

Emmitt Smith praises retiring pharmacist Bruce Blackwell

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

When a local legend like Walmart Gonzales pharmacist Bruce Blackwell is scheduled to retire after more than 50 years of service, it is only fitting that he be feted by an NFL Hall of Famer.

Leading all-time rusher and former Dallas Cowboy Emmitt Smith came to Gonzales Thursday, June 27, to meet Blackwell, praise him for a long and illustrious career and offer him sage advice on what to do to remain active and vital after he hangs up his lab coat for the last time.

See SMITH, page 12



LEW K. COHN

Walmart Gonzales pharmacist Bruce Blackwell, left, shakes hands with NFL Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith on Thursday, June 27, after receiving an autographed football. The former Dallas Cowboy legend was brought in by Walmart to surprise Blackwell, a lifelong Cowboys fan, to celebrate Blackwell's impending retirement.

Longtime municipal judge Schroeder passes away at 71

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher



Schroeder

Judge Gary J. Schroeder, who was the longest-serving municipal judge in the history of Gonzales County, passed away Tuesday, June 25. He was 71.

At the time of his death, Schroeder was the municipal judge for the city of Smiley and recently celebrated 41 years as a jurist — a milestone

See SCHROEDER, page 5



LEW K. COHN

Demolition crews can only watch as firefighters battle a blaze at the old Buc-ee's travel center in Luling on Monday, July 1. The fire appeared to start while an excavator was tearing down a portion of the building. Thankfully, no one was injured.

Blaze consumes old Buc-ee's travel center

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher



LEW K. COHN

Luling Deputy Fire Chief Keith Lohse, right, takes command of the scene of a fire at the old Buc-ee's travel center Monday, July 1. Multiple departments, including Gonzales and Ottine, responded to the incident, which is still under investigation.

Fire crews on the scene are still investigating what caused a blaze in the old Buc-ee's travel center at the corner of I-10 and US 183 on Monday, July 1.

Demolition crews using excavators were tearing the building down at about 10 a.m. when the fire started, according to Luling Deputy Fire Chief Keith Lohse, who was the incident commander on scene.

"They were in the process of demolition and using the excavators when something started the fire," Lohse said. "There was no power or gas hooked up to

See FIRE, page 12

Two teens dead after Water Street collision

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Two teens from Temple were killed in a three-vehicle accident Saturday, June 29, on Water Street (US 183) in Gonzales.

According to a Gonzales Police Department report, at about 8:35 p.m., GPD Sgt. Alberto Carrera was traveling north on Water Street when he observed



Pechal



Soto

multiple vehicles stopped near the 1100 block and individuals gathered near them. Sgt. Carrera

then observed that a head-on collision had occurred. Sgt. Carrera reports that three vehicles were involved in the motor vehicle crash.

The report indicates that a gray Ford escape was traveling northbound on Water Street and struck the rear driver side of a

See WRECK, page 5

Gonzales enchants the Traveller's Elixir website

BY BETTY COHN
Gonzales Inquirer

The Traveller's Elixir published an online shout out to our beautiful small town of Gonzales, Texas, in a Tom Jacon-penned article entitled "14 Enchanting Small Towns in Texas That Will Steal Your Heart."

The list places Gonzales in 13th place out of 14, though it is always No. 1 in our hearts.

Listed among these were, in order:

- Bandera, a small Hill Country region town, about an hour north-west of San Antonio. Known as the "Cowboy Capitol of the World" this town embraces its title in the

charm of its authentic cowboy lifestyle with rodeos, horseback riding live country music venues. We're told you might even ride through the streets on a horse or longhorn.

- Next on the list is Dripping Springs, located west of Austin,

See ELIXIR, page 11

Softly call the muster

Andrew Kent descendants to gather
in Gonzales for biennial reunion

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

Descendants of Andrew Kent will be heading to Gonzales for a family muster (reunion) Saturday, July 20 in honor of his legacy of fighting for Texas Independence.

Eighth-generation Texan Glennece Beckett, a five-time great granddaughter to Kent, said the biennial event is a celebration of the life of Kent and the part he played in the history of Texas.

"It is a day of history, stories, and extended family bonding. The first muster was held in

See MUSTER, page 11



Unemployment decreases to 3.2 percent

BY BETTY COHN
Gonzales Inquirer

Unemployment in Gonzales County decreased to 3.2 percent

in April 2024, while previously decreasing in March 2024 to 3.7 percent, with the county continuing

See JOBS, page 5

GCVMA hosts July 4th golf tournament, fundraiser

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The 12th annual Gonzales County Veterans Memorial Association (GCVMA) three-man scramble golf tournament returns this Thursday, July 4 for the Independence Day holiday at the Gonzales Independence Golf Course off Water Street in Gonzales.

Tee time is at 8 a.m. and the cost is \$150 per team. There

will be a Superman Drive on Hole No. 10 for \$20. Cart rental is available at the club house and players have two Mulligans each.

The price includes refreshments (meat, snacks, soda and water), but players must BYOB. Prizes will be given for first through third based on a full field, plus there will be closest to the pin and longest drive prizes.

All proceeds for the tournament will go towards the Gonzales County Veterans Memorial Association, and will go towards funds to build a memorial to honor veterans past, present, and future.

The GCVMA has raised around \$245,000 from donations, fundraisers and paver brick sales and is now just \$80,000 short of finishing at this time. GCVMA is a 501(c)(3)

non-profit organization.

For more information about the tournament, you can also call Derek Grahmann at 830-857-3199 or Bill Kessler at 830-203-0002 or the golf clubhouse at 830-672-1324.

There will also be a Gonzales County Veterans Memorial Association benefit fundraiser on Saturday, July 13, at the American Legion Hall in Gonzales.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and there will be a meal comprised of a half BBQ chicken, cheese potatoes, green beans and peach cobbler and a performance by Jewell’s Jewels.

Tickets are \$25 and there will be tickets for a prize drawing at the door as well as two patriotic lap quilts as silent auction items. Come out and help the GCVMA raise money for the memorial.

LCRA awards \$50,000 grant to Belmont Volunteer FD

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A \$50,000 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority will help the Belmont Volunteer Fire Department purchase a new mini pumper truck and extrication equipment to help with response efforts during emergency calls.

The Community Development Partnership Program grant, along with \$337,307 in matching funds from the department, will help the VFD gain better access to property and people in life-threatening situations.

“The mini pumper truck is going to be a much more versatile truck for us that we can take out to rescue calls and house fire calls,” said Brian Schauer, Belmont VFD fire chief. “Many of our areas are hard to get to, so this truck will make it easier for us to get to different locations.”

The department also

plans to update its extrication equipment with new battery-powered tools, which will speed up response time and reduce the number of firefighters needed to operate the equipment.

“We plan to purchase a package of rescue tools that will include the Jaws of Life, spreaders, rams and more,” Schauer said. “They will be made with more advanced technology compared to what we currently use.”

LCRA General Manager Phil Wilson said the new truck and equipment will help keep Belmont VFD prepared for any type of emergency.

