compassionate care and commitment to cleanliness, he inspired the "Jim Price Communitywide Cleanup Day," held annually since his passing in 2013.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Gonzaleans of all ages took part in the annual Jim Price Communitywide Clean-up on Saturday, April 20, helping pick up and beautify neighborhoods throughout the city. Bulk waste disposal containers were set up at Apache Stadium and city crews, Frontier Waste, the Rotary Club and others took part in honoring the legacy of Dr. Jim Price, who championed the beautification of Gonzales.



## WHAT LIES BENEATH - THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR LAND, AND YOUR WATER RIGHTS

In Texas, you own the groundwater beneath your land, according to the Texas Supreme Court. However, such groundwater can be pumped and transported outside of Gonzales County by another owner of groundwater rights in the county without having to compensate you for your groundwater taken from underneath your land. This is known as the Rule of Capture.

There is a groundwater district that has been created by the Texas Legislature to "conserve, protect and preserve" the groundwater resources within most of Gonzales County, known as the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District (GCUWCD). This district regulates how much groundwater can be pumped from the aquifers beneath your lands, for other than exempt purposes, including that which can be transported outside the district's boundaries. The Water Protection Association (WPA) is a group of landowners here in Gonzales County who want to preserve and protect the surface and groundwater resources within the District.

This district is governed by the Board of Directors, which is made up of 5 directors whose precincts are shown in the map below. For years now, this Board of Directors has been issuing permits for pumping groundwater out of the Carrizo Aquifer, the most productive and prolific aquifer in the county.

Most of this permitted groundwater is being transported **outside the district to places like San Antonio, Schertz, Seguin, and other areas to the west, specifically to supply other areas outside of Gonzales County.**

To date, this district has issued permits to pump more groundwater from the Carrizo Aquifer than what has been determined by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to be available for achieving a certain desired future condition (DFC) in this aquifer.

This is important because the desired future condition does not mean conserve to the same level. There are regulatory models that calculate what an acceptable loss will be in the future.

**IF YOUR PROPERTY RECEIVES WATER BY A WATER WELL, THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW.**

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

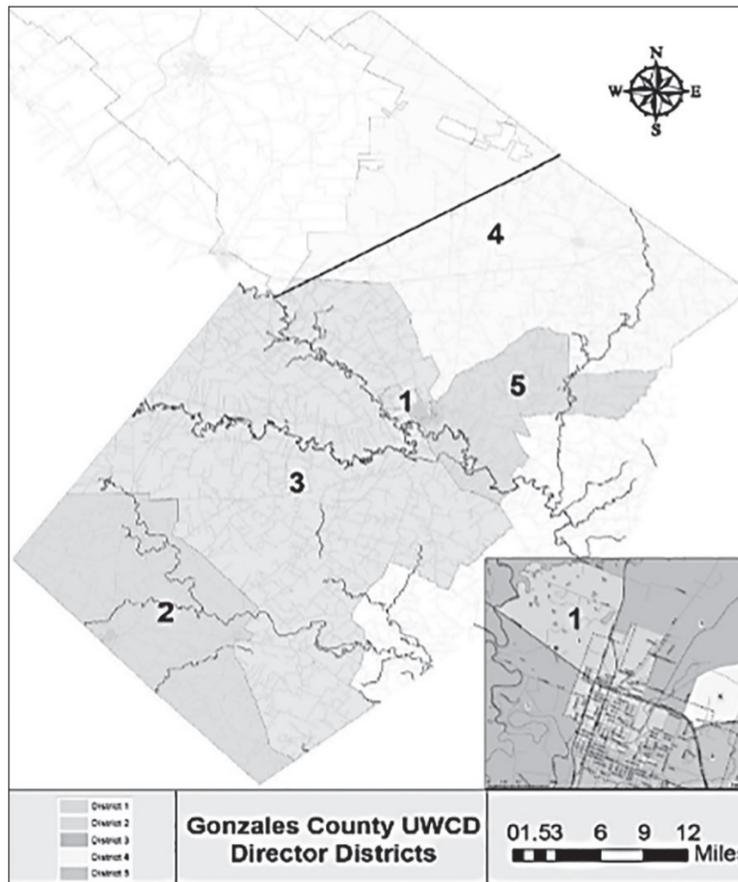
Next month there is an election for 2 of the 5 director positions on this Board of Directors of this groundwater district. Since almost twelve years there have not been any contested elections.

