

Smiley declares disaster: No potable water

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Smiley city officials on Tuesday, Sept. 24, declared a state of disaster and public health emergency due to possible contamination of their public water supply and told residents the city lacks sufficient potable water to serve its citizens.

The Smiley Fire Department spent Tuesday evening distributing water to residents at the fire station and trying to reach out to make sure everyone knew not to drink water from the city supply. Nixon-Smiley CISD released its students from the elementary school early Tuesday due to the lack of potable water.

The city has been working to repair its water supply system since Sept. 9 when a well pump on Well No. 1 stopped working. While the city had been trying

See **DISASTER**, page 7

BREAKING GROUND ON NEW PLAYGROUND



Members of the Gonzales Noon Lions Club, Pilot International Club of Gonzales, Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, Gonzales City Council, city staff and community members joined together Tuesday, Sept. 24 for a groundbreaking for a new fully inclusive, interactive playground that will be built at Lions Park in Gonzales. With GEDC contributing \$100,000 and Lions Club giving a grant for \$100,000, the community raised an additional \$150,000 for a total of \$350,000 to put in all-new equipment, replacing equipment the Lions Club themselves installed more than two decades ago.

County holds final subdivision ordinance workshop

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Gonzales County commissioners held Monday, Sept. 23, the last of three workshops on rewriting the county's subdivision ordinance to bring it up to date.

Attorney Eric Gomez of the Braun & Gresham law firm in Dripping Springs spoke with commissioners about the progress that has been made so far, noting that the job is about 90 percent done. The Gonzales County Subdivision Rules, which were originally adopted July 23, 2007 were last amended in 2012 — 12 years ago.

"We've got the meat of it," Gomez said. "We've got the framework and most of the particulars all spelled out. What

See **WORKSHOP**, page 7

Nixon, Thriving Hearts reach agreement to locate center in old police station

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

The City of Nixon and the Thriving Hearts Crisis Center (formerly the Guadalupe Valley Family Violence Shelter) reached an agreement Thursday, Sept. 19, that will create a satellite office for the center in Nixon.

The new office will be located in the former Nixon Police Department building on Third Street, next door to the current

police station. Volunteers have been busy working to get the space remodeled and reorganized so it can be used by THCC, which seeks to assist survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in four counties, including Gonzales County.

Nixon previously had a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Rancho-Nixon Historical Association to use the

See **CENTER**, page 13

Nixon tells Nineteenth Club city cannot remove private fence

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Representatives of the Nineteenth Club Civic Center were left with answers they did not want to hear after the Nixon City Council declined Thursday, Sept. 19, to either tear down a private fence or install a gate on an easement to their landlocked property.

Beverly Houston came before the council to present a summary of two years worth of communications with Nixon City Attorney Eddie Escobar, former City Manager Harold Rice, the Gonzales Central Appraisal District and a Gonzales County Clerk's office employee.

The Nineteenth Club Civic

See **CLUB**, page 14

Smiley council discusses missing COVID funds

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Smiley City Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday, Sept. 18 at Smiley City Hall. One of the biggest topics from the meeting was the status of the Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds the city had received.

City Secretary Scott Jewett told the council the city received an email two months ago from the Texas Department of Emergency

Management and the Department of Treasury about the city's failure to submit \$70,000 in receipts and questioning where the money was spent on that grant.

"When this first came out under the Texas Department of Emergency Management and they use funds for salary," Jewett said. "That person submitted the marshal for work these many hours. This is what he was paying. 'I

See **SMILEY**, page 14



Powder-coated signs saluting the City of Nixon, the fire department, the police department and the Nixon-Smiley Mustangs (not shown) will be placed on limestone blocks or a wall at the intersection of US 87 and Texas 80 in front of Dairy Queen as a new city monument.

Nixon annexes Tractor Supply, approves budget, discusses monument

BY LEW K. COHN
Inquirer Publisher

Nixon City Council voted unanimously Thursday, Sept. 19, to annex a little more than six acres of property along US 87 that includes the new Tractor Supply, the Gonzales County Emergency Services District No. 2 building and land belonging to the Nixon Hospital District.

Council members also

voted unanimously to adopt the fiscal year 2024-25 budget and to authorize Interim City Manager Darryl Becker and City Attorney Eddie Escobar to enter into an agreement with Smith Dairy Queen to place a proposed Nixon monument in front of the restaurant at the intersection of Texas 80 and US 87.

See **NIXON**, page 13

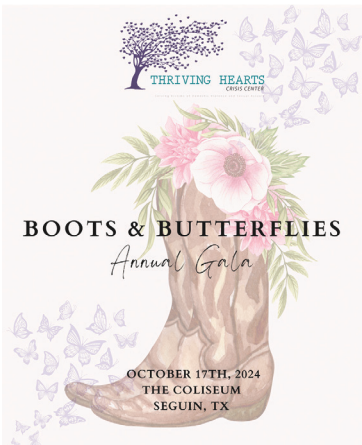
Saddle up, flutter over to Boots and Butterflies Gala

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Thriving Hearts Crisis Center (THCC), formerly Guadalupe Valley Family Violence Shelter, is excited to host its annual Boots and Butterflies Gala.

The fundraising event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 17 at The Coliseum in Seguin. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Individual tickets are \$50. Table sponsorships are available starting at only \$500 for a table of 10.

“This incredible organization, which has been a cornerstone of support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Guadalupe Valley area since 1983, is the



only shelter service of its kind in our community,” said CEO Manijeh (MJ) Huereca. “Thriving Hearts has been

steadfast in providing safety, support, and empowerment to those affected by these deeply impactful issues. Our gala is not only a celebration of our achievements but also a crucial moment to rally together in support of our continued efforts. This special event allows us to raise vital funds that directly impact our ability to expand services, enhance programs, and reach more individuals in need.”

THHC is offering various levels of sponsorships, each providing unique benefits that highlight a sponsors’ commitment to supporting survivors and ending violence in our

community.

“At the heart of our mission lies the powerful synergy between donors and our organization,” said Chief Impact Officer Melissa Wertz. “When you invest in our cause, you’re not just giving; you’re forging a partnership that uplifts communities, transforms lives, and creates a ripple effect of positive change. Whether you are a corporate or individual donor, your consideration is deeply appreciated,” Huereca and Wertz said. Silent and live auction items are also sought.

THCC asks the community to consider partnering with them in their mission to create

a safer and more supportive environment for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. All support will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it.

For more information contact Melissa Wertz, Chief Impact Officer, at 830/ 386-8412 or impact@thrivingheartscs.org or visit www.safeseguin.org.

Thriving Hearts Crisis Center, formerly known as Guadalupe Family Violence Shelter, serves Guadalupe, Gonzales, Karnes, and Wilson Counties. It has been providing free services to domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking survivors since 1983.

RWOYA to sponsor Constitution essay contest, scholarship

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Constitution Essay Contest is held by the Republican Women of Yoakum Area in celebration of Constitution Day, Sept. 17.

High school seniors from Lavaca, Gonzales and DeWitt County schools, as well as Christian schools and all 12th grade home-schooled students from these areas, are eligible to participate in the Constitution Essay Contest for a scholarship.

Checks to be awarded to the essay winners are \$1,300; \$800; \$600 and \$400. A total of four winners will be selected from all entries. This year, RWOYA is again including a prize of \$300 for the government teacher with the most students remaining in the semifinal round of judging.

The scholarship certificates and checks will be presented to the winners at an impressive Constitution Essay Contest awards ceremony and luncheon. This ceremony will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 11:30 a.m. at the Yoakum Community Center, 105 Huck St., Yoakum.

Schools of the winners will be notified prior to the awards ceremony. The winners and their parents will be notified and invited, but they will not know the place/amount of scholarship until the ceremony. The first place winner of \$1,300 must attend and will be asked to read his/her essay to the audience at the ceremony.

Judging of the essays is done with no reference to school or name of the student. The essays are identified by assigned numbers. Students submitting the winning essays are not identified until the winning essays are selected.

Complete rules for the essay contest and pocket Constitutions will be provided for each of the school campuses and for home-schooled students. Essays for judging will be picked up from each school’s office on Wednesday, Oct. 23. No essays will be accepted after those are picked up.

All high school seniors are invited and encouraged to attend the Constitution Essay Awards and scholarship luncheon, as there will be a keynote speaker with a message in reference to the Constitution. Photos will be taken.

All school principals, counselors and staff, as well as the public, are invited to attend.

Lunch will be provided at no charge for all students. Donations are accepted from adults.

For more information, contact the Republican Women of Yoakum Area: Jackie McNerney 832-725-4701 cell/text or Brenda Cash 361-594-4258 or 361-772-1442 cell/text.

PROCLAIMING NATIONAL 4-H WEEK



LEW K. COHN

The Gonzales County Commissioners Court passed a proclamation declaring Oct. 6-12, 2024, as National 4-H Week in Gonzales County to honor the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service for 116 years of providing experience-based education to youth throughout the Lone Star State. Open to ages eight to 18, the program seeks to provide a learning experience for all youth through their head, hearts, hands and health; helps young Texans to acquire knowledge, develop life skills and form attitudes to enable them to become self directed, productive and contributing members of society.

Noon, Breakfast Lions sponsor Peace Poster Contest

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Noon Lions Club and Gonzales Breakfast Lions Club are jointly holding their annual Lions International 2024-25 Peace Poster Contest, which is open for junior high students ages 11-13 as of Nov. 15.

The theme for this year is “Peace Without Limits.” For peace to be anything more than a possibility, everyone must make it a priority. This year the clubs are asking students to create a poster that speaks to the world’s infinite potential for kindness once people commit to pursuing the idea of peace without limits.

Students are asked to share their unique images of peace with others, so that all may have a greater tolerance and international understanding. Students must be residents of Gonzales

and come from public, private or homeschools. Check with your school office for contest rules. Only one entry per student is allowed.

Awards for the local contest are \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Two first place winners will be sent to district contest.

Posters will have to be turned in by Wednesday, Oct. 30. A Lion will come and pick up the posters in the office. If you have any questions, please call or text Lion Margie Radicke at 830-857-5411. If you are homeschooled call Margie to find out where you can deliver the poster.

Judging will occur at each Lions club after posters are turned in Oct. 30. Winners from the district contest will go to state and then the international contest. Prize money is awarded at each level. The larg-

est prize is \$5,000 at the international level.

Advice from the judges: Take your time and do your best. Quality is the key. You can see some of the past winners online

by searching Lions Peace Poster Contest. Create your response on the poster in picture form without using any words. Have fun with it. Get creative!



GPD, constable seek woman in connection with car burglaries, forgery

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Gonzales Police Department and Gonzales County Constable’s Office Precinct 3 are seeking the public’s assistance in identifying a female in connection to burglary of motor vehicles and forgery. Officers responded to 2500 block of Harwood Road regarding a burglary of motor vehicle, where the victim’s purse and wallet were stolen out of the vehicle. The female then altered checks from that vehicle and cashed them at a bank in Lockhart and

Luling.

If you know who this individual is, you are asked to contact Greater Gonzales County Crime Stoppers It is believed that this individual is also tied to other vehicle burglaries in the area.

Contact Greater Gonzales County Crime Stoppers at 830-672-8477 (TIPS), which is an anonymous tip line. You may also contact the Gonzales Police Department at 830-672-8686.

An additional \$1,000 cash reward has been offered by Sage Capital Bank for tips leading to an arrest.

Celebrations

Birthdays

September 26th Nell Correu Eddie Malatek	September 29th Lindsay Cantu Quincy Johnson Benny Lewis Tim Penney Evelyn Tieken	October 1st Carter Bowden Felicia Escobedo Nancy Georgie Debbie Henderson Levi Hernandez Neely Yackel
September 27th Trish Berger Monica De La Cruz	September 30th Ryan Arellano Hayley Blanton Julie Boscamp Jaime Eureste Paige Glass Jaylee Moeller Brian Phillips Antonio Ramirez Becky Schillhab Allison Vanacek	October 2nd Dalton Ray Harkey Daisy Marie Izaguirre Cole Moran Marilyn Neuse JoLaine Schurig Kenneth Witten Vandy Van Epps Chancey Veach
September 28th Shelia Johnson Jessica Smith Kathy Stanley John Stefinsky		

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 SUNNY	September 26 87°/66°	Sunshine 20% chance of Rain • RealFeel 89
 SUNNY	September 27 85°/66°	Plenty of sunshine 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 87
 SUNNY	September 28 87°/66°	Plenty of sunshine 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 91
 SUNNY	September 29 89°/68°	Plenty of sun 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 92
 SUNNY	September 30 89°/68°	Plenty of sun 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 93
 SUNNY	October 1 88°/66°	Plenty of sun 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 92
 SUNNY	October 2 89°/67°	Plenty of sunshine 20% chance of rain • RealFeel 92

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Nixon Tractor Supply to host farmers' market

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Sept. 28, the Nixon Tractor Supply store will host a farmers' market featuring locally-grown, fresh produce, as well as other seasonal products.