“The new truck will have many new capabilities, making it an important addition to the department’s fleet,” Wilson said. “Not only will it be able to store the new life-saving equipment, it also can hold a significant amount of water and access rural areas, which will make a difference in the communities served

by the department. I’m proud that LCRA can provide this grant to support the firefighters and the residents in the area.”

Belmont VFD operates in Gonzales County and provides mutual aid to all departments in Gonzales and Guadalupe counties and several other departments in the surrounding area.

The community grant is one of 44 grants awarded recently through LCRA’s Community Development Partnership Program, which helps volunteer fire departments, local governments, emergency responders and nonprofit organizations fund capital improvement projects in LCRA’s wholesale electric, water and transmission service areas. The program is part of LCRA’s effort to give back to the communities it serves.

Applications for the next round of grants will be accepted in July. More information is available at lcra.org/cdpp.



LCRA representatives present a \$50,000 grant to the Belmont Volunteer Fire Department for a new mini pumper truck and vehicle extrication equipment. The grant is part of LCRA’s Community Development Partnership Program. Pictured, from left to right, are: Rick Arnic, LCRA Regional Affairs representative; Kenneth Schauer, Belmont VFD captain; Jay Tinsley, first assistant fire chief; Margaret D. “Meg” Voelter, LCRA Board member; Brian Schauer, fire chief; Kevin T. La Fleur, Gonzales County Commissioner, Precinct 3; and Austin McDonald and John DuBose III, firefighter.

FEMA designates disaster areas, counties which can apply for federal funding

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency designated multiple Texas counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas due to severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding which occurred, beginning April 26, 2024.

This presidential disaster declaration allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through emergency loans.

Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation, or to refinance certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

• Triggering Disaster: Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding beginning April 26, 2024, and continuing.

• Application Deadline: January 22, 2025

• Primary Counties Eligible: Callahan and Guadalupe

• Contiguous Counties Also Eligible: Aransas, Bexar, Caldwell, Comal, Gonzales, Hays, Jackson, Matagorda, Refugio, Victoria, and Wilson

On farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Loan Assistance Tool can help you determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center.

FEMA offers different assistance programs for individual citizens, public groups including government agencies and private nonprofit organizations. To find the FEMA

help you need following a disaster event, visit fema.gov/assistance.

BYK USA SUPPORTS KENNEL PROJECT



BYK USA donated \$1,000 to the Gonzales Dog Adoption Inc. organization to help with the new kennel building project. Pictured from left are Earline Cmackal, Raul Cortes, Lori Benes, Adi Raut-Desai, Susan Simper (BYK) and Norma Turk, Dr. Kathleen Koerner and Keiko McCormick (Gonzales Dog Adoption).

Local program needs volunteers to serve as long-term care ombudsmen

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Golden Crescent Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is seeking volunteers in Calhoun, Dewitt, Jackson, Lavaca, Goliad, Gonzales and Victoria counties to advocate for residents living in nursing and assisted living facilities.

Volunteer ombudsmen visit residents, identify, and investigate complaints, and educate residents, families, and facility staff on protecting the health, safety, welfare, and rights of individuals living in long-term care settings. Ombudsman services are

free and confidential.

Volunteers must be at least 18-years old and complete a free, 36-hour training course that includes classroom, self-study, and in-facility training. No prior experience is required. Hours are flexible and determined by each volunteer.

Training starts soon. Registration is required. If you have an hour a week to make a difference in someone’s life, please contact Christina Guajardo, MLO at 361-578-1587 X 217 or 361-920-1400 or christinag@gcrpc.org for more information.

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July 5th Claire Harkey Marquise Hastings Kirby Knox Heath Lipke Corrien Scivally Jose Torres	July 9th Fernando Casares Del DeLa Santos Ken David DuBose
July 6th Alice Johnson Cline Dorothy Guiterrez Michelle McKinney Brittany Pakebusch David Staton	July 10th Vernene Corby Ches Elley Trent Fernandez Cherry Moeller Esther Molina Janet Raabe Collin Richter D.J. Richter Cain Segura Aaron Ray-Lee Webb

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Gonzales Weather

	July 4 94°/77°	Mostly sunny 4% chance of rain • RealFeel 97
	July 5 98°/76°	Mostly cloudy and very warm; a stray afternoon thunderstorm 38% chance of rain • RealFeel 101
	July 6 100°/76°	Mostly sunny and hot 1% chance of rain • RealFeel 103
	July 7 101°/77°	Mostly cloudy and hot 4% chance of rain • RealFeel 102
	July 8 98°/76°	Mostly sunny and hot 8% chance of rain • RealFeel 99
	July 9 95°/74°	Mostly sunny 10% chance of rain • RealFeel 97
	July 10 96°/77°	Very warm and humid with sunshine 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 105

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Upcoming Events at J.B. Wells Park in Gonzales

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July 6th – 7th

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET
June 29th, 2024
Cattle – 942
Compared to our last sale:
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold 3.00-4.00 higher. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows sold steady & bulls sold steady to higher.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 325-475; 300-400 lbs., 275-385; 400-500 lbs., 255-350; 500-600 lbs., 245-315; 600-700 lbs., 245-280; 700-800 lbs., 235-268. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 125-185.
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., 215-280; 600-700 lbs., 223-241.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 119-129; Cutters, 135-151; Canners, 95-110; High yielding fat cows, 125-141.
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 155-164; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 131-147.
Stocker Cows: \$900 to \$2,250. Pairs: \$1,800 to \$3,200.

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., Inc.
Sale date: June 25th
Cattle on hand: 960
Packer Cows:
High Dressing: \$134-155
Medium Dressing: \$120-135
Low Dressing: \$112-125
Poor/Weak Cows: \$85-110
Packer Bulls:
High Dressing Bulls: \$152-179
Medium Dressing Bulls: \$130-

155
Low Dressing Bulls: \$115-130
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: NONE
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1250-1800
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: NONE
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: 4 PR. \$2350-2700
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves: Under 200 lbs.: \$340-425
200-300 lbs.: \$340-415
300-400 lbs.: \$320-395
400-500 lbs.: \$295-375
500-600 lbs.: \$260-315
600-700 lbs.: \$242-280
700-800 lbs.: \$215-265
Number 1 heifer calves:
Under 200 lbs.: \$320-400
200-300 lbs.: \$280-360
300-400 lbs.: \$280-355
400-500 lbs.: \$260-345
500-600 lbs.: \$245-290
600-700 lbs.: \$220-265
700-800 lbs.: \$195-240
Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: \$285-320
The calf market was once again higher. All classes sold #1 to \$5 higher. Average of all calves sold was \$3 higher. Heavier weights were particularly strong. Packer cows and bulls sold \$4 to \$6 higher on a supply of 130 head. Top Bull 179. Top Cow 155.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.
June 26th
Market Trend: Quality of cattle good today. Stocker cattle steady with packer cows & bulls 2-3 better
Cattle – 626
Sheep & goats – 1136
Medium & large frame #1 Steers: 200-300 lb. 1.05-2.96-3.95