**However, this May there are two new candidates running who believe in conserving, protecting, and preserving the water for today and for future generations.**

WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU AND WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

Know where your water comes from. Understand your community's need for local water. Imagine the value of the land in your community if water becomes scarce and controlled by a few for many.

**THEN, GO VOTE MAY 4TH, 7AM-7PM.  
Early voting is April 22nd-26th, 8am-5pm &  
April 29th and April 30th, 8am-5pm.**



Political advertising paid for by Water Protection Association, Gonzales, Texas

**VOTE**  
**JOHN ARMSTRONG**  
For GCUWCD Water District 4

**"PROTECT GONZALES COUNTY WATER"**  
**COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION**

Early Voting is April 22nd-April 26th, Monday-Friday, 8am-5:00pm  
April 29th and April 30th, Monday and Tuesday, 8am-5:00pm

**Election Day: May 4, 2024, 7:00am-7:00pm**

Political advertising paid for by John Armstrong, Gonzales, TX 78629

**VOTE**  
**GLENN GLASS**

For GCUWCD Water District 5

*"Preserving Our Water For Future Generations"*

Early Voting is April 22nd-April 26th, Monday-Friday, 8am-5:00pm  
April 29th and April 30th, Monday and Tuesday, 8am-5:00pm

**Election Day: May 4, 2024, 7:00am-7:00pm**

Political advertising paid for by Glenn Glass, Gonzales, TX 78629



The annual Bingo, Bags and Badges returned to JB Wells Friday, April 19. Gonzales first responders pose and model with the bags while attendees get a chance to win the bags in multiple rounds of bingo. All funds from the event went towards Norma's House, The Gonzales Regional Advocacy Center serving Gonzales, Lavaca and DeWitt counties.

PHOTOS BY WANDY VAN EPPS AND BRANDI VINKLAREK



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# MURDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, the now 10-year-old juvenile suspect is awaiting a court date on a charge of terroristic threat for an incident on a Nixon-Smilely CISD school bus which led to authorities uncovering his involvement in Rasberry's shooting death. He remains in the custody of the Gonzales County Juvenile Probation Department at this time.

"Because of the child's age, Texas Penal Code 8.07 states that a child does not have criminal culpability until they reach the age of ten years old," GCSO said in a statement released to the Gonzales Inquirer. "At the time of the murder, the juvenile suspect was seven years old, one week shy of his eighth birthday. Therefore, charges for murder will not be filed and cannot be accepted by the Gonzales County Attorney's Office for consideration of prosecution in accordance with state law."

Rasberry, 32, was found deceased on Jan. 18, 2022, in an RV at the Lazy J RV Park, located at 85 Wild Meadow, in Nixon. He had suffered a single gunshot wound to the head. For two years, Gonzales County Sheriff's Office continued to investigate the case, but had no leads as to who killed Rasberry or why.

Then, on Friday, April 12, GCSO dispatchers received a call from a Nixon-Smilely CISD principal, who reported the 10-year-old male "had threatened to assault and kill another student on a bus" the previous day. After conducting a threat assessment on the student, they contacted GCSO to conduct further investigation and a deputy was dispatched to the school.

"When the deputy arrived he spoke with school officials, who informed the deputy the child made a statement that he shot and killed a man two years ago," GCSO told the Inquirer.

