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FEMA draws ire of property owners and county with new flood maps

BY LEW K. COHN

Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County commissioners expressed concerns at a Monday, June 24 meeting about a new flood plain map of Gonzales County by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which seemingly puts a number of properties in the 100-year flood plain — including the Gonzales County Courthouse.

Dale Koehler, who owns 39 acres of land in Belmont with frontage access to US 90-A between property owned by the Wundt family and the Ford family, told

See **FEMA**, page 11



Main Street gets ready for Star Spangled Spectacular

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The red, white and blue spirit of the United States

The red, white and blue spirit of the United States is back for the annual Main Street Star Spangled Spectacular Thursday, July 4.

Main Street Director
Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla
said seven food and drink
vendors and six merchandise vendors are ready for
this year's Fourth of July
celebration.

"Our entertainment will include DJ Buddy, who starts at 5 p.m.; John Brewer will start at 7 p.m.; and then Dawson DeBord will be at 8:30 p.m. We do have the VFW Post #4817. They're going to be hosting the patriotic bike parade,"

Hutchinson-Padilla said.

"They'll have free bikes for the winners and they usually judge based on the decorating of the wagon or the scooter or the bike — it doesn't just have to be a bike," Hutchinson-Padilla

said.
Parade check-in is set for 5:30 p.m. and the parade kicks off at 6 p.m. inside Independence Square.

See **FOURTH,** page 12

Back-to-back!

Inquirer wins second-consecutive TPA Sweepstakes award

FROM STAFF REPORTS

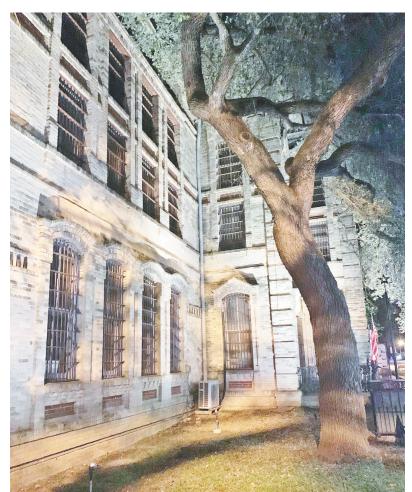
For the second-consecutive year, the Gonzales Inquirer was crowned the Sweepstakes winner for Division 7 at the 2023 Texas Press Association Better Newspaper Contest this past weekend in College Station — a victory that is equivalent to winning a state championship.

Despite not winning a single first-place plaque, the Inquirer parlayed four second-place finishes, three third-place finishes and a fourth place into 400 points, tying for most in the division with the Pilot Point Post-Signal. A tiebreaker for having the most second-place finishes gave the Sweepstakes plaque to the Inquirer.

See **AWARDS**, page 12



Gonzales Inquirer Publisher Lew K. Cohn holds the 2023
Sweepstakes Plaque for Division 7 of the Texas Press
Association Better Newspaper Contest. The Inquirer has now won consecutive sweepstakes awards — the highest honor a newspaper can receive from the state press association.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New installed lights shines the Gonzales County Jail Museum at night. The museum is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Outdoor lighting installed at Gonzales County Jail Museum

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Jail Museum got some needed light around the museum building this month — a project needed to be done for a long time.

Museum director Sandra Wolff said for many years, the Jail Museum was "left out" of the rest of the town because of not having outdoor lights to make it stand out.

See **MUSEUM**, page 5

Smiley City Council talks Virtual Shady Oaks Market

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Smiley City Council met for their regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday, June 19 at Smiley City Hall.

One of the agenda items that was discussed was a Virtual Shady Oaks Market; City Sec-

See **SMILEY,** page 5

1 SECTION 12 PAGES





VANDY VAN EPPS

Richard Varela (right) with his family at the Monday, June 24 Gonzales ISD school board meeting. Varela was named the new Gonzales High School band director; he was previously the band director of Cuero High School

GISD hires new band director

BY VANDY VAN EPPS

Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales ISD School Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting Monday, June 24 at the GISD Administration building

The meeting covered multiple items on the agenda, with one of them being the introduction of the new band director for Gonzales High School.

Richard Varela, the former band director of Cuero High School, was approved by the board, 7-0, to be the next band director at GHS.

Varela graduated at Texas A&M University-Kingsville FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

Nixon Lions Club, Mr. B to present fireworks show on July 5

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The skies over Nixon will be dazzling on Friday, July 5 as the Nixon Lions Club and Mr. B Fireworks present the annual Fourth of July Independence Day Weekend Nixon Fireworks Show.

This year's event, which has free admission, will begin at 9:15 p.m. at the Nixon-Smiley High School baseball field as these two organizations have come to an agreement to continue presenting this great event; which is also made possible with support; assistance and donations from a number of civic groups; businesses and private individuals and families.

According to the Lions Club, "No monies were asked of the City, School, Police and Fire Department; however we are appreciative of their support in providing location, public awareness and public safety. 100% of the monies collected will be used to continue the annual Fireworks Show in Nixon. These groups and individuals are not necessarily doing this to support the Lions Club; they are doing this for our community."

Additional sponsors include Janicek Insurance; Nixon-Smiley Education Foundation; Camp House Concerts; Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show; La Enchiladita; Pioneer BBQ; Rancho Nixon Historic Association; Lazarus Energy; Alamo Lumber; Jack Rogers Electric; Third Coast Bank; Caraway Ford; Pat's Beauty Parlour; Chief Mike Cantu & Michele James; Hon. Ellie Dominguez, Mayor, City of Nixon; Collie Boatright, Gonzales County Commissioner Precinct 4; Jeff & Anita VanAuken; Kenny & Lydia Alvis; Hon. Patsy Scherer, Nixon City Council; Hon. Shannon Smith, Nixon City Council; Hon. Justin La Fleur, Nixon City Council; Sheila & Emilio Delva; and Bluebonnet Finance.

Nixon Volunteer Fire Department is providing oversight and fire prevention; Nixon-Smiley CISD is providing location; City of Nixon is providing marquee and social media support; Nixon Police Department is providing public safety.

Seguin hosting events to celebrate July 4

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The countdown is on for celebrating Independence Day in Seguin and you don't want to miss all the traditional events that are planned! Here's a guide to all the Fourth of July festivities!

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

• FREEDOM FIESTA: The fun begins on Saturday, June 29 with Freedom Fiesta hosted by local radio station, KWED 1580. The celebration is from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. in downtown Central Park and includes the annual Kiddie Parade, live performances by headliner Brandon Michael on the main stage, as well as DJ D-Trayne. Enjoy great food, cold beer and time to connect with the whole community.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

• PATRIOTIC CONCERT IN THE PARK: Join us for the final concert Sunday, June 30 in the 2024 Central Park Concert Series. The San Antonio Symphonic Band will play a medley of patriotic tunes in Central Park. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and beverages of choice.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

• FIREWORKS FIESTA: On Wednesday, July 3, catch the best views of the fireworks near Max Starcke Golf Course and the surrounding area. Fireworks will blast off starting at 9:30 p.m. The 25-minute fireworks show is sponsored by H-E-B, Perdue Brandon, LLP, Attorneys at Law, Niagara Bottling and Caterpillar. Be sure to tune in to KWED 1580 to listen to a patriotic music simulcast during the fireworks.

THURSDAY, JULY 4

• FLAG RAISING CEREMONY: On Thursday July 4, the day begins with a flag raising ceremony at 9 am in Central Park. Music, speakers, pomp and circumstance will remind attendees of the significance of the day.

• THE BIGGEST-SMALL TOWN FOURTH OF JULY PARADE IN TEXAS: Crowds of flag-waving people will line Austin Street for the annual parade. The floats roll at 10 am along Austin Street through downtown Seguin. Past crowd estimates have exceeded 10,000. There will be more than 100 parade entries including floats from local businesses, elected officials, churches, schools, military representatives, and more.

The City of Seguin asks parade attendees to not block parade route sidewalks with chairs and other items until the morning of the event. To allow for the best parade viewing experience, please DO NOT PARK along the parade route, which includes Austin Street from East College to Nelda Street.

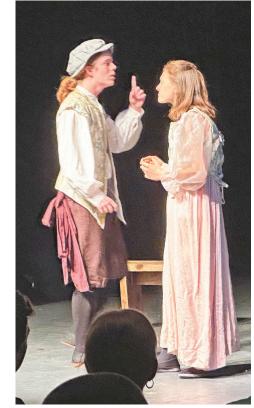
If you plan to save a spot to watch the parade, we ask that you don't put chairs or other placeholders on any sidewalks or streets. Items blocking sidewalks prior to the morning of the parade could be removed by city staff.

For more details, including maps for parking and best viewing spots for the fireworks, visit the interactive online app: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/st ories/914da2149dde4a17a4ec8b88e2c1fc55

CAMP SHAKESPEARE



YMCA Gonzales Center campers attended the Camp Shakespeare production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at The Crystal Theatre on Friday, June 21.





Above: Reactions of the others on stage to the play within the play of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" are as comic as the actors who portray the fools! Right: Titania, queen of the fairies. is bewitched by Nic Bottom, even though he has been turned into an ass! Left: The "Now listen to me, Helena" demand from Lysander doesn't seem to be working too well for Lysander during a scene from "A Midsummer Night's Dream.'

PHOTOS COURTESY BARBARA CROZIEF



Gonzales home-grown band to perform Saturday

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Prohibited will be giving a free performance Saturday, June 29 starting at 8 a.m. at the O Taste & See Bakery and Coffee Shop, 605 E. Sarah DeWitt Drive. Come on over, check them out and supnort vour local Gonzales home-grown rock band!

Prohibited is the name of the alternative rock band started here in Gonzales by Jace Rodriguez. Fellow band members include Daniel Delabarreda on backup vocals and percussion, Luciano Sirilo (Sonny) on the bass guitar, and Frankie Diaz on the lead guitar. Jace plays the electric guitar and handles the vocals.

Jace, who formed the band, got his musical start in sixth grade band at Gonzales Junior High School. He ended his school career in music as the drum major of Gonzales High School for the 2023-2024 school year. Before he said goodbye to music through the school system, Jace started his band in his parents' living room (as opposed to the

garage) at the age of 15 with his friend Hector, who is not currently a member.

Jace said he listened to rock for its authentic sound, and of any music genre, he connected to it the most. His music is heavily influenced by rock groups such as Nirvana, Sound Garden and Pearl Jam.