300-400 lb. .90-3.20-3.80
400-500 lb. 1.20 2.54-3.55
500-600 lb. 1.20-2.52-3.05
600-700 lb. 1.15-2.33-2.63
700-850 lb. 1.10-2.13-2.47
Medium & large frame #1 Heifers:
200-300 lb. 1.80-2.59-3.20
300-400 lb. 1.05-2.55-3.70
400-500 lb. 1.00-2.65-3.50
500-600 lb. 1.15-2.42-2.88
600-750 lb. 1.35-2.33-2.55
Cows:
Utility & commercial – 1.12-1.36-1.48
Cutters – 1.00-1.15-1.30
Canners. – 1.00-1.11-1.22
Palpated cows – 1575-1900
Cow/Calf Pairs – NONE
Bulls:
Heavy High Yielding – 1.55-1.68
Light & Low Yielding – 1.45-1.54
Sheep & Goats:
Nannies – 30-205
Kid Goats (Fat) – 2.20-3.12
Wethers -1.25-3.35
Billies – 1.50-2.15
Dorp. Ewes - 20-145
Dorp. Lambs (Fat) – 1.80-2.45
Woolled Ewes – 90-110
Woolled Bucks – 1.20-1.65
Lambs – 1.65-2.07
Barb. Bucks – 250-475

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
June 28th, 2024
Number of head 1418
NO SALE NEXT WEEK, JULY 5TH, IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY
There were 273 cows and 43 bulls. A big jump in prices on slaughter cows and bulls. Tops on packer bulls was \$14/cwt higher at \$179/cwt, while tops on cows was up \$8/cwt at \$153/cwt. Demand continues to be very strong and getting stronger. The calf market was stronger across the board as demand is higher. All classes were in line with previous weeks. Calves were \$5/cwt higher on over 13 pounds of weight resulting in over \$60 per head more value. A great day to sell.
Packer bulls:
All Weights 155.00-179.00
Packer cows:
canners & cutters 95.00-153.00
poor & weak 75.00-93.00
Palpated:27 bred \$1,200 & \$2,050
PAIRS: 2 \$1,900 & \$2,150
Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
Under 200 lbs. NONE
200-250 lbs. 367.00-417.50
250-299 lbs 356.00-410.00
300-350 lbs. 348.00-395.50
350-400 lbs. 330.00-370.00
400-450 lbs. 310.00-356.00
450-500 lbs. 303.00-360.00
500-550 lbs 272.00-324.00
550-600 lbs. 260.00-288.00
600-700 lbs 247.00-283.00
700-800 lbs 236.00-270.00
Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)
under 200 lbs. 283.00-410.00
200-250 lbs 341.00-410.00
250-300 lbs 288.00-345.00
300-350 lbs. 287.00-340.00
350-400 lbs. 310.00-340.00
400-450 lbs. 287.00-336.00
450-500 lbs 272.00-355.00
500-550 lbs 256.00-312.50
550-600 lbs 245.00-276.00
600-700 lbs 218.00-308.00*
Over 700 lbs 180.00-232.00
*Replacement Heifer



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Garden Q&A

with CALVIN FINCH



Q. I prefer a groomed golf course like landscape but I have finally become convinced that I have too much shade for a perfect lawn and the shade is worth more than the perfect lawn. What are my options?
A. The most desirable alternative that comes to my mind is a “lawn” of shade tolerant groundcovers such as Asian jasmine, dwarf ruellia, mondo grass, and liriope. They can be planted in layers and be manicured. If you get a chance to visit the King William area south of downtown San Antonio there are some spectacular examples of such landscapes.
Q. We are growing Oscar Okra which we obtained from a Master Gardener from our area. It is a reasonable sized plant and can be harvested over a long period without getting unpleasantly crisp. The problem seems to be that sources of the seed are hard to find. Any special hints on how to collect and store the seed?
A. Just let some of the pods mature on the plant and then store them in a paper sack in a shed until planting time next summer. Some gardeners designate one plant to be the seed

source so you can keep harvesting all the pods at the right time on the other plants. It seems to keep the plants at maximum production until the harvest season ends.
Q. What is the recommended mowing height for zoysia grass. I mow it at 2 inches when it needs it but it makes a mess with leaving brown torn areas.
A. There are a couple of issues that are probably contributing to the problem. The 2 inch height is right but it should be mowed with a reel mower or a sharp rotary mower every week. Zoysia grass is tough and the rotary mowers have a tendency to rip it especially if you are not mowing every week.
Q. I grow my herbs and flowers in containers on the patio. In order to expand the planting, I have begun to use some of the black plastic containers. It has not been very successful. Could the containers be allowing the soil inside to get too hot and kill the roots?
A. Actually that often happens. Using larger pots, clay pots, or shading the plastic containers will help the roots to survive.

No cost summer meals available for Texas kids

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER
When schools close for the summer and kids no longer have access to school meals, Texas food banks see

hunger spike and increased need in their communities. The good news is that resources are available this summer to keep Texas kids nourished.
In addition to the food available from local food banks, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers the Summer Meals Program, which provides meals at no cost to children and teens 18 years old and younger and students with disabilities up to 21 years old. These nutritious meals are available now to keep kids fed this summer.
“Food banks know that here in Texas, hunger doesn’t take a summer vacation,” said Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas, the state association of food banks. “While summer should be a time of fun and relaxation for kids, it can also mean up to 90 days without the reliable school meals so many kids depend on to thrive. That’s why the Texas Department of Agriculture’s Summer Meals Program is so important to our communities.”
Nearly 1 in 4 Texas kids experience hunger, according to Feeding

America’s latest Map the Meal Gap study. Child hunger only worsens during the summer months when the loss of school meals and higher utility bills can reduce a family’s budget for food.
Families can visit SummerFood.org or text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304 to find a summer meal site near them.
“We encourage Texans to share this information with friends, family and members of their communities,” Cole said. “Keeping children nourished during the summer improves nutrition and sends them back to school ready to learn. Together, we can keep kids fed in Texas.”
Because meal site schedules can be subject to change, we recommend families call to confirm dates, times and meal-service details. Families do not have to apply, register or provide identification.
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds the Summer Meals Program – including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO).