"This is a great opportunity for members of our community to support local farmers while also getting to enjoy deliciously fresh food," said a store manager of the Nixon store. "As a company, we believe in fostering community relationships while supporting the rural lifestyle, and this event allows us to do just that."

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., shoppers can stop in for produce and goods all produced by neighbors in the Nixon area.

This event is open to the public and will take place at 1276 County Road 174. For more information, please contact the Nixon Tractor Supply.

Garden Q&A with CALVIN FINCH



On grubs, shrubs and spinach transplants

Q. I have heard that a corn gluten treatment will control the spread of the disease within a tree infected with oak wilt. Is it true?

A. No, as far as I know there is no evidence that any fungal treatment other than propiconazole injections will protect a tree from oak wilt disease. The propiconazole must be applied by a certified applicator as per specifications. It is always easier to prevent oak wilt by painting the wounds.

Q. What are the large grubs that live on the edge of the compost pile? Should they be destroyed?

A. They are the larvae of one

of the large beetles. The grubs consume organic material and enrich the compost with their excrement. The adult depending on the species probably consumes other insects. They are a beneficial insect and should be protected.

Q. What is the shrub with the purple flowers that is blooming now? It is a favorite of the Monarch butterflies as a nectar source and freezes back every winter like Esperanza and Poinciana. It has yellow berries in the winter time that the birds eventually eat.

A, I believe you are describing the subtropical shrub *Duranta*. In addition to purple flowers some

of the plants have white flowers. Right now it is covered by Queen butterflies and Gulf Fritillary. The Monarchs will visit it for nectar when they pass through Central Texas on their migration to the Mexican wintering ground, any day now!

Q. I see that my favorite nursery already has spinach transplants for sale. Isn't it too early to plant them?

A. Yes, I believe the performance overall for spinach is best when we wait to plant the transplants after mid October. It does not like hot weather, and it certainly has been hot! Also wait and plant pansies about the same time.



Your tomatoes should have responded to the cooling temperatures in September by the leaves flattening out and the blooms finally setting fruit. Expect the tomatoes to start ripening in October.

If you have not planted your winter vegetables yet, get them planted. Start by adding 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of slow release 19-5-9 for each 100 sq. ft. of garden bed. Use transplants for broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, Swiss chard, kale, cabbage, and collards. Use seeds for beets, radishes, lettuce, turnips, English peas, and rutabagas. Spinach transplants can also be planted in October. Wait until November to plant onion transplants. Soak the English pea seeds in water overnight and plant the soaked seed against a trellis for support. I have success by spacing 3 of the large greens (broccoli, cauliflower, etc.) on each 8-foot row.

Be ready to protect the cabbage, collards and other greens from cabbage loopers with one of the many Bt insecticides. They (the loopers) will find them! Bt is an organic insecticide that is applied to the foliage where loopers have appeared. The looper caterpillars must consume

the Bt as feed on the foliage for it to control them.

Your zinnias and vincas may last another 2 months but now is a good time to plant the winter annuals. Plant snapdragons, alyssum, stocks, and calendula as transplants. Use seed for sweet peas. Like English peas, sweet peas need the support of a trellis to grow their best. Large tomato cages work pretty well if you don't have other structures. Be prepared to replant sweet peas every month until they get the weather they prefer, not too cold or not too warm. Sweet peas, stocks, and alyssum have wonderful fragrances.

Wait to plant pansies and violas until later in the month. They are the best winter blooming flowers for hanging baskets and small containers. Cyclamen and primrose are even more sensitive to warm weather so plant them in early November. The blooms of both cyclamen and primrose provide intense waxy colors. Make sure you protect the primrose from snails and slugs with bait or beer traps.

The first of October is the time to fertilize the lawn. Use a "winterizer" fertilizer with a formula with a 3-1-2 nutrient ratio such as 18-06-12. Use the "winterizer" because the nitrogen

is fast release and easier for the slow growing fall grass to utilize. Most of nutrients are stored for a fast growth start in the spring.

Early October is also a good time to apply wildflower seeds to a growing area in full sun where the seed can make contact with bare soil. Select your favorite wildflower seeds or better yet, obtain a mix from your favorite nursery or an internet seed source that is formulated to do well in Central Texas.

The migrating Monarch butterflies will be in the San Antonio area in October. To help them successfully complete their final leg of the migration to Mexico arrange to have nectar producing plants available in your landscape. Blue mist flower, zinnias, Porter weed, lantana, salvias, coral vine, calendula, stocks, alyssum, fall aster, butterfly weed, and tropical milkweed all are good nectar sources. Some butterfly researchers recommend that the tropical milkweed plants be pruned back to the ground on November 1, or even October 1! For background information on whether or not to cut it back seek out the new book, "The Monarch Butterfly Migration" by San Antonio area author, Monika Maeckle. I am undecided.

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LIVESTOCK WEEKLY REPORTS

GONZALES LIVESTOCK MARKET

September 21st, 2024
Cattle – 869
Compared to our last sale:
Number 1 choice calves and yearlings sold steady to 2.00-3.00 higher. Less quality calves and yearlings sold steady. Packer cows and bulls sold lower.
Stocker-feeder Steers: Medium and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 325-410; 300-400 lbs., 285-360; 400-500 lbs., 245-395; 500-600 lbs., 220-265; 600-700 lbs., 210-235; 700-800 lbs., 205-219. Bull Yearlings: 700-900 lbs., 165-190.
Stocker-feeder heifers: Medium

and large-frame No. 1: 150-300 lbs., 315-375; 300-400 lbs., 240-295; 400-500 lbs., 215-255; 500-600 lbs., 210-228; 600-700 lbs., 188-214.
Packer Cows: Good lean utility and commercial, 105-118; Cutters, 115-124; Canners, 90-105; High yielding fat cows, 104-110.
Packer Bulls: Yield grade 1 & 2, good heavy bulls, 132-145; Light weights and medium quality bulls, 125-130.
Stocker Cows: \$900 to \$1,800. Pairs: \$1,800 to \$2,500.

NIXON LIVESTOCK
September 23rd, 2024
Cattle – 1049

Steers:
200-300 lbs - \$334-375
300-400 lbs - \$304-380
400-500 lbs - \$251-330
500-600 lbs - \$224-268
600-700 lbs - \$210-245
700-800 lbs - \$200-226
Heifers:
200-300 lbs - \$287-420
300-400 lbs - \$267-410
400-500 lbs - \$238-410
500-600 lbs - \$220-390
600-700 lbs - \$203-340
700-800 lbs - \$193-220
Slaughter Cows - \$86-114
Slaughter Bulls - \$110-155
Pairs: \$1100-1650

HALLETTSVILLE LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO., INC.
Sale date: September 17th
Cattle on hand: 1658
Packer Cows:
High Dressing: \$118-135
Medium Dressing: \$110-121
Low Dressing: \$95-110
Poor/Weak Cows: \$70-95
Packer Bulls:
High Dressing: \$154-165
Medium Dressing: \$132-152
Low Dressing: \$110-135
Stocker Cows:
Good Stocker/Cows & Heifers: None
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers: \$1300-1900
Good Cow & Calf Pairs: None
Medium Cow & Calf Pairs: None
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings:
Number 1 steer & bull calves: Under 200 lbs.: None
200-300 lbs.: \$310-440
300-400 lbs.: \$290-355
400-500 lbs.: \$255-330
500-600 lbs.: \$225-280
600-700 lbs.: \$215-250
700-800 lbs.: \$205-237.50
Number 1 heifer calves: Under 200 lbs.: None
200-300 lbs.: \$270-325
300-400 lbs.: \$255-310
400-500 lbs.: \$235-272
500-600 lbs.: \$215-262
600-700 lbs.: \$210-227.50
700-800 lbs.: \$190-222.50
Replacement Heifers:
350-700 lbs.: None
The calf market was stronger this week. No. 1 quality calves sold \$1 to \$5 higher. No. 2 kinds and fleshy bull calves mostly

steady. Average of all calves was \$3 higher. Packer cows sold \$6 to \$10 lower. Packer bulls sold \$4 to \$8 lower. Total supply was 160 head.

SEGUIN CATTLE CO.
No results were available as of deadline time

CUERO LIVESTOCK MARKET
September 20, 2024
Number of Head: 1,617
There were 122 cows and 25 bulls. Packer market on cows was weaker as fall runs begin. Tops on packer bulls was at \$155/cwt, while tops on cows was up to \$125/cwt. The calf market was steady with last week's levels. Demand is still strong leading to a very active market. Calves under 400 pounds were a little weaker while heavier calves showed some gains. The fundamentals of supply and demand continue to point to a higher market, but the futures market has not reflected that.

Packer bulls:	135.00-155.00
Packer cows:	
canners & cutters	110.00-125.00
poor & weak	65.00-100.00
Palpated: 14 bred	\$1,400-1,700
PAIRS: 3 Corriente@	\$1,100-1,250
Steer/Bull Calves: (AVG-HIGH)	
Under 200 lbs.	N o n e
200-250 lbs	363.00-405.00
250-299 lbs	323.00-380.00
300-350 lbs.	310.00-355.00
350-400 lbs.	300.00-350.00
400-450 lbs.	268.00-330.50
450-500 lbs.	245.00-310.00
500-550 lbs	235.00-268.00
550-600 lbs.	228.00-258.00
600-700 lbs	217.00-240.00
700-800 lbs	203.00-234.00
Heifer Calves: (AVG-HIGH)	
Under 250lbs	N o n e
200-250 lbs.	297.50-345.00
250-300 lbs.	274.00-320.00
300-350 lbs.	265.00-308.00
350-400 lbs.	257.00-332.00
400-450 lbs.	242.00-345.00
450-500 lbs.	225.00-315.00
500-550 lbs.	220.00-265.00
550-600 lbs.	215.00-262.00
600-700 lbs	210.00-260.00
Over 700 lbs.	195.00-245.00

*Replacement Heifer

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THE GONZALES
INQUIRER

Study shows Texas has most dangerous rural roads for truckers

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

A new study from Florida personal injury attorneys Fasig Brooks highlights the dangers that truck drivers face on rural roads across the United States, with Texas leading as the state with the most dangerous rural roads for truckers.

Using data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the study analyzed heavy truck miles driven and truck occupant fatalities in 2022.

The findings reveal that 67% of all trucker deaths occur on rural roads, where conditions such as higher speeds, longer emergency response times, and isolated stretches may be contributing factors. In comparison, 33% of fatalities happen on urban roads.

Texas stands out as the deadliest state for truck drivers on rural roads, with a shocking 99 trucker deaths occurring on rural roads in 2022 — by far the highest in the nation. This figure is an alarming 661% higher than the national average of 13 trucker deaths on rural roads.

The vast stretches of rural highways in Texas, combined with long driving hours and isolated conditions, could create a perilous environment for truck drivers.

In Pennsylvania, 35 rural truck driver deaths were recorded in the same year—169% higher than the national average. Pennsylvania's rural roads, which often wind through mountainous and hilly terrain, pose challenges for truckers, particularly in regions like the Appalachians.

Georgia ranks third, with 29 rural trucker fatalities in 2022—123% more than the national average. Like Texas and Pennsylvania, Georgia has large rural areas with long stretches of road that can be difficult for truck drivers to navigate.

In Alabama, there were 28 rural truck driver fatalities, which is 115% above the national average. Heavy truck traffic in the state may contribute to this high number.

In fifth place is North Carolina, which recorded 27 rural truck driver deaths, a figure 108% higher than the national average. North Carolina's rural highways, especially in mountainous regions, feature steep grades and sharp turns, making driving conditions challenging for truckers.

While many states pose significant dangers for truck drivers, others have managed to keep fatalities on rural roads remarkably low. Delaware recorded just 1 rural truck driver death in 2022—92% below the national average of 13. Similarly, Maine also recorded only 1 truck driver fatality on rural roads.

Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island reported zero rural truck driver deaths in 2022, making their rural highways some of the safest in the nation for truckers.