Prohibited has been established as a band since 2021. They have entertained audiences in numerous venues in Gonzales, including GG's, the American Legion, and the Main Street Music Concert Series. They have played at JR's Lounge in Seguin; in several venues in San Antonio, including Rock Box and Pink Zephlin; and at the Indianola Fishing Marina in Port

LaVaca. Prohibited has numerous single releases and are getting ready to release their first album this summer. They are signed under Red Room Records and their music is available through streaming platforms such as Apple Music, Spotify and Pandora.



Gonzales rock band Prohibited

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Gelebrations

Birthdays

June 27th

Ronnie Baker Angela Barefield John Lamprecht Elise Low

Rebecca Menking Irene Oakes

June 28th

Tyrone Stovall

June 29th Terry Pemberton Colleen Riker Skylar Williams

June 30th

Christy Brosch

July 1st Joel Koricanek

Haley Roberts Melanie Svoboda

July 2nd

Barb Escobar

Connor Caraway Richter

July 3rd Mary Brown Cory Molina

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Gonzales Weather



June 27 96°/77°

Mostly cloudy, very warm and humid; a couple of afternoon thunderstorms 61% chance of rain • RealFeel 106



June 28 94º/78º

Mostly cloudy; a couple of morning showers followed by a couple of thunderstorms in the afternoon 63% chance of rain ● RealFeel 102



June 29 91º/78º

Intervals of clouds and sunshine: a morning shower in spots followed by a couple of thunderstorms in the afternoon 63% chance of rain ● RealFeel 99



June 30 94°/72°

Partly sunny with a thunderstorm around in the afternoon 40% chance of rain • RealFeel 97



July 1 93°/73°

Sunshine and patchy clouds 3% chance of rain ● RealFeel 96



July 2



95°/72°

93°/73°

Partly sunny with a shower in spots in the afternoon

40% chance of rain • RealFeel 97



July 3

Cloudy 25% chance of rain • RealFeel 91

Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

June 29th-30th **Texas Youth Rodeo Association**

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¶/GonzalesInquirer

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Q. What would be killing cedar elm in our area, we have a tree that is dying branch by branch. Is there a fungal disease?

A. Take your pick of causes. All of the weather problems including freezes, drought and heat cause stresses to area trees. The stresses can kill directly but often lead to diseases such as hypoxylon that kill the tree. Have an arborist look at your cedar elm to determine if it has developed hypoxylon or if he/she can detect one of the stresses as a cause.

Q. You are advertising free fall tomato classes on your radio show, are they open to all gardeners in Central Texas or just San Antonians?

A. The classes are July 6 at Milberger's nursery at 10 am and the Dreamhill Estates Education Center (6802 Dorothy Louise at Medical Center) on July 13 at 9:30 AM. The classes are open to all area gardeners. If you pre-register by calling 210 382 4455 you get a free potted up Thunderbird tomato when you attend.

Q. Remind us again how to prevent the beggars' lice weeds from taking over again next year. They are a menace to the landscape and

especially to our pups!

A. Start by raking up every beggars' lice plant or piles of plants that is still in your yard. Put them in a large garbage sack and discard them. Next spring on March 1 apply a pre -emergent herbicide for broadleaves or even "Crew" or" Dimension" on the lawn and in the shrub and perennial border. The beggars' lice is a winter annual weed.

Q. Our yard is filled with good bird cover and food sources. Our favorite species are the wrens, we have Carolina, Bewicks, and House Wren, at least. Is there any way to bring them onto our feeders for closer observation?

A. The two best ways in my neighborhood are to offer them food in the form of suet flavored with pepper. The pepper drives off the squirrels and rodents but the insect eating birds aren't bothered by it. In addition to the wrens, you will attract some warbler species, chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers and other insect eaters. The wrens, like most bird species, will also visit the patio to take advantage of a steady water source. Have you also provided wren houses built to the recommended specifications for each species?

Heat makes for sweet watermelons, good yields

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Texas watermelon growers are reporting very good yields and high quality this year, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

Producers in both of the state's primary growing regions, the Rio Grande Valley and Winter Garden, report a strong season with minimal issues producing the summertimefavorite melon.

"Overall, we are seeing more pounds per acre this year," said Juan Anciso, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension horticulture program leader and associate head of the Texas A&M Department of Horticultural Science based at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Weslaco. "Quality is also very high this year with good sweetness levels."

WEATHER, PRICES GOOD FOR WATERMELON GROWERS

Anciso said the season started with producers getting much higher

SAM CRAFT/TEXAS A&M AGRII IFF

Yields are up, and Texas watermelons should be especially sweet due to the hot, dry weather.

prices per pound than last year, in the low 30-cent-per-pound range. But prices have since declined, and producers are getting between 18-22 cents per pound. That is slightly down from this same time last year, but Anciso said prices overall have been on par with last season.

A few producers had pest or disease issues or suffered losses from hail, but for the industry as a whole, it was a very good growing season,

See WATERMELONS, page 5

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GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

June 22nd, 2024 Cattle - 709

Compared to our last sale: Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady to very active. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold steady.

Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 325-475; 300-400 lbs., 275-395; 400-500 lbs., 255-350; 500-600 lbs., 245-305; 600-700 lbs., 245-285; 700-800 lbs., 235-268. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 125-

Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 315-375; 300-400 lbs., 285-325; 400-500 lbs., 255-312: 500-600 lbs., 210-280; 600-700 lbs.,

Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 119-129; Cutters, 135-146; Canners, 95-110; High yielding fat cows, 125-141.

Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 155-172; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 131-147.

Stocker Cows: \$900 to \$2,250. Pairs: \$1,800 to \$3,200.

NIXON LIVESTOCK June 24th, 2024 Volume: 925 Steers: 200-300 lbs - \$338-410

300-400 lbs - \$303-400 400-500 lbs - \$178-355

COMMISSION CO., INC. Sale date: June 18th Cattle on hand: 1271

High Dressing: \$128-148 Low Dressing: \$110-122 Poor/Weak Cows: \$85-110 Packer Bulls:

Low Dressing Bulls: \$105-125 Stocker Cows: Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers:

NONE Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1250-1950

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

500-600 lbs - \$252-305 600-700 lbs - \$232-284

700-800 lbs - \$218-256 Heifers: 200-300 lbs - \$295-335

300-400 lbs - \$302-365 400-500 lbs - \$252-330 500-600 lbs - \$240-345

600-700 lbs - \$223-258 700-800 lbs - \$201-243 Slaughter Cows - \$98.30-147 Slaughter Bulls - \$150-170 Stocker Cows - NONE

Pairs: \$2000-2400 WE WILL BE CLOSED ON JULY 1ST, 2024 FOR 4TH OF JULY!

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK **Packer Cows:**

Medium Dressing: \$118-132 High Dressing Bulls: \$150-171 Medium Dressing Bulls: \$126-150

Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: 2 PR. \$2350-2650

Yearlings:

Number 1 steer & bull calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$340-430 200-300 lbs.: \$340-405 300-400 lbs.: \$320-395 400-500 lbs.: \$290-360 500-600 lbs.: \$260-315 600-700 lbs.: \$230-285 700-800 lbs.: \$215-270 Number 1 heifer calves: Under 200 lbs: \$330-400 200-300 lbs.: \$275-370 300-400 lbs.: \$280-355 400-500 lbs.: \$260-345 500-600 lbs.: \$240-290 600-700 lbs.: \$215-265 700-800 lbs: \$190-242 **Replacement Heifers:** 350-700 lbs.: \$285-335 The calf market continued higher once again. All classes sold strong to \$4 higher. Average of all calves sold was \$3 higher. Packer cows and bulls sold \$2 to \$3 higher on a supply of 200 head. NO SALE TUESDAY, JULY SEGUIN CATTLE CO.

June 19th

Market Trend: Market 2-3 better on stocker cattle. Packers cows and bulls remain steady. Cattle - 545

Sheep & goats - 1160 Medium & large frame #1 Steers:

200-300 lb. 1.00-2.65-3.80 300-400 lb. .90-2.75-3.85 400-500 lb. .70 2.74-3.75 500-600 lb. .80-2.47-3.42 600-700 lb. 1.12-2.35-2.60 700-850 lb. 1.35-2.09-2.56 Medium & large frame #1

Heifers: 200-300 lb. .55-1.56-3.12 300-400 lb. 1.00-2.37-3.20 400-500 lb. .93-2.43-3.60 500-600 lb. .90-2.35-2.98 600-750 lb. 1.15-2.17-2.50

Cows: Utility & commercial - 1.00-1.30-1.40 Cutters - 1.19-1.25-1.29

Canners. - 1.02-1.16-1.20 Palpated cows - 1400-1950 Cow/Calf Pairs - 1650

Heavy High Yielding - 1.50-1.65 Light & Low Yielding - 1.40-1.49 Sheep & Goats:

Nannies - 30-185 Kid Goats (Fat) - 2.00-3.40 Wethers -1.60-3.30 Billies - 1.60-2.30 Dorp. Ewes - 30-150 Dorp. Lambs (Fat) - 1.80-2.45 Wooled Ewes - 90-110 Wooled Bucks - 1.02-1.85 Lambs - .80-1.40 Barb. Bucks - 200-550 **REPORT** June 21st, 2024 Number of head 339

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET

There were 24 cows and 6 bulls. Limited supply of packer cows and bulls sold well as strong demand continues. Tops on packer bulls was at \$165 while top cow was at \$145. Demand continues to be very strong. The calf market was fully steady on a limited supply. All classes of calves are still in high demand. All classes were in line with previous weeks. A very active market despite the limited supply. Packer bulls: All Weights 155.00-165.00

Packer cows: canners & cutters 115.00-145.00 poor & weak Palpated: 2 bred \$1,100 &

\$1,450 Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH) Under 200 lbs. NÒNE 200-250 lbs. 381.00-420.00

329.00-404.00 250-299 lbs 300-350 lbs. 282.00-317.50 350-400 lbs. 323.00-360.00 400-450 lbs. 313.00-366.00 450-500 lbs. 295.00-324.00 500-550 lbs 267.00-300.00 550-600 lbs. 257.00-284.00

600-700 lbs 257.00-275.00 700-800 lbs 181.00-265.00 **Heifer Calves:** (AVG-HIGH) under 200 lbs. NONE 200-250 lbs 304.00-350.00 258.00-320.00

250-300 lbs 300-350 lbs. 237.00-300.00 350-400 lbs. 400-450 lbs. 450-500 lbs 500-550 lbs

285.00-350.00 273.00-318.00 266.00-306.00 258.00-294.00 550-600 lbs 251.00-280.00 600-700 lbs. 228.00-258.00 Over 700 lbs 169.00-230.00

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OPINION

DPS offers summer safety tips

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

As the heat continues across Texas, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) urges everyone to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones from the dangers of extreme heat in order to have a safe, healthy summer.