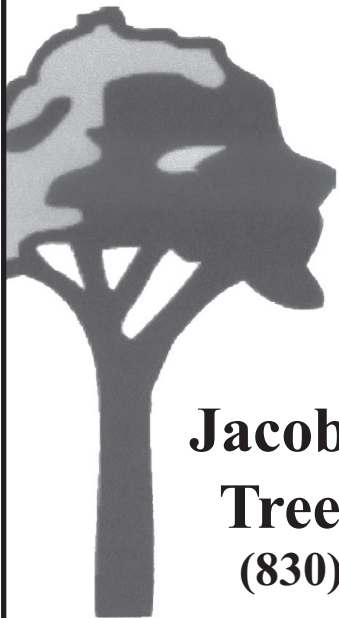
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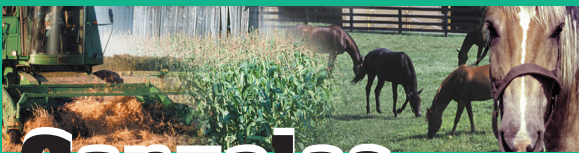
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GONZALES CO. HISTORY

- 1826 – July 2, settlement attacked by Indians. Settlers were on their way to Mina (Bastrop) to celebrate the Fourth of July with friends on the Colorado River. John Wightman stayed behind and was killed. The settlers evacuated the area
- 1853 – July 2, large group of German immigrants passed through town. Their wagons were loaded with sheep they had brought from Germany.
- 1882 – J.H. Remschel opened Remschel Brothers Lumber Company
- 1887 – Estimated 19,988 persons live in Gonzales County
- 1907 – J.M. Mohrmann bought out his partner, Kelly, to found Mohrmann’s Drug Store in the west corner of the Randle-Rather Building (Later moved to 407 St. George Street and then in 1974 to 413 St. George Street. During this time the store changed hands at least once and was re-purchased by the Mohrmanns after WWII).
- 1911 – August 7, Judge Ben W. Fly receives 100 piece silver table service (Gorham) from Anti-abolitionists of Victoria County. Name “Fly” engraved on each piece.
- 1913 – July 10, a census report shows that land in Gonzales County now averages \$21.13 per acre, up \$11.25 per acre in the last decade.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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

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

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

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

The Inquirer will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information.

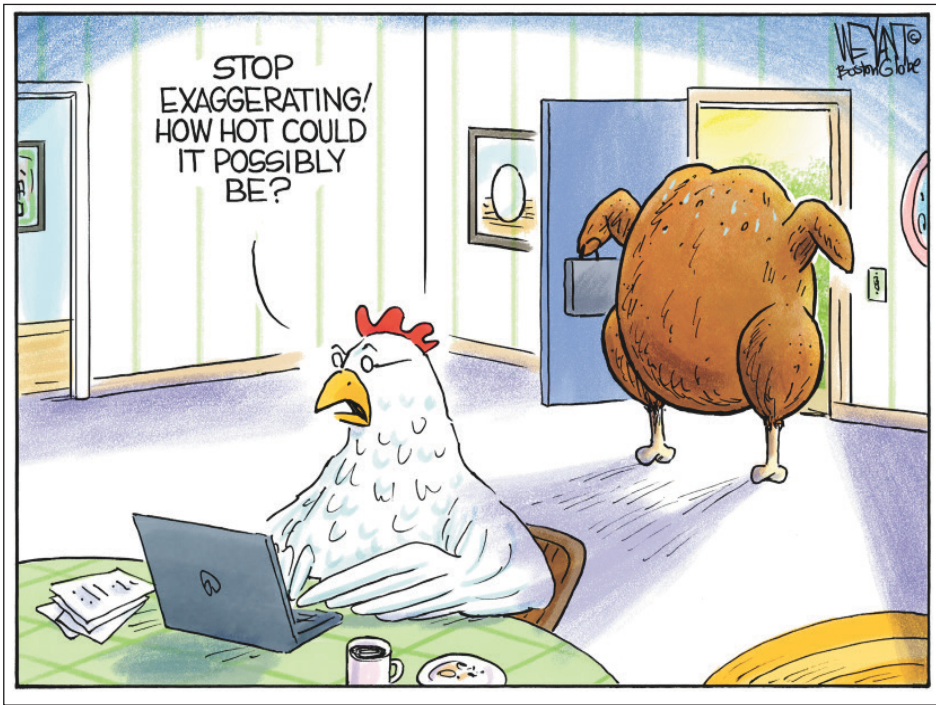
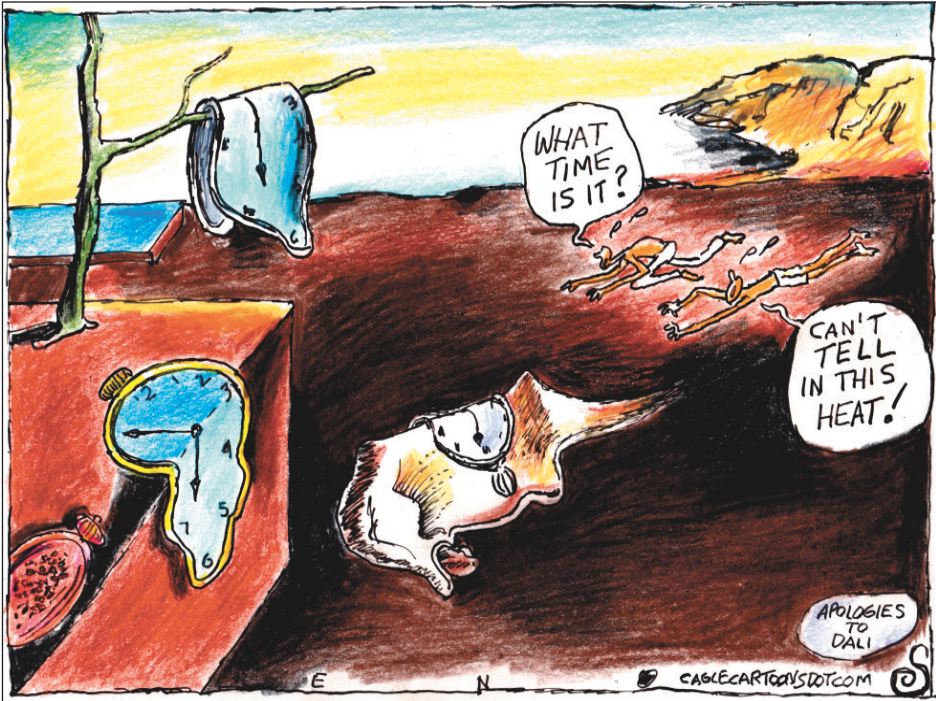
Only letters written exclusively to the newspaper will be published. Letters to a third party or those written to more than one newspaper are not accepted. “Wallpaper” – submissions that are in large part copied-and-pasted from another author or organization – will not be published.

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

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

- Please send Letters to the Editor:
- Email: publisher@gonzalesinquirer.com
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Opinion



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DR. DON NEWBURY The Idle American

5 o'clock Friday at the factory...

A Texas doctor, closing out a hectic week, hoped it to be his final medical appointment, but stared at a Q-tip that was devoid of cotton at both ends.

“This Q-tip must have gotten right up against 5 o'clock Friday at the factory,” he muttered....

In the span of one week recently, I felt that my photograph might be placed alongside a “customer is always wrong” essay, thinking my value about the same as a “cottonless” Q-tip.

On three occasions, I was “done wrong.” In each case, I felt as if I’d been hit full in the face with a blivit, a rural term coined by a farm boy whose job it was to feed the hogs. He said a blivit describes a five-gallon bucket filled with 10 gallons of hog slop....

Okay, maybe my beefs didn’t rise to that degree of disappointment, but surely the requisites for a “frankfurter foul-up” have been met.

Maybe you’ve had a similar week or plowed through a “clinker” recently.