The deputy contacted the Criminal Investigation Division (CID), which determined that based upon information the child told the school, he appeared to have first-hand knowledge about Rasberry's death. The child was transported to a child advocacy center, where a forensic interview was conducted and during the interview "the 10-year-old child described in detail that two years ago he shot and killed a man in a trailer in Nixon, Texas," GCSO stated.

"The 10-year-old child provided information that was consistent with first-hand knowledge of the homicide of Brandon Rasberry," GCSO told the Inquirer.

## RASBERRY HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION — 2022

Longtime Brenham resident Brandon Rasberry had been working for about three months at Holmes Foods, a poultry processing plant in Nixon, when he decided to rent an RV from the Lazy J RV Park, located on Wild Meadow off County Road 127, not far from the Schertz Seguin Local Government Corporation Water Supply groundwater transmission and treatment plant.

Rasberry had been living in the RV for about four days at the time of his death. On Jan. 18, 2022, when he did not show up for work for two days, his supervisor had HR call the owner of the

RV park to do a welfare check on their employee. The owner of the RV entered it after repeatedly knocking on the door without receiving an answer. Inside, he discovered Rasberry deceased from what appeared to be a single gunshot to his head.

GCSO began a murder investigation in conjunction with the Texas Department of Public Safety Ranger Division and collected evidence which was sent to the DPS Crime Lab in Austin for forensic analysis, including a pair of spent shell casings for a 9mm handgun. Investigators also wrote search warrants for geolocation data from Rasberry's cellphone as well as any other cell phones that were in the area at the time of his killing, but that failed to produce any new leads.

An autopsy performed on Rasberry at the Travis County Medical Examiner's office in Austin showed he had been shot once in the head and had two minor graze wounds — one to his right middle finger and one to his left index finger. No other trauma was observed on the body and the medical examiner concluded the cause of death was consistent with a homicide. Information gathered from the scene as well as witness statements and the autopsy report indicated Rasberry had been dead for about two days prior to the discovery of his body.

While investigators interviewed possible witnesses and tracked down all leads, they could not determine who had killed Brandon Rasberry — or why.

Greater Gonzales County Crime Stoppers even offered a cash award to whoever submitted a tip that led the apprehension of Rasberry's killer, but that also generated no further leads.

## RASBERRY HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION — 2024

Under questioning by investigators on Friday, April 12, 2024, the 10-year-old child stated he was visiting his grandfather at the RV park on Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022. The child's grandfather lived in an RV a few lots down from Rasberry's RV.

"When asked, the child stated he had never met Brandon, and did not know who he was, although he had observed him walking around the RV earlier in the day," GCSO told the Inquirer. "The child was also asked if he was mad at Brandon for some reason or if Brandon had ever done anything to him to make him mad and the child stated no."

The child stated he retrieved a 9mm pistol he described as "dirty and army green" in color from the glove box of his grandfather's truck and entered Rasberry's RV, where he found the victim sleeping in bed. He "approached Brandon and discharged the firearm into Brandon, striking him one time in the head."

"The child stated as he was leaving the RV, he discharged the firearm another time into the couch inside the RV. The child then exited the RV and returned the firearm to the glovebox of the truck," GCSO told the Inquirer.

Investigators were able to locate and secure for evidence the firearm used to kill Rasberry at a pawn shop in Seguin, where it had been pawned by the boy's

grandfather, according to the child. However, Sheriff Keith Schmidt told the Inquirer they do not believe at this time the grandfather had any reason to believe it had been used to commit a crime when he pawned it.

The Gonzales County Attorney's Office, Texas Department of Child Protective Services and Gonzales County Juvenile Probation were brought in to aid the investigation.

On Wednesday, April 17, investigators took the two spent shell casings to the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms field office in San Antonio for forensic analysis and comparison using the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, or NIBIN. Testing showed the firearm seized from the Seguin pawn shop was indeed the weapon used to kill Brandon Rasberry, confirming the child's improbable yet true confession.