"We are in the heart of summer now here in Texas and everyone needs to familiarize themselves with safety measures to prevent heat-related illnesses and deaths," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Implementing simple principles can be the difference between life or death this summer for Texans."

SUMMER HEAT FAST FACTS:

- Rapid Temperature Rise: On a 90-degree day, the temperature inside a vehicle can rise above 130 degrees in less than 30 minutes.
- Vulnerable Populations: Children and pets are particularly susceptible to heat-related illness, as their bodies heat up three to five times faster than the average adult.
- Heatstroke Symptoms: Warning signs for heatstroke include headache, fainting, lack of sweating, rapid pulse and confusion. In cases of heatstroke, immediate medical attention is crucial.
- Notice Pavement Temperature: On an 85-degree day, asphalt surfaces can reach up to 140 degrees. When surfaces are just 125 degrees, children and pets can burn their feet within 60 seconds of contact.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS:

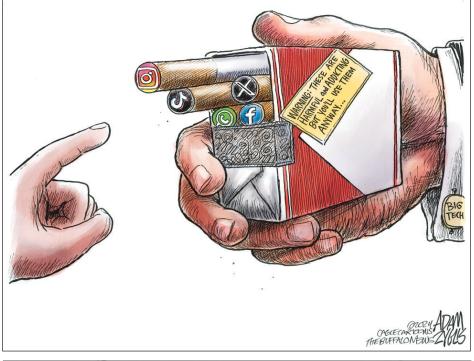
- Stay Hydrated: Drinking plenty of water throughout the day hydration is key prior to going outdoors.
- Avoid Excessive Amounts of Alcohol and Caffeine: Alcohol and caffeine are diuretics and can lead to dehydration.
- Limit Outdoor Activities: Try to avoid strenuous outdoor activities during the hottest parts of the day - typically between 10 a.m. and
- Never Leave Children or Pets Inattended: Even for a short period of time, leaving children or pets alone in a vehicle when it's hot can be fatal. Always take them with you, no matter how short the errand.
- Act Quickly: If you see a child alone in a car, call 9-1-1 immediately. Quick intervention can save their life.

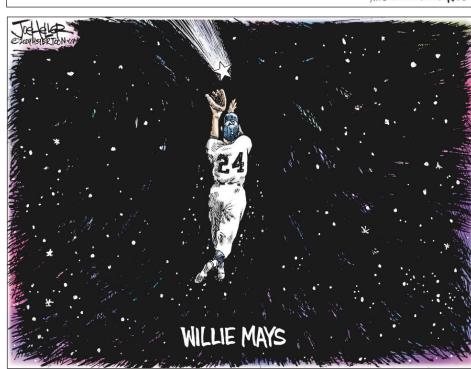
Summer is also the time when lots of Texans are hitting the road for summer vacation. Prior to heading out, you need to make sure your vehicle is in good condition, well stocked and you're prepared.

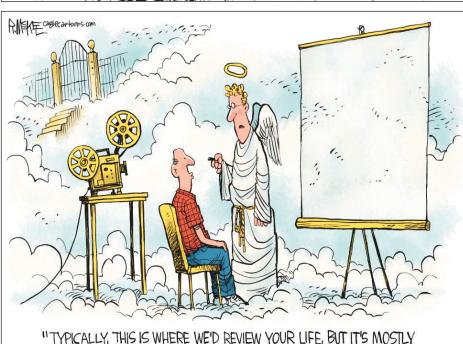
VEHICLE SAFETY TIPS: • Battery: Extreme heat can dam-

- age your vehicle's battery, making it harder to hold a charge and produce power.
- Engine: When the engine is too hot, fuel can't circulate well, making it difficult to start.
- Tires: Temperature changes can affect tire pressure, which can lead to uneven wear and shorten the life of a tire. The heat can also cause the air inside your tires to expand, leading to blowouts.
- Wiper Blades: After a cold winter and spring rain, windshield wiper blades may need to be replaced. Rubber is vulnerable to extreme heat - so it's a good idea to check for signs of wear and tear. If they aren't in top condition, change them out before you go.
- Air Conditioning: High summer temperatures can add extra stress to your vehicle's air conditioning system, changing your air filter and checking your refrigerant can help ensure the air conditioner makes it through the summer.
- Emergency Kit: Breakdowns happen, so it's best to be prepared. Having an emergency kit in your car can help. The number one item is a cell phone battery charger to allow you to call for help. Other top items include flashlight, jumper cables, first aid kit, water and non-perishable food.

To get ahead of any problems, schedule a visit with a mechanic to make sure your vehicle is road trip ready. Find additional summer heat safety tips at Extreme Heat (texasready.gov).Remember, by following all these tips, we can do our part to ensure everyone enjoys a safe summer season.







"TYPICALLY, THIS IS WHERE WE'D REVIEW YOUR LIFE, BUT IT'S MOSTLY JUST YOU ARGUING POLITICS ON SOCIAL MEDIA."



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On bubbles and peace pipes...

DR. DON **NEWBURY**



Maude, wed to my Uncle Mort since Noah's ark went into dry dock, says that her hubby regularly encounters premonitions while in dreamland.

"When he says, 'I'll bet you can't guess what I dreamed last night,' I know that soon he'll be untangling his dreams in his workshop, not likely to be heard from again until suppertime," my aunt observes.

Invariably, his dreams become schemes. His every blink provides imaginary dollar marks, and then, the fun begins once more on what he considers low-hanging fruit in the orchards alongside gold-paved roads leading to instant riches....

"It was a really strange one last night," Mort said. "I kept dreaming about alternate songs, with Texas A&M flags fluttering in the breeze. One seemed to fit, and why wouldn't it? It was the 'Aggie War Hymn,' warming the hearts of Texas A&M faithful since its introduction back in 1907. Alternating with it, however, was a chorus of Aggies--doing their best to stay 'in tune--singing 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles."

Learning that the bubbles tune came along just one decade later, Mort tuned in to ESPN, and--shocker of shockers--the Texas Aggies were winning a Super Regional Championship, thus qualifying for the NCAA College World Series in Omaha! And every time they scored a run, pretty bubbles wafted skyward, not by the dozens or hundreds, but by the tens of thousands!....

Turns out, a couple of players brought small bottles of bubbles--with tiny plastic wands--to a game several years ago. Then, "copycat-itus" took over. Fans started bringing bubble-blowing paraphernalia, and now they even have rentals at the stadium. Some of the bubble machines are affixed to the dug-out, allowing for the emission of bubbles big enough to startle pilots 20,000 feet in the air.

This may be the most creative use of bubbles since the 1940s, when dancers discovered a third option available to skirt the law--in addition to strategic placement of fans and feathers.

The "Aggie War Hymn" is, of course, here to stay. But don't be surprised if Aggie fans--perhaps led by the 12th man--don't cut loose with the bubbles melody when their team scores in the College World Series. There, it may require mirrors in addition to feathers, fans and bubbles to win it all....

This, then, is the backdrop for Mort's current "premonition."

That he would dream of such songs involving Aggies hours before seeing bubbles engulfing Blue Bell Park seemed providential.

"My mind started spinning, conjuring ways to make big money promoting giant-sized bubble peace pipes that ought to be popular with both the Aggies and the University of Texas Longhorns. After all, the athletic heavyweights--archrivals in the old Southwest Conference--soon will be slugging it out as members of the Southeast Conference," Mort mentioned....

In his workshop, Mort concocted distinctive bubbles--Aggie maroon and UT burnt orange.

Marketing should be a no-brainer. He envisions selling the soapy liquid near stadium entrances, by the gallon or by the barrel...

Further, he envisions bubbles representing a peace gesture between the long-warring universities. "Instead of smoke signals of war, why not gather around the campfire and blow bubbles together?" he joked. Since Aggie brain trusts recently nixed resumption of the bonfire, maybe a joint campfire is just the thing to mend fences and start anew.

"I'm a concept person," Mort says. "I'll let others work out the details."

It may not be a stretch for Mort's claim to be a "former student." (He knows Aggies bristle upon hearing the words "ex-students." They prefer "former students.") Technically, Mort may be a "former student." Years ago, he enrolled in the School of Engineering, but he dropped out after one day. He may have been too 'finely focused' on job security, figuring that we'll always need engineers to drive the trains....

Dr. Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who is Texas' longest-running syndicated columnist, writing weekly since 2003.

'In Praise of Miss Brown' coming to the Shiner Gaslight Theatre

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Get your tickets for the Shiner Gaslight play, "In Praise of Miss Brown," the heart-warming story that is a tribute to teachers everywhere. Set in the mid-1960s, Miss Brown does her best to teach her students, even by having after school lessons at her home. But, of course, the students don't know they're actually learning anything. They just adore Miss Brown!

This very talented cast and crew bring the story to life. The students Rowena Taggert and Wally Baker are played by Abrianna Johnson and Michael Silgero, recent graduates of Hallettsville HS. Annie Dorfman and Bo Dumphries are played by Yoakum HS students Allison Cardona and Brayden Self, and Michael Terrill is played by Tyler Hemphill, a Shiner HS student.

Lights and sound are handled by Shiner student Alena Winkenwerder. Adult cast members include Anna Neskora of Moulton as Miss Brown, Sarah Liberti of Gonzales as Miss Brown's mother, Luke Maier of Cuero as Alvin Burrows, and Bill Matthys of Cuero as the Narrator. Stage Manager, Steve Liberti of Gonzales, is assisted by St. Paul student Celestine Filip and Shiner HS students Madeline Collins and Gracie Baker.

Performances are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 19-21, 26-28 and Aug. 2-4. A Wednesday performance is on July 24. All are in the evening except for Sunday matinees. Regular tickets went on sale Monday, June 24.

Please call 361-594-2079 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays to reserve. All tickets must be reserved. No children under 4 please. For further information go to www.shinergaslight.org.

WATERMELONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

said Larry Stein, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension horticulturist and professor in the Department of Horticultural Sciences, Uvalde.

The heat has helped producers realize more weight per melon than in past years, Stein said. The hotter weather also helped the melons develop good brix counts, which weren't as good last year because of untimely rains. Brix is the measurement of sugar in fruit.

"Watermelons love the heat," Stein said. "We have had what they call 'watermelon weather,' and as long as producers have the water they need, that makes for good production and excellent melons."

HARVESTING OF WATERMELONS

The Rio Grande Valley has been dry for most of the growing season, which led to a later and longer harvest than usual, with watermelons still being picked last week. The drier weather and limited irrigation water in the Valley shifted some production to the Winter Garden.