Whatever, I have chosen to smile about my misadventures, now making headway toward a “smiley-face” expression from one deeply frowned. I have opted, though, to “rattle some chains” at Best Buy, the Carnation Company and Sam’s Club...

Let me offer details in order of chagrin. At Best Buy, attempts to buy a new computer went awry. I used my credit card for the purchase, understanding there’d be an additional charge for data transfer and extended warranty.

When it became evident the data transfer to the new computer would be delayed, I decided to forego the purchase. I returned to the sales clerk-the computer box unopened--about a half-hour later, requesting that the transaction be voided. I got the obligatory “no problem” response.

But there was. He had voided the charge for the computer only, and when I questioned him, he said that I would need to void the remaining \$180 online....

That didn’t sit well with me, but I decided to “play it out.” Back home, I was never able to explain my problem to TWO Best Buy “online” responders. After an hour, I gave up.

I sent two emails to Best Buy’s media relations email address, but the only responses were two emails indicating that my emails had been received.

Two days later, I received an apologetic phone call from a local Best Buy manager. He promised to void the charge, adding that the sales guy should have given me the option of handling the matter by phone. The clerk didn’t, though, perhaps leaning “right up against 5 o'clock Friday at the factory.”....

Second is an ongoing issue with plastic cap removals from Carnation Instant Breakfast cartons. Neither my wife nor I can do so without pliers.

I sent emails to the media relation office. Again, I received emails that mine had arrived, but nothing more. Is this not a legitimate beef, or at least chopped liver?...

Now, on to Sam’s, where I purchased new eyeglass lenses in January. The technician indicated that there’d likely be a bill later for charges not covered by insurance. I understood, I really did!

In March, I received the expected bill, responding with a check for \$125, expecting a “paid in full” acknowledgment.

Three months later, however, I received a second “statement balance” due for the same amount. With but a vague recollection of the earlier notice, I almost wrote another check. Instead, I called customer service, learning that the bill had been paid, so I could “tear up the second notice.”...

I’m in the slack-cutting mode in all three instances. Many customers, I’m thinking, would simply have written a check for the second eyeglass billing, since there were no “past due” reminders. (I’m just sayin’....)

Let’s be eternally vigilant. “Corner-cutting” seems to be prevalent in our world, so we should be vigilant at every turn. Too many, it seems, are “right up against five o'clock Friday at the factory” somewhere, perhaps everywhere.....

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

JUDGE SWORN IN



Above: The Smiley City Council with the new Municipal Judge Darryl Becker Friday, June 28. LEFT to RIGHT: Councilman Ellis Villasana, City Secretary Scott Jewell, Municipal Judge Darryl Becker, Mayor Lisa Benavides, Councilman Daniel Benavidez, Councilwoman Lori Price and Marshall Jason Torres. Left: Smiley Mayor Lisa Benavides swears Darryl Becker as the new municipal judge for the city Friday, June 28 in the wake of the passing of Judge Gary Schroeder earlier that week. Becker served as the Justice of the Piece for Precinct 4 and was named interim city manager for Nixon in 2023.

PHOTOS BY VANDY VAN EPPS

WRECK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

white Mazda CX5, which was traveling southbound on Water Street. It was reported that the Escape then continued traveling in the southbound lanes, colliding head on with a black Dodge Ram.

Gonzales Fire Department and Gonzales County EMS arrived on the scene and extricated the driver, 18-year-old Taylour Madison Pechal of Temple, and her passenger, Krisna Soto, 18, also of Temple, from the Escape. Both were transported by ambulance to San Antonio Military Medical Center. Sgt. Carrera was later notified hat both Soto and Pechal were pronounced deceased at the hospital.

The driver and a passenger from the Dodge Ram were transported by EMS to Gonzales Healthcare Systems Memorial Hospital, where they were treated and released.

The cause of the accident is under investigation and it is undetermined at this time as to why the Escape, operated by Pechal, veered into oncoming traffic.

According to GoFundMe accounts, Pechal had just graduated from Temple High School and was planning on attending Texas A&M.

“She was excited about her new adventures in College Station. Our hearts are broken but we will never

forget her infectious smile and loving soul,” family members said of her in the GoFundMe page.

Soto also had just recently graduated from Temple High School and wanted to become a dental hygienist, according to sister Kathya’s GoFundMe page.

“Freshly graduated and with so much ambition for college with dreams of working as a dental hygienist. She was a very loving, smart and funny person, there is not enough words to describe her beautiful soul. Krisna leaves our family in broken pieces, but the memories we have with her will never be forgotten,” Kathya said of her sister.

SCHROEDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

achievement for any presiding judge.

“I know that the majority of people that come in contact with the judicial system is through the municipal courts and their impression is formed by how they are treated, be fair, follow the law and most of all use some common sense,” Schroeder said in November 2022.

A practicing attorney for 47 years, Schroeder had only been practicing law full time for about four years when he

was first appointed by then-Gonzales Mayor Carol Wiley and the Gonzales City Council to be the municipal judge on Jan. 1, 1981 — which made him the youngest judge in Gonzales County history.

Schroeder served the city of Gonzales for more than 30 years before being appointed Smiley’s municipal judge. He also has served as the presiding judge for the city of Cuero for nearly a decade and worked for the City of Shiner Municipal Court for more than a quarter of a

century.

Smiley city officials remembered and praised Schroeder.

“I’ve known Judge Schroeder for probably 20 years or more, he helped us,” Mayor Pro Tem Ellis Villasana said. “When we started with a Marshal’s office, he helped us put that together, along with his wife Laura. And I’ve known him all time he was an excellent magistrate and did a wonderful job for us and I’ll miss him.

“He swore me in three or four weeks ago. He made a little joke. I don’t know if y’all heard it. That I was one of the oldest Councilman around as old as Abraham Lincoln. So I’m gonna miss him. He was a good friend.”

“I had the honor of working with Judge Schroeder for my first year term,” Mayor Lisa Benavidez said. “He inspired me a lot. His wife was always pleasant as well to work with. Anytime I had a question. He was there to answer it with a smile, and he will be truly missed with the City

of Smiley.”

“Judge Schroeder was definitely a cornerstone in regards to opening and holding open the Marshal’s office,” City Marshal Jason Torres said. “So he did a lot for our office and supported it all the way through. He will be missed. He also saw me in about two years ago at this point. So it was a very good honor to have met him and work with them throughout that time. Very fair judge, very easy to get along with. He will be miss as a good person.”

In addition to practicing law, Schroeder was a cattle rancher who, along with his wife Laura, raised premium and champion Charolais bulls that were highly coveted at auction time. He was also known for his love of entertaining and cooking for guests at his ranch.

Schroeder’s family received visitors at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home in Gonzales on Sunday, June 30 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Funeral service was held at 10 a.m. Monday, July 1 at the funeral home.

JOBS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to place the third-highest of all seven counties which comprise the Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area.

This decrease ends a trend of unemployment rates rising for the county for the current year, according to state Labor Market Information (LMI) figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

For the entire Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area, the unemployment rate for April 2024 was 3.2 percent, lower than the state average of 3.5 percent. This represented a total of 2,992 residents in Gonzales, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties seeking employment out of a total workforce of 92,112 people.