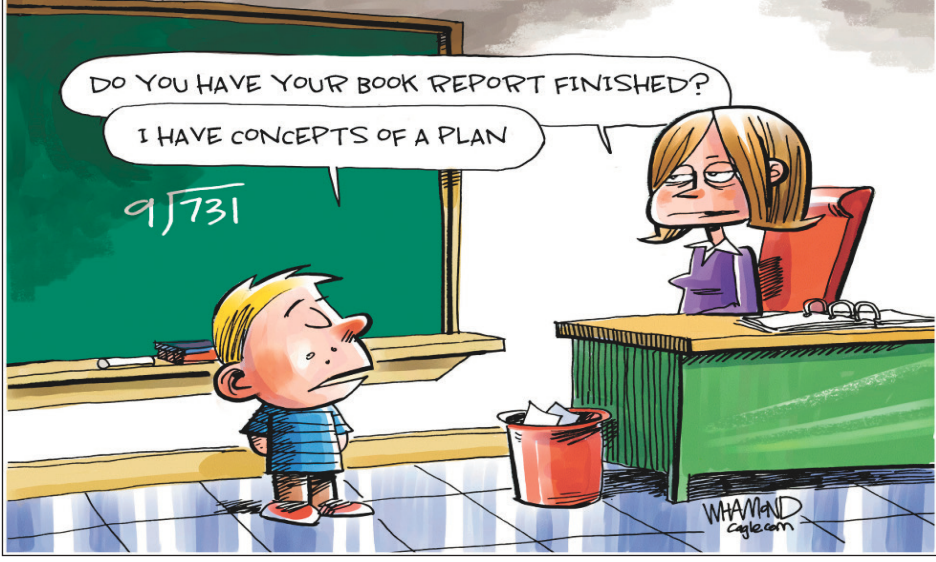
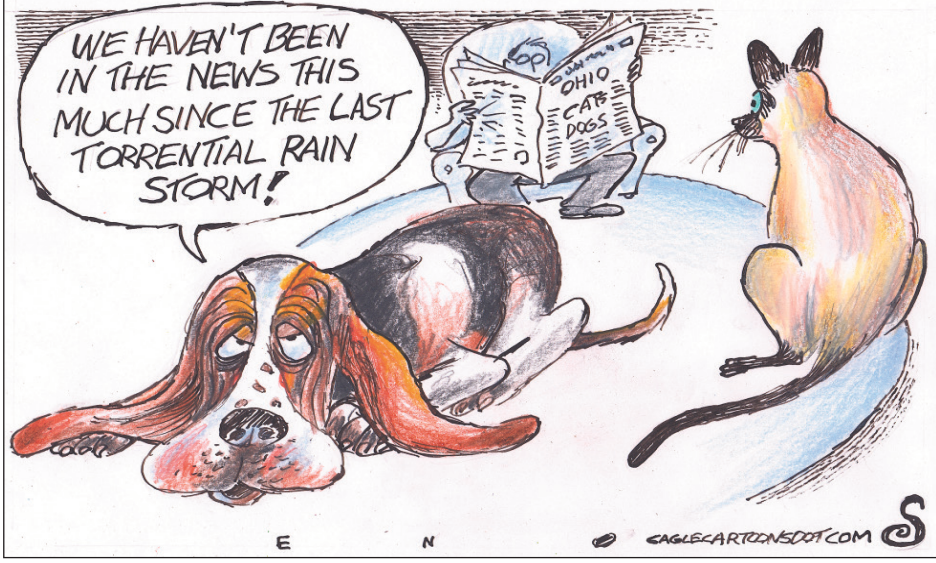
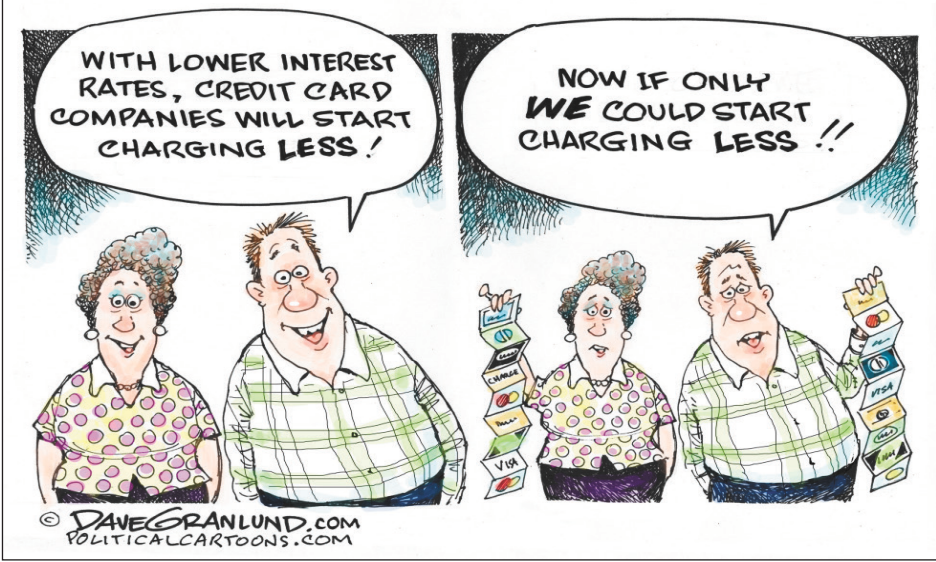
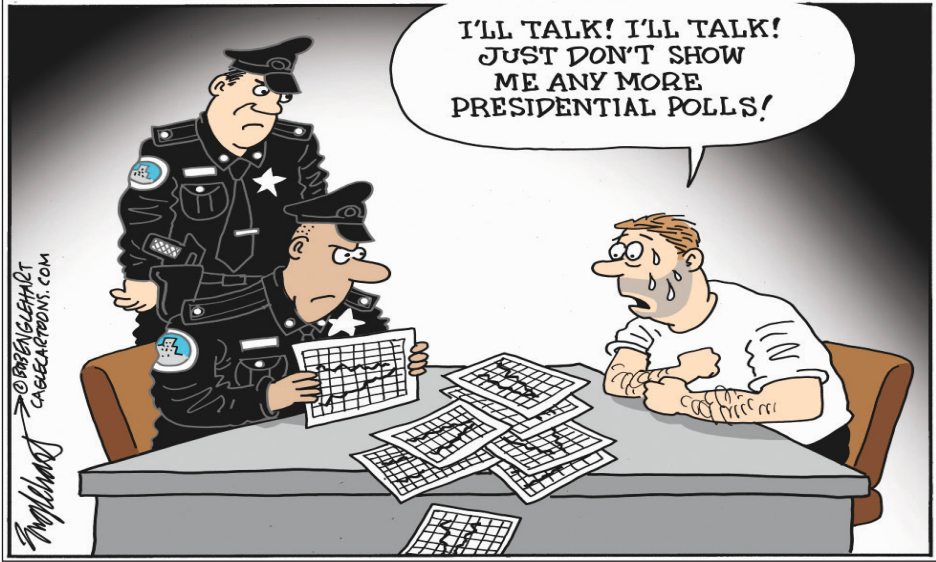
A spokesperson from Fasig Brooks commented on the findings, “It’s concerning to see the higher rate of rural truck driver fatalities in certain states. There’s no question that driving on rural roads presents unique challenges for truckers, and it’s important for states to improve safety measures to protect these essential workers.

“There should be a focus on improving road infrastructure and access to rest areas for truck drivers, as well as providing more support for emergency responders in rural areas. We also urge trucking companies to prioritize safety training and regular vehicle maintenance to ensure the well-being of their drivers and other motorists on the road.”

For more information, contact <https://fasigbrooks.com>.

TOP TEN STATES WITH THE MOST DANGEROUS RURAL ROADS FOR TRUCK DRIVERS		
Rank	State	Trucker Fatalities on Rural Roads
1	Texas	99
2	Pennsylvania	35
3	Georgia	29
4	Alabama	28
5	North Carolina	27
6	Missouri	26
7	California	25
8	Tennessee	22
9	Arizona	21
10	Oklahoma	21
		% Above the National Average
		661%
		169%
		123%
		115%
		108%
		100%
		92%
		69%
		62%
		62%

Opinion



The Gonzales Inquirer

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Staff

PUBLISHER
Lew Cohn

STAFF WRITER
Vandy Van Epps

CONTRIBUTING
Betty Cohn

BOOKKEEPER
Sanya Simmons

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On becoming a year older...

DR. DON NEWBURY
The Idle American



I have probably made this claim previously, but most friends know that my respect for redundancy has never been more than trivial. So, here I go again, certain that there finally are

but two groups of people--those who have egos and admit it and those who likewise have 'em and don't admit it.

I'm in the former group--giddy as a five-year-old with a store-bought birthday cake--buoyed by warm memories of a 60-hour whirlwind of accolades marking my 87th birthday.

It all began with a Magnolia, TX, potluck luncheon thrown by church Primetimers on my birthday "eve- eve." It ended in Brownwood, TX, where I handed officials the game ball to signal the beginning of the Howard Payne University/Hardin-Simmons University football game. (Side note: I made the hand-off without fumbling, and in a flash, my "15 seconds of fame" was over. Longtime friend Jay Allison, CEO of Comstock Resources in Frisco, also was an honoree, serving as "honorary team captain" for the entirety of the game.)....

First things first: Several months ago, Barbara Harris, a go-getter in Magnolia, invited me to speak to her church Primetimers. I agreed, mentioning that the event would mark the beginning of my 65th year of public speaking, two days prior to my 87th birthday on Sept. 7.

Eureka, thought she. Why not have a birthday party for me and all attendees? This thought led to Pandora's box opening, and her creative juices--flowing regularly in daylight hours and often in dawn's early light--overflowed.

There were birthday cakes everywhere, and enough additional table decorations to start a Mardi Gras, stopping just short of bead-throwing. There were 12 tables for persons born from January through December....

Emcee Barbara--who never saw a detail to be overlooked--was in rare form. Someone said she can gab at 250 words a minute--with gusts to 300--while threading the needle of an electric sewing machine with it a'runnin'. I can believe that.

She decided to reveal to the group of some 80 persons how many total birthdays were being observed. First Baptist Church staffer Milt Eichler calculated the cumulative figure to be well north of 5,000. (Yikes, it was sobering to realize that my birthdays contributed nearly 2% of this figure.)

I came home with much, including a birthday cake, an encased 1937 Indian head "birth nickel," a touching tribute poem penned by her herself, and a "pet rock" painted by her hubby in school colors of Howard Payne University, where I served as president from 1986-1997....

The Harrises are on track for squeezing the most from retirement years. They have children and grandchildren to enjoy, a church to serve, friends to value and a marriage of 53 years to savor.

These retired educators have a lovely home, where I spent the night prior to speaking. I even got to see their pet turtles--named, of course--muddle around the backyard.

Barbara crowds much into her schedule, including meetings of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)--a program that she claims hasn't worked for her--and a sewing group whose members "mostly keep each other in stitches." Walter, a high school and HPU track runner, seems to pace himself with home projects and rock painting....

In Brownwood, my team lost. However, I remained on a "sugar high" from intake of birthday cake slabs. Still, I handled my football hand-off duties acceptably, though not in a manner nearly as statelily as Allison, who was stoic and dignified throughout the game.

Down deep, he was probably hurting for his Baylor Bears, who lost that weekend, too. Maybe I'll get Harris to paint him a pet rock, too. (Pet rocks, BTW, emerged in 1975.)

There is much to savor, including birthday wishes from several hundred alumni, among whom were two HPU graduates who bought my books. Such discriminating readers are particularly valued....

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is one of the nation's longest-running syndicated humor columns. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

Apaches' defense stalls Eagles' offense in big win

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Apaches closed out non-district play with a 34-14 home opener win over the Pleasanton Eagles Friday, Sept. 20.

The Apaches' defense shut down the Pleasanton offense, forcing multiple turnover on downs, an interception and holding the Eagles to only two offensive scores.

"The defense has been pretty solid all year long, and they're continuing to get better. Still, you know, just a couple of plays that hurt us, and we've got to stop those for us to get to where we need to get defensively," Apaches head football coach Joey Rivera said.

Apaches defensive back Isaac Gonzales recorded the team's interception and was glad to be part of a strong defense.

"Honestly, I think it's the best [defense] in our division, best in the district, and I think we're going to keep on showing it every single week," Gonzales said.

The Apache offense rolled past the Eagles' defense with three touchdowns by Ayden Ramirez, one by David Clack III and a connection from quarterback Tyler Hoffman to Damion Hunt.

"I think we just went out and executed. We had a good week of practice, and it all paid off," Ramirez said.