"Our production is actually up in the Winter Garden this year because of the lack of water in the Valley," Stein said. "We have had some production coming up to us because of the water shortage there, and our plants are doing well."

Harvest in the Winter Garden comes later than the Valley harvest. Watermelons in the Winter Garden are mostly grown under center pivot irrigation whereas most Valley watermelons are grown on plastic with drip irrigation. The plastic heats up the soil, which ripens watermelons faster, Stein explained.

"So, we are always later on harvest because it takes the melons in the Winter Garden region a bit longer to get going," Stein said. "That is typically good for producers who want to go to market closer to the Fourth of July holiday."

RIO GRANDE VALLEY AND WINTER GARDEN PRODUCTION

Anciso said the lower prices will

likely rise with demand going into the Fourth of July weekend.

"I believe consumers will pay a little bit more than they did last year as a whole, but there's plenty of Texas watermelons to be had for the holiday," Anciso said.

Both Stein and Anciso said consumers can buy their Fourth of July watermelons anytime the week before the holiday. Unlike some other fruits, watermelons will not ripen further once they are off the vine.

Those who prefer sweeter melons should look for a creamy-yellow belly and listen for the deeper sound when "thumping" to check ripeness. A hollow or flat thud, or too much yellow, however, indicates a melon may be mealy and past its prime. Texas seedless watermelons are also good options for consumers who prefer a sweeter taste overall.

Once purchased, watermelons can be kept in the refrigerator to keep them cool and prolong their quality. Those left on a counter should ideally be eaten within several days.

DIRECTOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with a bachelor's degree in music education and was part of the Pride of South Texas Javelina marching band, jazz band and percussion studio.

"He served as the Director of Bands at Cuero High School, where he significantly expanded the band program, leading to numerous accolades, including the Bands of America Austin Regional Champion in 2014, and multiple superior ratings at UIL competitions," GISD Superintendent Dr. Elmer Avellaneda said.

Avellaneda added that Varela has done various ensembles, including mariachi, at Cuero High School.

Avellaneda asked Varela when he'll expect the mariachi program to take off at GHS.

"Within the year, you will see some inkling of the program. I can't give you a full blown within the first six weeks, nine weeks. But I can't guarantee that you'll see some type of performance at some point within the first semester, with a possibility of a show by the end of the school year," Varela said.

"You give me one year to get my feet on the ground, being used to the kids in the community, and see what else, what other resources I can use within the community to pull if we have any singers in the community and guitar players who can come in and help us with instruction," Varela added. "I can guarantee that you'll see some type of program within a year. And the hope is within two years we'll have a full-blown program with concerts and anything else that you want to see around here."

In other board business, the board went over the Employee Health Insurance Benefits.

GISD Chief Financial Officer Amanda Smith went over the employee portion of the insurance premium.

"Currently, employees who are participating in this particular plan are paying \$99 a month for their health insurance. For next year, TRS is increasing that monthly premium by \$46 a month so the employees costs will be \$145 after the district provides the \$300 benefit that we currently apply toward that," Smith said.

The reason this item was brought up to the board is due to the IRS's updated definition of affordability. Smith said.

"What they deem is affordable for the 2024 years is \$105.29 per month per employee. So that \$145 that employees are looking at for next year, which is the lowest possible price employee can pay to participate in the district's insurance, is obviously more than that \$105.29 that the IRS has deemed as affordable, according to their regulations," Smith said

"So to remain compliant, we have to increase a minimum of \$39.71 per month," Smith added.

The board approved the option B to increase to the employee health insurance contribution by \$50 per month for a total of \$350 per month.

The board approved the following agenda items: --approved the guaranteed maximum price for summer 2024 flooring work as part of the 2023 bond program.

CMII EV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

retary Scott Jewell spoke on behalf of the market organizer.

Jewell said the faceto-face market has been taking a break, due the heat, but organizers have thrown together the idea of doing a virtual market via Facebook.

"She's recommending that she uses the current market public group directly. She sent out a poll asking the vendors if they wanted to do a Facebook Live sale or post items or request shoppers contact them if they're interested in those items," Jewell said.

"She was looking at the vendors who paid a \$10 registration fee to the city and she was still collect her \$4 vendor cost," Jewell added.

Councilwoman Diane

Moreno asked Jewell if this is going to cost the city any money.

Jewell said it's only the \$4 fee for promoting the market online.

The council approved the agenda item, 5-0.

In other business, the council talked to Justo and Lisa Suarez about the use of the old city hall building for a German bakery.

Justo Suarez said he has been doing this has a hobby for many years and his wife, Lisa, is from Southern Germany.

Lisa Suarez has been baking for quite a few years and selling her baked goods at the Pearl in San Antonio, Justo Suarez said.

"She sold out, she sells thousands and thousands of baked goods. The last sale that she did last Christmas, she sold 4,000 pastries in just four days," Justo Suarez said.

The plan is to be open three days a week to see how things are going to work, Justo Suarez said.

"I think it will take us a few months to get the building up to speed. I'm going to redo all of the inside, including the floors, and bring them back up to speed and repaint the building," Justo Suarez said.

The council approved the agenda item, 5-0.

The council approved the following agenda items:

• approved to keep the city council time to 4 p.m.

• approved to create a grant fund at Third Coast Bank.





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OBITUARIES

RANDALL EARL THOMAS

Randall "Randy" Earl Thomas was born on February 26, 1960, to William and Ethel Thomas in Luling, Texas. He passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by family, in Harwood, Texas, on June 22, 2024, at the age of 64, following a tough battle with pancreatic cancer.

Randy's childhood fostered his love for sports, especially football and baseball. His strong work ethic grew through his time in sports and working with his dad in the oil patch during the summers. He graduated from Luling High School

in 1979. In 1981, Randy married the love of his life. Connie "Reed" Thomas, at St. James Catholic Church in Gonzales, Texas. Together, they raised five children and have nine grandchildren. In his roles as Daddy and Pawpaw, he shared his love in many ways: his words of wisdom, his coaching both on and off the field, his love of travel and hunting, his passion for history, his love of music and dancing, and his faith. While he loved Texas, his favorite place to be was in the mountains, where he found peace in the beautiful views, hunting with his sons and friends, and in past years skiing with family. His travels took him all over the world, including places like China, Canada, and the Holy Land. He was an amazing provider and shared his incredible work ethic with each of his children, supporting them through college and beyond. He was so proud to watch each of them

Randall worked in the oil and gas industry for over 47 years as a secondgeneration oilman. He started his career in the oilfield working for Johnson Oilfield Service under

graduate from college.



his father during high school. After numerous years of drilling and production in and around the Luling Austin Chalk area, Randall ventured offshore, working for Unocal for almost a decade. Over the last 20 years, Randall formed a series of companies that brought innovative technologies and cost-saving concepts to declining and marginal production fields, including Go West Logistics, LLC, Payzone Ultra, LLC, and Petrologic, LLC. By managing a consulting practice specializing in logistics for drilling and fracking operations, Randall acted as the "Subject Matter Expert" for Sand-Box Logistics inventors, effectively disrupting the delivery methods for frac sand to well sites globally. With his extensive knowledge of work-over rig operations (both onshore and offshore oil production), Randall was engaged in numerous oil drilling and completion projects in the Austin Chalk and Eagle Ford Shale regions of Texas. Most recently, he was the author and founder of Industrial Vacuum Transfer

Randy is survived by his adoring wife of 43 years, Connie Reed Thomas of Harwood, Texas; his five children, Randall Nathan Thomas (Shelley) of Katy, Texas, Ryan Matthew Thomas (Kortnie) of Katy, Texas, Nicole

Service (IVTS USA).

Elizabeth Thomas Watts (Jeff) of Luling, Texas, Cassidy Faith Thomas Bloch (Brayden) of New Braunfels, Texas, and Tiffany Anne Thomas of Houston, Texas; and nine precious grandchildren: Madison Grace Thomas, Tve Triston Thomas, Peyton Elizabeth Thomas, Layne Patrick Thomas, Kendall Clare Watts, Grace Landry Thomas, Ella Faith Thomas, Bowen Michael Watts, and Hadley Lynn Bloch. He is also survived by his siblings, Speedy Thomas (Sylvia), Kathy Smith, Johnny Thomas (Loretta), and Brenda Brown (Kenneth), as well as many loving nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents and his brother,

Keith Thomas. The family will receive friends from 4pm-6pm, Thursday, June 27th at St. John's Catholic Church in Luling, Texas. The rosary will follow beginning at 6pm. Funeral services will be held Friday, June 28th at 10 am at St. Mary's Catholic Church in String Prairie, Texas with Father Victor Mayorga, Deacon Terry Brennan, and Deacon Carlos David Blanco officiating. Interment will follow in the St. Mary's Cemetery. Pallbearers include: Matthew Bishop, Neil Brashears, Eric Brast, Lanny Ellis, Lyndon Hamilton, Bubba Mager, Scooter Mosier, and Brian Sirgo. Honorary Pallbearers include: Darrell Barrington, Delton Bishop, Terry Brashears, Jimmy Brast, Gary Foreman, Bobby Long, Allen McMahon, Robert Mosier, Calvin Thomas and Rus-

sell Thomas. Friends may make memorial gifts to St. Mary's Catholic Church, String Praire, TX, St. John's Catholic Church, Luling, TX, or The American Cancer Society.

E bcaka@txfb-ins.com

FARM&RANCH / ANNUITIES / MEDSUP

LINDA MARY LAGASSE GARRETT

July 21, 1942 - June 19, 2024

Austin — Captain Linda Mary Lagasse Garrett passed away at her home surrounded by her beloved family on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. She was born in New Bedford, MA, on July 21, 1942, to Frederick Joseph Lasgasse and Lovina Stetson Lagasse, and has a proud older brother, Peter Lagasse. Linda cherished her family history — her ancestors were one of the original eight families inhabiting Cuttyhunk Island. Her father was a Lt. Col. in the US Army and the fami-ly moved frequently as his military career took them around the world. During her formative years, LInda attended 12 schools in 3 different countries, graduating from High School in

Linda attended Penrose Hospital School of Nursing in Colorado Springs, receiving her R.N. in 1963. Before enlisting in the US Air Force, she worked as a nurse at Penrose Hospital and Providence Hospital in El Paso, TX. During her 5 years in the US Air Force she was stationed at Ft. Rucker Army Base, Minot Air Force Base, Clark Air Base in the Philippines (during the Vietnam War), and Luke Air Base, AZ. She served as an operating room nurse and trained as a flight nurse. While at Clark she was promoted to the rank of Captain. She was proud of her military service, and

For

ADDITIONAL

OBITUARIES,

PLEASE SEE

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BUREAU

INSURANCE

Colorado Springs in 1960.



especially enjoyed the Veteran's Day celebration at her granddaughter's middle school last November.