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

For the entire Golden Crescent Workforce Development Area, the unemployment rate for March 2024 was 3.7 percent, lower than the state average of 4.1 percent. This represented a total of 3,766 residents in Gonzales, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties seeking employment out of a total workforce of 92,098 people.

The counties reporting in lower than Gonzales County are Lavaca County, with the lowest unemployment rate at 2.7 percent, followed by Calhoun and Dewitt Counties at 2.9 percent, Jackson County following at 3.1 percent. Gonzales follows with 3.2 percent, and Goliad with 3.5 percent, rounding out with Victoria County closing in the highest position(s)

at 3.6 percent.

For April 2024, there were 304 individuals in Gonzales County seeking employment out of a workforce of 9,626 with 9,322 reported as employed. In March 2024, there were 357 people seeking work in Gonzales County out of an employment force of 9,573 for a total unemployment rate of 3.7 percent.

In April 2023, Gonzales County had an unemployment rate of 3.7 percent. The 3.2 percent unadjusted unemployment rate for April 2023 was the lowest seen in Gonzales County since it was reported at 2.7 percent in March 2022.

Unemployment rates since May 2022 for Gonzales County are:

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

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

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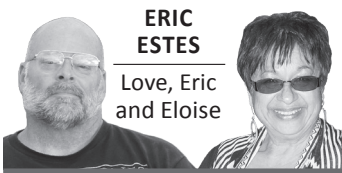
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Feeling Lonely?

Howdy everyone. I hope you’re having (or did have) a great Fourth of July. Also recognized as Independence Day, it’s a true American holiday, as it pays homage to our separation from the rule of Great Britain, forming the United States of America, and ratified by congress on July 4th, 1776. An awesome day to spend with family and friends, cooking out, going to the lake, shooting off fireworks, or whatever else makes your life more enjoyable. But just a reminder, if you’re going to visit grandma at her assisted living home, don’t load up her hot dog with heaps of raw onions, as it may offend the other residents... just sayin’!

It seems that many life changes can also cause us to declare our own independence. Moving away from parents and siblings, heading off to college, changing jobs, divorce, or loss of friends and family members along the timeline of life. There are those times when we’ll feel isolated or cut off from the rest of the world, wondering how exactly to cope, and what our next move should be. This can lead us to feel a bit lonely. In 2023 the U.S. Surgeon General labeled loneliness a public health pandemic. A recent (2024) poll by the American Psychiatric Association revealed that about 30% of people feel lonely at least once a week, while 10% felt lonely every day. As we expected,



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

these feelings increased about 25% due to the isolation caused by Covid.

Most of the research I’ve done on the subject agreed that deep feelings of loneliness and isolation demonstrate increased health risks. According to recent studies, people dealing with these feelings are approximately 25-30% more likely to develop heart disease, strokes, diabetes, anxiety, depression, dementia and other mental health afflictions, and could significantly shorten their lifespan. While there are many helpful ways to combat this situation, my first go-to is always God. Life is tough and I couldn’t imagine trying to muddle through it without his guidance and comfort, but unfortunately, too many have declared their “Independence” from God these days. In Matthew 11:28 Jesus said “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” So, if you find yourself feeling lonely, why not go directly to the source for some assistance?

It also helps if we take a pro-active approach also. As Ed Sheeran sang in his song “Save Myself”, “life can get you down, so before I save someone else, I’ve got to save myself!” Some of the ways

people deal with these feelings are keeping busy through hobbies, exercise, gardening, etc. It also helps to keep your mind stimulated through reading, puzzles, podcasts, classes and the like. Engaging with people you meet, friends, or even engaging through social media have been shown to have very positive results. Spending time with pets is also very effective. Of course counseling and therapy is great, as talking through these feelings can often lead to some healthy relief. Unfortunately, many turn to overeating, alcohol and drugs to ease the pain. So, to run the gamut of self help strategies: pop a xanax, take your dog for a walk while checking your social media outlets and woofing down a triple cheeseburger, then wash it down with large quantities of booze, while trying not to pass out dialing your therapist...yep, about covers it all!

Only kidding! Just stick with God, or establish a new membership if you don’t already have one (as they’re free), while actively staying on the positive path, and the feelings of loneliness we all experience should ease up a bit. And try to keep in mind what was said in the 1996 movie Independence Day starring Will Smith...“We will not go quietly into the night, we will not vanish without a fight, we’re going to live on!”

Until next time, Love you guys, Eric.

Gonzales Area Parkinson’s Support Group July 4 meeting postponed

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Due to the July 4, 2024, celebration falling on our regular meeting date, the Gonzales Area Parkinson’s Support Group (GAPSG) has been rescheduled for July 11, 2024.

It will be at the same time (6 p.m.) and place (Fellowship Hall of Gonzales Presbyterian Church). The entrance is on the St. Joseph Street side of the building. Everyone is welcome, so please join us on July 11, 2024. Light refreshments will be furnished. See you there!

WE’RE ALL EARS



Questions?
Comments?
Story Ideas?
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First Baptist Church 403 N. Texas, Nixon	St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon	First United Methodist 410 N. Franklin, Nixon	Between Harwood & Waelder off old Hwy. 90
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Application has been made
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Retailer's Permit (BG) by
Harold Rice dba Diamond R
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Gonzales, Texas. Officers of
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Rice.

950
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CITATION BY PUBLICATION - TRC 109 & 114

THE STATE OF TEXAS: Cause No. 28,509

SouthStar Bank, S.S.B IN THE DISTRICT COURT

vs 2nd 25th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Marvin Rowland, Jr., Et Al GONZALES COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: HANNAH ROWLAND, and any potential Unknown Heirs of
Marvin L. Rowland, Jr., Deceased, other than Jessica Leigh Rowland
Defendant: GREETING


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

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 cita-
tion 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.

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, Gon-
zales, TX, said property having a legal description of Lots 8-14, Block 11, River-
crest 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

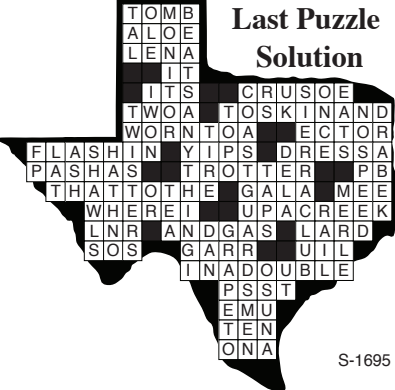
Attorney for Plaintiff or Plaintiff:
J. Milton Chapman
Anderson Smith Null & Stofer LLP
4611 E Airline, Ste. 202
Victoria, TX 77902
361-573-9191



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

By Georgia N. Sutton Deputy

June 27 Puzzle Answers


Last Puzzle
Solution
S-1695

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


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Main Street discusses forming Junior Main Street Board

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Main Street board met for a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, June 25, to go over plans to establish a Junior Main Street Board at the Gonzales High School.