Due to the severity of the crime and out of "the continued concern for the child's mental well-being," he was placed on a 72-hour emergency detention and transported to a San Antonio psychiatric hospital for evaluation and treatment. Upon his release from the hospital, the child was transported to GCSO, where he was booked on terroristic threat charges relating to the school bus incident and placed in custody of the Juvenile Probation Department.

Nixon-Smilely CISD Superintendent Jeff VanAuken said the district was cooperating with GCSO throughout the investigation.

"Following a threat made by the student, the elementary Behavioral Threat Assessment Team initiated a Behavioral Threat Assessment," VanAuken said. "As a result of the assessment, the elementary administration contacted the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office. The student was promptly removed by the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office and is currently being detained."

VanAuken said due to the severity of information gathered during the investigation, "the student will not return to the elementary campus."

"Nixon-Smilely CISD would like to reassure parents, students, and the community that the safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance," VanAuken said. "We extend our gratitude to the Gonzales County Sheriff's Office for their unwavering commitment to maintaining the safety of our schools and community."

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Terroristic threat is a Class B misdemeanor under Texas Penal Code Section 22.07. Class B misdemeanors for adults are punishable by up to 180 days in jail and up to a \$2,000 fine. However, Texas state law does not allow for a juvenile to be sent to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department for committing a misdemeanor offense regardless of the child's adjudication history, according to the Juvenile Justice Handbook.

Within 48 hours from when the accused was taken into custody (including weekends and holidays), a court or a magistrate must conduct a detention hearing to determine whether to release or detain the juvenile in a facility until his court appearance. The juvenile must be released from detention unless the court finds that:

- he is likely to abscond or be removed from the jurisdiction of the court;
- suitable supervision, care, or protection for him is not being provided by a parent, guardian, custodian, or other person;
- he has no parent, guardian, custodian, or other person able to return him to the court when required;
- he may be dangerous to himself or may threaten the safety of the public if released; or
- he has previously been found to be a delinquent child or has previously been convicted of a penal offense punishable by a term in jail or prison and is likely to commit an offense if released.

If the juvenile is kept in detention, a detention hearing must be held every 10 days to determine whether continued detention is warranted. The state must file a petition by the 15th working day after the initial detention hearing.

Section 55 of the Texas Family Code deals with concerns regarding mental illness or intellectual disability which could cause a child to either be unfit to proceed with juvenile proceedings or to be found to lack responsibility for such conduct as a result of mental illness or intellectual disability. There are hearings that can be held to remand the child into court-ordered temporary or extended mental-health care in an inpatient, residential or outpatient setting.

Gonzales County Attorney Paul Watkins told the Inquirer on Wednesday, April 24, that his office will not discuss pending cases, especially ones involving juvenile offenders, until they have been adjudicated.



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**Delivering the right care for this community** means maintaining a solid program of primary care services including an expansive network of family care clinics, a variety of specialty services, comprehensive surgical care, rehab therapies, a dedicated home health program and so much more, all dedicated to serving patients from pediatrics to geriatrics.

GHS is also one of the only hospitals in the area with a Safe Sleep certified Birthing Center that features four private labor and delivery suites, childbirth education and breastfeeding support.

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# ATTENTION PARENTS!

## RESERVE YOUR GRADUATE AD BY MONDAY, MAY 13!

Recognize your graduate with a specially priced Parent Ad in our Class of 2024 Graduation Special Section! The keepsake edition publishes in our Thursday, May 23 edition of The Gonzales Inquirer.

It will feature a color picture and name of every graduating senior from Gonzales, Nixon-Smilely, Shiner St. Paul, Waelder and Emmanuel Christian School high schools. In addition, The Inquirer will highlight each school's Valedictorian and Salutatorian!

In addition to being in our print edition and e-edition on May 23, each graduating senior will receive a copy courtesy of The Inquirer and local businesses.

For more information — or to place your ad — please contact  
Sanya Simmons at (830) 672-2861 or e-mail  
[sanya.simmons@gonzalesinquirer.com](mailto:sanya.simmons@gonzalesinquirer.com).

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