In 1975, Linda received her B.S. in Elementary **Education from Grand** Canyon College, Phoenix, AZ, attending gradu- ation as a very pregnant mother-to-be. Over her lifetime she worked as a nurse in Phoenix, Las Vegas, El Paso, Corpus Christi, and San Antonio. In 1995 she moved to Gonzales.TX. and until her retirement in 2017, worked for Gonzales Memorial Hospital Home Health, Yoakum Hospital Home Health, and Cuero Hospital Outpatient Surgery. She loved being a nurse, and especially enjoyed working with her home health patients and families, and remembered them fondly after her retirement.

In 1999, Linda married E.F. "Pat" Garrett. Together they especially enjoyed their Dachshund dogs over the years and attending "Weiner Dog" races, and taking road trips to the coast. She enjoyed singing in

the choir at First Baptist Church in Gonzales, and was a dedicated Life Master bridge player. She was a fun "Nanny" to her three grandchildren, and loved it when they came to stay overnight with her, watching movies and eating ice cream in bed. Linda was an avid reader of mysteries; and during the pandemic became obsessed with completing jigsaw puzzles.

She was a member of Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, Austin, and appreciated the Zoom Bible studies during the pandemic.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband Pat Garrett, in 2017. She is survived by her daughter Betsy Shelton and husband Todd, of Austin, and three grandchildren:

Davonna Grubbs (and companion Jorge Castillo), Julian Shelton, and Alice Shelton; brother Peter Lagasse (LTC, US Army, Ret) and family; extended family B.J. Craft and Cheryl Homsher, Stepson Scott Garrett and family, and long-time care-giver Crystol Tijerina.

A funeral service was held at Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church on Saturday, June 22, at 10 a.m. Interment will be a Ft. Bliss National Cemetery, El Paso, TX, on Thursday, June 27, at 1 p.m.

The family suggests memorial donations to Mobile Loaves & Fishes, mlf.org/honor-memorial.

RONALD GENE HIDALGO

Ronald Gene Hidalgo, 67 years old, passed away peacefully with his family at his side on June 7th. He was the son of the late Raul O. Hidalgo and Grace Rodriguez. He was born in Gonzales, Texas on April 18, 1957. He was married to Flora Stella Hidalgo and had 2 sons. He was preceded in death by his brother: Mike Hidalgo and his sister Rebecca Hidalgo.

He is survived by his wife; Flora Stella Hidalgo; his step brother Raul (Susan) Hidalgo; his step sisters Rosenda Hidalgo, Susan Hidalgo and Eloisa Hidalgo; his sons Dwayne Conrad (Irene) Hidalgo and Gregory Scott (Desiree) Hidalgo; his niece Roxie Hidalgo; his nephew Gabriel Hidalgo; his grandchildren Diego Hidalgo, Isaiah Hidalgo and Gracie Hidalgo and his step-grandsons Damian Langford and Tristen Nombrana.

We know that so many of you cared and loved Ron as he did love and care for his family and friends. We would also like to thank all the family and friends who have helped during this tough time of our lives and all the phone calls, visits and prayers that we have received. Ron will be dearly missed but never forgotten.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, July 12, 2024 at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home with the Rosary being recited at 7 p.m. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated 10 a.m. Saturday, July 13, 2024 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave con-

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dolences by visiting www. seydlerhillfuneralhome. com

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







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OBITUARY

JOAN ALMA WOODFIN WALSHAK

Joan Alma Woodfin Walshak was born December 8, 1930, as the only child of the short marriage of H.G. Woodfin and Edna Buchholtz Woodfin. She passed away Friday, June 21,

2024, after a battle with cancer. Joan started her life at the Buchholtz homestead in Gonzales where she lived with her mother, Edna Buchholtz and Joan's grandparents. When Joan was two years old, Edna married Lee Soefje and they moved to Ottine where the Soefje's owned land. They lived in a tiny house with her half-brother, Arthur (Sam), and her half-sister, Barbara, She remembered roller skating on a small concrete porch, playing with Barbara out under the big trees, riding the school bus into town all the way from Ottine. Throughout the years, she would take her children and her grandchildren out to the old Soefje places and tell

stories of her life. In the summer of 1948 Joan worked at the Checkerboard Feed Store as a secretary/bookkeeper, and she continued to work there during her senior year. That was where she met the love of her life, Douglas Walshak, who was then assistant manager at Checkerboard. After several years of meeting at the water fountain at the feed store, they were married on September 10, 1950. That began a life-long journey of farming and ranching, raising chickens, hogs, and cattle with Doug. She became the manager of the house, especially when the children arrived: Pamela Ann in 1953, Michael Douglas in 1956, and Mark

Stanley in 1961. Joan helped Doug with the farm and ranch and one day she got all dressed up and drove their air-conditioned car to San Antonio to pick up baby chicks. She said the distributor said he had never seen such a pretty woman picking up baby chicks and hauling them home in her car. Joan was also a good seamstress. It was not unusual for her to be putting in a last stitch on a dress as her daughter rushed out the door. She shuttled children to and from doctor visits, various classes (piano, art, band, ag), and found time to be a part of several organizations. She was active in both Beta Sigma Phi sorority and Spade and Trowel Garden Club for over 70 years. She also belonged to St. James Catholic Daughters. She did not cut her ties to the Ottine Community, and she founded the Ottine Cemetery Association to help raise money for fencing and upkeep of the



cemetery.

In later years, Joan was able to accompany Doug on many once-in-a-lifetime trips that he planned; she also loved back road trips to the farms and the homesteads of years past.

One of Joan's happiest places was in her yard or working with flowers and plants. In early years, she won many ribbons and awards for her flower arrangements at the annual Flower Show put on by the Garden Club. She always said her favorites were working with dried materials and working on miniature arrangements. She has decorated many a mantel with a beautiful pinecone wreath made lovingly by her. Even when it became difficult to work in the yard, she enjoyed looking out the window, admiring how the trees she had planted had grown, watching the red birds and squirrels play.

Joan found that she had a love of genealogy. She spent many years collecting data on all ancestors and loved trying to piece together a history of their lives. She never met a stranger and would find out within a few minutes whether she was related or not. She has a collection of dozens of books of material and genealogical charts from all sides of her family. In 2016 Joan began writing a story of her life and of the ancestry of the Buchholtz, Soefje, Walshak, Woodfin families. The story soon became multiple stories and developed into a "book" which we illustrated with pictures. Now we all have a treasured history of her life in her own words.

Faith and family were of utmost importance to Joan. She loved to take the grandchildren on outings; she was often in the last group to leave a social gathering so she didn't miss anything. She was a quiet, gentle angel who never complained even when life presented her with its ups and downs; she touched many lives, and she will be missed forever.

She is survived by her daughter, Pam Walshak and husband, Bubba Boehm; son, Mike Walshak and wife Kim Babik; son, Mark Walshak and wife Jerrie, all of Gonzales; six grandchildren-Shane Walshak and wife, Stephanie of Seguin; Jasen Walshak and wife, Regina, of New Braunfels; Courtney Walshak Welfel and husband, Rick, of Gonzales: Jaren Walshak and wife, Jessica, of New Braunfels; Jalen Walshak of Gonzales; Jefry Walshak and Alyssa Johnston, of Seguin; three stepgrandchildren-Jarrid Boehm and wife Nicole, of Gonzales; Jennifer Boehm Gattuso and husband, Anthony, of Georgetown; C. J. Babik and wife April, of Markham; fourteen great grandchildren-Sawyer Walshak, Annabelle Walshak, Aiden Walshak, Avery Walshak, Jhett Welfel, Rhex Welfel, Colby Walshak, Landry Walshak, Slayden Boehm, Colsen Boehm, Karli Hill, Tripp Gattuso, Sciara Babik, Crissa Hamor; half-sister, Barbara Carter of Teague; sisters-inlaw, Dora Soefie of Gonzales, Murlene Enke of Victoria, Pat Bianchi of Houston, Lorraine Walshak of Tyler. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 63 years, Douglas Walshak; parents; half-brother, Arthur (Sam) Soefie: half-brothers, Glenn Woodfin and Robert Woodfin, and half-sister Louise Woodfin

The family would like to thank Dr. Eska, Dr. Craig, and Dr. Wagner in Shiner for the continued healthcare of Joan over many years. Their excellent care helped her to live independently in her home for 93 years.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a contribution to Ottine Cemetery Association or a charity of your choice.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday, June 27, 2024 at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home with the Rosary being recited at 7 p.m.

Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated 10 a.m. Friday, June 28, 2024 at St. James Catholic Church with Reverend Paul Raaz officiating. Interment will follow at St. James Catholic Cemetery. Pallbearers include: Shane Walshak, Jasen Walshak, Jaren Walshak, Jefry Walshak, Rick Welfel, pallbearer Jalen Walshak.

Friends may sign the guestbook and leave condolences by visiting www.seydlerhillfuneralhome.

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

VC wraps up Drone Pilot Academy, offers another July 22-26

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Certificates of completion were awarded to 21 high school students who completed Victoria College's two-week Drone Pilot Academy on June 20 at VC's Main Campus. Participants learned about safe and legal drone operations through classroom instruction, handson flying sessions and guest presentations.

VC is offering area high school students a second opportunity to learn to fly a drone with a one-week academy scheduled for July 22-26. The academy is open to students entering grades 9-12 with a recent report card reflecting a B or higher in math and science.

There is no cost for accepted students, as project costs are supported 100 percent by a Governor's Summer Merit Program (GSMP) grant awarded to Victoria College by the Texas Workforce Commission.



High school students practice flying a drone during Victoria College's Drone Pilot Academy.

Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, July 17 at DronePilotAcademy.Victoria-College.edu.

For more information, contact Rachel Ospina at (361) 573-3291 or Rachel.Ospina@VictoriaCollege.edu.

VC's Respiratory Care Program earns credentialing award for fifth year in a row

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College's Respiratory Care Program was recently presented with the Distinguished Respiratory **Therapy Credentialing Success** Award by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) for a fifth year in a row. "We are honored to

yet again receive this award," said Ceci Oldmixon, VC's Respiratory Care Program Chair. Oldmixon "The dedication of faculty, clinical instructors and our clinical partners as well as our students in the program is by far one of my favorite

things to witness." Victoria College previously received the Distinguished Registered Respiratory Therapist Credentialing Success Award in

2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and now, 2023, for credentialing success of 90 percent or more of its students.