“This was brought to the board as an idea when I got back from the Main Street Now conference in Birmingham. The

idea is to create a club at the high school and those members of the club will be a Junior Main Street Board,” Main Street Director Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla said.

The Main Street Now conference gave an example of placing club members in different Main Street businesses as an intern, Hutchinson-Padilla said.

“The business will won’t pay this individual, but they will

get experience in things like merchandising, or they can help with marketing. Many of our business owners in the Main Street area have struggled to find time for funds to either hire a marketing person or to do it themselves. So, maybe we can get some of the youth in high school that are already super awesome at social media to help replace them in their precarious hours,” Hutchinson-

Padilla said.

The item was brought up so the board can change the by-laws so they can form subcommittees.

“I could see a need for something like this in the old Main Street that we had when we had summer concerts,” board member Del De Los Santos said. “It would have been great to have the youngsters after to help move the barriers and

help pick up the trash. You know that but and I liked the idea of using their computer skills nowadays to assist our merchants and marketing.”

Hutchinson-Padilla added this will be an experience for those high schoolers that want to see how a business is run for the experience.

The board approved to update the bylaws to form a Junior Main Street Board in the future.



FROM A PATCHY FIELD TO APACHE FIELD

The grass from Apache Field has been removed for renovations. Gonzales ISD approved spending \$498,400 to replace the stadium’s natural grass; the cost of the project will come from the district’s fund balance. Also pictured is one of the goalposts that was removed so the project could proceed.

VANDY VAN EPPS

25TH DISTRICT COURT SENTENCINGS

JUNE 12

Gabriel Juarez-Castruita, bail jumping/failure to appear, pleaded guilty, three years TDCJ-ID with 42 days credit; assault/family violence, three years TDCJ-ID with 359 days credit.

Jorge Castillo, cruelty to non live-stock animals/kill/poison (two counts), dismissed and to be determined with reindictment; driving while intoxicated, agreement reached, five years TDCJ-ID with 53 days credit.

Monica Curlee, manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance, eight years TDCJ-ID with 439 days credit; possession of a controlled substance, eight years TDCJ-ID with 421 days credit.

Lijah Leos, burglary of a habitation (four counts). Count 1 six years TDCJ-ID with credit; Counts 2-4, two years state jail felony with 798 days credit.

JUNE 17

Kody K King, possession of a controlled substance PG 1 <1G, five years TDCJ, \$1,000 fine, plus attorney fees and court costs.

Christopher Adam Henson, unauthorized use of a vehicle, burglary of a building; criminal mischief >= \$2,500 <\$30K, 10 years TDCJ-ID with 139 days credit; possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B <1G, tamper/fabricate physical evidence with intent to impair, 10 years TDCJ-ID with 147 days credit.

Koltan Thomas Gage Condrin, possession of a controlled substance PG 1/1-B<1G, three years deferred adjudication, \$400 fine.

Nicholas Lee Meyer, driving while intoxicated with a child under 15, 18 months in state jail facility, five years probation, \$500 fine, 10 days in jail plus court costs.

Juan Domingo Ramirez, evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, seven years deferred adjudication, \$800 fine, plus attorney fees and court costs.

Michael Anthony Rodriguez Jr., tamper/fabricate physical evidence with intent to impair, eight years probation, \$500 fine, plus attorney fees and court costs.

JUNE 24

Krystal Lynn Filip, possession of a controlled substance PG 1 <1G, five years deferred adjudication plus fine, attorney fees and court costs; possession of a controlled substance PG 1 >=4G<200G, 10 years deferred adjudication, \$1,000 fine, attorney fees and court costs.

Four G-Town Striders qualify for Junior Olympics

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

After three days of competition at the AAU Region 19 Qualifying Meet on June 28-30 at

D.W. Rutledge Stadium in Converse, four members of the G-Town Striders qualified for the Junior Olympics to be held July 27-28 at North Carolina

A&T - Marcus T. Johnson
Track at Truist Stadium in Greensboro, N.C.
They are:
• Amara Behrendt - Pentathlon

• Avionna Houston - Discus, Javelin
• Logan Valdez - Shot Put, Discus, Javelin
• La’Niyah Miller - Shot Put, Turbo Javelin



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ACROSS

1 “got a ____ in my throat” (emotional)
5 TX Roy Orbison hit “It’s ____” (1964)
6 home of Baylor
7 flim____ (scam)
8 commercials, e.g.
9 Clay Allison epitaph: “He never killed ____ did not need killing”
16 pekoe and green
18 in Bandera, “Dixie ____” for city slickers
21 ____ Campo, Texas
22 Maureen O’____ of film “Rio Grande”
23 TXism: “his facts ____ elastic” (liar)
24 TXism: “it ____ poke in the eye with a sharp stick”
30 TX-based Sunoco once was “____ Company”
34 TXism: “bend ____ elbow” (drink)
35 record companies
36 TX Roy Bean’s court____ was in his Langtry saloon
37 petty quarrels
39 ____ Court is last resort for civil appeals
43 TX Gene Tierney 1945 film: “Leave ____ Heaven”
44 delicious melon: “Pecos Can ____”
45 WBAP ____/FM
46 “it’s ____ better days”

DOWN

1 Texas Registered Longhorn Beef is this (2 wds.)
2 birth town of TX McCaughey
3 TXism: “____ su casa” (neighborly)
4 seniors dance
9 just one of 8-across
10 this Ali took TX Foreman’s title in 1974 “Rumble”
11 TX singer Meat Loaf was born Marvin Lee ____

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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12 noted fictional detective, Wolfe
13 thin, ghostly figure
14 laugh word
15 TXism: “plain as the ears ____ mule”
17 7-Eleven slushies
19 Texas Nokona baseball gloves are hand____
20 this Josh was Aggie offensive line coach (2019-22)
24 great NFL and UT quarterback, Bobby (init.)
25 enjoy fried okra
26 you can make ____ at Lone Star Park

27 Bank in East Texas
28 Olympic ski race
29 TXism: “____ as a baby’s backside”
31 neither’s sidekick
32 abortion case that’s been overturned “____ v. Wade”
33 hides out (2 wds.)

38 in Duval County on U.S. 59
40 ____ Ross State University in Alpine
41 once a rival to the AP news agency
42 “E” of “EMT”
48 ____ Ward, Texas in Hale County
50 TX Kenny sang you gotta know when to hold ‘em and when to ____ ‘em
51 OJ’s judge, Lance
56 four-bagger by an Astro or Ranger make ecstatic

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers found in next week’s Classifieds.

ELIXIR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

also in the lovely Hill Country, and known as the “Gateway to the Hill Country” with beautiful natural scenery and an abundance of wineries, breweries and distilleries.