Hunt said his team's offense has been getting better during the past two games this season.

The offensive line for the Apaches put in the work against the Eagles, paving way for the five touchdowns that were scored.

"We were very solid today. I



The Gonzales Apaches run onto the field of Apache Stadium with American flags for law enforcement and military appreciation Friday, Sept. 20.

think everybody executed their plays right. All week we've been stressing about getting our blocks and doing everything right. I think we did it today," Apaches offensive lineman Omar Borjon said.

Rivera said the offensive line is a great unit and they were working cohesively during the game.

"You know it's always going to be a good night when the O-line is calling the plays. They know what they want to run, and you don't question them when they're doing that," Rivera said.

Apache Stadium was electric for the first home game of the season and Rivera was excited to get back to playing at home.

"It's always great to be here to

Apache Stadium. I still say it's one of the most special places in Texas. It's a special community, and it was great to have the crowd packed, the band going, cheer, Flames, our trainers, everyone that was involved, ROTC, from the national anthem and everything. Just a beautiful night in Gonzales, Texas, for sure," Rivera said.

The Apaches will take on a familiar team to open up district play at home Friday, Oct. 4 against the Smithville Tigers.

The last two games have come down to one or two scores and Rivera and his team know what to expect from Smithville.

"It's the same we've been preparing all week. It's just we're going to work on ourselves, we've got to continue. It doesn't matter who the opponent is, we're still continuing as Apaches to get better, but we know what the last two years have held with them, so we're not taking anything for granted, but we'll be ready here for Homecoming," Rivera said.

The Apaches and Tigers first met in 1942 and have played against each other 13 times. Gonzales leads the series 8-5.

The Smithville game kicks off at 7:30 p.m.

Apaches head football coach Joey Rivera speaks with his players after the win over Pleasanton Friday, Sept. 20



The Gonzales Lady Apaches cross-country team with their coaches for the home at JB Well Saturday, Sept. 21.

Gonzales cross country hosts home meet

STAFF REPORT

The Gonzales cross country teams returned home to host its home meet at JB Wells Saturday, Sept. 21.

The varsity Lady Apaches finished sixth overall at the meet; Jordyn Gonzales, Yaritza Angel and Kaylie Ramirez finished in the top 15.

The varsity Apaches finished sixth overall at the home meet; Kristopher Ramos and Homero Ruiz finished in the top 10 in the boys division.

The JV Apaches and JV Lady Apaches finished strong at the meet; Kevin Garcia, Martine Ramirez and Logan Wyman finished in the top 30 in the boys division; and Mariah Ramos, Jimena Grifaldo and Alexia Kuntschik

RESULTS	
Varsity Apaches: (seventh out of 11)	Varsity Lady Apaches: (sixth out of 10)
Crkistofer Ramos – fifth place: 17:42	Jordyn Gonzales – third: 13:21.37
Homero Ruiz – eight: 17:39	Yaritza Angel – eighth: 13:40.64
Carlos Pedraza – 16th: 18:50	Kaylie Ramirez – 11th: 13:58.32
Diego Leon – 23rd: 19:00	Jaelyn Ramos – 26th: 14:55.83
Cain Cardoza – 29th: 20:44	Sophia Castro – 27th: 14:55.83
Chris Gonzalez – DNR	Khloe Granados – 31st: 15:18
Alex Martinez – 50th: 21:51	Viviana Barrientos – 39th: 15:43
	Angie Palacios – 57th: 17:06
	Kylee Bairrington – 58th: 17:10
JV Lady Apaches	JV Apaches
Mariah Ramos – fourth: 16:14.44	Kevin Garcia – 14th: 22:34
Jimena Grifaldo – seventh: 16:33.81	Martin Ramirez – 29th: 27:16
Alexia Kuntschik – ninth: 17:02	Logan Wyman – 30th: 27:47
Reigna Rhodes – 24th: 18:02.58	Jesus Maldonado – DNR
Hailey Garcia – 20:54	
Yasmin Bairrentos – DNR	

finished in the in the top 10 in the girls division.

The Gonzales cross country

teams will head to Corpus Christi for the Islander Splash meet Saturday, Sept. 28.



Junior middle hitter Isabela Ikard (15) spikes the ball in the air against the Lady Badgers. Ikard recorded three out of four kills in the second set against Karnes City.

Lady Apaches fall to Karnes City in five sets

BY VANDY VAN EPPS
Gonzales Inquirer

The Gonzales Lady Apaches played their final non-district match of the season against the Karnes City Lady Badgers Tuesday, Sept. 24.

The Lady Apaches fell to Karnes City in a tough five-set battle (18-25, 25-10, 15-25, 25-20, 13-15); this was the first time this season that Gonzales went to five sets in a match.

Gonzales head volleyball coach Kim Payne said her team has been working hard at practice, especially since the district opener against La Vernia is just around the corner.

"We've been working really hard, and they showed their stuff today, and I'm very proud of my team. They didn't let up," Payne said.

The Lady Apaches recorded multiple kills from Isabella Ikard and Gabbrielle Torries; and multiple aces from libero Blakely Mercer, Alaina Valle and Shy kayden Clack in the loss to Karnes City.

"They know my expectations and the serves. We're coming up to district, and I don't want any missed serves, so they know my expectations. I'm serving, and we worked really, really hard in practices on hitting and placing the ball and hitting where we need to hit where the holes are," Payne said.



Sophomore defensive specialist Alaina Valle (2) at serve for the Lady Apaches against Karnes City. Valle recorded four aces in the loss to Karnes City Tuesday, Sept. 20.

The Lady Apaches open up district on the road against the 16th-ranked La Vernia Lady Bears Friday, Sept. 27.

"We're going to watch film tomorrow and we're going to see where their weaknesses are, if they have any, and just prepare. We've got to learn from a high intensity game as we just played and carry this high intensity and go into a very high intensity atmosphere on Friday," Payne said.

The La Vernia match starts at 6:15 p.m.



Sophomore libero Blakely Mercer (21) sets up a serve for Gonzales in the non-district match against Karnes City. Mercer recorded five aces in the loss to Karnes City Tuesday, Sept. 20.



The Gonzales Lady Apaches huddle up before the start of the Karnes City match Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Nixon-Smiley cross country competes in Falls City

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs cross country finished strong at the Falls City meet Saturday, Sept. 21.

The varsity Lady Mustangs finished third overall in the girls' division; Gabriela Castillo Limon and Olivia Jackson finished in the top 10.

The varsity Mustangs finished fifth place in the boys' division; Jayven Robles and Dennison Kenn finished in the top 25.

The Junior High Mustangs took home first place overall in the boys' division and the Junior High Lady Mustangs finished seventh overall.

The Nixon-Smiley cross-country teams will head to Luling for the Sandia City Invitational Saturday, Sept. 28.



The Nixon-Smiley Mustangs junior high cross-country team took home first place at the Falls City meet Saturday, Sept. 21.

RESULTS	
Varsity Girls (two miles) - third place	JH Girls (two miles)- seventh place
Gabriela Castillo Limon – sixth: 14:03	Ahtziry Espino – 32nd: 15:32
Olivia Jackson – seventh: 14:04	Mia Rodriguez – 33rd: 15:34
Stephanie Avila – 16th: 15:18	Laramie Birdwell – 50th: 16:46
Tyra Ortiz – 36th: 17:54	Anayeli Hernandez – 52nd: 16:56
Jessica Acosta – 38th: 19:40	Kynzli Munoz – 57th: 17:18
Alize Davila – 39th: 19:40	Kylie Munoz – 66th: 18:08
Jaqueline Lopez – 40th: 19:50	
Varsity Boys (5K)- fifth place	JH Boys (two miles)- first place
Jayven Robles – 16th: 20:53	Reagan Ramirez – second: 12:07
Dennison Keen – 25th: 22:19	Jedidiah Alvarez – third: 12:17
Elias Villasana – 27th: 22:30	Kyzick Jantes – fourth: 12:23
Zechariah Munoz – 37th: 25:06	Case Martin – 16th: 13:18
Francisco Acosta – 40th: 25:41	Brayden Gordon – 30th: 14:35
Angel Jacobo – 41st: 25:44	Jayden Avila – 37th: 15:38
Khali Jantes – 42nd: 25:55	Nathan Ordenez – 40th: 15:32
Oscar Gamez – 46th: 26:00	Hayden Gordon – 48th: 16:41
	Corbin Dillard – 51st: 16:58
	Brayden Trigo – 57th: 17:14
	Christopher Trigo – 75th: 22:40
JV Boys (two miles):	
Christopher Stansel – 10th: 13:46	
Gabriel Acosta – 22nd: 15:40	
Waylon Croft – 24th: 16:51	
Julian Casas – 25th: 17:27	

GOLF SCRAMBLE WINNERS



The winning team from the Sept. 18 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Billy Hyman, Dee Sandelovic, David Smith, Bill Kessler and San Juan Garcia.



The second-place team from the Sept. 18 Golf Scramble at Independence Golf Course in Gonzales were, from left, Zack Kotzebue, Chase Kotzebue, Bart Wynn, Pat Benevides and Mike VanNorman.

Lady Mustangs fall to Marion

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs traveled to Marion for a non-district match against the Lady Bulldogs Friday, Sept. 20.

The Lady Mustangs and Lady Bulldogs were former district opponents in the 2022 and 2023 seasons; this year, the teams are playing in two different districts in the 3A classification.

The Lady Mustangs fell to Marion in

a three-set sweep (13-25, 16-25, 18-25).

Nixon-Smiley hosted the Runge Yellowjackets Tuesday, Sept. 24 for the final non-district match of the 2024 season.

The Lady Mustangs will open up district play against their rival, the Stockdale Brahmas, Friday, Sept. 27 on the road.

The last time these teams squared off as district opponents was in the 2021 season.

The Stockdale game starts at 5 p.m.

Lady Mustangs win in five sets over Runge

STAFF REPORT

The Nixon-Smiley Lady Mustangs hosted the Runge Yellowjackets Tuesday, Sept. 24 in the final non-district match of the 2024 season.

The Lady Mustangs snapped a four-game losing streak with a five-set win over the Yellowjackets.

Nixon-Smiley will shift focus to district play and will travel to Stockdale Friday, Sept. 27 for the district opener

against the Lady Brahmas.

The last time these teams squared off as district opponents was in the 2021 season; and the rivalry extends to all sports with Nixon and Stockdale being neighbors on US 87.

The Lady Mustangs are 2-11 against Stockdale since 2016; the last time Nixon-Smiley beat the Lady Brahmas was a district sweep in the 2021 season.

The Stockdale match will start at 5 p.m.

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- Friday, October 18, 2024**
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Saturday September 28, 2024

RALLY & FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF YOAKUM AREA

Social Hour & Silent Auction 5:00pm – 6:30pm
Rally & Speaker Presentations 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Emcee:
Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, TX State Senator for Dist. 18

Speaker:
Shelley Luther, Rep Nominee for House Dist. 62

Special Guest:
Brent Webster, First Asst. Attorney General

Guest Appearances by:
Aj Louderback, Rep Nominee House District 30
Alan Schoolcraft, Rep Nominee House District 44
Judge Ysmael Fonseca, Rep Nominee 13th Court of Appeals Place 4
Gina Parker, Rep Nominee Court of Criminal Appeals

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Majek Winery - Hallettsville
Hodge Podge - Hallettsville
Sandy's Wings and Things - Hallettsville
Lirarossa Artisan Cheese - Moulton
Bea's Place - Shiner

Sunken Gardens Eatery - Shiner
Sweet Bea's - Shiner
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WORKSHOP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we’re missing still are the discretionary items that aren’t really best practices, necessarily, but they’re ‘What do you want to do?’ As far as a time frame, it’s really just working out the details — we’re real close. We could have it ready (for adoption) by the next court date (on Oct. 15).”

A lot of what is left also will be moving items into the appendices for the ordinance from the body of the document, which Gomez said should be done so “staff can continue to update the specifics and provide the recommended updates to the court for approval on the consent agenda so it doesn’t have to go through the formal amendment process every time you want to change it.”

Gomez said the subdivision regulations and statutes which allow counties to control platting, subdividing and water availability, are updated nearly every session “because of the growth that Texas is going through and the water shortages.”

“These are hot button issues, so it’s really important to stay on top of the updates,” Gomez said. “Counties are limited by what the statute says they can do. This is different from municipalities, who can do everything except for what the statute says they can’t do.