CoARC uses objective criteria based on key accreditation metrics documented within each program's Annual Report

> of Current Status to select recipients for this recognition.

The Respiratory Care Program at Victoria College offers a twoyear Associate of Applied Science degree. Successful completion

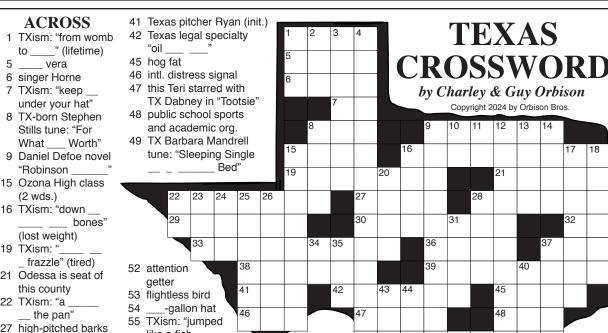
of the program enables graduates to take a series of national board exams to become registered respiratory therapists.

For more information on Victoria College's Respiratory Care Program, call (361) 573-3291 or visit VictoriaCollege.edu/ HealthCareers.



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27 high-pitched barks 28 TXism: "you can

_ hog, but you can't take him anywhere"

29 Turkish officials

30 harness racer 32 Pat of Texas-filmed "State Fair" (init.) TXism: "you can

bank" (sure thing) 36 lavish Texas party

37 pronounce Lamesa: "luh--suh" TX B.J. Thomas

gospel album "Home

paddle'

Belong" 39 TXism: _ without a

like a fish **DOWN** 12 Texas has a chapter of this environmental organization (2 wds.)

1 Astros GM in the 1980's, Smith

2 Grand 3 Wood County newspaper TXism: "

ever saw" (unusual) 8 what George W. finally could say

on 12/13/2000?

9 guys who enforce marine law (2 wds.)

10 "Roger the

Dodger" (init.)

Great Britain &

No. Ireland

16 Pampa's Texas Rodeo"

14 TXism: "

15 tornados

said about 41-18 ex-Astro hurler

20 pickup rubber

22 TX Fess who was

Davy & Daniel (init.)

17 something never across? (2 wds.) Doug

13 TXism: "went to the

well ____ too often"

on the hog" (rich)

high

23 old Roman language (abbr.)

54

24 TX cosmetics queen Mary Kay 25 shoulder wraps 26 "Hell

28 Texas explorer:

Seur __ Salle

fury like a woman scorned"

31 TX Wayne Tippit had a part in this 1981 military film 34 TXism: don't give a hoot __ a holler"

P-1695

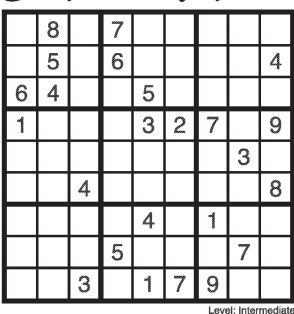
35 Texans like it iced 37 singer Haggard

40 TXism: "skinny as

43 this TX Blocker was Bonanza's "Hoss" 44 TXism: "necessary

as 50 TX Benton directed this Jess in "Kramer vs. Kramer"

51 Austin univer



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Answers found in next week's Classifieds.

950

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CLASSIFIEDS

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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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

050 **GARAGE SALES**

GARAGE SALE: SATURDAY, June 8am-2pm. St. Peter. Clothing, shoes, lots knick-knacks.

GARAGE SALE: SATURDAY, June , 1107 St. Vincent St., 7am-11am. Women and girls clothes, dishwasher, car booster seats, shoes, toys, etc.

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

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op-CAL-MAINE the FOODS INC. is TX hiring for Plant Palletizers posi-Cleanup Benefits tions. include: Vacation, Sick Leave, Hosp. Ins., Dental, Vision, 401K, ESOP. Tab. Apply in person. #29. Cal-Maine Foods 1680 CR 431 Waelder, TX Mon-Fri 78959. 830-540-TO APPLY. 4205 or 830-540-



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



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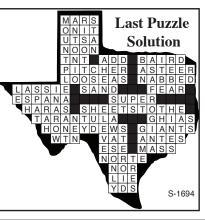


The Division of Allied Health is hiring part-time Adjunct Instructors for the for the clinical setting of the ADN and VN Nursing Programs. Adjunct Instructors are needed at our Victoria campus as well as in the Gonzales, Cuero, and Hallettsville locations. For more information and to apply go to www.victoriacollege.edu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

Victoria College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

June 20 Puzzle Answers 5 4 6 8 1 9 7 3 2

		$\overline{}$	$\overline{}$		$\overline{}$)	_
1	7	8	3	6	2	4	9	5
3	2	9	4	5	7	8	1	6
6	9	7	1	3	5	2	8	4
2	1	5	7	4	8	9	6	3
4	8	3	9	2	6	1	5	7
8	3	2	6	7	1	5	4	9
9	5	4	2	8	3	6	7	1
7	6	1	5	9	4	3	2	8



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

950

PUBLIC NOTICES

The County of Gonzales will receive bids for Gonzales County Radio Communications System Improvements GLO Contract No. 22-085-052-D305 until 2:00 pm on September 12, 2024, at the County Judge's Office, 414 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629. Bids must be addressed to: The Gonzales County Commissioners Court. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on September 12, 2024, at 2:00 pm at 414 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

The project consists of a P25 Phase 2 standards-based 700/800 MHz trunked radio system to provide greater county-wide communications coverage and message capacity. Components include: 3 new towers, 2 new shelters and 2 emergency backup generators, trunked radio network with geographicallyredundant central control systems, interface with, or replacement of existing dispatch console equipment, and redundant IP-based microwave backhaul.

Bid and Contract documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file and available for inspection at the County Judge's Office, 414 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629. A pre-bid conference will be held on July 16, 2024, at the Gonzales Sheriff's Office Tower Site at 11:00 am at 202 FM 532, Gonzales Texas 78629. The pre-bid conference is not mandatory. Electronic copies of the Bid/Contract documents including drawings and

technical specifications may be obtained at no charge via the internet at: http://www.civcastusa.com/. The project can be located on civcastusa.com by the bid date, the state (Texas) or the County (Gonzales County). Bidders will be required to register through CivCastUSA. There is no charge for registering or downloading the plans. Hard copies of plans may also be purchased through CivCastUSA at the bidder's expense.

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

The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance from the General Land Office (GLO) under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing Davis-Bacon and Related Acts wage rate, as issued by the Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

All contractors and subcontractors must be cleared (not suspended or debarred) prior to any formal action authorizing the award of a contract to the contractor. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit bids.

The County of Gonzales reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the County of Gonzales for a period not to exceed 90 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the

Honorable Patrick C. Davis, Gonzales County Judge

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS:

Cause No. 28,509

SouthStar Bank, S.S.B

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

Marvin Rowland, Jr., Et Al

Defendant: GREETING

2nd 25th JUDICIAL DISTRICT GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you. " In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your

Marvin L. Rowland, Jr., Deceased, other than Jessica Leigh Rowland

TO: HANNAH ROWLAND, and any potential Unknown Heirs of

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition for Judicial Foreclosure at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation thereof, the same being the Monday, the 12th day of August, 2024 before the Honorable District Court of Gonzales County, at the Courthouse in said County in Gonzales, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Original Petition for Judicial Foreclosure was filed in said court on 03/14/2023 in the above-entitled cause.

answer with the clerk. Find out more at Texaslawhelp.org." Tex. R. Civ. P. 99

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Foreclosure of heirs'/defendants' fee simple interest in the property at 1520 Gardien Street, Gonzales, TX, said property having a legal description of Lots 8-14, Block 11, Rivercrest Place Addition, Gonzales County, Texas.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Gonzales Texas this 25th day of June, 2024

Attorney for Plaintiff or Plaintiff: J. Milton Chapman Anderson Smith Null & Stofer LLP 4611 E Airline, Ste. 202 Victoria, TX 77902 361-573-9191



Janice Sutton 414 St. Joseph St., Ste. 300 Gonzales County, Texas

Clerk of the Court:

Heorgia Mohod Deputy

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ICA's 50th Annual Convention & Trade Show, July 1-3, San Marcos, TX. Cattle producers don't want to miss this! Top industry speakers, BQA certification, 4-5 CEU credits for pesticide applicator license, live cattle handling, 50+ vendors, golf tournament, and more. 512-620-0162, ICATexas.com.

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LEGAL NOTICE:

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Permit (BG) by Harold Rice dba Diamond R Coffee, to be located at 804 North State Hwy 80, Nixon, Gonzales, Texas. Officers of said corporation is Harold Rice.



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Bless the Stress

Well, hello again. It seems like this last week has really flown by, except the parts where it felt like it would never end. Yep, seems life's like that most of the time. I hope your week's gone well and you're ready to tackle yet another one, 'cause it's on its way, whether we give it permission to or not, so gird up and get

Life is stressful...period. We come out screaming, go out whimpering, and spend way too much of it scared, angry or just plain confused, whining about things as we go. Of course there's plenty of great things about it also, which makes figuring out how to balance it all out even harder. Like they say, attitude is everything, and trying to stay cheerful and positive, while paying big dividends, isn't always as easy as it sounds.

The dictionary defines "Bless" as asking God to have favor on a particular situation, thing or attitude. So putting (or keeping) God first in the mix is always, in my opinion, the smartest first step to overcoming or dealing with the inevitable stresses that life will hit us with along the way, hence today's title. Scripture reminds us of this, as we're instructed to take our thoughts captive. In Proverbs 4:23, it reminds us to "Guard our hearts with all diligence, for from it flows springs of life." A joyful heart is good medicine, but a

crushed spirit dries up the bones (Proverbs 17:22), and who wants that? So, remember to think about things that are true, honorable, pure and commendable, while also practicing what we've learned from God, and his peace will be with us, says Philippians 4:8-9. And last but not least, Phil. 4:6-7 instructs us not to be anxious about anything, but with thanksgiving and prayer, let our requests be known to God, and his peace will guard our hearts and minds. Yep, I imagine God to have a multi party switchboard with an unlimited data plan, scrambling to answer every call while sometimes engaging divine call waiting, as all calls are equally important to him!

What WebMD recommends to help manage stress is, keeping a positive attitude, realizing that we can't control everything, learning to manage time more efficiently, and learn to use the word "no", helping to set personal limits as not to bite off more than we can chew. Oh great, now they tell me. Of course it also helps to take care of ourselves through diet, exercise, not relying on drugs or alcohol for stress relief, and getting help through counseling or therapy when needed. Getting better quality sleep can also be very beneficial, although that too, is often easier said than done. As a helpful tip, I've noticed that I generally sleep much better when I'm not...



awake, just sayin'.