- Jefferson comes in at third, a historic town in East Texas, near the Louisiana border. Known for history and 19th century architecture it is a true back in time experience. With ghost tours, haunted houses and plenty of spooky stories, those seeking thrills love to visit! Located in Jefferson is the home thought to be the most haunted place in the United States, The Grove.
- Fourth brings Wimberley, which is listed as a quaint town, also in the Texas Hill Country, sensing a pattern? Located between Austin and San Antonio this is known as a place of stunning beauty with crystal clear creeks, green hills, cypress trees and other beautiful areas, including the famous Blue Hole Regional Park. Another site to behold in Wimberley is Jacob’s Well, a deep natural well known for its great swimming.
- Fifth is Port Isabel which is a coastal Texas town, on the southern tip of the state, right before crossing over to South Padre Island. With a rich maritime history, and historically beautiful waterfront views, with must sees such as Port Isabel Lighthouse, with a museum including a panoramic view of the Gulf of Mexico. Dolphins watching tours are another past time which enchants visitors.
- Sixth on the list is Castroville, a small town along the Medina River, 25 miles west of San Antonio, and known as the “Little Alsace of Texas” because it was founded by immigrants from Alsace, France in the 1840s and it maintains this unique Alsatian heritage to this day. Historical heritage tour, including the Steinbach Haus, actually transported from Alsace and reassembled in Castroville. This beautifully historic town is famous for beautiful parks, and day hiking.
- Lockhart and Seguin are listed seventh and eighth, with both areas not far from our own small town. Lockhart is home to the oldest continuously running library in Texas, The Dr. Eugene Clark Library estab-

lished in 1899. Seguin is a historic Central Texas town found along the Guadalupe River, about 35 miles of San Antonio and is known as one of the oldest towns in Texas. Known for having actual mammoth remains were found in Seguin, as is one of the town’s most unique attractions is the “World’s Largest Pecan” statue, built to celebrate its pecan heritage. The Sebastopol House Historic Site which is an example of a unique 19th century limecrete construction.

- Bellville is ninth on the list, a small town located in the heart of Texas, about 70 miles northwest of Houston. This small town has a unique and rich historic area, charming and endearing, as it gives a glimpse into the years of Texas’ history. While visiting don’t miss out on Newman’s Castle, featuring a moat, drawbridge, turrets and a view on the surrounding countryside that is said to be stunning.
- Tenth on the list is Canyon, a small town in the Texas Panhandle, south of Amarillo, which is known for being the gateway to Palo Duro Canyon State Park, which is the second largest canyon in the United States. Home to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, which is the largest museum in Texas with insight into the region’s history and fascinating culture. Canyon certainly holds true to all things being bigger in Texas.
- Eleventh is Granbury, a North Central Texas small town about 40 miles southwest of Fort Worth. A well preserved 19th century square, surrounded by historic buildings, is a huge draw for visitors, as well as the real heart of this community. While admiring the square don’t miss out on some of the lovely Victorian era homes with a walk through of the Granbury Historic District. Also of (no small) note is that this is said to be the final resting place of infamous outlaw Jesse James, according to local lore, having lived there under an alias.
- Twelfth on the list is Driftwood a well loved and peaceful town located in the Texas Hill Country, southwest of Austin. This town holds a population of only around one hundred (100) people, swelling, of course, with visitors to

see the main attractions of scenic landscapes and many hidden “gems” for those seeking the love of food and wine in the area. Not to miss on this list is The Salt Lick BBQ, a world honored and renowned barbecue restaurant where people converge from all over to sample the brisket and ribs, while washing it down at the Fall Creek Vineyards, known as one of the best in Texas.

- Skipping ahead to the number fourteenth spot, because the best will be last, we end the list with Ennis, a lively small town located in the northeastern part of Texas, less than forty miles south of Dallas. Famous for the phenomenal Blue-bonnet Trails (which are a sight to behold in the Texas springtime, with miles of beautiful country roads covered in our state flower. In this small town is also located the Texas Motorplex, a major drag racing venue, which hosts multiple events throughout the year with fans of the sport converging from all around. Finally, but not to be dismissed, is the beautiful Lake Bardwell, with fishing, boating, and camping. Celebrating the rich Czech heritage, with an annual Polka Festival, considered a national event.
- Gonzales, the reason we started mention this list, is noted to be a historic town, located between San Antonio and Houston, made famous for its role in the Texas Revolution, especially for the “Come and Take IT” cannon event and festival, annually celebrating and symbolizing both the Texas defiance and heart. Much mention of this event, with the town’s parades, music, food and events being historical and memorable. Also mentioned are the Gonzales Memorial Museum, where this cannon now resides, as well as the beautiful historic homes and buildings with both guided and self guided tours for those who are enchanted with the local architecture and history. Also mentioned are the Guadalupe River, with a mention of fishing, kayaking and picnicking available in the town’s river edge-line.
- For more information, see <https://www.travellerselixir.com/best-small-towns-texas>.

MUSTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fredericksburg, Texas, in 1986. There were over 400 Kent descendants in attendance,” Beckett said. “In 1996, the Kent muster moved to Gonzales. It was a more appropriate location because this is where our Texas ancestors settled and the Kent legacy began.”

Beckett estimates that there are thousands of descendants of Kent around the United States and the world, she said.

“Elizabeth Zumwalt family descendants are also invited to the Kent Muster; after all, if not for Elizabeth, none of us descendants would be here. We are all cousins and the ties that bind are strong,” Beckett said.

Kent was born in 1791 in Kentucky and moved to Missouri in 1810 and would later met his future wife Elizabeth Zumwalt and married in 1816.

“In 1826, they met Green DeWitt and James Kerr, who told them of opportunities in Texas. Andrew, Elizabeth and their nine children (they had two more in Texas) moved to Green DeWitt’s colony in the spring of 1930 and secured a league of land on the eastern edge of the DeWitt colony,” Beckett said. “The family often made the 40-mile trip from their homestead into Gonzales to conduct business, sell and trade and to see friends and family in town.”

According to Beckett, in Gonzales, Kent would frequently trade with Joseph Martin and Horace Eggleston; Kent was a farmer, rancher and skilled carpenter.

“He and his family lived peacefully on their land as Mexican citizens from 1830 until 1834, when Santa Anna came to power. Santa Anna refused to honor the Constitution of 1824, and this threatened their way of life and previous agreements made between Mexico and the colonists in DeWitt’s colony,” Beckett said.

Kent was one of the Immortal 32 who gave their lives at the Battle of the Alamo in San Antonio.

“Knowing that I am a descendant of such heroic people who played an important role in securing Texas Independence is exciting. They are worthy, even 200 years later, of being remembered, honored and celebrated. I feel it is not only a privilege, but also my responsibility, to endeavor they are never forgotten. Many of us feel this way,” Beckett said.

The reunion will be held at Presbyterian Church in Gonzales from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with guest speakers including Doug Kubicek, chairman of the Lavaca County Historical Commission; Lee Spencer White, president of the Alamo Defenders Descendant Association; Glenda Gordon, chairman of the Gonzales County Historical Commission; and Gonzales Mayor Steve Sucher.

“We also plan to caravan to the Kent homestead, which is located just south of present day Hallettsville and is marked with a historical marker. We also plan to visit the monument site in Cost, Texas,” Beckett said.

The muster has a Facebook page (Original Andrew Kent Family Muster) and family descendants are welcome to join or email them at ajkentmuster@gmail.com for any questions or for more information.