“The Texas Local Government Code says these are the things counties can do, and that’s it, so if there’s any kind of power you want, we’ve got to use our creative processes to figure out which of the boxes that you have control over fits,” he added. “You have control over construction, for example, so if there’s any dust that is coming up from road construction, you can address it there. You have control over water quality issues, so erosion and sedimentation controls are

a common requirement for construction permits, whether you’re in the county or the city.”

Precinct 2 Commissioner Donnie Brzozowski asked Gomez if the county could put a disclaimer into the regulations that “the county’s not responsible for the dust” that is stirred up by oilfield traffic on county roads or coming from private property.

“Is there anything we could do on that, even if it was a subdivision that was, you know, 10 or more?” Brzozowski asked. “Is there any way we could work that in?”

Precinct 3 Commissioner Kevin La Fleur said he sees a lot of issues with dust coming from railroad property in the county, which has been ongoing for the past three years.

“People will call in to TCEQ and they will come out and say, ‘Yeah, you’ve got a dust problem,’ and then TCEQ calls us wanting to put the burden on the county,” La Fleur said.

Gomez said he thinks the county would be well-suited to draft a disclaimer and adopt it into their current subdivision code.

Brzozowski also said he has concerns about people coming in and trying to develop subdivisions near large commercial chicken farms and egg-laying operations in the Waelder area.

“They’re not telling how many hens they have out there and they were there before anybody else,” Brzozowski said. “Now these people want to build a subdivision right across the road from it. The flies are so bad, you can’t hardly get out of your truck. Don’t leave the window down because they’ll stay with you for years. You can’t get them out of there. There are the flies and it really smells bad.”

Brzozowski said the problem is a developer is going to develop the land near these

chicken farms and “he’s going to sell it, and he’s gonna drive off and get the profit, and he’s gonna leave the problems with us.”

“We’re trying to protect the people that are buying that piece of property,” Brzozowski said. “Some people drive out there and the wind’s blowing in the opposite direction. They sign a contract, and the husband tells his wife, ‘I bought this wonderful piece of property.’ Then they go out there and the wind changes and the flies are jumping everywhere.”

Gomez suggested that part of the platting process, under health and safety, could be to make it required for developers to disclose the possibility of whether there is a chicken plant in the area. He noted that the county cannot dictate zoning, however.

“There are a lot of counties that are doing a lot of things that they don’t have, in my opinion, a strong statutory basis to be requiring, but they still do it,” Gomez said. “I’m not saying that you don’t have that statutory basis. I’m saying it’s in a gray area, and you can argue both sides, whether or not you do.

“It stinks, because as a commissioners court that cares about their citizens, you don’t want that for them. Legally speaking, it’s a tough area. People are impeded by the law doing their due diligence work before they buy a property, so what can you do? What can you do to maintain that balance — everything in your power not to do their job for them, but to give them a little heads up.”

Brzozowski also indicated his concerns about water, especially with subdivisions where people are sharing wells.

“It’s just like these homeowner associations where they have these roads

and they’re supposed to have everybody put in a little money,” he said. “That doesn’t work out in these rural areas we got. I’ve got one now that people have been complaining because nobody wants to put in any money. But that’s not a county owned road.

“Those wells can be the same thing. What are they going to do if a well goes down and it costs \$15,000 to fix it? Are they going to share the cost of that one? What if one is saying they don’t have the money and another says they can’t afford to pay it all, so then there they are sitting there without water.”

Gomez said the revised ordinance has “pretty robust regulations for water availability.”

“One of them is requiring a demonstration of water availability and the broad requirements around that,” Gomez said. “And one of those can be, arguably, requiring a shared well agreement, which is a standard legal contract.”

County Emergency Management Director and Development Director Jimmy Harless discussed road frontage and right of way requirements and the desire to possibly eliminate flag lots, or parcels of land shaped like a flag with a long, narrow strip of land extending from the street to the main part of the lot.

Harless said in preliminary talks, the county had discussed extending the road frontage requirement from 50 feet to 60 feet, which is “a normal right-of-way width.”

“Sixty feet would mean you could continue with the flag lots, but if you wanted to try to do away with the flag lots, with exceptions, you could go to 100 feet,” Harless said. “Guadalupe County has 200 feet, which I personally think is too much, but I’m thinking 100

feet minimum would cut down if not pretty much eliminate flag lots.”

Harless said the county has increased fees for septic systems permitting by \$100 and floodplain permitting by \$100 because “we are way behind on that.” He then discussed concerns about the permit fees for driveways, as single-family homes have long been just \$50. He suggested the possibility of raising that amount to \$250 and raising commercial permits (mobile home and RV parks, commercial businesses and subdivision entrances) to \$400.

“If there’s a typical driveway up to a single-family residence or a couple of houses, that’s currently \$50,” Harless said. “If they’re building an interior road and those lots are coming off that interior road, we consider that commercial. That’s not a driveway; that’s an interior private street. The only thing we are trying to keep down is the farming and ranching side at \$50.”

Commissioners discussed having to haul in several loads of concrete to lay down on the road and the right-of-way when new driveways are put in to protect the county roadways. That can run up to \$500 per truckload of concrete, and if three are needed, that can be \$1,500 in expense to the county.

After some discussion, commissioners indicated a desire to see the driveway fees go to \$500 for residential and \$1,500 for commercial.

Commissioners were asked by developers present if the new regulations would take affect for projects already in progress. While Brzozowski wanted this to take place, Gomez said any projects which had already paid permitting fees and submitted preliminary plats would be grandfathered in under the old ordinance.

DISASTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to get replacement parts, the load placed on the system and on Well No. 3 caused it to stop operating Monday, Sept. 23.

A declaration signed by Mayor Pro Tem Ellis Villasana said the system “has been determined to need additional repairs and maintenance before adequate potable water service can be restored.”

Under the declaration, city residents cannot use the water from the water supply “for drinking, cooking, bathing, brushing teeth, or use for pets. Water may be used for washing clothes and flushing toilets only and such use shall be restricted to necessary use only to prevent unsanitary conditions.”

The city is working with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to resolve the issue as quickly as possible and to restore potable water to all residents.



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950PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
The governing board of Austin County Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Association, Inc. pursuant to the bylaws, calls an annual meeting of the membership of the Association to be held Saturday, October 12, 2024 beginning at 8:00 A.M. at the home office of the association located at 16836 Fordtran Blvd., Industry, Tx. The membership meeting is called for the purpose of electing commissioners for the auxiliaries whose terms have or will expire within one year from the date of the annual meeting.

950PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Request for Proposals
The Gonzales ISD is requesting proposals for Materials for the Apache Stadium Parking Lot Project. Submissions should be addressed to Gonzales ISD, Attn: Chief Financial Officer, 1615 St. Louis St, Gonzales, TX 78629 and will be received at that address until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 8, 2024. Specifications may be obtained on the district's website www.gonzalesisd.net/page/171 or by calling 830-672-9551.

950PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL SURFACE TREATMENT/RECYCLING FACILITY PERMIT
On September 19, 2024, Waste Facilities, Inc. filed an application with the Railroad Commission of Texas for a **COMMERCIAL SURFACE TREATMENT/RECYCLING FACILITY PERMIT** to treat solid oil and gas waste for commercial use as reusable product.

The proposed treatment/recycling site is located approx. 3.6 miles south of Smiley, Texas, in the 360 George W Petty, Gonzales County. The proposed disposal site is located on real property owned by Copeland C Trust & Taft Linda Copeland.

Affected persons may protest this application. Protests must be in writing and must be received by the 15th day after the last date of publication of this notice. The last date of publication of this notice is expected to be October 4, 2024, which means protests should be received by October 19, 2024 (15 Days Later).

Protests must be sent to: Technical Permitting Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-3840).

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September 19
Puzzle Answers

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


Last Puzzle Solution
S-1707

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VC celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month with events, activities

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Victoria College is celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month with a series of events and activities for students and the community through Oct. 15.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 in the United States to recognize the diverse cultures and significant contributions of Hispanic communities.

“We are proud of Victoria College’s designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, with Hispanic students making up a significant portion of our college community — 48 percent of our total enrollment,” said Dr. Jennifer Kent, VC President. “This designation has resulted in VC receiving over \$7.4 million in federal grant funds to expand educational opportunities for students.”

Victoria College kicked off the month-long celebration on Tuesday, Sept. 24, with the second annual VC Family Fiesta Day at the VC Sports Center. VC students, employees and their families will enjoy games, crafts, Ballet Folklórico and Mariachi performances, food and door prizes.

VC’s Student Life Office

is partnering with the Latin American Student Organization (LASO) to host the bingo game, Lotería, for students on Wednesday, Oct. 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Library Building. Students will have the opportunity to win prizes and enjoy food and beverages.

VC’s Multicultural Committee, in partnership with LASO, will host a presentation titled “Hispanic Representation in Comics & Media” at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 8. VC History Instructor Fred Aguilar will delve into the political history of comic books. The presentation will examine how recent comics have begun to offer a more positive and authentic reflection of the Hispanic experience. The presentation is open to the public and will take place in VC’s Library Building. Light refreshments will be served.

On Thursday, Oct. 10, VC’s Museum of the Coastal Bend will unveil “Where Texas Ranching Began: La Misión,” the first component of a new permanent exhibit exploring the region’s ranching heritage. A reception for VC students and employees will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., followed by an evening reception for museum members and sponsors. The community is invited



Ballet Folklórico dancers wear colorful clothing to perform.

to a public opening event for the new exhibit on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

On Tuesday, Oct. 15, VC’s Student Life Office will wrap up the Hispanic Heritage Month festivities by offering students an opportunity to stop by the Library Building from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up a tortilla-making kit so they

can try their hand at making tortillas at home with their families.

Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month, the Museum of the Coastal Bend will showcase “El Camino Real de los Tejas: Its History, People, and Places.” This temporary exhibit examines the 18th-century Spanish colonial thor-

oughfare instrumental in the settlement, development and history of Texas. Admission to the museum is free and open to the public.

For a full list of events and more information, go to Visit. VictoriaCollege.edu/Series and select “Hispanic Heritage Month 2024.”

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Caraway Cemetery Association meeting set

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The annual Caraway Cemetery Association cemetery meeting will be held at the cemetery on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. this year due to unforeseen circumstances.

If anyone has any concerns, issues, or problems that need to be discussed prior to this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact either of us so that it can be added to the agenda.

Please remember that concrete curbs and permanent structures of any kind require prior approval. We ask that you share this information with your family.

Donations are usually made at the annual meetings but can be mailed to Mary Caraway at her address below.

President: Sharon Kalisek, 2645 CR 115, Pleasanton, TX 78064, 210-710-3182, skalisek64@gmail.com. Secretary: Mary Caraway, 451 FM 1682, Bebe, TX 78614. 830-437-2076, mbcaraway@yahoo.com.

Kaiser/Theile reunion to be held Oct. 6

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The 66th annual Kaiser/Theile family reunion will be held Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Turner Hall, six miles west of Yoakum on Texas 111W.

A BBQ lunch will be provided and organizers ask each family to bring a side dish and/or a dessert. Please bring a copy of the recipe with your dish or a

copy of any of your favorite recipes you wish to share with everyone. Meat, bread, drinks, and paper goods will be provided.

This year they are adding to the silent auction and will have a table specifically for the children (infants to teenagers). Each family is asked to bring an auction item(s) for an adult and/or a child. Come join for a fun filled day with lots of visiting with family!

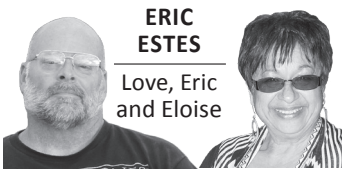
Hello everyone, hope everything's just fine and dandy with you and yours. After doing some mowing yesterday, then spending the evening feeding my racoons, I slept like a (big ugly) baby, and woke up totally refreshed. I've apparently acquired three new baby racoons this week, and am really enjoying training them to not "bite the hand that feeds them." So far, so good. Something about baby animals is just way too cute. They'll come over and smell my legs, reach out and feel them, then smell them again. Kinda like Eloise did when we first started dating, until I had a leg cramp and ended up kicking her across the room...poor "Honey." And like Eloise, now that they're getting use to me, they also enjoy being petted. Yep, gotta keep them fires-a-burnin'!

It seems that as I've grown older my sleep patterns are random and all over the place. I'll go through a period of days where I'll sleep 4-5 hours a night, then sleep 6-7 hours per night, with no apparent rhyme or reason. Like most folks, I've always got a lot on my mind, but don't feel overly stressed about much. Scripture (Joel 2:28) says that in the last days God will pour out his spirit and old men will dream dreams. I guess we're not quite there yet, as my dreams resemble a bad acid trip. Seems

I'm always trying to figure something out with people I've never met in places I've never been to, but somehow makes sense until I wake up.