If you haven't made time for hobbies or fun activities lately, this can also help reduce stress quite a bit, but choose wisely. I recently had to give up wrestling alligators, as the thought of having perfectly good limbs chewed off was somewhat unacceptable. Pickle ball didn't seem like a good option as I don't think I'd like a salty / vinegary brine splattered in my eyes. Country line dancing didn't work, as I just stepped on a lot of toes, making a bunch of cowboys mad...yippy-ki-yay, see ya! And while I really enjoyed frisbee golf, those plaid shorts just made my butt look too big. I finally settled on river dancing in the shower, and am much happier these days.

Trials and tribulations during our short stint here are inevitable, and while it seems we'll never quite escape the stresses of life, it's how we handle them that counts, making it that much more important to keep God first in the mix and learn to...laugh at life cause it's surely, laughing

Love you guys, Eric.

Gonzales Area Parkinson's **Support Group meeting** moved back one week

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Gonzales Area Parkinson's Support Group (GAPSG) meeting scheduled for July 4, 2024 has been postponed for one week, until July 11, 2024.

The meeting place will be the same (Fellowship Hall of Gonzales Presbyterian Church) and the time is the same (6 p.m.). We will be planning a celebration to recognize the first anniversary

of the founding of this support group. We will also be looking forward to continuing our time together to learn more about Parkinson's Disease, its symptoms, treatments, and ways to help one another.

For information regarding this group, please contact one of the following: Kent or Virginia (Ginny) Lockard, 512-321-8370; Joe Pat Nance, 361-960-6794; Patti Nance, 361-960-0983.

Gonzales Presbyterian to hold Fifth Sunday Luncheon

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

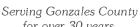
This coming Sunday, June 30, 2024, the Program Committee of Gonzales Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Fifth Sunday Luncheon following worship in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

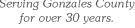
It is located on the St. Joseph Street side of the church. Everyone is encouraged to bring sandwiches, a dessert, or store bought/homemade ice cream. The committee will provide chips and drinks.

Pre-registration and the food item you plan to bring will be helpful. This will give the committee an idea of the number of people to plan for. Hope to see a large crowd to join in fellowship and share a meal together.

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PLACES OF WORSHIP

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD Gateway Fellowship Church 320 St. Andrew

First Assembly of God 509 E. 3rd St., Nixon

Clark Baptist Church

FM 794, Gonzales Country Baptist Church

Highway 87, Smiley

Eastside Baptist Church Seydler Street, Gonzales

Efeso Iglesia Bautista Highway 87, Smiley

Elm Grove Baptist Church 4337 FM 1115

Waelder, TX, 78959

First Baptist Church 422 St. Paul, Gonzales

First Baptist Church

403 N. Texas, Nixon First Baptist Church

Highway 108 N., Smiley

First Baptist Church 406 N. Avenue E, Waelder

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

Greater Rising Star

Baptist Church

Harwood Baptist Church North of Post Office.

Harwood

Iglesia Bautista Macedonia 201 S. Congress, Nixon

Iglesia Bautista Memorial

Highway 97, Waelder Leesville Baptist Church

E. of Highway 80 on CR 121

Memorial Heights

Baptist Church 1330 N. College, Gonzales

Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church 100 Capes, Gonzales

Highway 97, Bebe Old Moulton

Baptist Church

1121 N. College, Gonzales

Oak Valley Baptist Church 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales

830-672-2911

Providence Missionary Baptist Church 1020 St. Andrew, Gonzales

Stratton Primitive Baptist FM 1447, 9 miles east of Cuero

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

St. James Baptist Church

SE 2nd Street, Waelder

Shiner Baptist Church Union Lea Baptist Church

St. Andrew St., Gonzales Union Valley Baptist Church

FM 1681, NW of Nixon CATHOLIC St. James Catholic Church

417 N. College, Gonzales Sacred Heart Catholic Church

St. John St., Gonzales

St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon

St. Patrick Catholic Church

St. Phillip Catholic Church Highway 87, Smiley

> CHRISTIAN First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) 712 Crockett, Luling

CHURCHES OF CHRIST Church of Christ 1323 Seydler St., Gonzales Church of Christ

(Iglesia de Cristo) 201 E. Second St. Nixon

Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon

CHURCHES OF GOD Community Church of God

Church of Christ, Belmont

1020 St. Louis. Gonzales Gonzales Memorial

Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales **New Beginnings**

Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, Gonzales

EVANGELICAL

La Vos del Evangelio, Mision Capilla del Pueblo W. Central at Hwy. 87, Nixon

FULL GOSPEL Camp Valley Full Gospel Hwy 80, 7 mi. north of Nixon

Full Gospel Church 1426 Fisher, Gonzales

JEWISH

Adat Haderech, a Messianic shul HashemYeshua1

@yahoo.com

LUTHERAN First Evangelical Lutheran

1206 St. Joseph, Gonzales Abiding Word Lutheran Church LCMS

1020 St. Louis St., Gonzales **METHODIST**

Belmont Methodist Highway 90A, Belmont

Dewville United Methodist West of FM 1117 on CR 121

First Methodist 426 St. Paul, Gonzales

First United Methodist 410 N. Franklin, Nixon

Flatonia United Methodist

Harris Chapel United Methodist S. Liberty St., Nixon

Harwood Methodist Church Harwood Henson Chapel

United Methodist 1113 St. Andrew, Gonzales Monthalia Methodist

CR 112 off Highway 97 Smiley Methodist Church 1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley

Webster Chapel A.M.E. 1027 Church St., Gonzales

NON-DENOMINATIONAL Agape Ministries 512 St. James, Gonzales Bread of Life Ministries 613 St. Joseph, Gonzales

Christ the King Church

1262 U.S. Highway 77

Cowboy Church of Gonzales County J.B. Wells Show Barn

El Centro Cristiano "Agua Viva" 403 Highway 90 W, Waelder

Emmanuel Fellowship 1817 St. Lawrence, Gonzales

Encouraging Word Christian Fellowship Highway 80, Leesville

Lighthouse Church of Our Lord 1805 Weimar, Gonzales

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

River of Life Christian Fellowship 207 Steele St., Smiley

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

Two Rivers Bible Church

1600 Sarah DeWitt Dr., Suite 210, Gonzales INTER-

DENOMINATIONAL Faith Family Church 1812 Cartwheel Dr...

Gonzales Living Waters Fellowship

> PENTECOSTAL Faith Temple Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon

306 St. Paul, Gonzales

Holy Temple of Jesus Christ No. 2 1515 Dallas, Gonzales

Iglesia Pentecostes Filadelfia 893 S. Magnolia Ave.,

Luling Temple Bethel Pentecostal 1104 S. Paul, Gonzales

Life Changing

Church of Gonzales 3.3 miles north on Hwy 183, right on CR 235, then right on CR 236

Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116

PRESBYTERIAN

Presbyterian Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales

Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero TO UPDATE OR CHANGE A CHURCH LISTING, CALL THE GONZALES INQUIRER AT 830-672-2861

800.223.4832 gvec.org



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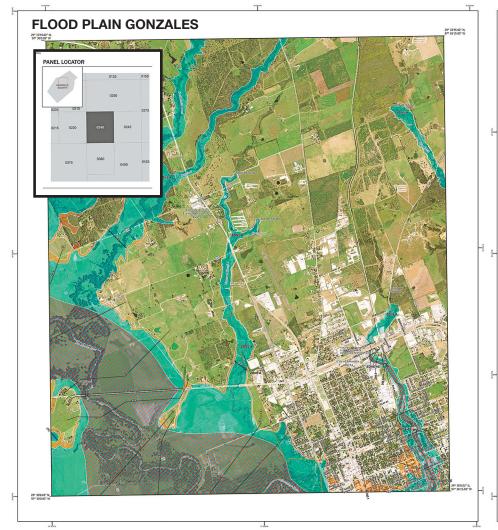
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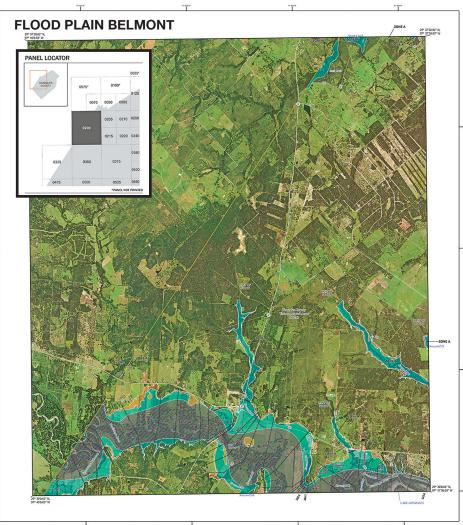
Guadalupe Valley Veterinary Clinic EDWARDS FURNITURE CO., INC

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

commissioners that the new FEMA flood plain map inexplicably puts elevations that never flooded in October 1998 during a 500-year flood event — in the 100-year flood plain.

The new flood plain map, which was published on March 27, 2024, includes 560 acres out of 600 acres of property owned by his family, the Wundts, the Fords and the Goss family at the southeast corner of US 90-A and Texas 80.

"(US 90-A) is 361 feet at the pavement edge. And in 1998, which is considered the 500-year flood, the water was at that pavement edge and did not go over (US 90-A)," Koehler said. "The new

FEMA floodplain, which is the 100-year FEMA floodplain, is now three and a half feet over Alt-90 and goes up the hill on the other side.

"You know, we can't have a 100-year floodplain that's three feet higher than our known 500-year floodplain. That doesn't make any sense. Logically, it's incorrect."

Koehler said he believes engineering firms brought in to do mapping for FEMA just "made assumptions" about the area without doing any historical research about whether the area was prone to flood in the past.

Even more importantly, Koehler stated he believes FEMA ignored its own

"very specific" process for updating flood plain maps.

They have a four step process. It's very involved in communicating and involving the community," Koehler said. "There was supposed to be meetings that included the commissioners court. There were supposed to be meetings that included the public that had to be posted in the newspapers; there had to be two postings. There was a 90-day appeal process. And based off of everything I've heard, none of that happened."

He told commissioners he believes the county could use this process breakdown "to have a leg to stand on" to appeal the new flood plain map by

demanding a review of the technical data used in the decision making process to determine if a mistake was made by FEMA.

"I'm just asking the court to please consider taking action on this. I know it's just a discussion item today but taking action to direct (Emergency Management Coordinator Jimmy) Harless and/or whatever we need to do," Koehler said.

Gonzales County learned the Gonzales County Courthouse will now lie in the 100-year flood plain according to the new FEMA map when it applied for a grant from the Texas Historical Commission to renovate the courthouse. However, the Gonzales Fire Department, located just north of the courthouse on Saint Lawrence Street, as well as the Methodist and Baptist churches on Saint Paul Street, are considered out of the flood plain.

"No one told us anything other than when we were applying for the Courthouse grant, and all of a sudden, we're told 'you're in the flood plain," County Judge Pat Davis said. "We're in the flood plain, but the (Gonzales) Fire Department is not. I feel your pain, but let me see if we can figure out something to resolve this or what we can do."

Davis said he had spoken to Richard Goss, owner of Diamond A Convenience Store in Belmont, which is located across Texas 80 from the farmland in question, and was advised that three generations of the Goss family had lived in the area and never seen flooding in the area which FEMA had moved into the flood plain on the new

FLOOD HAZARD INFORMATION

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT THE INFORMATION DEPICTED ON THIS MAP AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN DIGITAL FORMAT AT HTTPS://MSC.FEMA.GOV



maps.

Koehler responded that Goss, who could not be at Monday's meeting, had told him he had to purchase flood insurance and as a result, prices have gone up in Diamond A to

"This obviously affects valuations in the area," Koehler said. "It's going to mean a lot more work for the county as far as permitting. Somebody has to run all those permits that are now going to be required on all this land."

The Koehler family built a barn and pavilion on their property and he hopes his son, who enjoys hunting and fishing on the property, will be able to build a house there someday.

"We have the hill where he could do that, and not be in the floodplain," Koehler said. "But as of now, they've raised (the flood plain) so high, we went from not being in the floodplain to where, if you wanted to build on there, you'd have to build a coast-type house about

12 feet above ground that doesn't flood.'

Harless said the flood maps, when he finally saw them, left him at a loss for words.

"I've seen the elevations that Mr. Goss provided to me in my office for the store and Mr. Koehler's good description of what's going on out there," Harless said. "I think what (FEMA) did was hire some engineering firm not from the area.

"They're looking at aerials. I don't know if they were ever on your property; I'm assuming, you would know if they had been. And they just put a bunch of numbers into a computer and it spit it out and that's what they go with.

"I don't think there's any common sense applied to it," Harless said. "I don't think there's any reasoning apply to it. And then, unfortunately, now we have to try to help the property owners out there on this ridiculous elevation that FEMA dropped on us."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The WAELDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT will hold a public meeting at 5:30 PM, on Thursday, June 27, 2024 in Waelder ISD Cafeteria, 109 N Ave C, Waelder, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters \$0.6692/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations) \$0.0560/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and

the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories

Maintenance and operations 8.81% (increase) 86.99% (increase) 11.83% (increase) Debt service Total expenditures

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value

(as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04) **Preceding Tax Year Current Tax Year** Total appraised value* of all property \$1,056,581,946 \$1,199,341,568

Total appraised value* of new property** \$5,078,220 \$4,713,990 Total taxable value*** of all property \$340,001,574 \$364,479,068 Total taxable value*** of new property** \$4,432,759 \$4,688,710 "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).

** "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 2,310,000 *Outstanding principal

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates								
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	<u>Total</u>	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student			
Last Year's Rate	\$0.66920	\$0.0672	\$0.7364	\$9,029	\$6,523			
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service		\$0.0913	\$0.7942	\$7,630	\$7,961			
Proposed Rate	\$0.6692	\$0.0560	\$0.7252	\$7,346	\$8,375			
* The Interest & Sinking The bonds and the tax								

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

Average Market Value of Residences	\$114,009	\$129,483
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$65,998	\$53,140
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$0.7364	\$0.7252
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$486.01	\$385.37
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$-100.64
1		

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is .7252. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voterapproval rate of .7252.

Fund Balances

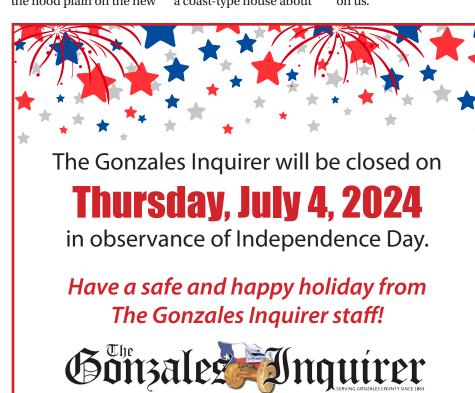
The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) \$3,651,249 Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s) \$197,807

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of



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FOURTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This year, there will be more fireworks, and according to Hutchinson-Padilla, this the secondlargest fireworks display in the state.

"We will be closing off the brickyard, just for safety reasons, starting the morning of the Fourth of July. Nobody will be able to access the brickyard down by Independence Park, and then we will close the square as well," Hutchinson-Padilla said.

"For safety reasons we will be blocking off St Joseph Street for people crossing the road to go over to the Texas Heroes Square, but we won't do that until later in the evening," Hutchinson-Padilla added.

The activities will be similar to last year's with two water slides, balloon animals, and a petting

Hutchinson-Padilla is looking forward to the entertainment and the partnership with the VFW for the bike parade.

"We do that every year and that tends to be the highlight — watching all those kids come out, showing their American pride," Hutchinson-Padilla said.

The event kicks off at 5 p.m. with the fireworks closing out at 10 p.m.

MUSEUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"There was a matter of cost which we could not afford it. But then there's also the matter that it's a historic building and the Texas Historical Commission doesn't let you put those kind of lights on there because you have to put screws in the building and everything. This building's 140 years old, so we don't want to do anything to hurt it." Wolff

"I'm so happy that now we have lights and it's beautiful. It shows off the architecture. And I feel like we're part of a town now," Wolff added.

The jail was designed by Eugene Heiner and Wolff said that, with the lights shining on the museum, you can see the many details.

"Once you get to looking at it, there's different color brick. There are different styles. It's just an absolutely beautiful building and you really don't notice that unless it's highlighted," Wolff said.

The funds for the light installation came out of Wolff's pocket and not county funds; Roadrunner Works installed the lights around the museum with work done by Brent Franques.

"He's a young man and he is busy, but he is so easy to work with and has such great ideas that he shares with you and it was such an easy project once we got going. And he's just very thoughtful and I would work with him again in a heartbeat," Wolff said.

Wolff gets excited seeing people visit the museum, especially those bringing in a big group.

"We have people in town that bring every visitor, everybody they grab that that has not seen the jail museum, and they bring them down to show it because they love it, too, and I think it's worthwhile," Wolff said.

"I also would like to invite the people who have not been here, because it is so changed and I don't think our local people know how much it's changed," Wolff added.

AWARDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I couldn't believe it when they read our name off as the winner," Publisher Lew K. Cohn said. "I didn't think we were even going to finish in the top 5 because we didn't win first in a single category, but my friend, UT professor Kathleen McElroy. pointed out to me the competition is similar to a barbecue cookoff. Instead of excelling in just one area, like ribs or brisket or chicken, our staff at the Inquirer are very good in a lot of categories and those points added up in the long run.

"We may only have three fulltime employees on staff, but we work so well together as a team. Our focus is always on covering our Gonzales County community and we could not do this without our loyal advertisers, subscribers and readers. This win belongs as much to them as it does to us!"

The Inquirer won second place in Column Writing, News Photography, Page Design and Community Service (which doesn't count towards Sweepstakes). The newspaper took third in Advertising, News Writing and Sports Coverage and fourth in Editorial Writing.

The Post-Signal won second place in Feature Photography and Sports Coverage and third place in Editorial, News Photography, Sports Photography and Special Section (also not a Sweepstakes category). They won fourth place in Column Writing, Feature Writing, Headline Writing and Page Design.

The 2023 Texas Better Newspaper Contest featured 18 categories. Participating newspapers were invited to submit entries from work published during the calendar year 2023. This year, 100 newspapers submitted 956 entries in the

Division 1 was reserved for the five metro dailies with the highest circulation in Texas,



Showing off 2023 Texas Better Newspaper Contest sweepstakes awards are (from left) Randy Ferguson, managing editor of the Longview News-Journal, accepting for Division 2 winner Tyler Morning Telegraph; Jason Hennington, area editor, for the Taylor Press in Division 4; Noel Wilkerson Holmes, publisher, for the Pleasanton Express in Division 5, Tressa Alley, area publisher, for The Colorado County Citizen in Division 6; Lew Cohn, publisher, for the Gonzales Inquirer in Division 7; Patricia Hurt, publisher, for the Double Mountain Chronicle in Division 8; Daniel Walker, publisher, for the Vernon Record in Division 9, and Lisa Chappell, publisher, for the Royce City Herald-Banner in Division 10. Also a sweepstakes winner, but not represented in the photo, is The Fort Bend Herald Coaster in Division 3.

Our focus is always on covering our Gonzales County community and we could not do this without our loyal advertisers, subscribers and readers. This win belongs as much to them as it does to us!"

Lew K. Cohn, Gonzales Inquirer Publisher

which complete only in the General Excellence category. Division 2 is designated for dailies; Divisions 3 and 4 for semiweeklies (newspapers publishing two or three times per week) and Divisions 5 through 10 for weeklies.

This year, 11 dailies competed in Division 2; 24 semiweekly newspapers competed in Divisions 3, 4 and 5; and 65 weekly newspapers competed in divisions 6 through 10.

Competitions were divided into divisions in which newspapers competed against publications of similar circulation.

TPA member newspapers

competing in each division had the opportunity to submit entries in 12 sweepstakes contest categories and six non-sweepstakes contest categories.

In the sweepstakes contest categories, awards were presented in all nine circulation divisions.

In the non-sweepstakes categories, divisions were determined by the number of entries from dailies, semiweeklies and weeklies. This year there were three divisions in the Community Service, Best Website, Online Coverage and Public Notice competition categories; four divisions in Best Magazine

and five divisions in the Special Section category.

Entries were judged this year by members of the Georgia Press Association while Texas Press Association member volunteers judged entries in the GPA contest.

First place winners and sweepstakes winners receive plaques and certificates are awarded in first through fourth

Sweepstakes points are earned for each division (except Division 1) based on point accumulation in the 12 sweepstakes categories: 100 points for each first-place award, 75 points for each second-place award, 50 points for each third-place award and 25 points for each fourth-place award.

Awards were presented on June 22 at the 2024 TPA Convention & Trade Show at the Hilton College Station and Conference Center.