According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), about one third of Americans get less than seven hours of sleep per night, with those living in the southern states getting the least. With over 30% suffering symptoms of insomnia, leading into the area of "sleep deprivation," it's no wonder people are so cranky these days. As for me, I definitely need all of the beauty sleep I can get, as getting older makes us uglier by the day (just me, not you), and can affect other health factors as well. Not getting enough sleep can also increase the risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, obesity and dementia. My experience has been that it can also make you shorter and balder (not included in the study), probably why there's an abundance of small hairless women at Walmart...it's ok ladies, still love you anyway! You'll have to excuse my humor, as I now live alone, I have to entertain myself somehow...

I was sorry to find out that almost 1/3 of the population suffers some degree of sleep apnea, having to snooze wearing a CPAP machine, somewhat resembling the "Elephant Man". If this applies to you or someone you



ERIC ESTES
Love, Eric and Eloise

know, a word of caution; Please do not leave a bowl of peanuts on the night stand as they are considered a choking hazard! According to the study, a very small percentage (.04%) also suffer from Narcolepsy, falling asleep many times during the day. Funny, I always thought that Narcolepsy was having a seizure during a drug bust.

Some ways of insuring a good night's sleep is to set a comfortable temperature in the room, turn off or dim digital lighting, and make sure your mattress is of good quality. Being part Irish, I really enjoy a big bowl of Lucky Charms before bed, as they're not only magically delicious, but will help me dance an Irish jig at two AM, when suffering a bout of restless leg syndrome. But most importantly, before dozing off, fluff your pillows and remember what Psalms 4:8 says, "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone Lord, make me dwell in safety." Yep, that'll do the trick! As for me, I'm off to catch some ZZZ's, as it's officially Sleepy Time!

Have a great week, love you guys, Eric.

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ASSEMBLIES OF GOD Gateway Fellowship Church 320 St. Andrew First Assembly of God 509 E. 3rd St., Nixon	Providence Missionary Baptist Church 1020 St. Andrew, Gonzales Stratton Primitive Baptist FM 1447, 9 miles east of Cuero	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	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
BAPTIST 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	St. James Baptist Church Hwy 80, north of Belmont. St. Paul 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	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	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 306 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 Oak Valley Baptist Church Highway 97, Bebe Old Moulton Baptist Church 1121 N. College, Gonzales	Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. John St., Gonzales St. Joseph Catholic Church 207 S. Washington, Nixon St. Patrick Catholic Church Waelder 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 Church of Christ, Belmont CHURCHES OF GOD Community Church of God 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales Gonzales Memorial Church of God in Christ 1113 Hastings, Gonzales New Beginnings 1020 St. Louis, Gonzales Episcopal Episcopal Church of the Messiah 721 S. Louis, 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 South Hallettsville	PENTECOSTAL Faith Temple Hwy. 80 (N. Nixon Ave.), Nixon 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 PRESBYTERIAN Pilgrim Presbyterian Church CR 210 off FM 1116 Presbyterian Church of Gonzales 414 St. Louis, Gonzales Cheapside Presbyterian Church, Cuero
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OBITUARIES

ROSEMARY NETARDUS

Rosemary Netardus, 96 of Gonzales, passed away Friday, September 20, 2024. Rosemary was born on January 7, 1928, in Oak Forest to Leo Bernard Wroblesky and Pauline Hobizal Wroblesky. She graduated from Gonzales High School with the Class of 1945 and soon after married Henry Butschek. After Henry's passing, she married Leon Netardus. Rosemary was a member of St. James Catholic Church, a 50-year member of the St. James Altar Society and a member of the Gonzales Bridge Club. For nearly 20 years, every Monday morning she would count the offerings given to the church.

Rosemary started her working career at Ford Motor Company in downtown Gonzales, and later Western Auto before joining the GVEC Federal Credit Union where she worked until she retired.

Rosemary was a fastidious housekeeper. She always kept herself busy, whether by keeping house, doing laundry and ironing, or working in her flower beds. RoRo, as her grandchildren called her, baked delicious chocolate chip cookies and every Sunday she would prepare a big lunch for extended



family. Her smothered steak, potato salad, pinto beans and homemade bread were special favorites of the family.

Rosie loved bringing her family together, either through Sunday dinners or on shopping trips with her daughters and granddaughters and she spent many Sunday evenings on her mother's front porch catching up with her sisters. Her grandkids and great grandkids looked forward to time with RoRo because she always found ways to help them bend the rules a bit. She treasured time with her family and left them with an inheritance of love and joy.

Rosemary is survived by her daughters, Priscilla Finch and husband Skipper Irle of Gonzales, Janet Flynt and husband Allen of League City, sister Doris Baros of Gonzales,

grandchildren Kathryn Sedlar "Daniel", Sarah Kidwell "Shawn", John Finch "Jennifer", Emily Flynt and Jacob Flynt and great-grandchildren Valerie, Benjamin, Addie, Charlotte, Clara and Irene. She was preceded in death by her husbands, parents, son-in-law Larry Finch and sister, Jo Boothe.

The family will receive friends from 9 am to 9:30 am on Saturday, October 12, 2024, at St. James Catholic Church and prayers of the Holy Rosary will follow at 9:30 am. A Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at St. James Catholic Church at 10 am with Fr. Jason Martini as celebrant. Interment will follow in St. James Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Gonzales Public Library or the charity of one's choice. The family would like to extend their appreciation for the loving care given to their mother by Heart to Heart Hospice, the team at the Heights of Gonzales and Dr. Commie Hisey.

Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydler-hillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler Hill Funeral Home.

HENRY ADAM GARNER III

Henry Adam Garner, III passed into rest on Monday, September 16, 2024 at the age of 33. He was born November 29, 1990 in Seguin, TX to Henry Adam and Lisa Cockcroft Garner, Jr.

JR graduated from high school in Gonzales, TX. JR had a passion for horses and he loved being a cowboy. He was a member of the TYRA and the High School Rodeo. He was a loving son and brother. He loved everyone and he had a smile that lit up the room and he was full of jokes. His greatest accomplishments were his children, and he was a great father who loved his children very much and who had a beautiful wife who stood by his side. JR and Lacey were the perfect couple who loved one



another. Henry is survived by his wife Lacey Wade Garner, his children Khisyn Garner, Kaige Garner, and Khloe Garner; his parents Henry Adam and Lisa Cockcroft Garner, Jr.; his sister Ashlyn Garner Adams (Ashton); his brother in laws Albert Wade (Ashley) and Shaquil Wade (Taylor); his sister in laws

Markia Landry (John), Tayler Tisdell-Blanch (Grant), Skyler Wade, Alexis Hamilton (Aaron) and ShaKari Wade.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents Allen Bennet and Joyce Cockcroft, and Henry Garner Sr. and Mattie Ruth Johnson Ford.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with funeral services beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Ann Friar Agricultural Building, 501 Martin Luther King Dr., Cuero, TX. Interment to follow Hillside Cemetery. To leave a comforting message, or to share a fond memory, please visit www.gracefuneralhome.net.

RUBY RUTH SCHINDLER HOLCOMBE

Ruby Ruth Schindler Holcombe, 75, of Seguin, passed away Tuesday, September 17, 2024. She was born December 3, 1948 in Gonzales County the daughter of Ernest and Rosie Knetiz Schindler. She was a homemaker and married Elton L. "Bud" Holcombe, Sr. on June 26, 1969 in Seguin.

Ruby always enjoyed listening to gospel music and was always smiling when she heard her favorites. She enjoyed doing puzzles and coloring on coloring books. She was always ready to play bingo and showing us what she won.

She was a person who loved getting visitors, especially her boys, they will miss her hugs, stories, and calls they had throughout their lives. Even though the memories of our mother will fade – we will always be grateful and blessed for the life she gave us.

Ruby is survived by her daughter Lilly Cantu of Smiley; sons Ronnie Holcombe of Gonzales, Lynn Holcombe of Gonzales,



Elton Holcombe of Nixon and Kenny Holcombe of Gonzales; sister Shirley Kemp of San Antonio; 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and son Glenn Holcombe. Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m.,

Friday, September 20, 2024 with funeral services beginning at 10 a.m. at Seydler-Hill Funeral Home with Reverend Robert Ramirez officiating. Interment will follow at the Monthalia Lutheran Cemetery. Pallbearers include Kenny Holcombe, Lynn Holcombe, Elton Holcombe, Ronnie Holcombe, Anthony Holcombe and Kris Holcombe.

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

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

VICENTE TORRES REYES

Vicente Torres Reyes, aged 67, went home to Jesus on September 18, 2024, in Gonzales, Texas. He was born on May 11, 1957 in Rancho La Noria, Michoacán, Mexico to Vicente and Angela Reyes. He married the love of his life, Carmen Tovar Reyes on March 23, 1979 in Gonzales Tx. While raising two daughters he worked at several oil field companies then went on to Dean Word Construction for 21 years till the present.

A beloved figure to many, Vicente was a jack of all trades, known for his remarkable ability to build and fix just about anything. He had a playful demeanor that brought joy and laughter to those around him, often showcasing his brainy sense of humor.

Vicente was passionate about reading and studying a wide range of subjects, constantly seeking knowledge that he eagerly shared with others. He loved nothing more than caring for his family, taking immense pride in providing for them through his hard work. Vicente's greatest joy was found outdoors, where he felt most at peace.

His contributions were felt deeply by those he encountered, as he was always ready to offer



advice and guidance, sharing the wisdom he had gathered throughout his life. Vicente leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and unwavering support, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Vicente is survived by his wife, daughters Christina Reyes and Rachel Thomas (Cody), sisters, Maria Guadalupe Escobedo (Vicente), Antonia Orozco (Manuel), Ma Luz Carranco (Ignacio), brothers Meliton Reyes (Berta), Serafin Reyes (Maria Candelaria), Esequiel Reyes (Laura), Martin Reyes and 26 nieces and nephews, he further survived by his 5 grandchildren, Xandria, Sarina, Jayden, Ozias and Bailey. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Aladislado Reyes.

Visitation will take place Sunday, September 22, 2024 where the family will welcome friends from 5 PM to 7 PM, with a rosary following at 7pm in Seydler Hill Funeral Home. A Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 10 AM Monday, September 23, 2024 at Saint James Catholic Church with Fr. Jason Martini as celebrant. Interment will follow at Saint James Catholic Cemetery. Pallbearers include Jayden Cruz, Jerry Sanchez, Joey Sanchez, Cody Thomas, Jose Reyes and Lalo Reyes. Honorary Pallbearer, Martin Reyes.

Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydler-hillfuneralhome.com. Services are under the care and direction of Seydler-Hill Funeral Home.



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Agent
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Gonzales Healthcare Systems
September 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	2	3	4	5
	Dr. Echols	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	6
9	10	11	12	13
Austin MFM Dr. Malik Dr. Desai	Dr. Echols Dr. Quintero	Dr. Quebedeaux	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols	Amy Trost Dr. Miller
16	17	18	19	20
Austin MFM	Dr. Echols	Dr. Quebedeaux Dr. Miller	Dr. Ryan Dr. Echols Dr. Malik	Dr. Bui
23	24	25	26	27
Austin MFM	Dr. Echols	Dr. Quebedeaux	Dr. Ryan Dr. Kirchner Dr. Echols	
30				
Austin MFM				

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OBITUARY

PATRICIA ‘PATSI’ ANN
(SCHRADER) AVANT

Patricia ‘Patsi’ Ann (Schrader) Avant, Wife, Mother, and lovingly known by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as “Mamo”, went home to her Lord and Savior surrounded by her family on Sunday, September 22, 2024, at the age of 71. Patsi was born on September 1, 1953, in Gonzales, Texas to Norvel and Eva Schrader. Growing up between Gonzales and Cheapside, Texas, Patsi had a unique childhood, with both of her parents being legally blind. Earning her hardship license at 13, to ensure her and her sister could get to and from school.

Patsi graduated from Gonzales High School in 1971, where she then went on to give 15 years of service to Guadalupe Valley Electrical Coop. She took a break from corporate work in 1997, when her first grandchild was born. For the next several years she devoted herself to filling in as babysitter, chauffeur, cook, tutor, and much more for her young grandchildren.

She later worked several more jobs, each she enjoyed for different reasons, but mainly because of the vast amount of people she was able to have a conversation with and dote on her kids and grandkids, maybe jokingly throw in a complaint or two about Jim taking too long finishing up her latest project around the house. In her retired years, once again, she committed her time to watching her babies, this time her great-grandchildren, Millie and Cooper.

Patsi was a fan of cooking shows, especially Pioneer Women. When her grandkids were young, she happily let them create giant messes in her kitchen while “cooking”, and she always cleaned up with a smile - something her granddaughters attribute their love and skills of cooking to. She was a beauty enthusiast and loved dressing up for lunch with friends or a steak dinner with Jim. Patsi was an animal lover, especially all of her rescues, Francis, and Mama, and her new rescue kitten, Lucky.

As the Matriarch of the family, she was always there when they needed her, offering support, wisdom, and love in abundance. Just as her world was centered around her children, grandchildren, and great-



grandchildren; theirs was centered around her as well.

Patsi is survived by her husband of 28 years, Clifton ‘Jim’ Avant; Sister, Peggy Grothe (Tim) of Elgin, Nebraska; daughters Kelli Connell (Ron) of Gonzales and Kasey Rhodes (Kevin) of Smiley. Stepchildren Brandon Avant (Kim) of Gonzales and Rhonda Avant of Cuero. Granddaughters Bailey Garrett (Clayton) of Harleton and Corie Remschel (Lance) of Gonzales. Step-grandchildren Kinley and Kaelyn Rhodes of College Station, Paige Van Buren, Tyler Wenske, and Travis Wenske all of Cuero; Jake Avant, Luke Avant, Hannah Avant, and Lillie Avant all of Gonzales. Great-grandchildren Millie, Cooper, LaciJoe Remschel. Step-great grandchildren Emma and Colt Van Buren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Norvel and Eva Schrader, and her beloved dog Rosie

We will be honoring and celebrating the life of our precious Mamo with a come-and-go gathering for family and friends. The Celebration of Life will take place on Thursday, September 26, 2024 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, with a special moment of reflection at 2:15 PM, at Belle Oaks Inn in Gonzales, Texas. We invite all who knew and loved her to join us in remembering her beautiful spirit and the lasting impact she made on all of our lives. Belle Oaks Inn is located at 222 St. Peter St, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be mailed to the Gonzales Dog Adoptions, PO Box 192, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

Friends may leave their condolences to the family by visiting www.seydlerhill-funeralhome.com.

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



Pictured are Amy White Cantrell, client services manager of the South Texas Pregnancy Care Center (STPCC) in Seguin, and Barbara Hand, president of the Women of the Church at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gonzales.

First Evangelical Lutheran Women
host baby showers for STPCC

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

On Sept. 8, the Women of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, along with the congregation, hosted a baby shower for the South Texas Pregnancy Care

Center (STPCC).

STPCC is a nonprofit, Christian-based organization whose mission is “Saving Babies, Restoring Families.” STPCC provides free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, pregnancy

and parenting lessons, material assistance and more to women and their families. Through the baby shower, First Evangelical Lutheran Church donated many baby items to help stock STPCC’s Baby Boutique.

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEKLY REPORTS

Gonzales County Sheriff’s
Office

09/15/24 – 09/21/24

09/15/24

• Hyatt, Becky Estell, Age: 28, Nixon: Warrantless/On-View – Public Intoxication, Released

09/16/24

• Zied, Jermaine Anthony, Age: 46, Queens Village: Other Agency Hold – Terroristic Threat Against Peace Officer/Judge, Requires – \$10,000 Bond; Other Agency Hold – Terroristic Threat Cause Fear of Imminent SBI, Requires - \$20,000 Bond; Remains in Custody

• Parr, Tim Adam, Age: 20, Somerset: Other Agency Hold – Burglary of Habitation, Requires - \$40,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

09/17/24

• Oudems, Leniqua Andrea, Age: 29, Dallas: Local Warrant – Poss CS PG 1/1-B<1G, Requires - \$50,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

09/18/24

• Dominguez, Rodolfo, JR, Age: 26, Corpus Christi: Local Warrant – Poss CS PG 1<1G, Requires -

\$25,000 Bond, Remains in Custody

• Reyna, Angel Lynn, Age: 36, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Indecency W/Child Sexual Contact, Released – Work Release

09/19/24

• Hansen, Natalie Kara, Age: 32, Bastrop: Commitment/ Sentence – Burglary of Habitation, Commitment/Sentence – Burglary of Building, Released Weekender

09/20/24

• Smallwood, Thomas Jerome, Age: 40, Kyle: nt/Sentence – Poss Marij <2oz, Released – Weekender

• Lowe, Roger Allen, Age: 62, Gonzales: Commitment/ Sentence – Stalking, Released – Weekender

• Davis, Jer Mri Ka Vontrail, Age: 28, Gonzales: Commitment/ Sentence – Poss CS PG 1/1-B <1G, Released – Weekender

• Fields, Keyshann Malik, Age: 27, Waelder: Commitment/ Sentence – Poss Marij <2oz, Released – Weekender

• Guerra, Carlos T, JR, Age: 40, San Antonio: Commitment/ Sentence – Poss CS PG 1<1G, Released – Weekender

• Lehnert, Kevin Joe, Age: 53, Gonzales: Commitment/ Sentence

– Poss CS PG 1/1 -B <1G, Released – Weekender

• Martin, Xavier Edward Wayne, Age: 34, Paige: Commitment/ Sentence – Tamper/Fabricat Phys Evid w/Inten to Impair, Released – Weekender

09/21/24

• Meyer, Nicholas Lee, Age: 39, Gonzales: Commitment/Sentence – Driving While Intoxicated w/ Child under 15YOA, Released – Weekender

Total Arrest, Court Commitments, other agency arrest and processing's:	
GCSO	12
DPS	04
GPD	05
WPD	03
NPD	03
GISD	00
SMO	00
Constable 1	00
Constable 3	00
Constable 4	00
DWCSO	00
DEA	00
TPW	00
GCAI	00
Rangers	00
Other	00
Total	27



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ACROSS

- 1 duck found in Texas
5 Texas singer B.J.'s birthplace: ____, OK
6 SMU & NFL great RB, Dickerson
7 Livingston's county
8 TXism: "fits like ugly on an ____"
9 TX Trini Lopez's "If I Had ____"
16 Ryan O' ____ was in "Wild Rovers" with TX Joe Don Baker
18 near El Paso, oldest U.S. Catholic parish: ____ Sur

- 21 dir. to Edna from Gonzales (abbr.)
22 in 1967, TX A.J. Foyt won at Le ____
23 TXism for "your"
24 Cowboy 1993 Super Bowl ring has star- ____ diamond
30 TXism: "claim ____ on ____ your face"
34 Vega h.s. class
35 Mexican husk food
36 TXism: "trying to ____ against the stream" (difficult)
37 amino ____
39 mother of singer in 5-across (2 wds.)
43 ____ Code
44 Texas silent film star, Ramon
45 slang for Texas-created soft drink
46 TXism: "I ____ that like an armadillo needs an Interstate"

- 47 TXism: "woodshed ____" (spanking)
49 TXism: "plain as the ____ _ mule"
52 in the Valley: Santa ____ National Wildlife Refuge
53 uncanny perception
54 said to waitress with the tea pitcher: "____ _ off"
55 TXism: "he's wound tighter than an ____ - ____ clock" (tense)

- 58 artist Oldenburg of "Stake Hitch" sculpture at Dallas Museum of Art
59 former parent co. of of Texas-based American Airlines
60 female deer
61 TXism: "____ of the trail" (completed)

DOWN

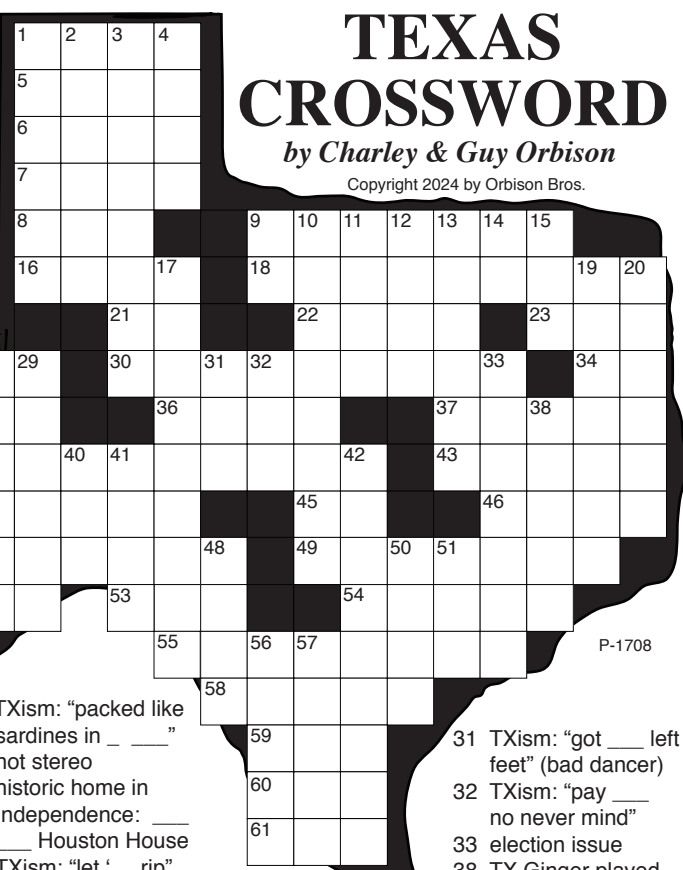
- 1 TXism: "a flash in ____" (briefly)
2 small but important continent
3 TXism: "____ _ snake on a hot road"
4 TXism: "____ stock and barrel"
9 TXism: "fat ____ a boardinghouse cat"
10 TXism: "ugly as ____ sin"

- 11 TXism: "packed like sardines in ____"
12 not stereo
13 historic home in Independence: ____ Houston House
14 TXism: "let '____ rip"
15 TX singer Orbison
17 early Texas novel by Reid: "The Head-____ man"
19 TXism: "he was around when the ____ was only sick" (old)
20 TXism: "wiped the slate clean"
24 ____ Jo, TX

TEXAS
CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

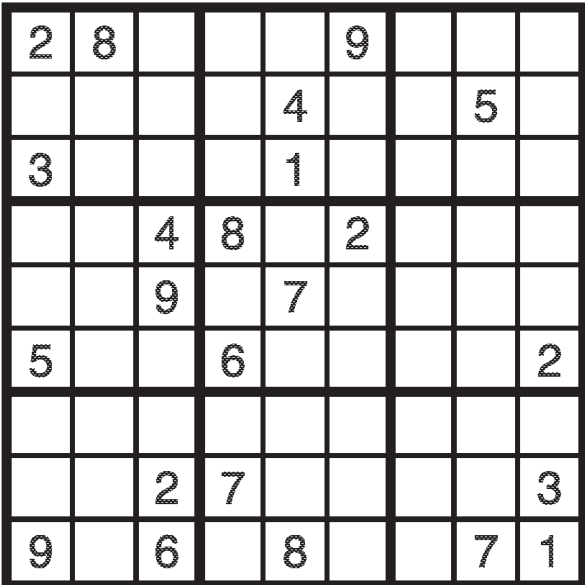
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- 31 TXism: "got ____ left feet" (bad dancer)
32 TXism: "pay ____ no never mind"
33 election issue
38 TX Ginger played this Castle in 1939
40 gallery piece
41 western: "____ Grit"
42 East TX windshield: ____ with bugs
48 Texas-based "Giant"
50 ____ and reels
51 therapeutic resort
56 ____ water, TX
57 TXism: "____ the hoof" (hog)

25 Merle Haggard's nickname
26 prayer ending
27 Carthage's county
28 number on a football team, on the field
29 Cabeza ____ first described the Texas bison

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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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.

SHINER CATHOLIC FALL FESTIVAL FEATURES AUCTION



The annual Shiner Catholic School Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29, at the KC Hall in Shiner. There will be kid games from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., BBQ chicken plates served from 10:30 a.m. to noon and a live auction beginning at noon. This is the main fundraiser of the year for Shiner Catholic School's PTC and the money raised directly benefits the students and teachers at SCS. Everyone is invited so please come to the Shiner KC Hall on Sunday and join in for a great time!

NIXON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ANNEXATION

The council held a public hearing on the annexation a half hour prior to Thursday's meeting. The annexation covers 4.42 acres of land generally located at 1276 County Road 174, which is the address for Tractor Supply's new store, as well as an acre of land at 1100 E. Central Ave. (the Buck and Elvera Butler Memorial EMS station) and an adjacent acre belonging to the Nixon Hospital District. Tractor Supply voluntarily had requested the annexation in order to receive city water and other municipal services extended to the property, Becker said. The store officially opened in late June. "We started working on the annexation back in February and our next steps going forward now are that we need to get our maps and then we'll contact the Comptroller and contact the county clerk," Becker said. Annexing the store not only would add the property to the city's tax base, but would also allow the city to collect a 1.5-cent sales and use tax allocation from the store's retail sales, which could lighten some of the tax burden on other property owners.

BUDGET

The budget approved by council Thursday is the same proposed budget filed by Becker that calls for total income of \$4,460,250 against total expenditures of \$4,170,719.29 for an estimated budget surplus of

\$289,530.71 while still meeting the needs of the city. The new fiscal year 2025 budget proposes a 50-cent per hour raise for all municipal employees. Along with a 30-cent increase in retirement and an increase in medical contributions, that would bring the total benefit package increase for employees this year to \$1.25 per hour. The city is expected to take in \$2,041,450 in utility income and \$2,416,800 in general fund income. The department with the highest proposed expenses is police at \$886,033.48, followed by City Hall at \$872,490.57, sewer expenses at \$770,276.46 and water expenses at \$671,905.36 and streets at \$281,04019. Utility office expenses (\$173,345.48), capital outlay (\$172,549.91) parks expenses (\$170,500.49), municipal court (\$86,086.20) and library (\$70,941.15) are next up. The city also will spend \$11,550 for expenses for the mayor and council (training, etc.) and \$3,000 at the community center. MONUMENT The city has gotten made three-dimensional powder-coated signs made resembling the city seal and a police badge and will soon have one which represents the Gonzales County South Fire Department, which will be the successor of a merged Nixon Fire and Rescue and the Smiley VFD, Becker said. The new signs will be put

into limestone blocks or a wall along with another sign which proclaims Nixon to be "Mustang Country" in honor of the Nixon-Smiley CISD. "We've been talking back and forth with TxDOT and we've got the approval, but we're just trying to tighten up some legal loose ends," Becker said. "This will be at the four-way (stop) and it will be showing support for our emergency services, but also supporting the school. "We had a guy who built these and donated the metal work and that's not painted; it's powder-coated and he's really done a nice just to help support the town," Becker added. Donald Hoffman of the Rancho-Nixon Historical Association said his organization has also applied for space that would be near the city monument for a six-foot by four-foot sign advertising a John Wesley Hardin driving tour as well as the video exhibit at the Aphne Pattillo Nixon Public Library. Mayor Ellie Dominguez said she expects the new monument to be "our spot to take pictures with administration employees to go on our website." Becker said TxDOT has surveyed and determined the state right of way for the road extends about 10 feet on either side, so the marker must be set beyond that point, which is why the city will be working with Dairy Queen on the placement of the marker.

CENTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

old police station as a museum, but Interim City Manager Darryl Becker said Donald Hoffman of Rancho-Nixon has graciously allowed the city to work with Thriving Hearts instead as the organization is currently using space at the Aphne Pattillo Nixon Public Library instead. "I was able to meet with Mr. Hoffman, and I'd asked him if he was still using the facility, and he told me that it's kind of too small for them," Becker said. "The lady from Thriving Hearts (community engagement and volunteer coordinator Ashley Storey) came over to look at the building. It is an older building and it needs some work on it, but we decided that it was going to be one of the better locations for it, so we've been working on it, cleaning it and painting it. "Most of the work being done is by volunteers. The American Legion showed up and assisted and painted. We also had officers show up and work and a lot of the city crews put in some spare time." Becker said the city was able to get some materials (doors, framework, cabinets, fixtures, water heaters, etc.) from the Casita at the Nixon-Smiley CISD campus, which was being torn down, and will be able to repurpose those items into the satellite office for Thriving Hearts in order to help keep down the cost of remodeling the building. "We want to start by saying how grateful we are," Storey added. "We keep talking about it over and over — we're just extremely grateful that you are supporting us, and that you are making this work with us." Storey said the shelter provides free, confidential services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking, but their services are not restricted to women only. "We used to be known as the women's shelter and that was part of the reason for the name change, because we serve men and children as well," Storey said. "We serve four counties — Guadalupe, Gonzales, Karnes and Wilson. This office would have non-residential services, so it would be a satellite office where we would do counseling and also have a legal advocate which can help victims through the court processes as well." Sexual assault program coordinator Stephanie Johnson said the office will also provide sexual assault

accompaniment services to hospitals and courts and offers a class for people seeking an affidavit of no-prosecution called Resource Information for Survivor Empowerment, or RISE, which the court liaison at the District Attorney's office will recommend taking. Andy Allen, who manages the Thriving Hearts thrift store, The Cranny, in Seguin, said a smaller version of the storefront eventually will be opened at the Nixon satellite office with all proceeds benefiting people who receive services from Thriving Hearts. However, anyone already receiving services from the center can get things they need from the thrift store at no charge. Nixon Police Chief Miguel Cantu said he set up a temporary office in his station for Storey two weeks ago and "it assists us as far as having to travel, because usually for these services, we have to go to Seguin, which takes our officers away from the city of Nixon, so this really helps us out." City Attorney Eddie Escobar praised the agreement between the city and Thriving Hearts as "an absolutely phenomenal thing for this organization to be a part of the community." "Women, children and men sometimes don't have the ability to travel to get similar services down the road, for example, to Gonzales or Seguin," Escobar said. "A lot of times, they're threatened in some way that if they go with anybody, anywhere, outside the city, that they're going to call Immigration on them. There's a lot of threats that come from the person that's causing these assaults because of fear and because they know what they're doing is wrong. "Giving some of the residents here locally the ability to go, even if they have to go on foot, to a facility like this to get some help — that's the first step. And having it in town is just a massive, massive move for the benefit of the residents." Storey said Thriving Hearts holds a candlelight vigil every October for those who are killed by family violence the previous year. While that is normally held in Floresville, this year it will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, in Nixon, likely at the Gladysne Finch Pocket Park just across the street from the police station and the new Thriving Hearts office.

GISD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

open session with no vote at this time regarding the agenda item. The Inquirer has received no information on who filed the complaint against the school district. Earlier this month, the board voted down a motion by a 4-3

vote to terminate director of secondary education Wanda Fryer, who is charged with unlawful use of public funds for political advertising, a class A misdemeanor. Fryer, who had been suspended, was reinstated to her position following the vote.

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PILOT CLUB DONATES TO GCAM



CONTRIBUTED

Pilot International Club of Gonzales presented a check to GCAM (Gonzales Christian Assistance Ministries) this week to help fund their efforts. Pictured from left are Pilot Pat Anders, Pilot President Megan Perkins, President-Elect Lorrell Wright, GCAM director Michelle Tucker, and Pilot Scottie Beth Baker.

“All I can honestly do Councilwoman is, once again, I’ve got to go through the old files from the time when the money was transferred into the general fund to see if we purchase anything that will fall within that.”

—Scott Jewett, *Smiley City Secretary*

SMILEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

worked this many hours.' The utility, they broke it down on how that money was spent to pay the employees who were working that time to accomplish that. That was not done for the Department of Treasury portion."

Jewett said he has been watching training videos from the Treasury Department to comprehend what the funds were supposed to be spent on. He added some of the funds were used to cover the Republic Services trash bills for the residents for Smiley during that time of COVID, but he pointed to unknown factors that weren't supposed to be paid with the funds.

Jewett found two Wells Fargo credit cards that were paid off using COVID funds and he added that those funds specifically cannot be used to pay off debts.

"I would have to do digging and go back to find credit card statements that were used during the coronavirus time to see if anything purchased that time falls within the parameters of allowable purchases," Jewett said.

The remaining \$44,000 in funds were transferred to the city's general fund balance when they closed its grant account. Councilwoman Melva Childress asked if they were able to track where the \$44,000 went.

"All I can honestly do Councilwoman is, once again, I've got to go through the old files from the time when the money was transferred into the general fund to see if we purchase anything that will fall within that," Jewett said.

The city could be held responsible for repaying as much as \$60,000 back to the federal government for COVID funds if it cannot prove the money was spent on allowable uses, Jewett added. The city could also have its ability to apply for future grants suspended or denied altogether.

In other business the council approved the following agenda items:

- Approved selling approximately 1.2 Acres to Gonzales County Emergency Services District 2
- approved the Proposed Tax Rate of \$.2810 per \$100 valuation.
- approved a 3% rate increase for all revenue with the exception of trash.
- approved a proposal to Gonzales County Emergency Services District 2.

CLUB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Center, which is named for the Juneteenth holiday, owns 0.1607 acres of land in the Davis Addition valued at 7,630 feet that it has sought to sell recently and has used in the past for Juneteenth events.

She believes the communications prove the city promised in 2022 to remove a fence installed by an adjoining property owner on what has long been designated Nixon Avenue and that the city has reneged on its promise.

“We will provide evidence where we received approval from the city attorney and city council after making presentations twice before,” Houston said. “We are back before you in the third year. As taxpayers, be it individuals or businesses or religious organization, we should all be able to rely on our local government, our elected officials, to follow through with their commitment.”

She said Escobar sent letters to the former landowner and the current landowner about the need to remove the fence or the city would be taking action and the city had said it would see that the fence would be taken down, but that did not happen.

"We were told twice the fence was going to be taken down, and now he (Escobar) is changing his mind, right? So, you know, it's very sad. It's a very sad thing," Houston said.

However, Escobar said at the Thursday meeting that further investigation into the property situation by county surveyor Seth Fullilove and attorney Christi Ortman Fullilove revealed the city has a 40-foot easement, but Nixon Avenue had been abandoned and never completed as a road, causing him to change his position.

“The letter was sent (to the landowner). I don’t deny that,” Escobar said. “Once I spoke to (Christi Fullilove), the city’s position changed once I had a conversation with the previous administration. At that point,

the only thing that is needed is for the city to have access to the easement. The city is under no obligation to have access for private property owners down a road that is no longer owned by the city of Nixon."

Escobar said he explained this to Houston and the other members of the Nineteenth Club when they spoke to the council in November 2023.

"We advised at that time if the fence that's being put up is landlocking private property, which this is, then a suit would have to be filed against the person that is landlocking that property," Escobar said. "The city is no part of that. The city is not going to file suit on private property issues. That's a civil matter.

“The intent the whole time was they can’t block the city easily. This has always been about the easement. As soon as we got verification from Stewart Title Company, which is a national title company, it said the only thing the city owned is the easement, there’s nothing else for the city to do. What that would amount to is the city filing suit against the resident for the benefit of somebody that owns private property, and the city is just not legally able to do that.”

Escobar said the only action for Nineteenth Club to do is "take this up in district court."

"There are laws in the property code that prevent that," he said. "There are remedies here for you, but it just not a remedy that the city can undertake."

City Councilmember Justin La Fleur asked Escobar if the city could install a gate across the easement that would preserve the city's rights and also allow the Nineteenth Club access. Escobar said he would have to research that because he has concerns about whether it is legal to do.

"I don't know the answer, whether it's a yes or a no, before I say because of the fact that the easement creates a use interest

and not a property interest, then that means that that property is owned by somebody else," Escobar said. "So if we have that easement, then we would have to get permission from that person that owns the actual property, and not just the use interest of that easement."

La Fleur did make a motion to allow Escobar and interim City Manager Darryl Becker determine if a gate can be placed across the easement to allow the city to ensure access to the property.

Donald Hoffman of Rancho-Nixon Historical Association told Houston there is a thing in Texas law called an implied easement, which prohibits landowners from denying another landowner access to their property if it is landlocked.

"I was denied property access to my property and I went to my attorney, and I was informed that I could gain access through that property with an implied easement," Hoffman said. "The easement that I had used for years was implied, and therefore the new landowner could not prevent me from obtaining access to my property. An implied easement is as legal as any written easements you can have.

“Why don’t we approach this from the implied easement stage, where these people can have access to their property and the current landowner cannot keep them out on the basis of an implied easement?”

Escobar agreed with Hoffman's comment, stating this is what he has been trying to tell the Nineteenth Club they must do, but it requires a judge to sign off on an order.

The council eventually voted on La Fleur's motion with all members voting against it as they seemed to believe the Nineteenth Club needs to go through court to get an implied easement signed by a judge rather than the city getting involved.

added some of the funds were used to cover the Republic Services trash bills for the residents for Smiley during that time of COVID, but he pointed to unknown factors that weren't supposed to be paid with the funds.

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In other business the council approved the following agenda items:

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